

Report: ~ceremony to drive out evil sprits in Nara~In the case of Kofukuji-temple and Horyuji-temple Part 2

■■■Horyuji-temple 's case

2. Horyuji-temple's case

Introduction

□Horyuji-temple is in a slightly remote place from the center of Nara. The nearest station is “Horyuji station” (JR line). It takes about 10 minutes from Nara by train. From Osaka, it takes about one hour. But, unfortunately, this station is far away from the temple (about 1.5 kilometers. It takes eight minutes by bus, over 20 minutes on foot), besides, the bus does not run after about 5 pm. The event begins at 7:30 pm every year. If you want to watch only this event, you should use the next station “Ouji” and you should take a bus.



Horyuji station



around the temple

□In this season, when it passes 5:00 pm, the sun goes down. When you arrive at this temple, you will stand in deep darkness without many people. There are several Buddhist monasteries and long wall.

□When I arrived there past 6:30, I saw that scene. I felt

lonely, I thought I had better return. Because I guessed that probably the ceremony would not to be performed for some reason that day. When I decided to return, I saw that several people came there. They seemed a family. So, I turned back and walked little and then several more people came in sight. They seemed to be waiting for somebody. It seemed there was a misunderstanding. This temple looked very quiet. The state was greatly different from Kofukuji-temple. I presumed the reason there was no ceremony. Of course, nobody got gifts. Perhaps this temple in a remote place. I didn't know whether this was right or not.





Ogres and Bishamonten come out

□The event was held in front of “Seien-do hall □□□”. This hall is on the left side of the main hall and Five Storeyed Pagoda.
□After 7:00, it was not crowded. A fence was built sorounding the hall, people had been waiting in front of it. Just before it start, people finally gathered. There were fewer it than I expected. At 7:30 pm, it started.





Ogre



Bishamonten

□Three ogres and Bishamonten got on the stage. This style was the same as Kofukuji-temple's. A defferent is that the ogres and Bishamonten did not fight each other. Basically, nothing much happened. Ogres came out one by one from the right side of the hall and took torches. An ogre swung the torch and it powerfully to the fence. He did this three times. The next ogre did the same action.







□After the third ogre, Bishamonten came on a stage, he stuck a long sword out powerfully severasl times, shouting “Yah, Yah, Yah”. This action meant throw out evil spirits. They went around 3 times.





□When the sparks spread, people cheered. Sometimes, a torch

flew over the fence. However, generally it was silent without the voices of cheering and Bishamonten. No announce, no commentary, no noise. There was only some cheering and the sound of fire sparking.

□Before 8:00, the event was over. As soon as the ogres and Bishamonten left, several fireman got on stage.







□When I turned back on my way to the gate, only the Five Storeyed Pagoda soared high in the soundless night like an illusion.