

Naritasan Shinshoji Temple's Fudo Myoo

The statue of the Buddhist deity Fudo Myoo enshrined at Naritasan Shinshoji Temple is said to have been carved by the founder of Shingon Buddhism, Kukai (774–835). Kukai was one of the most influential of Japanese Buddhist monks and is posthumously known as Kobo Daishi. The statue was brought to Narita in 939 to aid in the suppression of a rebellion against the Emperor. Fudo Myoo (“Immovable Wise One”) is the central deity of the Myoo group of Buddhist deities, the Wisdom Kings, which all have ferocious and menacing features, designed to subdue evil and frighten unbelievers into accepting Buddhist law. Fudo Myoo is the most venerated of the group in Japan. Fudo converts anger into salvation, and for centuries people have come to Naritasan Shinshoji Temple to participate in sacred fire rituals that burn away all material desires.