

### **Udo Shrine: *Fuku-shimenawa* and Purification**

When entering a Shinto shrine, visitors purify themselves ritually before proceeding toward the main sanctuary. This is done to cleanse oneself of both physical and spiritual impurities before approaching the deities. At Udo Shrine, the purification is conducted in two stages. First, devotees pick up a *fuku-shimenawa*—a small rope tied around a stick—from the box on the right and move it across and around their body to cleanse the mind. After use, the *fuku-shimenawa* should be placed in the box on the left (please refrain from taking it as a souvenir). A donation of 100 yen is recommended at this point. Next, visitors continue on to the *temizuya*, a basin where ladles are provided for washing one's hands and mouth to purify the body. After this, one is considered ready to cross the Shinkyo Bridge that leads into the most sacred part of the shrine.