

Raigoji Temple and the Takagi family, Tannanhan Jinya

Raigoji Temple of Tannan was originally built by the Buddhist Priest, Gyoki during the Nara period and named Bishamonin Temple. Later, during the first year of the Tensho era (1131) towards the end of the Heian period, Ryonin, the founder of the Yuzu Nenbutsu sect. built a temple to enshrine an Amitabha, naming it Yuzu Nenbutsu Jikkago Tsujimoto Daikanjin Bishamon Amidaji Temple.

The Yuzu Nenbutsu sect temporarily deteriorated, but towards the end of the Kamakura period, the seventh generation priest of Dainenbutsuji Temple (Hirano Ward, Osaka City), Homyo worked to revitalize the sect. Because Amidaji Temple, which was known as the holy site of Ryonin had fallen into disrepair, Homyo conducted a ceremonial transfer of an Amitabha image that he had obtained from Sugou Shrine (Tannan County, Kawachi Province, currently Sugou, Mihara Ward, Sakai City) and restored the temple. In the 1st year of the Shochu era (1324), he renamed the temple from Amidaji Temple to Kawachi Jikkago Ropponbetsuji Shobutsuzam Gonen-in Raigoji Temple.

Entering the Edo period, Raigoji Temple became the quasi-head temple of the Yuzu Nenbutsu sect as a historic Homyo temple with 39 temples throughout the Tanboku, Tannan, and Yakami Counties of Kawachi Province, and the Higashinari, Nishinari, Kudara, and Sumiyoshi Counties of Setsu Province as branch temples. Homyo's priestly robe is still preserved to this day and a memorial tower to Homyo stands in the temple graveyard.

In the garden behind the main building is a Juniper tree that is said to be 600 years old and is an Osaka prefectural natural treasure.

Meanwhile, in the 9th year of the Genna era (1623), Tokugawa Ieyasu who founded the Tokugawa shogunate, presented the Tannan lands to Takagi Masatsugu who had been Ieyasu's follower from Mikawa (Aichi Prefecture), and Takagi became the feudal lord of Tannan as a Daimyo owning 10,000 koku of rice. The Tannan clan had a camp on the east side of Raigoji Temple and continued until the abolition of the clan system in the early years of the Meiji period.

Throughout the Edo period, the Tannan clan controlled over twenty villages throughout the Tannan, Tanboku, and Shiki Counties of Kawachi Province. Because Takagi made Raigoji Temple his family temple, mortuary tablets of the feudal lords line the main temple and both the first lord, Masatsugu, and the 11th lord, Masaaki's memorial towers can be found in the Raigoji Temple graveyard.