Days in Osaka, a Temple Compound Town
—Based on the “Tenbun Diary”—

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This paper looks at daily life in Osaka, a temple compound town, based upon the “Tenbun Diary” (also called the “Diary of Saint Shonyo”, or “Ishiyama Hongan-ji Diary), written over 19 years from Tenbun 5 (1536) to Tenbun 23 (1554) by Saint Shonyo, the tenth chief abbot of the Hongan-ji Temple. Details are as shown in the text. This paper, throwing light upon how daily life was actually lived, is characterized by the following:

Firstly, “Manners in the Age of Civil Wars”, elucidated by Mr. Fujiki Hisashi, were also to be found in the city of Osaka, a temple compound town. In other words, this paper provides new material for the study of structure and standards of society in those days. Secondly, the situation in Osaka, made clear in this paper, presents many informative examples for the study of towns from the Age of Civil Wars to the Age of the Oda-Toyotomi Governments, a period which is studied more and more extensively these days. Thirdly, instead of taking the conventional rosy view of a temple compound town as a liberal town, this paper looks at how things really were, and points out the need to study it as part of the vast society of the Age of Civil Wars.

I believe this paper helps make clear, if only partially, the situation of a town in the Age of Civil Wars, which hitherto had not been so obvious.