

Kasajizo



A Japanese Folktale

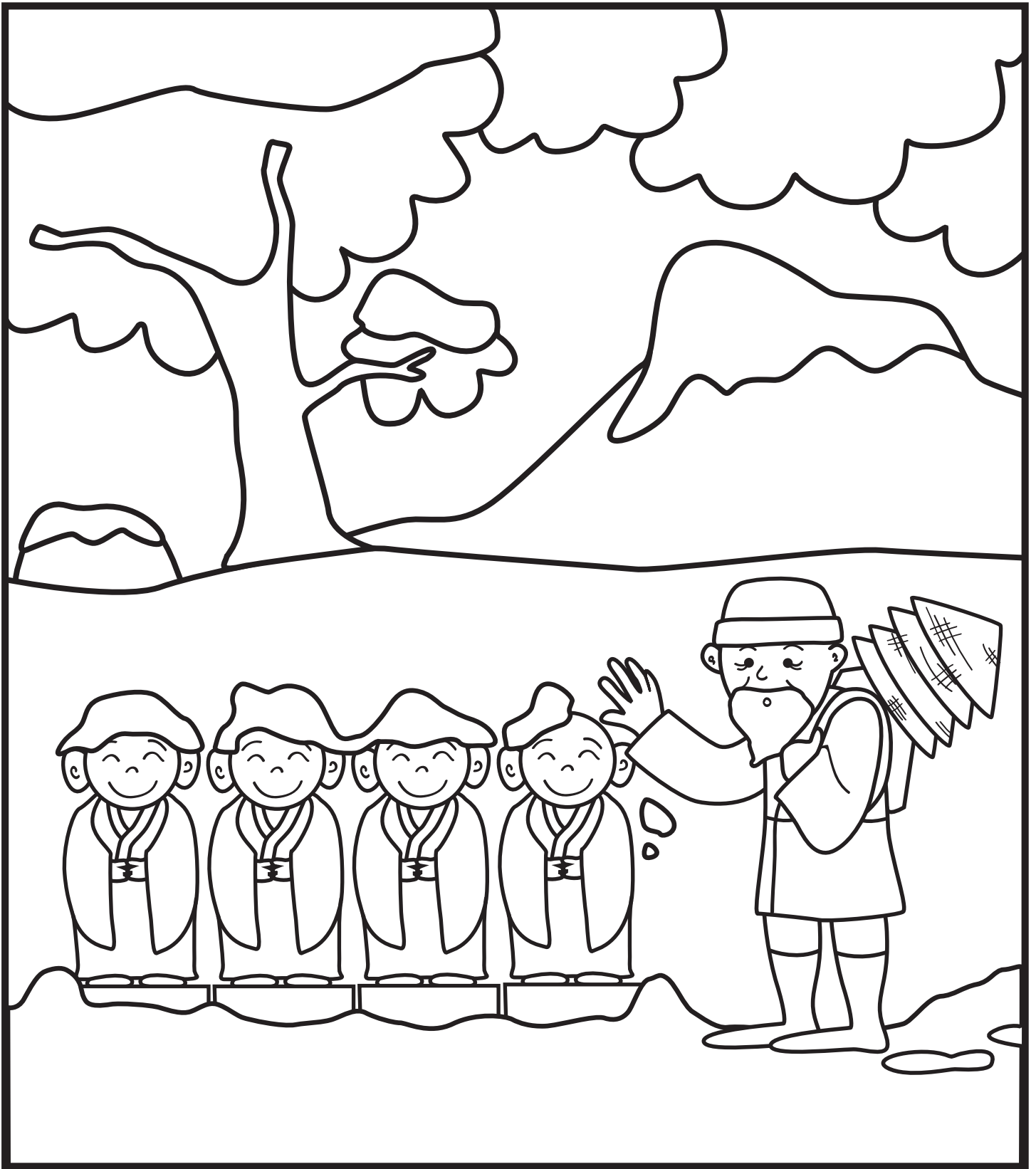
This book belongs to:



Once upon a time there was an old man and his wife who were so poor that they were nearly out of rice. It was almost New Year's day and the snow that covered the ground prevented them from gathering materials for weaving hats to sell for money. The mice in their house were hungry too so the old couple gave them the last of their rice.



The mice were so grateful that they gathered materials for the couple to make hats to sell.



On the way to town, the old man saw stone statues of Ojizo-sama, which are supposed to protect the people in the town. The old man noticed that their heads were covered in snow so he gently brushed the snow away.



He continued to town to sell his hats but no one bought any. He was disappointed and started to walk home. As he came upon the Ojizo-sama statues, he felt badly for not having something to give to them. Seeing that their heads were covered again in snow he decided to give the Ojizo-sama statues his hats.



The man returned home empty handed and told his wife and the mice what happened. They all agreed that it was a kind thing to do. Just then, they heard voices outside yelling, "Happy New Year!" They ran outside to see the Ojizo-sama statues with a sleigh full of food. The old man, his wife and the mice shared the food and celebrated the New Year.