

Takarazuka Shrine



4-8, Yashiro Cho, Takarazuka City, Hyogo

9-minute walk from Sakasegawa Station, on the Hankyu Imazu Line

History of the Takarazuka Shrine

Before the Meiji era, it was called “San-ou Gongen” and it was very popular among local people. Behind the Takarazuka Shrine, there are three mountains: Mt.Iwakura, Yuzuriha and Gyoja. That is why the *kanjo* (ceremonial transfer of a divided tutelary deity to a new location) of the God of the Mountains was carried out. In the rural areas, the God who looks over rice crop harvests, Susano, was enshrined. During those days, rice farmers from across the country worshipped the mountains, as they got the water for their rice fields from them, and prayed to them for successful harvests.

Nobody knows when the shrine was founded but according to the record kept in the Heirinji Temple, it might have been built around the year 800. That is because a Buddhist statue which is thought to have been made in 834 is enshrined there. The gods enshrined in the Takarazuka Shrine are Oyamatsumi and Susano. Oyamatsumi controls good fortune as well as money, prosperity and safe birth (delivery) and Susano looks over agriculture and matchmaking while driving out evil spirits.

In 1966, the Takarazuka Shrine was combined with the Susano Shrine and named Nishi Ujigami. From its location, we can see as far as the urban area of Osaka, the Ikoma and the Kongou Mountains. Many people go there to watch the first sunrise of the year.