

22_1_ English_犬塚の欅

Zelkova Tree at the Dog's Mound

Designated Natural Monument of Otsu City

Zelkova trees are indigenous to mountain regions, but are sometimes transplanted to areas closer to where people live and grow to become large trees. This zelkova is not only an old, magnificent tree, but it also has its own legend. The Buddhist monk Rennyo [1415-1499], famous for his work in spreading the beliefs of the “Jodo Shinshu” sect, was once targeted and nearly killed once via a poisoning attempt of a meal by a follower of another sect. At the time, a loyal dog took his place and tested the meal, revealing the poisoning attempt and dying in the process. It is said that Rennyo buried the loyal dog at this mound, and planted this Zelkova in memory of them.