

A folk tale about Hangontan. (From Toyama Folktales)

It happened a long time ago.

A certain samurai's mother fell seriously ill.

He tried all sorts of things, but her condition only got worse.

He had no choice but to turn to the gods and Buddhas, so he climbed Mt. Tateyama and prayed with all his heart.

That night, in his dream, Amida Buddha taught him how to make a miracle medicine.

He hurried home, but his mother had already died just before he arrived.

Despite his sorrow, the samurai compounded the medicine and poured it into his mother's mouth.

And guess what?

His mother came back to life, and her illness was cured.

Amida Buddha told him, "It's too early,"

and Acala slapped him on the back and said, "Come back quickly."

In other words, the name Hangontan comes from the fact that it is a medicine that returns the soul to the body.

