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A Sarubobo is a Japanese amulet, particularly associated with the town of Takayama in Gifu Prefecture. Sarubobos are usually red human-shaped dolls, with no facial features, made in a variety of sizes. Traditionally, sarubobos are made by grandmothers for their grandchildrenas dolls, and for their daughters as a charm for good marriage, good children and to ensure a well-rounded couple.

Sarubobo literally translated from the Japanese as "baby monkey." "Saru" is the Japanese word for monkey, "bobo" is the word for baby in the dialect of Takayama. There are several reasons why the amulet has this name. The face of the sarubobo is traditionally red, as if the face of baby monkeys.

Sarubobo dolls and charms usually have no facial features. The reasons are unclear, but there have been a few ideas. One suggestion is that, originally, sarubobos were made from left over cloth and made by relatives, so there was no need for them to be completely accurate.

Another suggestion is that the absence of a face allows the owner to imagine it. Nowadays, sarubobo are a popular souvenir in Takayama, and are available in many different colors and shapes from souvenir shops. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



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