

**Fire-Warding Amida (Hiyoke Amida)**

This wooden statue depicts Amida Buddha, the Buddha of Infinite Light. It is said to be one of the five statues of the Five Wisdom Buddhas (Gochi Nyorai) commissioned by the monk Shinjō (797–873) in the late ninth century as part of his efforts to establish Eikandō (then known as Zenrinji). According to temple legend, this statue was miraculously spared by a fire that destroyed most of the temple complex during the Battle of Higashi-Iwakura in the first year of the Ōnin War (1467–1477). When the statue was found to have only been slightly damaged (on the right hand), it was dubbed the “Fire-warding Amida” (Hiyoke Amida).

Contrary to the legends surrounding it, certain aspects of the statue’s style are typical of statues made during the Kamakura period (1185–1333), and certain visual elements suggest that it may even have been carved centuries later, during the Edo period (1603–1867). For its mysterious history, the statue is included in the “Seven Wonders of Eikandō.”