

This pair of camphor trees is known as *Meoto Kusu*, or 'husband and wife camphor trees'. They are joined by a rope called a *shimenawa*, which signifies their sacred connection. The *shimenawa* in Shinto is used to indicate sacredness, and also wards off evil spirits.

These two trees were planted as saplings when Meiji Jingu was established in 1920, and have been growing here side by side ever since. Hence they are seen as a symbol of a happy, solid marriage like that of Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken, and of a healthy family. The trees are a popular spot for people searching for a partner, and for those looking for success in marriage.