





校訂日本昔噺の序

日本昔噺の題の下に、日本古來のお伽噺類を、  
新たに余の書き改めたのは、已に十年前の事である。

今その全集が、リッテル、グリーン、津田の諸令嬢の手に依り、更に英文に翻譯され、遠く海外へ紹介されるに至つたは、余の少からず喜ぶ所であるが、それと同時に、十年前の余の筆の今日と





成つては瑕澤山で、我ながら慙愧に堪へない。  
其所で、譯者諸嬢と謀つて、凡て之に筆を加へ、  
専ら簡単に、平易にと書き直した。余も先年伯  
林の東洋語學校で、獨乙人に日本語を教へた時  
分に、度々此の書を用ひた事があるが、その時の  
實驗に依つて見ても、それならば外國人が之に  
依て日本語を學ぼうと思ふにも、強ち困難では  
あるまいかと思ふ。

但し假名遣ひや漢字の上に、此頃の新語法を

用ゐなかつたのは、實は余の本意では無いが、思  
ふに此の英語書は、讀者を彼の原書に比して更  
に他の方面に待つものであるから、少年童女に  
對する斟酌は、又必ずしも要せぬのであらう。

明治三十六年四月

著者 小波



猿 蟹 仇 討

日本昔

噺

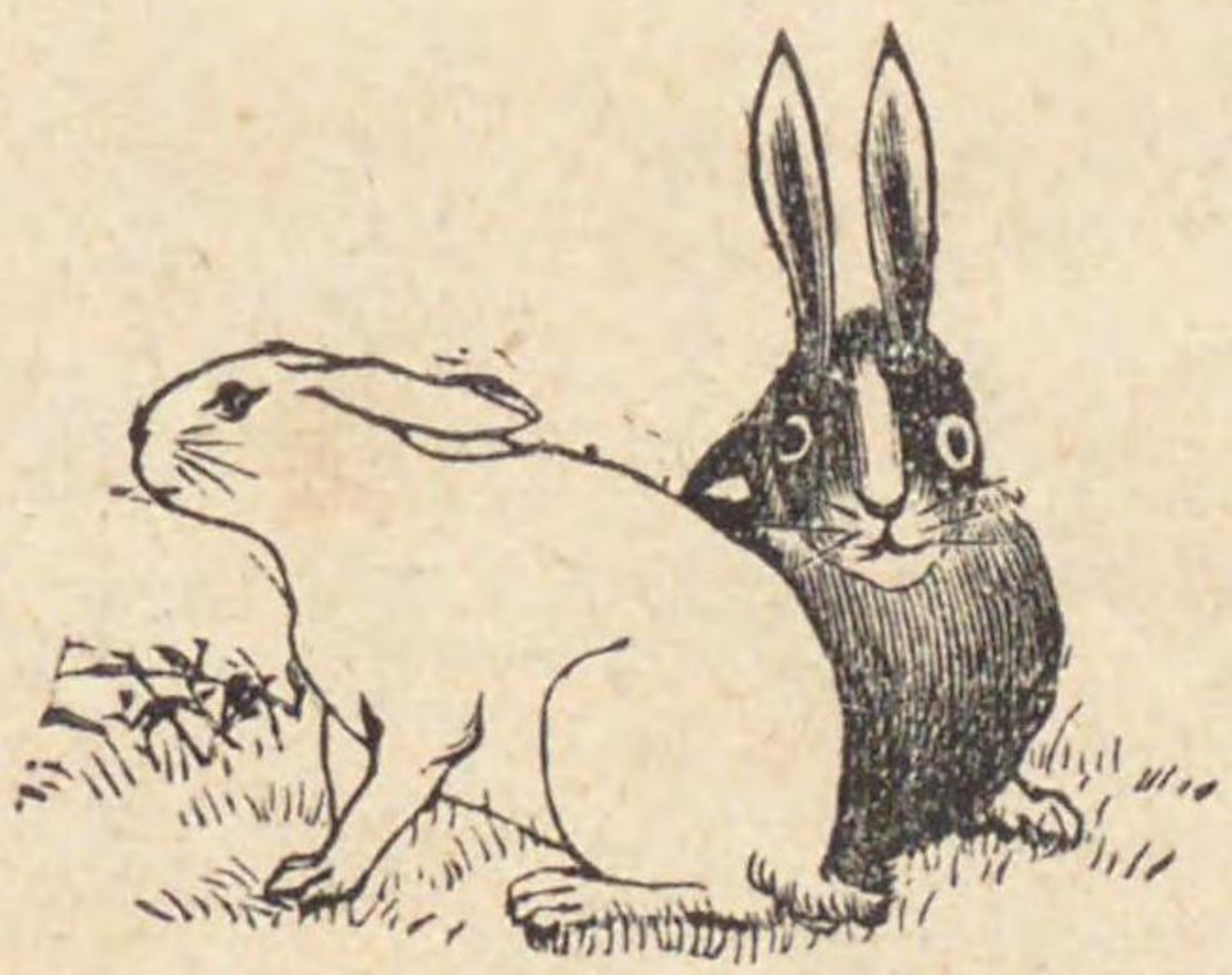
猿蟹仇討

大江小波編



かしく、まづある處に、猿と蟹とがありました。或る日の事で此の兩個は、連れ立て遊びに出ましたが、やがて或る河の畔で、猿は柿の種、蟹は握飯を拾ひました。

「ヤアこんな好物があつた。」と蟹がまづ聲を立てますと、猿も後から、「僕もこんな物を拾つた。」と柿の種を出して見せましたが、なんぼ一番好物な柿でも種





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では如何する事も出来ません、それに引かへ握飯は直ぐにも口へ入れられますから、猿は羨ましくて成りません。其處で如何かしてそれを取り上げやうと思ひ、態と眞面目な顔をして、『なんと蟹さん、其お握飯と此柿の種と、交換する氣はないか。』と云ひますと、蟹は頭を振りまして、『厭な事ツた。君のはそんな少ぼけなもののぢやないか。僕のア此様に大きいから、交換へちやア此方が損だ。』處が蟹さん、成る程それはお握飯で、柿の種よりは大きくもあり、又直ぐに喰へられるけれども、喰へてしまへばそれツ限り、後の樂と云ふものが無いよ。それに引かへて此柿の種は、直ぐに喰ふ譯にやア

