

【南魚沼市】 霊峰八海山大崎口の石仏めぐり

Minamiuonuma city - Sacred mountain, Hakkaisan (Osaki Entrance) stone Buddhist images tour.

霊峰八海山の麓の大崎地区には、平安時代の書物にもその名が残る大前神社を中心に、山城やお寺などの文化財のほか、ちいさな石仏もたくさん見つけることができます。

In Osaki, by the foot of the sacred Hakkaisan mountain you can find many small stone Buddhist images as well as cultural assets such as mountain castles and temples and most importantly the Osaki shrine, which was written about as early as the Heian period.

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①-1 麓の地藏堂の石仏 Stone Buddhist images at Jizoudou
①-2 麓の腰掛岩・縁結びの木 Koshikakerook・Tree of marriage at Fumoto
② 水尾の爪引地藏 Tsumebiki-Jizou at Mizuo
③ 水尾の道光寺の石仏 Stone Buddhist images at Mizuo Doukouji temple
④ 今町新田の赤虫大明神 Akamushi-daimyojin at Imamachi-shinden



⑤ 柳古新田の防火地藏 Fire Prevention Jizou at Ryuko-shinden
⑥ 大崎の道標 Signpost at Osaki
⑦ 大崎の道祖神 Dosojin at Osaki
⑧ 穴地の防火地藏・二十三夜塔・如意輪観音 Fire Prevention Jizou・Nijusanyatower・Nyoirin Kannon at Anaji
⑨ 穴地の導きの地藏・庚申塔 Guidance Jizou・Kosin tower at Anaji

おもしろい庚申信仰 Interesting Koushin Beliefs

道教では「人の腹には三匹の虫が棲んでいる」といい、それを「三尸虫(さんしちゅう)」と呼びます。この三尸虫は「隠している過去を知り、六十日毎に廻ってくる庚申の夜に、人が睡眠すると身体から抜け出して天に昇り、その過去の罪悪を天帝に告げる」ことで生命が縮まると信じられていました。

よって、庚申の夜には三尸虫が天に昇らないために夜通し、眠らずに飲み食い、昔話などを語っていました。さらに六十年に一度来る庚申の年に「供養塔」を建立しました。この供養塔の下には、村の現状を伝える品々や酒が埋納されました。今でいうタイムカプセルです。

庚申塔は、仏教系では「青面金剛」で、神道系は「猿田彦大神」の像を刻みましたが、新しくなると文字塔に変化しました。

青面金剛像が刻まれた塔を観察しましょう。青面金剛は病魔や災難を除くインドの神です。六本の手を持ち、頭部に蛇を巻き付けています。古い形態は中央二手は合掌し、直立した静的な姿ですが、次第に足を踏ん張り邪鬼を踏みつけ、身をよじり、左手でショケラと呼ぶ上半身裸の女性の髪をつかみ、右手には剣を握る動的な姿に変わります。他に、月や二鶏、三猿が彫りこまれます。



青面金剛像下部の三猿



庚申石祠

庚申の夜は「申の日」から始まり、「酉の日」に及ぶので酉と猿が庚申に結び付いたと言われています。酉は鶏で時を告げる神聖な鳥です。

三猿は「見ざる、聞かざる、言わざる」のたとえであり、三猿を三尸虫になぞえ目、耳、口をふさいで悪事を天帝に告げないものです。

庚申塔には、石祠の形もあります。石祠の全面には二鶏と二猿が中央の窓部分を挟んで左右に描かれています。窓の形はハートを逆さにしたものと四角のものがあり、この二猿は、雄と雌で桃の実を挟んでいます。桃の実は邪気を払い、桃の葉のしぼり汁は三尸虫を除くといわれています。

このように青面金剛像の形態や、鶏や猿の形態が時代によって変化します。野仏と共に山野を歩き散策して見ましょう。江戸時代の人々の声が聞こえますよ。

It is said in Taoist teachings that there are three bugs living in your stomach; this is referred to as 'san-shichu'. It is believed that those three bugs know your concealed past and every 60 days on the night as the Koushin cycle turns, they escape from your body as you sleep, rise up to heaven and inform Shangdi (god) of any crimes, and he has the power to shorten your life.

So, on the 60th night in order to stop the bugs rising up, people would go without sleep and stay up eating, drinking and sharing old stories. Furthermore on one's 60th Birth day, the annual Koushin that only happens once in one's life, a memorial tower was erected. By this memorial tower offerings such as Sake were buried conveying the current status of one's village. In modern day terms it's like a time capsule.

The Koushin tower in Buddhism is referred to as the 'Shomen Kongo' and in Shinto 'Sarutahiko God' statues were carved but they have been updated into towers with characters.

Let's take a look at the tower with the Shomen Kongo image carved into it. Shomen Kongo is an Indian god which repels disasters and disease. It has 6 hands and there is a snake wrapped around the head. Older styles show the middle pair of hands pressed together in prayer and standing upright and statically but, gradually it's changed to a more active pose, shown standing on an evil demon with the body twisted, grabbing the hair of a half-naked woman (Shokura) with the left hand and a sword in the right. Other examples which feature the moon, 2 chickens and 3 monkeys have also been carved.

As the Koushin night starts on 'Saru no Hi' (day of the monkey) and extends out until 'Tori no Hi' (day of the bird) it is thought that birds and monkeys are related to the Koushin.

The three monkeys, the 'seeing monkey, hearing monkey and speaking monkey' stop the three bugs from rising to heaven and conveying one's crimes by blocking the mouth, eyes and ears.

Sometimes the Koushin tower takes the form of stone Hokora (a small wayside shrine). On each side of the Hokora two birds and two monkeys surround 2 small central windows. A square one and an upside down heart one, representing a peach seed being held by the two, male and female, monkeys. It is said that peach seeds dispel ill will and the juice of peach leaves repel the three bugs.

In this way Shomen Kongo shapes and the bird and monkey shapes changed through history. Let's enjoy roadside stone Buddhist images together with countryside, hills and mountains while taking a stroll. Even the voices of those alive in the Edo era can be heard...



青面金剛



ショケラ