Negotiation by Todaiji in the Kenmu Regime Period to Acquire Togoku Sho-ryo: from Inscriptions on the Back of the Hassho Issho Toku-bodai-koto Document Held at Shinpukuji

FUKUSHIMA Kaneharu

The collapse of the Kamakura bakufu produced massive forfeited lands, as exemplified by the old Hojo possessions. One view is that the protection of the jiin-ryo associated with Hojo and the Kamakura bakufu was protected by the Kenmu government and was not at risk of forfeiture. Another is that an order for forfeiture of jiryo was issued on or after the order of June 15, Kenmu 1 (1334), but that it was immediately withdrawn. There are still many parts of this issue that are unresolved. This paper examines the issue by means of studying the inscriptions on the back of the Hassho Issho Toku-bodai-koto document held at Shinpukuji in Osu, Nagoya.

The Hassho Issho Toku-bodai-koto was a possession of Raisai of Todaiji Tonan-in, and is thought to have been handed down to Shinpukuji because Raisai and Noshin, founder of Shinpukuji were fellow-disciples, having received tuition directly from Shinyu of Shinpukuji was Syochin-Shinno of Todaiji Tonan-in. The inscriptions on the back of the document record negotiations between Todaiji and the Imperial court in the Kenmu period before November of Kenmu 2 (1335). The Todaiji - Imperial court negotiations show the province of Sado a Todaiji Chigyo-koku and the acquisition of Kanesawa Hojo / Shomyoji kyuryo Shinano province Ota-no-sho. In the negotiations, the Emperor Godaigo showed a great deal of trust, appointing Todaiji as Daikanjin-shiki. In attempting to make the acquisition, Todaiji declared a position of “Tempyo Chokusenryuu”, and that has been developed as a theory supporting proceeding by eliminating the intervention of any buke, and achieving unification around the honjo. In response, Shomyoji, which had set up a system of protection by Ashikaga Tadayoshi, planned a transfer from being Hojo’s ujidera (privately-held temple) to being Ashikaga’s kitoji (temple for prayer). The Todaiji side was putting its hopes in the support of Nitta, but the struggle between Nitta and Ashikaga after the end of Kenmu 2 (1335) resulted in the Nitta’s defeat and Ashikaga’s victory, and it appears that that put a stop to Todaiji’s requests to expand its control in Togoku. In Togoku, the system of chigyo, including shoen / koryo, was established under Ashikaga’s protection, and the Old Kamakura/Hojo-related temples were brought into it, so it appears that they made a new start as temples under the newly established buke administration.