

## About “Kuhon Raigo-zu”

The raigo-zu (descent of Amida) portrays that those who concentrate on the Buddha Amida during life, and recite his name, will at the final moment of death be escorted into Saiho Gokuraku Jodo (The Pure Land, or Paradise.) The raigo-zu is based on the "Kanmuryō jukyō sutra" ('The Sutra on the Meditation of the Buddha of Infinite Life,' who is the Buddha Amida), as is seen in the Taima Mandala. Since the kuhon ojo (nine levels of rebirth in the Pure Land) represent different rebirth levels from jobon josho (highest) to gebon gesho (lowest), the paintings depicting raigo vary with each level of rebirth in the Pure Land.

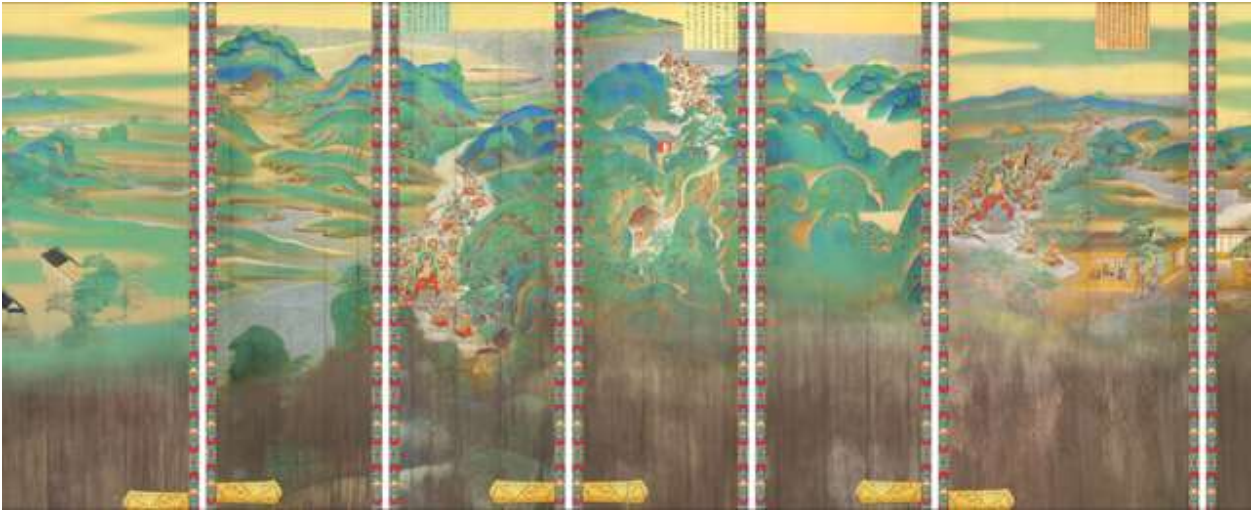
In Hōōdo hall (Phoenix hall) of Byodoin Temple in Kyoto, there is a frontispiece of the “Kuhon Raigo-zu” painted 1,000 years ago. In addition, there are 52 wooden statues of Unchu Kuyo Bodhisattva from the same period. The "Unchu Kuyo Bodhisattva" are playing old traditional Japanese instruments in “Kuhon Raigo-zu”.



Hōōdo hall (Phoenix hall) of Byodoin Temple of Kyoto



A contemporary Japanese ten-yen coin (¥10) engraved with the Phoenix hall.



In the frontispiece of "kuhon raigo-zu", the Buddha Amita, accompanied by "Unchu Kuyo Bodhisattva" (Bodhisattva in the cloud of the Pure Land) descends to welcome the dead into the Pure Land.



Inside the Hōōdo hall (Phoenix hall) of Byodoin in Kyoto.





Images of "Unchu Kuyo Bodhisattva" playing old Japanese traditional instruments.

I intend to make this work nine pieces in total, because there are nine levels in the images of the welcoming of the dead into the Pure Land of "Kuhon Raigo-zu".

So far, four pieces have been completed:

- I. Harpsichord and Flute
- II. Organ and Traverso
- III. Traverso solo
- IV. this Organ solo.

In the future, I plan to complete the work using traditional Japanese woodwind instruments "shou" and Japanese Drums "Wadaiko".

The melody of the Gregorian chant "In paradisum" is used as the theme in all 9 pieces.

In this performance by Hatsumi Miura of Kuhon Raigo-zu IV, the piece is introduced by the singing of the Gregorian Chant "In paradisum" by soprano, Ayano Tanaka, "May the angels lead you into paradise."

7.  The image shows a musical score for a Gregorian chant. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff begins with a large 'I' and the number '7.' above it. The lyrics are: "N paradí-sum : dedúcant te Ange-li : in tú-o ad-  
véntu suscí-pi- ant te Mártý-res, et perdúcant te in ci-  
vi-tá-tem sánctam Je-rúsa-lem. Chórus Ange-lórum te  
su- scí-pi- at, et cum Lázaro quondam páupe-re aetér-  
nam hábe-as réqui-em."

Hina SAKAMOTO