

Bishamonten Statue

The Buddhist god of war, Bishamonten, is often depicted in Japan heavily clad in armor as the protector of Buddhism and the state. He is one of the four celestial protectors who watch over the four points of the compass, with Bishamonten guarding the north. This 123-centimeter statue was carved in 1078 from a single block of Japanese cypress. Note the fine details in the clothing and armor, embodying the aesthetics of the late Heian period (794–1185). The statue is paired with Kichijoten, the goddess of good fortune.