

The Who's Who of Japanese Deities

And how to identify them in Japanese art

The Hierarchy of Deities

- Buddhas (J: nyorai 如来)
- Bodhisattvas (J: bosatsu 菩薩)
- Wisdom Kings (J: myōō 明王)
- Celestial Beings (J: tenbu 天部)

There is always an exception.

Myōō 明王

- Esoteric deities
- Enforcers
- Wrathful forms (J: funnu 忿怒) of buddhas
- Amalgam of directional guardians (lokapala) and gate guardians (dvarapala)
- Multi-armed, multi-faced
- Flame mandorlas



Aizen myōō 愛染明王

- Ragaraja
- Deity of passion
 - Romantic relationship
 - Protector of courtesans
- Red complexion
- Six arms, one face, three eyes
- Lion in crown

Godai Myōō 五大明王

- Five 五 Great 大 Wisdom 明 Kings 王
- Also a grouping of eight (J: hachi 八)
- Prevalent in esoteric imagery
 - Mandalas (J: mandara 曼荼羅)
 - Paintings
 - Sculptures
- Dedicated structure
 - Hall of the Five Great Kings (J: godaidō 五大堂)
- Ritual for protection of the nation



Kongōyasha myōō

金剛夜叉明王

North

Daiitoku myōō

大威徳明王

West

Fudō myōō

不動明王

Center

Gōzanze myōō

降三世明王

East

Gundari myōō

軍荼利明王

South



Fudō myōō 不動明王

- Acalanatha
- Chief of the godai myōō
- Seated or standing
- Two arms, one face
- Lasso (J: kenjaku 羂索)
- Treasure sword (J: hōken 宝剣)
- Dedicated structure
 - Hall of Fudō (J: Fudōdō 不動堂)

Fudō with acolytes (J: dōji 童子)



Seitaka
制多迦
Red skin

Kongara
矜羯羅
White skin

Kurikara Fudō 俱利迦羅不動

- Kulika
- Manifestation of Fudō
- Kurikara sword (J: kurikaraken 俱利迦羅劍)
- Non-Buddhist foe







Gōzanze myōō 降三世明王

- Trailokyavijaya
- Subjugator of the Three Realms
- Multiple arms (six or eight)
- Multiple faces (three or four)
- Trampling on manifestations of Shiva (Mahesvara and Uma)
- Mudra of subjugating the three realms (J: gōzanze-in 降三世印)

Daiitoku myōō 大威徳明王



- Yamantaka
- Destroyer of Death
- Six arms, six legs, six faces
- Water buffalo or bull
- Mudra of restraint (J: konpon-in 根本印)

