

Revived Katsunin-Ken

甦った「活人剣」

可憐には、日清講和記念碑の「活人剣」がある。それは、明治三十一年、真の院に建てる小蓮のほごりある「六の字六」の形に建立された。剣の制作者は明治を代表する彫刻家、高村光雲である。

しかし、第二次世界大戦中に、金属製の剣身は供出され、石造の基壇と剣鞘のみが対建当初の面影を残し、長いこと寂しく佇んでいた。

石造りとは違うもの、このまま放置しておくも可憐だけではなく、「活人剣」にまつわる歴史の真実も忘れられてしまつてはどうか。静かなら、再建活動が進められた。賛同者を募り、募金活動をし、新たな剣の制作には當代唯一の金属工芸家、宮田孝平米津藝術大学学長に引き受けいただき、又樹け四年の歳月を経て、竣工の運びとなった。

そもそも「活人剣」とは、日清戦争時に、医業の方で困難もさうべき一大危機を救った陸軍軍医少佐藤達（順天宮三代堂主）の功績を讃えることもに、この戦争で心なつた日清両国の戦死病死者を供養するために建てられたものである。明治二十八年三月、清國講和全權大臣として来日した李鴻章が交際会場（春帆楼）からの帰途、暴漢に襲撃され顔面を傷する大事件が発生した。藤達は助命に、直ちに下関に赴き、全身全霊で李の治療に当たり、見事に快癒させて、李は無事結ばれた。

治療中のある日、藤達が李に軍医を刺しているのを不思議に思った李が「軍医の仕事に刺は不要では」と尋ねたところ、藤達は即座に「これは人を救ふの剣ではなく、人を傷ます「活人剣」である。當日ごらぬ多量の血と戦っており、活ずれば（つ）と死し、李を心底から感動させた。

この「活人剣」の苦節は、藤達の奉職の体験から出たものであり、そこに深い縁を感じた、当時の日置熟山可憐堂主の発案と尽力で、「活人剣」の記念碑がここ可憐の地に誕生したのである。

この度の「活人剣」の再建が、地域の大事な歴史遺産として、後世を後り送るよすがとなることにも、これからの親中友好さらには世界平和の象徴となることを願って止まない。

（二〇一六（平成二十八）年二月吉日 活人剣再建委員会）



現在の活人剣碑

Explanatory Plate for the Present Katsunin-Ken

In the precinct of Kasuisai temple, there used to be a monument of Katsunin-ken or a healing-sword erected as a memorial to the Sino-Japanese Peace Treaty. It was erected in front of a cave called “Rokunoji” along the trail leading to an inner shrine. It was designed by Koun Takamura (1852-1934), a renowned sculptor of the Meiji Era (1868-1912).

However, during World War II, the metallic part of the sword was delivered to the government for war purposes. Since then only its stone pedestal and an accompanying monument stood alone for a long time.

Made of stone as the pedestal was, if left, it was feared that it could become excessively weathered over the course of time. Some people were concerned that, together with the weathering of the pedestal, the historic truth related to the Katsunin-ken could also be relegated to a forgotten past. It was such apprehension that prompted the people to launch a campaign for its re-erection. They called for volunteers and raised funds. Consequently, they invited as a creator of a new sword, Prof. Ryohei Miyata (1945 ~), a former

President of Tokyo University of the Arts (appointed as a commissioner of the Agency for Cultural Affairs from April 2016), who has been called the greatest metal craftsman of the day. After four years of struggle, the new monument was finally unveiled.

Originally, the Katsunin-ken monument was erected for the repose of the war dead of the Sino-Japanese War (1894-5) as well as in honor of Dr. Susumu Sato, Surgeon General of the Imperial Japanese Army at the time of the war and subsequently the 3rd President of Juntendo Medical University, who averted a national crisis with the help of his knowledge of medicine. In March 1895 (in the 28th year of the Meiji Era), Mr. Li Hong Zhang, Imperial Commissioner of the Qing Empire who was visiting Japan, was shot by a scoundrel and was seriously injured in the face while on his way back from “Shunpanro” Restaurant, a peace conference venue. No sooner had Dr. Sato been given an order by Emperor Meiji than he headed for Shimonoseki and devoted himself to administering immediate treatment to Li. Mr. Li made a remarkable recovery thanks to Dr. Sato’s devotion and eventually the peace treaty was concluded.

One day when Li was being treated, he wondered why Sato was always wearing a sword and asked, “Doctors do not need a sword, do they?” to which Sato immediately answered, “This is not a sword for killing, but one to let people survive. It is called ‘Katsunin-ken’ or a healing-sword, which constantly fights against all kinds of diseases and will never fail to defeat them.” They were words which deeply moved Li.

The word “Katsunin-ken” came from Sato’s own Zen experience. Meanwhile, a Buddhist monk, Hioki Mokusen (1849-1920), the 48th Master of Kasuisai temple at that time, who heard the anecdote of Sato’s remarks, found a profound bond to Zen in it. Therefore the monk proposed an erection of the monument. His cherished desire and all-out efforts made it possible for the monument to come into being in the precinct of Kasuisai temple.

We sincerely hope the re-erected monument of Katsunin-ken will serve as a reminder of bygone times, as a local important historic heritage, and will be a symbol of friendly relations between Japan and China and promote world peace.

In March 2016 (in the 28th year of the Heisei Era)
Katsunin-ken Re-erection Committee