

## BYODO-IN TEMPLE

THIS TEMPLE WAS BUILT IN 1052 BY FUJIWARA-YORIMICHI, IN THIS PLACE WHERE FORMERLY STOOD HIS VILLA, AND NAMED IT 'BYODO-IN'. ITS MAIN BUILDING 'HOOH-DO' WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1053, AND AS IT WAS SHAPED LIKE A PHOENIX, THE CENTRAL PART REPRESENTING ITS BODY WITH TWO WINGS, AND THE CORRIDOR BEHIND ITS 'TAIL', AND A PAIR OF 'PHOENIX' PLACED ON THE TOP OF THE ROOF OF THE MAIN BUILDING, IT HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN AS 'HOOH-DO', THE PHOENIX HALL. THESE BUILDINGS ARE REGARDED AS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ARCHITECTURES IN FUJIWARA PERIOD. IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF WHICH YORIMICHI DID HIS BEST TO REPRESENT THE SPLENDOR AND SUBLIMITY OF 'GOKURAKU-JODO' OR THE BUDDHIST PARADISE, AND THUS TRIED TO EXPRESS HIS ARDENT FAITH TO 'AMITABHA', NEARLY ALL OF THE EMINENT ARCHITECTS AND ARTISTS OF THE TIME JOINED IN THE WORK. AN IMAGE OF 'AMITABHA' MADE BY FAMOUS SCULPTOR JOCHO IS ENSHRINED IN IT. KWANNON-DO IS ONE OF THE TYPICAL BUILDING IN KAMAKURA PERIOD, AND AN IMAGE OF ELEVEN-FACED KWANNON IS ENSHRINED. THE BRONZE BELL IN THE BELFRY WAS MADE IN HEIAN AND IS BELIEVED TO BE THE FINEST IN SHAPE IN THE COUNTRY. THE PORCH OF 'SAISHO-IN' AND THE 'SHOIN' IN 'JODO-IN' ARE OF THE MOMOYAMA PERIOD WHICH HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM MOMOYAMA CASTLE OF TOYOTOMI-HIDEYOSHI.

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