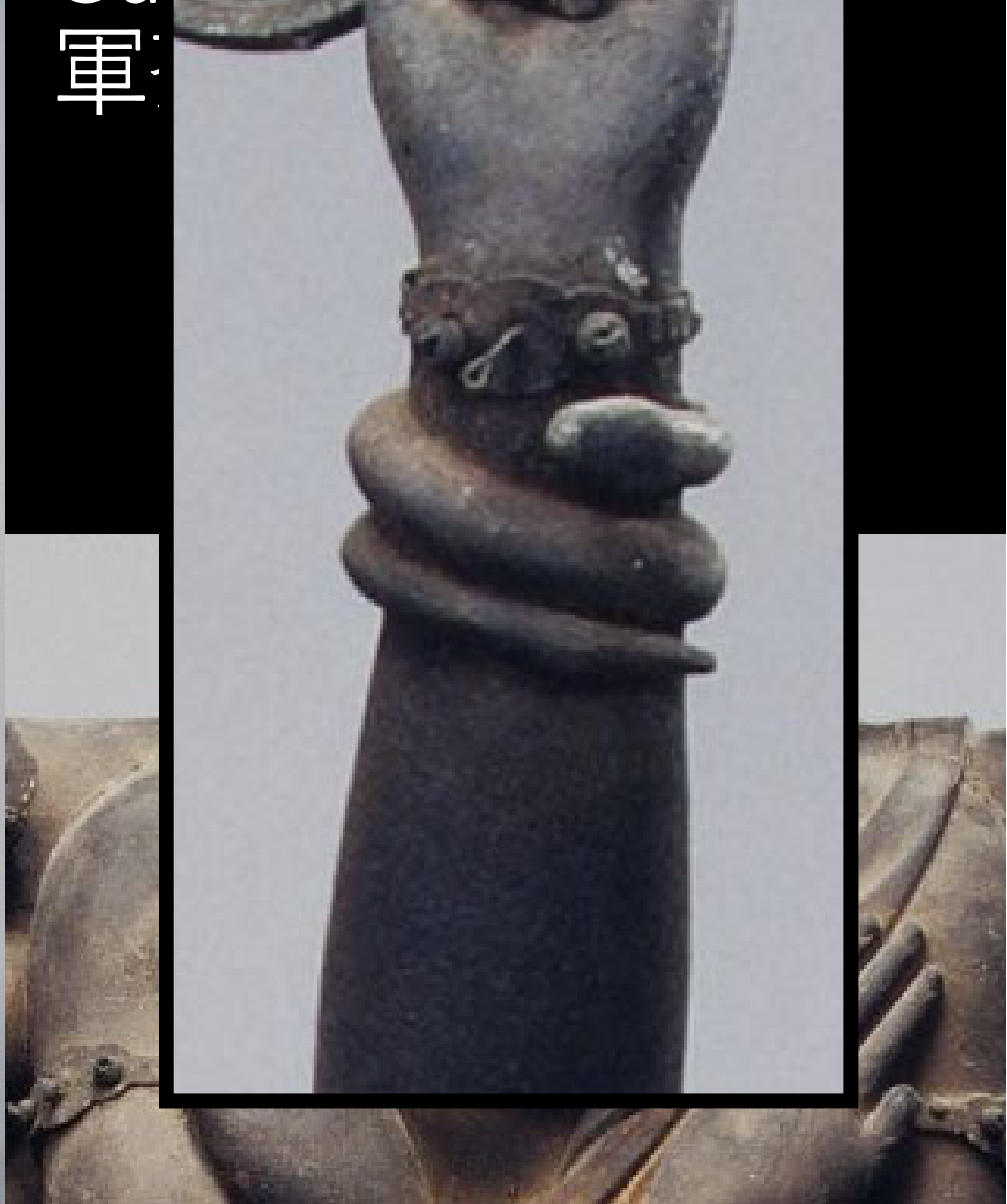
Gundari myōō 軍荼利明王

- Kundali
- Snake motif





Gundari mvōñ
軍:



