

Originally a storeroom, this room was converted into a space to honor the twenty samurai who followed Date Masamune (1567–1636) into death, and another sixteen who killed themselves on the death of Masamune’s son Tadamune (1600–1658). The practice of showing loyalty by committing suicide on the death of one’s lord is called *junshi* and was outlawed by the shogunate in 1663. The wall paintings are from 1878 and depict the sixteen *rakan* (Sanskrit: arhat), the disciples of Buddha who attained nirvana and are revered in Zen Buddhism.