



**Ataka no Seki** (安宅の関)

Ataka no Seki is the site of a historical checkpoint in Ataka : a port at the mouth of the Kakehashi River which runs into the Sea of Japan . It's said that Ataka no Seki was the checkpoint where Minamoto Yoshitsune and his soldiers were almost caught by Togashi , who was the official in charge of the checkpoint . Their safety was made possible by the wit of Benkei and by the compassion of Togashi . Benkei was Yoshitsune's retainer, This story is very famous in the kabuki play called "Kanjincho" . Today, you can see statues of the characters near the Ataka Sumiyoshi shrine. You can buy charms near the shrine. There are prayer boards as well which you can write down a prayer or wish in the hopes of, for example, passing your entrance examination.

