

Masaaki Hatsumi
DOJO GIGA



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ART PRINTS

血達磨 *Bloody Daruma*

Benkei tried to save Yoshitsune. He died on his feet. Bloody saint.

Masaaki Hatsumi

Calligraphy |

恩
忠愛
血達磨
辨慶

Commentary | Following the defeat of the Heike, Yoshitsune's older half-brother Minamoto no Yoritomo became the first *shōgun*, but relations between them soon began to crack. Yoshitsune returned north to Hiraizumi, Mutsu, and the protection of the Fujiwara clan, but eventually Fujiwara no Yasuhira yielded to pressure from Yoritomo.

Yasuhira led 500 mounted troops against Yoshitsune and his retainers, including Benkei. Yoshitsune committed *seppuku* within his residence as Benkei guarded the bridge to the main gate. Yasuhira's men attacked his position, but Benkei cut down so many of them with such ferocity that they decided to abandon direct combat and fire on him from the opposite side of the bridge instead. They shot him with more than enough arrows to kill any man, but to their astonishment Benkei still stood, so they remained on their side — intimidated. When they eventually dared to cross the bridge again to see for themselves, Benkei fell to the ground. He had died on his feet. To this day, his epic standoff is remembered as “the standing death of Benkei.”

On the earth where Benkei would fall, Sōke wrote *on* 恩, meaning “obligation,” *chūai* 忠愛, which is “loyalty,” *chi-daruma* 血達磨 for “bloody saint,” and Benkei 辨慶.



Bujinkan Dōjō, Sōke, Masaaki Hatsumi
武神館道場宗家初見良昭

神伝不動流	九鬼神伝流	戸隠流	玉虎流	虎倒流	義鑑流	玉心流	雲隠流	高木揚心流
Shinden Fudō Ryū	Kuki Shinden Ryū	Togakure Ryū	Gyokko Ryū	Kotō Ryū	Gikan Ryū	Gyokushin Ryū	Kumogakure Ryū	Takagi Yōshin Ryū

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