

【国宝 三仏寺奥院(投入堂)】

修験道の本尊「蔵王権現」を安置するお堂で、修験道の開祖である役行者(役小角)が、「法力によって投 げ入れた」という言い伝えから、投入堂(なげいれどう)と呼ばれるようになったとされます。

床下をきわめて長い柱で支える懸造のお堂は、全体に木割が細く、柱、桁、梁、垂木などには大きく面をとり、垂木の勾配は緩く、流造の母屋の両側に庇屋根をつけるなどの変化に富んだ構造で、平安時代の特徴をよく表しています。桧皮葺の屋根も特徴的で、正面庇を身舎から葺き下ろし、正面と西側には身舎に片流れの破風をつけ、さらに左右隅にも一段低い破風をつけることで屋根に変化をつけています。

また、外部は正面と西側面に高欄をつける縁を廻し、西側背面の片引板戸が出入口になっています。

なお、正式には向かって右の大きな建物を「蔵王殿」、向かって左の小さな建物を「愛染堂」といい、近年、年輪年代測定法によって投入堂の古材を調べた結果、平安時代後期(11~12世紀)に建立されたことが立証されました。明治37年(1904)に特別保護建造物に指定され、昭和25年(1950)には文化財保護法制定に伴い重要文化財に、昭和27年(1952)には国宝に指定されています。

[National Treasure Nageire-do]

The principal object of worship of Sanbutsu-ji temple's Nageire-dō hall is "Zaō Gongen", the main deity of Shugendō (a Japanese religion based around the ancient worship of mountains). It is said that Nageire-dō took its name from En no Gyōja, the founder of Shugendō religion, who "used its magical powers to throw the hall into the mountain", with *nageire* meaning "throw into" and *dō* meaning "hall" in Japanese.

Nageire-dō hall was built in the *kake-zukuri* construction method, which enables temples to stand on rocks or steep slopes with the support of long pillars. It displays an architectural style with many elements characteristic of the Heian period (8th-12th century), such as: thinly-cut wood; girders, beams, rafters and pillars with extensively flattened sides; slightly curved rafters; and a *moya* (the sacred central part of a temple building) in the *nagare-zukuri* ("streamlined roof") style with eaves on both sides of the roof. The hall is characterized by its thatched cypress bark roof, with overhanging single-sloped eaves on the front and west sides of the *moya*, and additional lower eaves on the left and right corners.

In addition, along the front and west sides of the outer part of the structure is a walkway with a tall railing, and in the very back, on the west side only, a sliding wooden door is used as an entrance and exit.

Finally, the official name of the large structure on the right side is "Zaō-den", while the smaller one on the left is called "Aizen-dō". In recent research, it has been demonstrated through dendrochronology that the old wood from the structure dates back to the second half of the Heian period (11th-12th century).

In 1904, Nageire-dō hall was designated as a Specially Preserved Building, then as an Important Cultural Property under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties in 1950, and lastly as a National Treasure in 1952.