



Divine Power

Enshrined as the master of this shrine is Sarutahiko-Ôkami, who is a deity that appears in an old Japanese myth “Tensonkourin”.

In the myth, Amaterasu Ômikami, the ruler of the Haven, sends Amatsuhiko-Hononigini-no-Mikoto, her grandchild, to the earth. On his way to the earth at Amenoyatimata where eight roads intercross, he meets a deity who stands waiting for him shining gloriously to lead his way from thereon. This deity is Sarutahiko-Ôkami.

He protects Amatsuhiko-Hononigini-no-Mikoto from enemies who try to hinder his way and leads him safely to Takachihomine in old Hyuga.

Since this myth, Sarutahiko-Ôkami has been known as the deity who helps people find and leads their ways in times of adversities and uncertainty. He is also believed to be the god of Bugaku (dance performed before the god), Kyougen (songs and dances for Kabuki and Nou) and Japanese dance, who safeguards and leads people to improvement.

Nowadays he is known as the god to lead the parade at the shrine festival and ensures its safety.

Sarutahiko-Ôkami is originally the god of land called Dokoujin and the guardian deity of cultivation, land development and construction. He is also the deity of Kemari (ancient Japanese football) and the guardian deity of ball games.



The Image of Ôkami

The picture shows Sarutahiko-Ôkami being dressed for the parade. He is tall and has a great presence. His nose is very high like Tengu's and his lips are shining brightly. He has a long white beard and big round eyes filled with glorious light. His eyes were so powerful that those who had committed sins and crimes felt powerless in front of him when they were stared at with them. For honest and good people, he is a sweet and kind deity who protects and leads their ways.



The Shrine and its Surroundings

Following Ôkami's words of Goshintaku (trust), "do missionary work here", this Owari-no-Sarutahiko Shrine was built at the current location in Okucyou. Since missionary work

was started in 1985, many people have visited the shrine as a sanctuary where they can "ease their mind".

In Ômakiyama, where Okunomiya is situated, a Torii, a sacred arch at the entrance to the shrine, is built. Many people visit there as a Youhaisho of the Ise Shinto Shrine, a place to worship from the far distance.

At the upper stream of Ômakiyama, there was a landing wharf of the Okucyo Ferry. It was a bustling place with sailing boats going up and down the stream. Ibuki Mountains can be seen to the west, and it was, at the same time, a relaxing place where you could enjoy sailing on the calm stream and beautiful sceneries with cool breezes swaying the leaves of the pine trees.

Norinaga Motoori, a scholar of Japanese classical studies, and many others wrote about these picturesque sceneries in their Tanka and Haiku (Japanese ancient poetry)

Okunomiya has two shrines, the Chikatsu Shrine and the Sarume Shrine. The Chikatsu Shrine enshrines Sarutahiko-Ôkami and the latter enshrines his wife.



(now scenery of Okucyou ferry)



Enyuukai – Member Club for Worshipers

Enyuukai is a member club for worshipers of this shrine and provides them with opportunities to get to know other members. Anyone is welcome to join the club by paying registration and annual fees. Members will receive newsletters with information on upcoming festivals and events and lessons of the month.