

LEGENDS OF HENRO PATH

Okori Jizo おこり地蔵



This statue, the Okori Jizo, which means “Jizo with anger”, was once called Warai Jizo, “Jizo with a smile.” As the story goes, when the atomic bomb was dropped during World War II, a girl injured by the bomb reached the Jizo. “Dear mother, water please...” she groaned. Angered at this terrible sight, Jizo shed tears from his glowering eyes, which the young girl drank. Tragically, the girl died shortly afterwards. Ever since that time, the Jizo’s face has been glowering in anger.

The Karuno Shrine 輕之神社

In this place, **Karuno Miko** and **Karuno Oiratsume**, the two children of the Emperor Inkyo, are enshrined. According to the legend, this brother and sister had fallen in love. As marriage between siblings was strictly prohibited, the crown prince Karuno Miko was exiled to the Land of Iyo, now Ehime prefecture.



His sister, **Karuno Oiratsume**, soon followed him there. However, as their romance was completely forbidden, they took their own lives by double suicide. The two versions of the legend narrated in Nihon-syoki (*1) and Koji-ki (*2) are worth comparing.

- (*1) Nihon-syoki the oldest official historical book in Japan. Prince Toneri edited this book by describing myths, legends and stories that were handed down from the Imperial Court.
- (*2) Koji-ki the oldest history book in Japan. It contains reports on the Emperors, legends, myths and songs that tell the history of the unification of Japan, focusing on the successive Emperors.

A Rest Place of Tadataka Ino 伊能忠敬休息地

Tadataka Ino (*3), who accurately mapped the islands of Japan in the 19th century, stopped by this place during his survey on August 16th, 1808.



- (*3) Tadataka Ino a surveyor and specialist in the Astronomy Department of the Tokugawa Shogunate. Under orders from the Shogunate in 1800, he set out on a journey to survey and map the islands of Japan. He completed his journey in 1816. Sadly, he died in 1818, three years before the completion of the maps in 1821.

Namaki Jizo 生木地蔵

In 1639, Christianity was banned in Japan and the doors to the country were closed to foreigners. The Christians here who secretly kept their faith prayed to the statue of the Virgin Mary that was hidden at the base of a pine tree. As the tree grew, it embraced the statue. When the tree eventually died, the villagers, impressed to discover the statue tightly embraced by the tree, built a shrine to house the statue of Virgin Mary, named Namaki Jizo.

