



A Scene of Hell

This is a scene of Assembly Hell (Shugō jigoku) taken from the Kitano Tenjin Engi Emaki, a set of eight picture scrolls believed to have been made around 1219. Its seventh scroll contains illustrations of the eight subterranean hells of Buddhist cosmology which closely follow the description found in Genshin's Ōjōyōshū. In the Assembly Hell, the third of the eight hells, people are led into a space between huge mountains, which then crash into each other crushing the people caught in between. Shown at the center are people being tortured by hell wardens and being attacked and eaten by animals and fire-breathing beasts. To the left are eagles pecking at corpses hanging from the trees.

Courtesy Kitano-Tenmangū Shrine