National Treasure Hall
Statues of Bonten and Taishakuten
Important Cultural Properties

Dating to the Kamakura period (1185–1333), these wooden statues of Bonten and Taishakuten, depict Hindu gods that were incorporated into Buddhism as lords of the realms of rebirth. Bonten, holding a lotus flower, is based on the heavenly king Brahma. Taishakuten, wearing armor and holding a scroll, is based on Indra, god of the heavens, lightning, and war.

The statues are early thirteenth-century Japanese creations carved in imitation of twelfth-century (Song dynasty) Chinese models. Evidence of this is seen in the upturned shoe tips and scalloped robe folds. These statues were originally displayed alongside the principal image of the Shakyamuni Buddha in Kofukuji's Western Golden Hall.