

# Report of an Ethnological Survey of Rokusai-Nenbutsu Chants of the Kii Region

Michinobu Murayama

The Rokusai-Nenbutsu chant is based on the Inzei-Nenbustu chant introduced from Tang Dynasty China in the mid-9th century, and we can find its direct roots in the Yuhzuh-Nenbutsu chant established by Ryohnin, a Shohmyoh specialist, around the early 12th century, at a time when Imayou music had gained huge popularity. This Nenbutsu chant was passed down orally through folk Nenbutsu-koh gatherings, and has a long tradition as a melodically chanted Eishou-Nenbutsu. The Rokusai-Nenbutsu of Kii, in the Mt. Koya area, is known especially to preserve its oldest form. To make records of this highly valuable tradition a field survey was carried out, focusing on Koh-gathering activity and music. This report is taken from a survey carried out between 1977 and 1982 at the following four locations in Wakayama prefecture.

Ito-gun, Katsuragi-Cho, Shimo-Amano

Hidaka-Shi, Minabegawa-Mura, Oshine

Hidaka-gun, Yura-Choh, Monzen

Hidaka-gun, Yura-Choh, Hata