

Jodoin Temple

[LEGENDS]

Jodoin Temple is dedicated to the Amida Buddha and belongs to the Jodo (Pure Land) school of Buddhism. Though small, the temple is famous for its role in a historical anecdote involving the warlord Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1537–1598), who unified the country under his banner but died before he could establish a stable government.

In 1587, Hideyoshi was making his way to Kitano Tenmangu Shrine to host the Grand Kitano Tea Ceremony, a gathering of the cultured classes that the warlord hoped would enhance his status in the eyes of the elite, thereby legitimizing his rule. Like powerful samurai who had preceded him, Hideyoshi considered the tea ceremony a potent tool for establishing political alliances.

During the journey to Kitano, it is said, Hideyoshi felt thirsty and in need of refreshment. He came across Jodoin and decided to stop for some tea. He was accustomed to being served tea at places he visited, but his unannounced appearance took the temple's priest by surprise. In an effort to accommodate Hideyoshi's wishes, the priest hurriedly served tea to his guest before it had steeped properly.

Hideyoshi was initially taken aback when he saw his cup filled with the pale brew, but after drinking it proceeded to ask for more tea. Though only hot water was poured time and time again, Hideyoshi could see how earnestly the priest was trying to accommodate him by continuously refilling his guest's cup. The incident amused the warlord, who thereafter recalled Jodoin as the temple with plenty of hot water and no tea.