

## **Hattatsu Mairi**

The Hattatsu Mairi is one of the rituals performed most often at Sumiyoshi Taisha. Its regular practice is believed to bring success in business. The ritual is performed by visiting four *massha*, or subsidiary shrines, on the first dragon day of the month, as determined by the 12-day week of the ancient Chinese calendar. The name derives from a play on words: *hattatsu* means “first dragon,” but when written with different characters, it means “develop” or “grow.”

To perform the Hattatsu Mairi, visitors must make an offering and pray at each *massha* in the following order: Tanekashi-sha, Nankun-sha, Asazawa-sha, and Ōtoshi-sha. Completion of the Hattatsu Mairi every month for four years—48 consecutive months—is said to ensure a lifetime’s worth of prosperity. This belief is based on another auspicious pun: the characters for *shijū hattatsu*, or “48 dragons,” have the same pronunciation as the characters that mean “to develop from start to finish.”

Vendors set up stalls within the Sumiyoshi Taisha grounds on Hattatsu Mairi days, creating a festive atmosphere for visitors. As the first dragon day falls on a different date each month, the schedule is posted in advance on this website.