Kongōyasha myōō 金剛夜叉明王

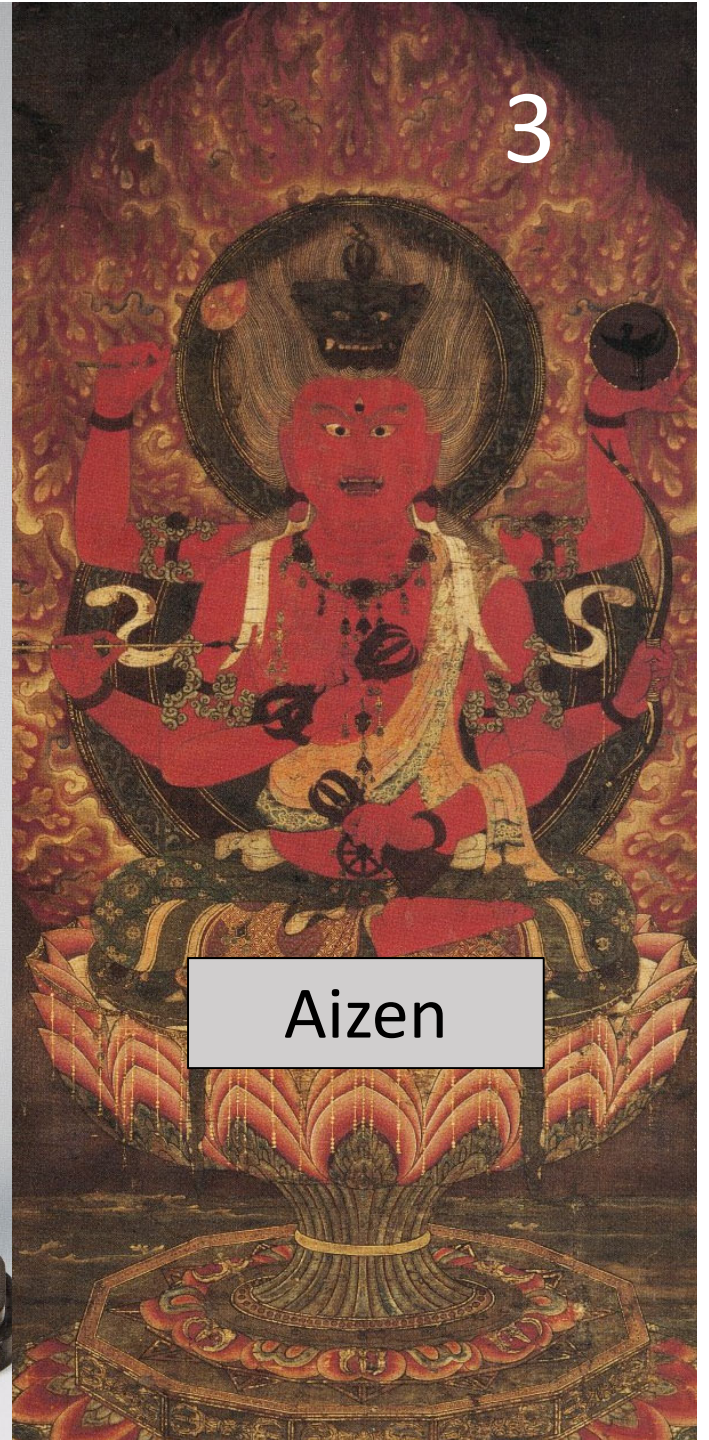
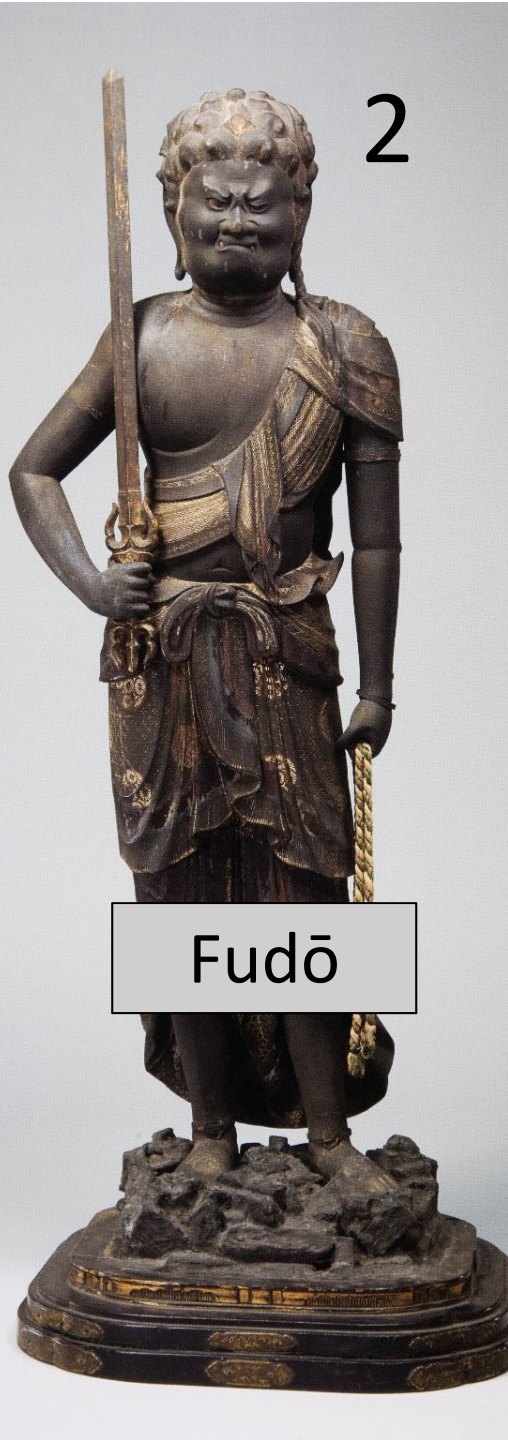
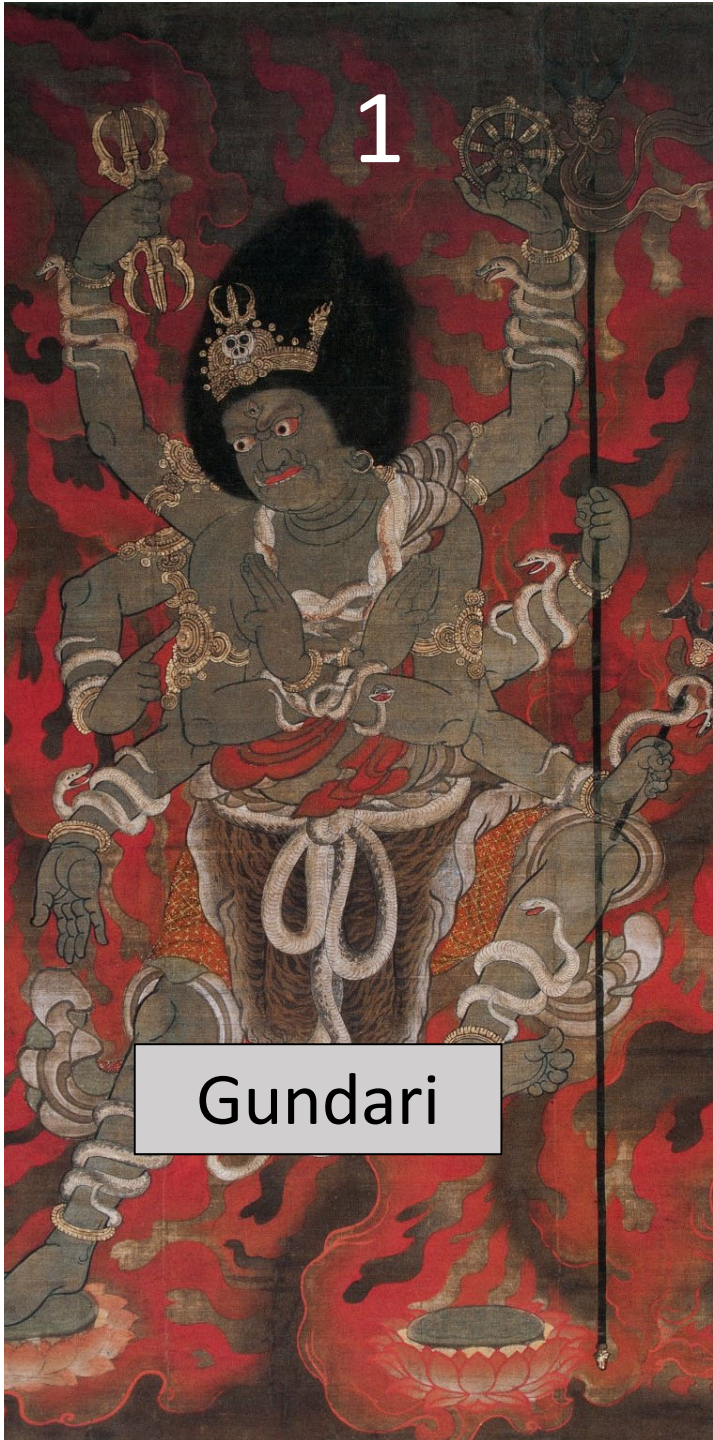
- Vajrayaksa
- Vajra implements



Quiz

via the poll function

*Note: you may have to move the poll on your screen
so you can see the images



Sites

- Godai myōō – Kōyasan 高野山, Tōji 東寺, Daikakuji 大覚寺, Daigoji 醍醐寺, Tsurugaoka Hachimangū 鶴岡八幡宮
- Fudō myōō – Manshuin 曼殊院, Onjōji 園城寺
- Fudō myōō with dōji – Ganjōjuin 願成就院
- Kurikara Fudō – Kōyasan 高野山, Ryūkōin 龍光院
- Gōzanze myōō – Kongōji 金剛寺
- Aizen myōō – Saidaiji 西大寺

JFLA Exhibition: Myō-ō in the Shell



<https://www.jflalc.org/ac-exhibit26-kamine>

Questions
via the Q&A function

Please take a moment to complete the digital lecture questionnaire via the poll function. If you would like to comment on today's programming, you may do so through the Q&A function.

Further questions can be directed to my michaelvanhartingsveldt@gmail.com

Thank you for joining us today!

Our next virtual lecture, which will cover bodhisattvas, will take place on August 13, 2020, at 7 pm PST.

Hope to see you there!