

Shrine One: Tanekashi-sha

Tanekashi-sha is the first stop on the Hattatsu Mairi. It is the oldest of the four subsidiary shrines. During the early Heian period (794–1185), it was recorded on a list of shrines that received financial support from the emperor's court. It was originally located 2 kilometers away from Sumiyoshi Taisha but was moved after a fire in the sixteenth century.

This shrine is devoted to Uka no Mitama no Mikoto, believed to be one of the many manifestations of Inari, a major Shinto deity associated with grain, agriculture, and business. Uka no Mitama no Mikoto is specifically associated with grain, and the shrine's strong connection with sowing and fertility—*tane* means “seed”—has made it popular with people starting businesses or hoping to conceive children. As part of the Hattatsu Mairi, a visit to Tanekashi-sha represents the investment and effort needed in the early stages of setting up a successful business.

Tanekashi-sha offers small clay figurines depicting a mother cradling a child, which serve as charms for conception and childbearing. Visitors performing the Minori Mairi can also acquire a single rice seed at the shrine. Tanekashi-sha is open to Hattatsu Mairi practitioners from 6:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on “dragon days.” The minimum offering for the rite is 1,100 yen.