

Kishimojin (Hariti)

Beyond Tenguyu (Tengu Hot Spring), a shrine houses Kishimojin, who watches over the entire Kitayu area. It is said that praying to Kishimojin and then bathing in Tenguyu will grant you blessings for childbirth and fertility.

Originating from India, Kishimojin was initially known as Hariti (訶梨帝母), a demoness who stole and devoured the children of others. The Buddha, seeking to teach her the sorrow of a mother losing a child, hid her youngest and most beloved son. From that day forward, Kishimojin (Hariti) converted to Buddhism and became a guardian deity of children.

--- From "Za Houzō Kyō" (Sutra of Miscellaneous Treasures)



The depiction of Kishimojin can take two forms: a demonic form (鬼形) or a celestial maiden form (天女形). We presume that the Kishimojin statue at our establishment was originally in its demonic form. The current statue is the second generation. The first statue was said to improve breast milk production or cure children's illnesses when consumed, leading to it being chipped away and taken by people until it disappeared. Even the current statue has been considerably worn down, seemingly having helped many people. It originally had horns and fangs, but these have vanished over time, resulting in its present appearance.



Many ema (votive tablets) for fertility prayers have been dedicated here.
Ema are available for purchase at the gift shop.