

## 7. Kataonami Park, Man'yo-no-Komichi Promenade (Vol. 7-1215, 7-1217)

### Monument Text

#### *Right*

tamatsushima yokumiteimase aoniyoshi naranaruhitono machitowabaikani

#### *Left*

tamatsushima miteshiyokekumo warewanashi miyakoniyukite koimakuomoeba

### Explanation

The poems carved into the right and left sides of the monument are from volume seven of the classical Japanese poetry collection *Man'yōshū* (poem numbers 1215 and 1217 respectively). In 724, Emperor Shōmu visited Tamatsushima in the Kinokuni area (present-day Wakayama Prefecture), and it is theorized that these two poems were written on that occasion. The authors of the poems are unknown.

The poem on the right was composed by someone of the local area to celebrate the emperor's visit to Tamatsushima, and the poem on the left was written by an official in the company of the emperor.

The meaning of the poem on the right is, "So that you may be able to answer the question, 'How was Tamatsushima?' upon your return to Nara, please have your fill of Tamatsushima's beautiful scenery." To the people of Nara that lived in an inland area without the ocean, the view of the sea must have made for a great story.

The poem on the left is about being deeply moved after seeing the breathtaking sights of Tamatsushima, but expresses these feelings from an unusual angle by starting with, "I cannot think of it as a good thing to have seen the scenery of Tamatsushima." As for why the author thinks this way, they continue, "For upon my return to the capital, even if I wish to see it once more, I shall never again be able to."

The inscription on the monument is the work of Yamamoto Mafune.