



Dainanko **(The Great Hero Kusunoki)**

(大楠公)

Background of the Song:

Dainanko (The Great Hero Kusunoki) is a popular name of a song originally titled “The Green Leaves of Sakurai”. It describes the poignant separation between the brilliant 14th-century military tactician Kusunoki Masashige (d 1336) and his son, Masatsura as the father departed for battle.

In 1336, Masashige was going to a battle on orders from the emperor who rejected his remonstrations for peace. Although he was well aware that he would be defeated by the overwhelming enemy forces, he decided to die a martyr at the battle. On the way he told his son to leave him so that he could survive and continue serving the Emperor. Eventually at the insistence of his father, Masatsura relented and took leave of his father. Kusunoki was killed in the battle but his noble spirit lived on in his young son, Masatsura.