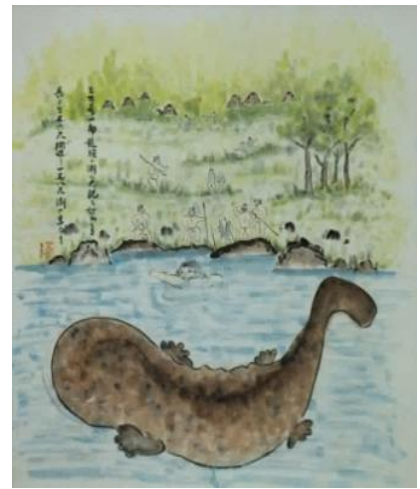


Hanzaki Grand Shrine

A long time ago, in front of where the Shrine stands today, was a deep pool in the Asahi river, known as the “Dragon’s Head Pool”.

In this pool lived a giant Hanzaki, who would grab humans, cows and horses travelling nearby and swallow them whole. For this reason, the villagers were afraid to come close to the pool.



In the first year of the Bunroku Era (1592), a young man called Hikoshiro Mitsui from Yubara Village went to try and kill the Giant Salamander, by trying a rope around his waist, and holding a short sword was swallowed by the Giant Salamander and killed it from inside. When the villagers pulled the salamander’s body from the pool, they were shocked at the size of it-around 10meters long, and 5meters around. After Hikoshiro killed the giant salamander, every night he would hear a voice crying outside his house-but when he went to look, no-one was there. The villagers became so afraid that as soon as the sun set they all locked their doors and would not go outside.

Soon, Hikoshiro passed away, as did his family, and the villagers built a Shrine to the Hanzaki within the borders of the local deity’s shrine, in an attempt to stop the curse.

Based on and to celebrate this history, every year on the 8th August, there is a Hanzaki Festival.



Hanzaki Grand Shrine



Explanation Board for the Hanzaki Grand Shrine