

The six Jizo and the Straw Hats

Jizo=Guardian deity children statue

Once upon a time, there was an old man and his wife.

They were very poor but very kindhearted.

It was New Year's Eve one year.

They made some straw hats.

They planned to go to the nearest village and sell them to buy some rice cakes for the New Year.

The old man said, "We have made five hats, so I'm sure it will sell, and I can buy some rice cakes."

His wife said to her husband "Please be careful, it will start to snow soon."

The old man picked up the five hats and went out.

It started snowing as soon as he left the house.

The snow was getting heavier and heavier, so the old man was in a hurry.

When he reached the outskirts of the village, he found six Jizo standing in a line.

The snow was piled up on the Jizo's heads and shoulders.

The old man saw this and he couldn't leave it alone.

He put straw hats on the Jizo.

There were six Jizo, but he had only five hats.

So, he took off his own hat and covered the sixth Jizo with it.

When he got home his wife was surprised to see him.

"Well, you were very quick, and how about the hats? " Asked his wife.

So, he told his wife about what he had done for the Jizo.

"Well, that is a good thing you did, it's OK if you don't have rice cakes."

Replied his wife with a smile.

That night, they heard a strange song from outside.

♪ Where is the old man's house.

♪ We are here to thank you for the straw hats.

♪ Where is the old man's house.

The song was getting closer and closer.

At last, they heard putting something down.

When they opened the door, they saw the Jizo with straw hats walking away into the distance.

And there was a lot of rice cakes, vegetables, fish, and treasures for the New Year in front of the house.

The Happy End