



◆**Official Name:** Misaka Shrine (*Misaka Jinja*)

◆**Meaning of the Name:** The shrine that guards the boundary between life and death

◆**Commonly known as:** “Bullet Dodging Shrine (Shrine for protection against bullets)”
“God of Military Fortune and Good Luck”

◆**Enshrined Deities:** Ōkuninushi-no-Ōkami, Kotoshironushi-no-Ōkami, Chigaeshi-no-Ōkami, Susanoo-no-Mikoto, Ōtoshi-no-Kami, Haniyama-hime-no-Mikoto

◆**Address:** 557 Tokuji-Kishimi, Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi Prefecture

▼History

Misaka Shrine, known as the “Bullet Dodging Shrine,” is a shrine with a long history mentioned in the ancient documents housed in the Shōsōin Repository of Tōdai-ji Temple in Nara Prefecture.

Misaka Shrine is listed in the *Engishiki Jinmyōchō* (a list of ancient shrines compiled by the Imperial Court in 927). It boasts nearly 1300 years of history since its shrine buildings were constructed and will celebrate its 1300th anniversary grand festival in the year 2030.

According to the *Genpei Seisuiiki* (a historical narrative written around the 14th century), its divine rank is the highest, “*Shōichi-i*.” Its former status as a shrine was “Prefectural Shrine.”

Since ancient times, Misaka Shrine has been revered as a guardian deity of the boundary between the world of the living and the world of the dead (the name of the boundary is *Yomotsu-hirasaka*), particularly as a “guardian of life who wards off calamity.”

From the medieval period onward, it gained fame as a deity of military fortune (*Bu-un-shin*), receiving deep veneration from successive military commanders, including *Ashikaga Takauji* (First Shogun of the Muromachi Shogunate), *Toyotomi Hideyoshi* (the daimyo who unified the nation during the Warring States period), and the feudal lords (*daimyō*) of the *Mōri* clan.

During World War II, it gained fame as the “Bullet Dodging Shrine” after reports stated that “all soldiers who prayed at Misaka Shrine before deploying in the Sino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese Wars returned safely.”

Seeking the protection of the “God of Good Fortune,” families of soldiers heading off to war entrusted photographs of their loved ones to this shrine. As a result, some 29,000 photographs were dedicated to the shrine from all across the nation. The process of returning photographs to the soldiers themselves and their families continues to this day.