

DARUMA DOLLS

These papier mache dolls represent Zen Buddhism founder priest Bodhidharma. In Japan, these dolls are sold at temples with blank eyes and are for setting and achieving goals. When you decide on your goal, you colour in the right hand eye. He then becomes a constant reminder for you about your goals. When you achieve that goal, you colour the other. While most Darumas are red with the symbol 'fuku', which means good fortune, they can also be purchased in other colours and with other symbols, depending on your goal.

SYMBOLISM:

Facial hair: The beard and eyebrows painted on the doll are meant to reproduce Bodhidharma's facial features. However, the eyebrows are shaped to look like cranes, and the beard like turtles. These two animals often represent longevity, in Japanese culture (as well as in the rest of East Asia). Crafters started applying these shapes on the Daruma to match the Japanese proverb "The crane lives 1000 years, the turtle 10,000".



COLOUR CHOICE:

The most common color used for the Daruma is **red**, a lucky colour in many Asian cultures. Red may represent the colour of the priests robes worn by Daruma.

Gold, black, blue, green and white are the main other colours for Daruma.

KANJI CHOICE:

Choose which symbol is more relevant for your goal:



fuku
(good fortune)



okane
(money)



kotobuki
(long life,
congratulations)



Gold-wealth and prosperity.



Black-success in business ventures. A good color for entrepreneurs. The Japanese language refers to black for success in business (kuro ji).



Blue-success in school and the development of the intellect.



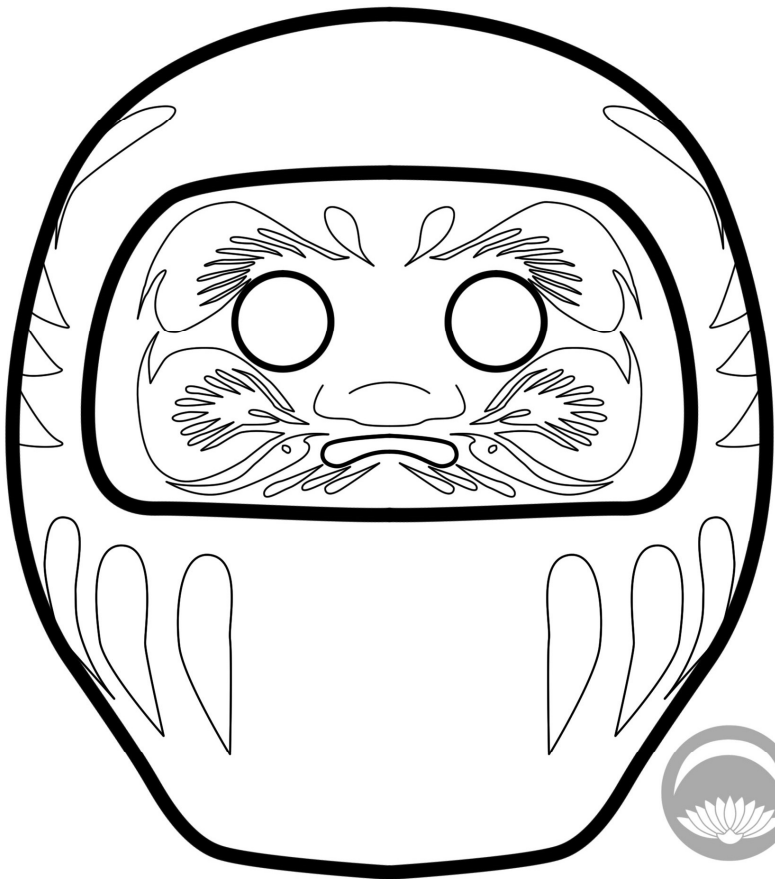
Green-physical health. This ties into the connection between the color green and plants budding, and calls to mind the English expression 'budding talent.'

White-the color of choice for students studying for rigorous school entrance exams that are such a common and stressful rite of passage in Japan. More generally white is associated with goal attainment. White also stands for purity, not only in terms of experience, but also in purpose. This is the best for wanting to focus on and achieve a skill.



Name:

My Goal:



Name:

My Goal: