A *Chasen-shi* village in Modern Iwakura

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*Chasen-shi* was the religious group who were discriminated against from middle to modern age in Japan. They made *Chasen* of bamboo and sold it on the street, which had been used in making tea. They were also called *Hachitataki*, for they beat a *Hachi* or gourd while praying to the Buddha. Their religious base was Kuyado temple in Kyoto from 1634, established by Tofukumoin, wife of the retired emperor Gomizunowo. Gomizuowo and Tofukumoinin loved Iwakura Basin and had 4 villas there.

At Iwakura there was a small *Chasen-shi* village with a temple named Taiganji or Kokeiwa-dera. But now there is only one source book through which we can prove its existence.

Now we can locate the village, which was on the boundary between the old villages, Iwakura and Naka, on three historical maps, 1701, 1705, and 1786.

In Naka a graveyard remains, where we could still see *Koke-Iwa*, which means moss-grown rock, though *Chasen-shi* village and the temple have been forgotten perfectly among the locals.