

Statue of Yumechigai Kannon

Known as Yumechigai (“Dream-Changer”), this 86.9-centimeter bronze statue from the late Asuka period (593-710) was given this name because this manifestation of Kannon is said to change bad dreams to good. It is one of four Kannon statues designated as national treasures at Horyuji Temple. Kannon bestows merciful love and hope, and is one of the most widely worshiped bodhisattvas in East Asia. Kannon, as a bodhisattva, chose to delay entry into nirvana out of compassion for the suffering of others. The extended right hand, palm facing upwards, is a gesture of fearlessness and the granting of protection.