

## Monument to Enmei Jizo, Rinnoji Temple

This large rock dedicated to the deity Enmei Jizo is believed to have been carved by the founder of Rinnoji Temple, Shodo Shonin (735–817). It was originally located on the shores of Yunoko Lake deep in the mountains. It is also known as the Dog-Pulling Jizo.

According to legend, Itabashi Shogen, a Muromachi period (1336-1573) feudal lord, went out hunting near the lake and mocked the Jizo when he passed by, tying his hunting dog to it and casting them into the lake. At first, the dog pulled the rock towards the center of the lake, but then the rock began to pull the dog back towards the shore. Suddenly a terrible thunderstorm broke out, and the dog was killed.

Shogen and his retainer fell to the ground, blood spilling from their mouths. A monk came running and knelt in prayer to the Jizo, and the two were saved. They became fervent believers in the Jizo, and the monument came to be called the Dog-Pulling Jizo.