

Seated Bodhisattva Statue (Koumyouin Temple)

City of Nagareyama Designated Cultural Property (No. 5)

This Buddhist statue, which is currently enshrined in Koumyouin Temple, used to sit in what was formerly Chofukuji Temple in the Naka District of Nagareyama.

Made out of Hinoki Cypress wood, the statue has a height of 49.2 cm (1.61 ft). The head and body were carved from a single block of wood, while the arms and legs are thought to have been carved separately and attached to the main body. Based on the wide surface area of the shoulder joints, the statue is thought to have had 6 arms, and sat in a pose of royal ease, with one knee propped up. The statue's limbs however, have since been lost over the ages.

Based on its characteristic limbs, and its head which is tilted slightly to the right, the piece is speculated to be a statue of the Japanese Buddhist Deity, Nyoirin Kannon (or Avalokiteshvara in Sanskrit), who is a deity of compassion and mercy.

In its original state, this Nyoirin Kannon Statue is thought to have been covered in a gold lacquer, with a crystal embedded in the center of its forehead. The round facial features of the statue, along with its distinct topknot, are characteristics indicative of being built back around the Kamakura Period (the late 13th Century).

In 1984, the Seated Bodhisattva Statue was named a City of Nagareyama Designated Cultural Property.

— City of Nagareyama Board of Education