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いかないけども、其代り之を地に蒔いて置けば、直ぐに大きな柿樹に成て、甘味い柿は實り放題だ。だから僕だつて惜いんだけど、其の柿の澤山實る處が、一遍君にも見せ度いから、それで交換やうと云つたんだ。けれども、厭なものなら無理にとは云はない、僕の自家へ持つて、蒔いて置くばかりのとき。其代り後で果が實つたつて、君には一個も遣らないから。』と口上手に云ひますと、根が正直な蟹は、ウカと其口に乘せられまして、『そんなら試しに蒔いて見やう。』ではお握飯と交換事だよ。』と茲に猿は首尾よく握飯を手に入れ、又も蟹の氣の變らぬ中と、急いでムシヤク喰へてしまひ



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自分の拾つた柿の種を、さも残惜しさうに蟹に渡して、  
其日は其儘分れました。  
さて蟹は柿の種を持って、自分の棲居へ歸るや否、猿に  
教へられました。通り、件んの種を庭へ蒔いて置きます  
と、程なくそれから芽を吹き出し、二葉から四葉、五寸か  
ら一尺と、日を経るに従つて成長致しますから、成る程  
これは面白く、果を澤山實らしたいものと、そればかり  
を樂に致して居ります。  
桃栗三年柿八年と云ふから、丁度八年目の秋の事で  
す。以前は指の頭ほどの種が、今は見上る斗りの大木に

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成り、而も猿の言葉に違はず、さも甘さうに赤く成た柿  
が、まるで鈴の様に實りました。  
蟹はもう大喜悦早くあの柿が喰へたいものと、頻りに  
下から取らうとしますが、元より背丈が低いから、固  
有の鋏も間に合はずと云つて、其枝へ登らうにも、  
例の横這では覺束ないので、今更當惑し、暫らくは腕を  
組んで考へましたが、所詮自分の力では及ばないから、  
此上は朋友の猿を頼んで、取つてもらふが上分別と、や  
がて猿の處へ遣て来ました。  
『猿さん在宅か？』オ、蟹さんか、久しく逢はなかつた  
な。『さアその久しく逢はない中に、日外交換たあの柿



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の種がすつかり大きな木に成たのさ。『それ見なさい  
僕の云ふ通りだらう。シテ果は澤山實たかね？』實た  
ともく大變なつたよ。處がまア聞いて呉れ、僕は此  
通り脚は澤山あるが木登りの方はあんまり器用でな  
いから折角實たものも取る事が出来ないで、大きに閉  
口して居るんだ。何と猿さん、君實に御苦勞だけでも、  
一寸來て取て貰へまいかね。一つや二つはお禮に上  
げるぜ。『夫は何よりお安い御用だ。なアに朋友の交  
誼だもの、お禮なんざア入たものか、直ぐに行て取てあ  
げやう。』と猿は安請合で蟹と一所に遣て來ました。  
さて蟹の棲居へ來て見ますと、成る程聞いた通り柿

