

## Six Little Statues

Long, long ago there lived a poor old man and his wife in the snowy mountain. It was on the last day of a year. He went to a town to sell some firewood. On his way he saw six little statues(Jizos) covered with falling snow. He cleared the snow off and said:



"You don't have even straw hats. Maybe you feel so cold. I'll buy you hats in the town." And he went to the town.

He got small money by selling firewood. He bought some necessities and he wanted to buy six straw hats, but he was able to buy only five.

On the way home, he put the hats on the head of five statues and on the last he put his own hood.

When he told his wife the story, she said with joy, "You did a wonderful thing." And they went to bed.

In the midnight they heard someone coming to their house, singing "Where is the house of the kind old man? We are glad to have five straw hats and a hood. Where is the kind old man's house?"

Hearing a big noise at the door, he got out of his bed and went to the door.

Opening the door, he found six big straw rice-bags there. They had a happy New Year.



○お爺さんは「地蔵」さんに何をしたのでしょう。

## 笠地藏

むかし、むかし、ひと里離れた山の奥におじいさんとおばあさんが住んでいました。年も迫った大晦日、おじいさんは雪の中をたきぎを売りに町に出かけて行きました。途中、雪で埋もれかけた6つのお地藏さんを見かけました。雪を払ってやり、こう言いました。



「笠がなくて寒いじゃろう。町で買ってきてやるからな。」

たきぎを売ったわずかなお金で家のものと笠を六つ買いました。帰り道、お地藏さんの頭に笠をかけてやりました。

おじいさんはおばあさんにこの話をすると、おばあさんはとても喜んでくれました。

「おじいさん、いいことしたね。」そして床に入りました。

その晩のことです。誰かが歌を歌いながら家の方にやってきます。

「親切なおじいさんの家はどこかいな。笠をかけてくれてありがたい。親切なおじいさんの家はどこかいな。笠をかけてくれてありがたい。」

声はだんだんと大きくなって、おじいさんの家の前まで来ました。入り口をあけると米俵が六つ置いてありました。

