

# YOUR KISHIMO-JIN CHARMS

*The unique history of Kishimo-jin lends her many attributes: remorse and compassion, wisdom and enlightenment, and love and protection.*

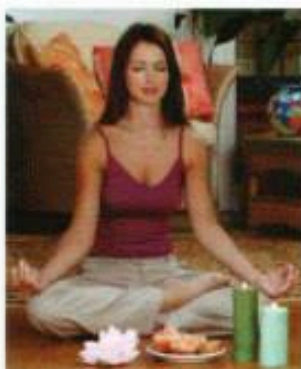
## BABY BLESSING

If you have had a baby, or know a mother-to-be, call upon the benevolent protection of Kishimo-jin to perform a blessing.

Kishimo-jin has two symbols: the pomegranate and the Lotus Sutra. At your altar cut open a pomegranate and use it as an offering to the goddess. Then sit cross-legged on the floor or, if you prefer, in the Lotus pose. Close your eyes and visualise a baby.

**Meditate on the lotus flower to perform a blessing for a newborn.**

See the baby surrounded by golden light that forms a lotus flower. Imagine the petals folding in and cocooning the baby. Ask Kishimo-jin to protect the baby and bring blessings into his or her life.



## HARITI

The original incarnation of Kishimo-jin as Hariti illustrated the balance between light (good) and dark (evil). The Mother Goddess of many pantheons was often depicted as kind and cruel; she gave life and took it away.

Hariti was the triad of creative energies: as a mother herself she gave life and she nurtured it, but in her demon aspect, she devoured life.

**Buddha taught Hariti to care for others' children.**

Buddha persuaded Hariti to see the error of her ways by stealing away one of her 500 children. With the loss of her child, Hariti experienced the torment she had inflicted on so many parents and was filled with remorse and compassion.



## KOYASU-SAMA

Another popular child patroness that may be called upon to bestow her blessings is Koyasu-sama. This mythical princess granted easy childbirth to women after having experienced

a traumatic birth herself – her son was born while her house was engulfed by flames! You can call upon Koyasu-sama by adapting the spell to call upon Kishimo-jin (above).

A flame can be used to harness Koyasu-sama's powers to protect mothers-to-be. Visualise this in your meditation.

Princess Koyasu-sama was also the Shinto deity of Mount Fuji and the goddess of cherry trees in bloom.

**Cherry tree blossom was a symbol of Koyasu-sama.**



## CHILD GUARDIANS

In Japanese popular culture many cartoons feature heroes that save children from danger and even bring them back from the dead. These heroic characters are often derived from Japanese mythology, which is littered with deities who protect children. And in Japan, there are many shrines to goddesses of fertility and childbirth who look kindly on mothers-to-be and newborns.

The Shinto water deity Suijin protects fishermen, but she is also a patron of motherhood and her aid is sought during pregnancy. There are also statues of the goddess Jibo Kannon in Japan, who loves all mothers and children.

**Many goddesses watch over the family in Japan.**

