**Goshogozen**

More than 1,800 years ago, the legendary empress-regent Jingū is said to have encountered the three deities of Sumiyoshi Taisha in Kyushu. After the meeting, she traveled around western Japan looking for a place suitable to build a shrine to them. When she arrived at this spot, the three deities descended from a tree growing here. Empress-regent Jingū ordered the construction of a shrine around the tree. Upon her death, she, too, was enshrined as a deity at Sumiyoshi Taisha.

The *go* in Goshogozen, meaning “five,” refers to five kinds of blessings that are conferred by the deities: health, wisdom, wealth, happiness, and longevity. Pebbles inscribed with the character for “five” (*go,* 五), “large” (*dai,* 大), or “power” (*riki,* 力) are scattered among unmarked stones at the site. Anyone who finds one of each can take them home. A set of stones is believed to help make wishes come true. If a wish is fulfilled, the custom is to return the stones to Goshogozen, along with another set of three stones from the person’s home that are inscribed with the *go-dai-riki* characters. Symbolically, the believer is giving back twice what was received.