

宮地嶽

MIYAJIDAKE
JINJYA

from Fukuoka-shi Fukuoka, JAPAN.



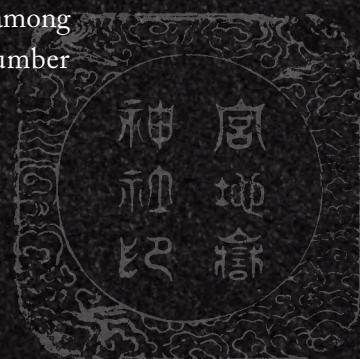


3 deities enshrined in Miyajidake Jinja

ご祭神 息長足比売命

Okinagatarashihimenomikoto Goddess

The 'KAMI' is called Okinagatarashihimenomikoto Goddess. In addition, there are brothers to support it, called Katsumura and Katsuyori. These two deities are said to be based on the royal family that ruled the whole area of Miyajidake. Together, the three deities are called Miyajidakemihashiraookami. From the golden legend of ancient times "The 'KAMI' of Wealth and Victory", there are many people who believe that any prayers can come true as in "KAMI' of Good Luck in Overcoming Everything". Miyajidake Jinja is now well-known among the people, and is enshrined all over the country, with the number amounting to 200 now.





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Sanctuary with a history that spans 1800 years, Miyajidake Jinja

In Japan, there are as many as 80,000 Shinto temples and Shinto shrines (Jinja). Many of the jinja are closely related to holy mountains and forests. For ancient Japanese, holy mountains, waterfalls and forests, as well as big rocks, are believed to be places where deity (KAMI) are enshrined and therefore are objects worship. In these locations where the 'KAMI' is thought to live in, are built into a jinja.

Out of the 80,000 jinja, jinja with the oldest history are concentrated in Kyushu. There is the Miyajidake Jinja, which is located in the northern area of Kyushu. Miyajidake Jinja, among the many old jinja in Kyushu, is thought to be one of the oldest jinja, and is located at the foot of the holy Miyajidake Mountain.

There were many national treasures excavated from the grounds of the Miyajidake Jinja since the ancient times. From an ancient tomb 1800 years ago, treasures like gilt bronze crowns, gold sword fittings and gold harness had been excavated. In

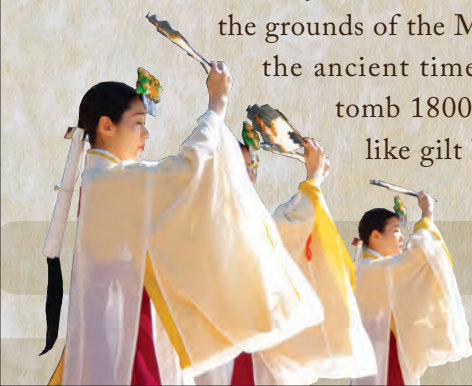
other words, the Miyajidake Jinja used to be a royal sanctuary that reigned in ancient northern Kyushu. From the many national treasures that had been excavated from the grounds, Miyajidake Jinja had since gathered the faith of the local people on the 'KAMI' called Wealth. In Japan, in the beginning of the month or New Year's Day, there is a custom to worship at the jinja. During these days, you can see the spectacle where many people will come to worship the 'KAMI' called Wealth.



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This road is the road of faith.
The distant road of culture that has arrived
from far beyond the sea