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は見上る程の大木に成て、眞紅な實が鈴成です。『成る  
程見事に成たものだ。……は、アこれは大分質が好  
いわい。』まアそんな事は後でいゝから、早く登つて取  
て呉れたまへ！』宜しい心得た。』と猿はやがて支度を  
して、スル／＼と幹を登つて行きましたが、矢庭に一個  
手切つてムシヤ／＼。『ウん此は上等大層甘い。』  
蟹は下から氣を揉んで、『オイ自分で先へ喰て仕舞  
つちや不可ぢやないか。』『ナニこれはお毒見さ。』『アレ  
又喰ふよ。そんなに獨で喰へずに、此方へも投げてお  
呉れよ。』『ヨシ今投げてやる。』と一個取て投げました  
から、周章て、拾つて一口咬むと、こは如何に！舌も唇



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も痺れるほどの澁柿です。「ヤア此奴ア澁い、もつと甘  
いのを呉れたまへ！」それぢやアこれは如何だ？ ベツ  
あつ又澁かつた。『エイ種々な贅澤を云ふなア。それぢ  
やア是は？』と今度はまだ眞青で、而も石の様な堅い奴  
を、力を籠めて投げつけましたが、それが脳天へ當つた  
から堪らない、蟹は「ア、痛ッ！」と云つて倒れる。倒  
れる處を又一つ。「ア、痛た、何をするのだ？』何をす  
るもあつたものか！ 此柿はみんな乃公の有たア。愚  
圖々々云はずに滅歿つてしまへ！」と猿はほんとに亂  
暴奴で、尙も澁柿を雨霰と投げつけてまして、無残や蟹の  
甲良を散々に碎き、息も絶々に成たのを見濟まして、自

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分は甘い柿を残らず取り込み、それを小脇に抱へて、自  
分の家へ逃げてしまひました。  
茲にまた件んの蟹に、一匹の子蟹がありました。此  
日は丁度友蟹と一所に、餘所の澤邊へ遊びに行て居り  
ましたが、程經て歸つて來て見ますと、こはそも如何に  
親蟹は、庭の柿樹の下にへた張て、甲良も鉄も微塵に碎  
かれ、目も當てられない有様でもはやほんとに死んで  
居ります。  
子蟹は見て大きに驚き親蟹の死骸に取りつきまし  
て聲を限りに嘆きました。が、さて今更取り返しもつき  
ません。此上は敵を討て、親の怨魂を晴すより他はな



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い、一体何處の何奴めが所業か、何ぞ手掛りがありさう  
なものと、尙も四邊を調べて見ますと、昨日まであれほ  
ど眞紅に熟して居た柿の實が、今は一つも影を留めず、  
只青い澁柿計り、其處等にバラ／＼落ち散て、親蟹の甲  
良を打碎かれたのも、大分此でやられたらしい様子で  
す。子蟹はやがて膝を打て、『ウン解つた、此はきつと  
猿奴の所業にちがひない。昔時或る河の畔で、猿と一  
所に遊んだ時、お握飯と柿の種を交換て來て此處へ蒔  
いた事は、常から阿父さんに聞いて居たが、さては猿  
奴が今に成て、又柿が欲しく成たものだから、亂暴にも  
阿父さんを殺して、澁柿計を残して置き、甘いのは皆攫

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つて行たに相違ない。柿が欲しいなら欲しいと、其譯  
を云ひさへすれば、阿父さんだつて分て遣るまいもの  
でもないのに、酷たらしく打殺して行くとは、憎さも憎  
しあの猿奴、今に思ひ知らして呉れるぞと。『しきりに悔  
やしがりました、が、さてまた更に思ひ返せば、先方は何  
しろ年経た獸、自分の親でさへ脆く殺されたものを子  
の瘦腕で向つた處で、所詮敵ふ道理はなしと、其處をま  
た考へますと、流石の子蟹も氣が挫けて、暫らくは途方  
に暮れましたが、忽ち胸に浮んだのは、親蟹が常から懇  
意にして居た石臼です。一体彼の石臼は、以前は親蟹の  
棲んで居た石垣の石仲間、其後人間に發見され、今は



