

Akadoji, whose name means “red child,” is a Shinto deity and the son of the moon god. This wooden statue is in excellent condition and is the only known statue of Akadoji in Japan.

The statue is exceptionally old, dating from the latter half of the Kamakura period (1185–1333). It is made of pieces of hinoki cypress wood and its eyes are crystal. Despite representing a god from Japan’s native religious tradition of Shinto, the statue has a distinctly Chinese design similar to statues from the Song dynasty (960–1279). Notably, the statue’s jacket curves at the shoulders, as do the lapels. Other features of its clothing, such as the sash around its upper abdomen, resemble styles dating from the Tang dynasty (610–907). The statue still has its original steel crown, which is highly uncommon for pieces of such age.