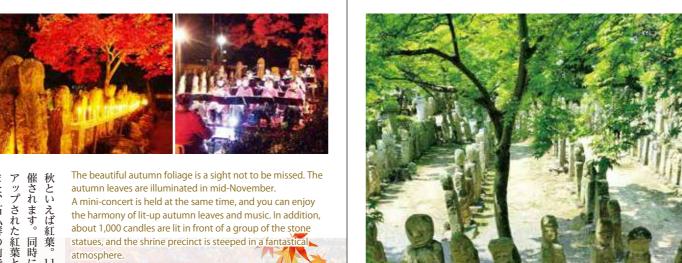


Delicate snow falls like flower petals, and piles up on trees. They look like flowers blooming in the shrine precinct. What a wonderful sight it is! In this season, the 500 stone statues wear cotton hats.







を投資します。 と 日本尊・薬師如来の縁日でもある毎年8月8日でもある毎年8月8日に「千灯会」が開催さに「千灯会」が開催さい、「千灯会」が開催さい。

Summer

This is the season when the Five Hundred Arhats are shaded by trees in the

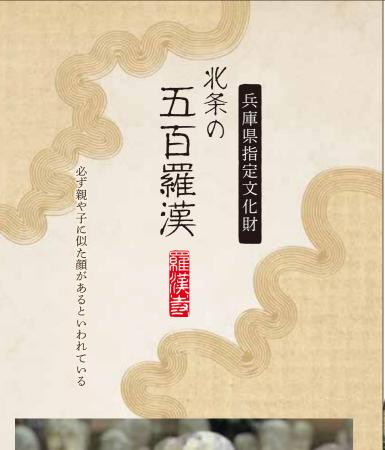
shrine precinct.
Every year on August 8, the festival of Yakushi Nyorai who is the principal object of worship, the Sento-e (memorial service of a thousand lights) is held. We revere our ancestors, lighting approximately 1,000 candles.



When spring comes, pale pink cherry blossoms add color to the Five Hundred Arhats. Trees all over the shrine precinct turn a delicate pink shade.

Look at the petals fluttering in a gentle breeze in the quiet and elegant Rakan-ji Temple, and enjoy a leisurely moment.







Hyogo Prefectural Designated Cultural Property

Five Hundred Arhats (Gohyaku Rakan) of Hojo

They say you will surely find familiar faces such as your parents or children there

北条の五百羅漢は大分県耶馬渓山、江戸の本所に創建された五百羅 漢とともに全国的にも有名な石仏群です。素朴にして表情豊かなその 姿は必ず親や子に似た顔があるといわれています。

この石仏は元々羅漢寺の南にある酒見寺にあり、江戸時代初期に寺 の再興に伴う寺内整備や信仰・供養のために造立されたと考えられて います。また、彫技は稚拙とは言え、石仏500体を造立するために、 その込められた哀しくも美しく澄んだ信仰心に思いを馳せる時、しん とひきしめられるほどの純真さに感心せずにはいられません。江戸時 代初期の石仏約500体がほぼ原型を留めており、「誰かに似た像が」 と古くから民間の信仰や伝承の対象になっています

ともあれ、色はさび、姿は風化して趣き深いこの石仏群を「野趣ゆ たかな野の仏」と閑寂の昔を偲びつつ鑑賞して頂ければ幸いです。

The Five Hundred Arhats of Hojo is a group of stone statues that is famous nationwide, along with those of Yabakei Gorge in Ōita Prefecture, and those established in Honio, Tokyo, during the Edo Period (1603-1867). These simple and expressive statues are said to have faces among them that resemble visitors' parents or children.

These stone statues were originally installed in Sagami-ji Temple, which is to the south of the Rakan-ii Temple, and are believed to have been built at the time of the temple restoration in the early Edo Period, as well as objects of people's faith and memorial services. Although the sculpting techniques used may be considered unrefined, nobody can

> be unmoved when they think about the painfully beautiful and pure religious devotion it took to build these 500 stone statues. These approximately 500 stone statues built in the early Edo Period are almost intact, and have long been the subject of private faith and lore as illustrated in saying "there is sure to be a statue resembling someone you know."