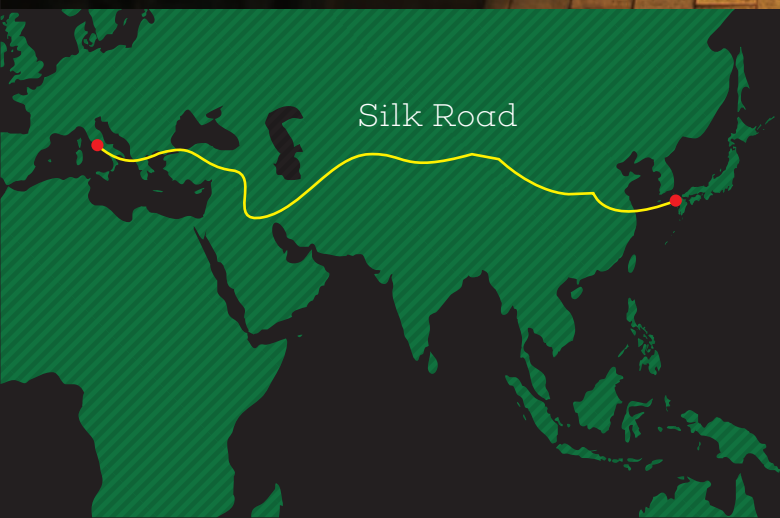
2000 years ago in northern Kyushu, there are about 100km of white sandy beaches and green pine trees. The road straight from Miyajidake Jinja leads to a gentle coastline.

And across the sunset is the Eurasian continent.

Silk Road was the trade route that connected the Mediterranean and China, and the end point across the ocean is here, Japan.

Ships that came from across the continent riding on the currents will naturally arrive in northern Kyushu, Japan.

1800 years ago, this land was the holy land of the royal family of northern Kyushu, and culture from the far west flowed in here through this route. You will be able to see the testimony of this when you look at the treasures excavated from the grounds of Miyajidake Jinja. For example, from the pattern of the gilt bronze, there is the influence of the far Orient.



筑紫神舞

Chikushi Kanmai



Ancient dance and Tsukushi dance,
the roots of Japan's performing arts



In the middle of the Miyajidake Jinja, there is the largest megalithic ancient tomb in Japan. The stone chamber has been presumed to exist from the end of the sixth century to the beginning of the seventh century. This large-scale stone chamber that has a total length 23m is made by stacking the large stones exceeding 5m in height and width. This tomb is now one of the sanctuaries of Miyajidake Jinja, and rituals are performed in the ancient tomb.

Things that are propagated from 1800 years ago in Miyajidake are not only the national gold treasures. Maboroshi Dance and Tsukushi Dance, which were said to be the roots of Kabuki, are carefully handed down. In ancient China, there was a tradition of dedication of dance and music for the emperor. This dance and music were conveyed in order to be embraced by the King of northern Kyushu by the Azumi clan which had a deep connection with mainland China.

The Tsukushi Dance was recorded in a history literature in year 731, and is also recorded in the Shoku Nihongi. It originally had more than 200 songs but only 4 dances are left today. Even now, it is still being dedicated to the 'KAMI' of Miyajidake Jinja.

Staggering gait and Luzon leg to approach dance, Nabae etc., European entertainment hand-shaking that had flowed into Luzon (Philippines), and the puppet (yarn dolls)-like movements that flowed from China from the Silk Road were maintained, and cultural influence from Europe and Middle East that made it an intangible culture asset.

国宝 National Treasures

Miyajidake, a golden history

From the tomb of Miyajidake Jinja, there are over 300 items like large swords and sword fittings, horse saddles, lapis lazuli pots and balls shining in green, and glass plates etc., and among them, 20 items are classified as national treasure. Among these items, the eye-catching ones are the gold items. The Lord of the Miyajidake tomb received a crown of gold and owned items like gold sword fittings and horse saddles, was truly a person who deserved to be called the King of the northern Kyushu dynasty.

Gilt bronze, pots and stirrups

6C. Height 26cm.

This cast has been thickly plated in copper, and is an excellent item in this era. Part of it is impacted by lily coat of arms design, suggesting influence from medieval European culture.



Diadem

Crown made of gilt bronze. Carvings of dragon and tiger were made in gold.



Lapis lazuli, pot

6C Height 12.5cm

Urn made from lapis lazuli (glass). The manufacturing method of this item was made by blowing with the familiar mouth even today.

Gilt bronze head sword (reproductions)

6C

Pommel, habaki and iron sword are left. The watermarks bracket of the sheath has a sentence in diamond and a large round crest and is a unique pattern. The size is presumed to be around 3 meters, the largest of those in existence in Japan. It suggests the position of the buried party.

