Fudō-dō

The Fudō-dō is a small hall within the cluster of temples and halls in the Shimo-Daigo area, dedicated to the worship of the Five Great Wisdom Kings (Godai Myō-ō). It not only echoes the devotion to the Wisdom Kings in the upper areal, but also acts as the main location for ascetic fire rituals that are held to pray for worldwide peace and prosperity.

The building is named after Fudō Myō-ō, “the Immovable One,” the most important and central Wisdom King of the five. Despite the fact that this icon has been transmitted from India, proving to be a truly ancient icon, Fudō Myō-ō established himself not only as a popular protector within Japanese Buddhism, but also as one of the foremost deities of Japanese mountain asceticism. His repeated appearance at Daigo-ji is owing to his link to Shugen-dō. The *goma* fire rituals held in front of the hall are known both as a visual fire spectacle and as a magical sound experience performed by the powerful chanting of the monks, to which the audience of devotees often tunes in.