

impossible even to guess at—a worship founded on the veneration due to the origin of life. Formerly the shrine was richly embellished with votive offerings in stone, wood, and paper of all sizes and colours; but visitors from time to time have carried off the principal ones, leaving almost a barren house with only a few rudely carved offerings.

Near at hand, on the top of a high hill, in the village of Hemi-Mura, are situated the grave and tomb of Will Adams (who was the first Englishman to visit Japan) and his Japanese wife. A large monument marks that of Adams, a smaller one that of his wife. Adams was an English pilot, who left Holland in one of a fleet of vessels bound on a trading voyage to Japan in 1607. After many vicissitudes and great sufferings by the crews, only the vessel in which Adams was reached its destination. The crew were treated at first with great cruelty by the Japanese, but afterwards with leniency and kindness. Adams, having a knowledge of mathematics and shipbuilding, ingratiated himself with the Shôgun, who promoted him to a high position, and he lived in Yedo, beloved by the people, for many years. Not being permitted to leave Japan, he took to himself a Japanese wife. Adams himself chose this spot for his resting-place; and the people living in Anjin chô (Pilot Street), Tokio, defrayed the expense of the tombs and lanterns at the grave, and now celebrate an annual festival in honour of him on the 15th June.