Whether you find a familiar face or not, please enjoy these stone statues that have gone rusty in color and weathered in appearance but remain elegant. They are "Buddhas of rustic beauty in the field."

# ~五百羅漢と文化人~





阪本勝氏の歌碑(元兵庫県知事)





安藤峻涛書の「改修記念碑」

## 本堂 Main hall

当寺本堂のご本尊である薬師如来が祀 られています。瑠璃光浄土と言われて おり、心と体の悩みを癒してくれる仏 様であります。眷属として日光・月光 菩薩並びに十二神将を従えています。



Here, in the main hall, is enshrined the principal object of worsnip of this temple, Yakushi Nyorai. It is associated with the "Pure Land of Blue Light," and is a Buddha to cure all ills and agonies of the body and mind. It is accompanied by Nikko Bosatsu and Gakko Bosatsu (deities of the sun and the moon), as well as the Twelve Heavenly Generals as messengers of the Buddha.

## 庚申堂 Köshin-do Hall

本尊は青面金剛龍王であり、我々の 生活を見守って下さる仏様です。青 面金剛龍王の右側に童子、左側に鶏、 童子の下には夜叉が 3 人、一番下に は三猿が祀られています。

2ヶ月に 1 回庚申の日にお参りをす ると健康に過ごせるといわれています。(厄除けの仏様)また、ふれ愛観音もあり、 気になる所をさすると良くなるとされています。

The principal object of worship in this hall is the Blue-faced Kongo Ryuo (Keumkang King Dragon), a Buddha who watches over our lives. Also worshipped are a child on the right side of the Blue-faced Kongo Ryuo; a chicken on the left; three Yashas (quardian deities sometimes depicted as demonic warriors) under the child; and three monkeys on the bottom. This is a Buddha to ward off bad luck, and it is said that you can spend a healthy life if you worship it once every two months on the days of Köshin (which refers to the 57 of 60 permutations in the Oriental zodiac). There is also a Fureai Kannon (Goddess of Mercy for heart-to-heart understanding), which is believed to allow, if you rub parts of it, to heal the corresponding body parts.

# 聖天堂 (歓喜天) Shoten-do Hall (where there is a quardian deity named Kangiten)

観音様とインドの神様が祀られています。頭は象で体は人 間という奇怪な姿で現されています。インドでは、象が獣 王として尊敬されているため、象を神格化して聖天の姿に したといいます。この二体は抱き合っており、家庭円満、 商売繁盛の仏様とされています。

Here, Kannon (the Goddess of Mercy) and an Indian god with an elephant head and a human body are enshrined. It is said that, in India, elephants are revered as the king of beasts, so the elephants were defined and made into representations of Shoten (Holy Heaven). These two statues stand so that they hug each other, and are considered to be incarnations of Buddha for family happiness and business prosperity.

滋賀県大津市の西教寺に次いで2番目の古さであり、弥陀 来迎のときに阿弥陀如来に従ってくる二十五体の菩薩で必 ず、西方の極楽の世界へ導いてくださる菩薩であります。

These statues are a suite of twenty-five Buddhist saints that come following after the descent of Amida Nyorai (the celestial Buddha) to welcome the spirits of the dead, leading us to the Paradise of the West. They are the second oldest after those at Saikyo-ji Temple in Otsu City, Shiga Prefecture.

# 周辺のご案内 Guidance of Surroundings





北条の宿 Accommodation in Hoio



Mizuta family house (Registered Tangible Cultural Properties of Japan)



自動車:中国自動車道加西 IC から 西に約5km (P有り21台)

※大型車駐車場有 電 車:北条鉄道北条町駅から徒歩20分

By Car: About 5 km west from Kasai IC, Chūgoku Expressway (parking for 21 cars) \* Large car parking lot available

Five Hundred Arhats of Hojo

By Train: 20 minutes' walk from Hojo-machi Station on the Hojo Railway

# 北条の五百羅漢

〒675-2312 加西市北条町北条 1293 TEL: 0790-43-0580

拝 観 料 大人/200円 小人/100円 (20名以上の団体の場合160円) 拝観時間 9:00 ~ 17:00 ※年中無休

