

National Treasure Hall

Statue of Kinnara

National Treasure

Kinnara, one of the set of Eight Kinds of Mythological Beings at Kofukuji, comes from a class of beings in Indian mythology known as *kinnaras* who serve as celestial musicians. In Japanese Buddhist belief, *kinnara* serve as attendants in the courts of Bishamonten (also known as Tamonten), a deity of war and one of the Four Heavenly Kings, and Taishakuten, a ruler of one of the heavens in Buddhist cosmology.

This work is dated to 734 and was made by the hollow-core dry-lacquer sculpting technique.