

Shrine Four: Ōtoshi-sha

Ōtoshi-sha is the final shrine of the Hattatsu Mairi. It is dedicated to a harvest god, Ōtoshi no Kami, who is the older brother of the deities enshrined at Tanekashi-sha and Nankun-sha. He is associated with Ōkununushi, one of the central deities in Shinto, and with the New Year.

As the final stop of the Hattatsu Mairi, Ōtoshi-sha represents the success that follows a wise investment and the proper nurturing of a business. One guidebook from the Edo period (1603–1867) says Osaka merchants would pray at the shrine when they were having trouble collecting the money they were owed.

Visiting Ōtoshi-sha completes the symbolic progression from planting (represented by the “seed” shrine Tanekashi-sha), through nurturing crops (Nankun-sha), to reaping a harvest. Those performing the Minori Mairi, having exchanged their rice seed for a stalk at Nankun-sha, may exchange the stalk for a bag of rice at Ōtoshi-sha. Next to the main shrine at Ōtoshi-sha are the Omokaru-ishi, fortune-telling stones that are used to predict whether one’s wishes will come true.

Ōtoshi-sha is open to Hattatsu Mairi practitioners from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The minimum offering for the rite is 1,000 yen, which covers Asazawa-sha as well.