

Shibagaki Shrine

One of the Matsubara Six Shrine Fortune Pilgrimage shrines. According to shrine records, the shrine was built by imperial order of the 24th emperor, Emperor Ninkei, in the first half of the 6th century. The 18th emperor, Emperor Hanzei, Yosami no Sukune, and Sugawara no Michizane are worshipped here.

It is said that the shrine stands on what was the remains of Emperor Hanzei's palace, the Tajihishibagaki no Miya from the first half of the 5th century. According to the "Kojiki," Japan's oldest historical record, when emperor Hanzei was born, he had beautiful teeth like pearls, which led to him being named "Mizuhawake no Mikoto." Hagami Shrine stands facing the shrine office, and at 8:08 PM every August 8th, during the Lantern Festival, a festival for the god of teeth is held there. This ritual comes from the fact that the emperor had impressive teeth.

Until the early years of the Meiji period, Hirobasan Kannenji Buddhist temple (Shingon sect) of Jinguji Temple stood where the shrine office now stands. The southern gate is the temple gate to Kannenji Temple. On the right side of the hall of worship stands a stone lantern from the 5th year of the Keian era (1652), on the left side stands one from the 11th year of the Kanbun era (1671). In the first half of the Edo period, Ihara Saikaku came to this shrine to worship and composed a poem that was added to the "Kawachi Kagami Meishoki" (7th year of the Enpo era (1679)).

In August of the 7th year of the Kaei era (1854), the "Sanjurokkasenzu (pictures of 36 immortal poets)" was dedicated by 26 parishioners from Tachibe village and placed in the hall of worship.

A washing basin with the inscription, "Tenmangu Shrine, September, first year of the Kyowa period (1801)" is placed in front of the meeting hall. This is thought to be a stone from the burial chamber of Kawachi Otsukayama Tomb (Nishi-Otsuka), the fifth largest keyhole-shaped tomb in Japan. It was used as a washing basin for Sugawara Shrine (joined with Shibagaki Shrine in the 41st year of the Meiji period (1908)) that was built on top of the tomb.