

Shimo Gamo Jinja. (Taken from Shrine Map)

The shrine premises face the Takano river on the East side and on the West the Kamo River. The sound of running water can be heard at all times. The lovely forest of Tadasu pierces the sky and remains green throughout the year. Indeed this is the most beautiful site for a shrine in all the empire.

There are two Hall East and west.

In east hall Tama yori hime no mikoto, the mother of Waka ika zuchi who is worshipped in Kami Gamo Jinja.

In West hall: Take tsumumi-no-mikoto, the father of Tama yori hime.

When Kamu Yamato iware hiko no mikoto, that is the Emperor Jimmu went to conquer the Eastern provinces, this Take tsumumi-no-mikoto transformed himself into into a golden Kite called Yatakarasu, and he guided and led the Imperial army to a great victory. From most ancient times the Imperial Court has shown special reverence and respect to this shrine holding it high above all other shrines in the Empire. This is fully verified by state and national annals. It is very natural that all people in Japan come to this shrine and bow their heads before this kami and worship and pray. Groups of such persons come one after another without end. The wonderful divine virtue and power of this kami is well known throughout the Empire.

The most prominent sessha of this shrine:

Kawai-no-yashiro.

Tama yori hime no mikoto is installed and worshipped.

The annual festival is Nov. 15th.



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Shimo Kamo Jinja, or Lower Kamo Shrine.

Description of the Shrine.

A mile South and just outside the Northern boundary of the City is the Shimo Kamo jinja, a Lower Kamo Shrine. A beautiful avenue lined with old trees connects the two shrines.

It is also called the "Parent shrine" because it is dedicated to the Mother and Grandfather of the God enshrined at the Upper Kamo shrine.

This shrine built at the junction of the Kamo and Takano Rivers, in the midst of the lovely Tadasu forest has a most beautiful setting.

There are three enclosures, the Outer, the Middle and the Inner enclosure. The Shrine is approached through a large red Torii flanked on either side by a high covered fence. One enters the second enclosure. On a line with the Red gate is the pavillion intended for the Imperial Envoy, when three times each year he brings offerings and a message from the Emperor to the Kami. On its left is the Treasure Hall, and back of it a large shrine dedicated to the guardian God of the District, Susano-o-wo. On the extreme right is a pond and a well covered by a small shrine. This little shrine is dedicated to the God of Water.

A small gate leads through the high fence into the third enclosure. There are two sanctuaries. The Eastern Hall is dedicated to Tama yori hime (mother of Waka Ika-zuchi of the Upper Kamo shrine) The Western Hall is dedicated to her father Take-tsunami, the Sea God, or according to the modern Shinto, the lord who ruled the Sea. In front of the Sanctuaries are seven tiny shrines dedicated to the seven manifestations of Okuni-nushi, the God enshrined at Izumo.

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History of the Deities.

Tama yori hime.

One day while Tama yori hime was walking along the bank of the Semino River, she saw a red arrow floating down the stream. She drew it out of the water and carried it home and placed it upon the Tokunoma or alcove which is set apart in the room to hold precious things. This arrow was transformed into a beautiful youth who made love to Tama yori hime. From this union Wake Ikazuchi was born. Not knowing who the stranger was, she was unable to satisfy her parents on the subject.

In the course of time her father called a gathering of the neighbors and friends with the object of getting the boy to identify his father. When all were present, and the Sake cup was being passed, it was given to the small boy and he was told to hand it to his father.

Instead of giving it to some one in the gathering, he held it up towards the sky, and with it he ascended into Heaven.

The arrow is generally believed to have been a transformation of Oyama kui, the kami worshipped at the Hiyei and Matsuno shrines.

Take-Tsunumi.

The Sea God, or Lord who ruled the seas. When the first Emperor, Jimmu was on his expedition to conquer the Eastern provinces, this God transferred himself into a raven called Yata garasu, and thus transformed he led the Imperial troops to victory. (see the Kumano Shimes, Kii prov)

to be rewritten



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