

The Headless Jizo

In the early Meiji period, a monstrous entity would cause disturbances throughout the Kita Onsen building night after night. Exasperated by its outrageous behavior, the innkeeper at the time visited the Jizo statues within the Onsen Shrine grounds and implored them to admonish the creature.

That night, as the entity began its ruckus again, three young men appeared seemingly from nowhere. They bravely fought the monster. With crashes and bangs, after a fierce struggle, they finally drove the creature out of the building. When the innkeeper approached to thank them, all three vanished into thin air.

The next morning, the innkeeper went to the Onsen Shrine to express his gratitude, believing the Jizo statues had answered his plea. However, he found all three Jizo statues in the shrine grounds had lost their heads. The Jizo had sacrificed themselves to grant his wish. The innkeeper immediately reattached their heads and carefully protected them. These Jizo statues are still enshrined within the building today.

