

Atsuta Shrine Festivals.

Honen-sai

8th day 4th Month, *in the Lunar Calendar,*

*(May 7, 1919)*

Ho=abundance. nen=year  
*full harvest.*

It is a festival to pray for good crops. At 7 A. M. purification ceremony in the front of Kagura and an announcement to the Deities that the festival is about to take place. At 7:30 service and an offering to the God of Agriculture in the Kagura Hall. 9 A. M. Exhibition of two pictures made to represent farms, including houses fields and people.

The first is for the upland farms where mulberry trees for feeding the silk worms are grown and cotton is raised. In this picture if the mulberry leaves are being carried away the peasants think it indicates a superabundance of leaves, indicating an over supply of silk and consequently a drop in its price. The second one is for the lowlands where rice is grown. To the right the early rice. It has been cut and if shown to be well formed and good, it indicates a good crop of early rice. The rice on the left shows the later rice. If it grows straight it indicates it will not be destroyed by wind. These pictures are of buddist origin and come from the offering of flowers to Shaka, The old name for this festival including these pictures was Hana-~~note~~<sup>to</sup> or Calyx of Flowers. Since the separation of Shinto from Buddhism it has been given the name of Honen-sai.

*Hana-no-to.*



Atsuta Shrine Festival.

Honen-sai

23rd day 4th Month. (1917)

Ho-spondance, non-year

It is a festival to pray for good crops. At 7 A. M. purification ceremony in the front of Kagura and an announcement to the Deities that the festival is about to take place. At 7:30 service and an offering to the God of Agriculture in the Kagura Hall. Exhibition of two pictures made to represent farms, including houses, fields and people.

The first is for the upland farms where mulberry trees for feeding the silk worms are grown and cotton is raised. In this picture if the mulberry leaves are being carried away the peasants think it indicates a superabundance of leaves, indicating an over supply of silk and consequently a drop in its price.

The second one is for the lowlands where rice is grown. To the right the early rice. It has been cut and is shown to be well formed and good, it indicates a good crop of early rice. The rice on the left shows the later rice. If it grows upright it indicates it will not be destroyed by wind. These pictures are of buddhist origin and come from the offering of flowers to Shaka. The old name for this festival including these pictures was Hana-no-sai or Calyx of Flowers. Since the separation of Shinto from Buddhism it has been given the name of Honen-sai.

Hana-no-sai