

TITLE: Tasuke no Jizo

This shrine is home to the Tasuke no Jizo, or Helping Jizo, a stone statue of the bodhisattva Jizo originally discovered in neighboring Kumano. According to legend, the man who discovered the Jizo was walking in a lonely valley when he heard a sound that led him to this statue. Not wanting the holy relic to remain alone in such a desolate place, the man brought it to Koyasan where a shrine was built to honor and protect the Jizo.

It is said that the Tasuke no Jizo will grant a single, heartfelt request or prayer to any person who asks. However, this Jizo will bestow such a blessing only once in a lifetime. When the prayer is granted, people often bring a round object, like a stone, to the shrine as a symbol of gratitude. Many of the stones around the statue's base were left by worshippers whose prayers the Jizo has granted.