

This corner, which is the last right turn before the main shrine, may appear to be a 90 degree right angle but is actually an 88-degree angle. In Japan, the number 8 is a lucky number, because the Chinese character for it “八” spreads out at the base, suggesting prosperity. A degree of 88 is thus particularly auspicious. During the Warring States period (1467–1568), castle gates, and roads in castle towns would often feature this *masugata* right angle, which was a defensive feature used to slow down an attacker.