

**Rokuji no Kane Bell Tower**

This bell has marked time for centuries, tolling every two hours between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., according to the old Japanese time system. Rokuji no Kane means “six o’clock bell,” referring to the hour when it is first rung in the morning.

Besides marking the passage of time, the regular sound of the bell reminds Koyasan’s priests to redirect their minds away from worldly attachments, and to focus on helping others, acting with compassion, and seeking wisdom. For visitors, the bell offers an opportunity to focus on the present moment, to slow down, and take in their surroundings.

Fukushima Masanori (1561–1624), a fierce warrior who climbed the ranks from page to prominent general and daimyo lord, had this bell tower built in 1618 to honor his parents. The bell within was later recast by his son in 1640.