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石臼と出世はしたものの、根が義理の堅い質頼んだ事は後へ挽かぬ性ゆゑ、彼に篤と相談したなら、助太刀をして呉れまいものでも無からうと、取る物も取りあへず、直ぐに石臼の許へ参りました。  
さて石臼に會ひまして、親蟹が猿に殺されました事を、涙ながらに語りますと、石臼は聞いて、殊の外氣の毒が、『どうも其は實に飛んだ事だ。嗚お前も悔しからうが。然し決して案じなさんな、私が屹度敵を取てあげるから。』と種々に子蟹を慰めました。何を云ふにも敵手は猿、容易なことで、手は出せないと、それから使者を出して、兼て懇意にする焼栗、是は鉄砲の先

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生、及び鎗の師匠の大蜂、此兩個をば呼びに遣りました。焼栗大蜂の二りは、石臼からの使者に依て、何事かと來て見ますと、石臼は兩個に向ひ、さて今日御苦勞を願つたは、他の事でもない。此に居らるゝ蟹さんの阿父さん、は、私の仲よしのお友達であつたのだ。所が彼様々々の理由で、猿の爲に殺されたに就いては、これから此の子蟹さんを助けて、其の復讐をしようと思ふんだ。付ては君たちの助太刀を願ひ度いと思つて、わざ／＼御出でをねがつた次第だ。何と彼の猿奴を討取るに、一腕貸しては下さるまいか。』と云ひますと、焼栗は之を聞いて、膝を進ませ、『只今話を聞けば、其喧嘩の元因はと



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云ふと、私達の仲間の柿の實ぢやないか。それでは同じ  
果物の私蟹さんへの申譯に、助太刀をするのは當然の  
事だ。分に應じた用があるなら、何卒云ひ付けて下ださ  
い！」とさも頼もしく答へますと、大蜂も負けない氣に  
成て、「僕だつて彼の猿奴には、度々棲巢を荒らされて、  
常から失敬だと思つて居るところだ。そう云ふ事なら  
僕も一所に遺恨の一鎗刺してやらなけりやならぬ。」  
と皆快くうけ合ひましたので、石臼も大に喜び、「就  
てはこゝに計略があるが、何と斯うしてはどうだらう  
か？」「シテ其の計略は？」「まあ近く進み玉へ！」と三人  
寄れば文珠の智恵で、石臼焼栗大蜂の三個は、一つ處に

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額を合せ、何かしきりに相談をしました。  
ヒソ／＼話を致して居る中に、すつかり手筈が極ま  
つたものと見え、「それでは随分脱りたまふな！」大丈  
夫、「〜！」と各自勇み立て、其日は其儘別れましたが石  
臼は親蟹とも只ならぬ中ですから、それより子蟹と連  
れ立て、其棲居へ参り、親蟹の死骸をちやんと取片付け、  
跡を懇ろに吊つてやりました。  
話變つてあの猿は、無法にも蟹を撲殺して、甘い柿を  
ば残らず奪ひ取り、獨りで喜んで居りましたが、流石に  
自分でも、悪いと云ふ事は知て居りますから、嘸蟹の眷  
族共が、乃公を恨んで居るだらう。事に依たら復讐など



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、大業に出で来るかも知れないと思ふと、何だか氣味  
が悪う御座いますから、當座はあいさく成て棲にはか  
り隠れ、窮屈に日を送つて居りました。  
が根がずう／＼、若い奴ですから、『イヤさうでもな  
い、乃公が蟹を遣付けた時には、丁度側に誰も居ず、又蟹  
も充分に息の根を止めて置いたから、乃公の所業と云  
ふ事は別に誰にも知れる筈はない。……で、誰も知らな  
いとして見れば、何も乃公ばかり氣を揉んで、ビク／＼  
して居るにも及ばん話だ。さうだ、ほんとに此は入ら  
ぬ心配だ。』と又勝手な理屈を付けまして、或る日恐々  
蟹の棲居の近所へ参り、それとなく様子を探つて見る

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と案の定、蟹は決して猿を恨んでは居ず、自分が柿を取  
らうとして、無理に樹へ登つた處が、甲良の重量で踏み  
外し、眞逆様に落ちた處へ、半熟の青柿がバラ／＼當つ  
てとう／＼死んでしまつたので、誰を恨む事はないと、  
蟹の眷族共も、皆諦らめて居ると云ふ事ですから、猿は  
大いに安心し、さう云ふ事ならあの時に、態としらばく  
れて悔みに行てやればよかつたなど、呑氣な事を考  
へて居りました。  
すると或る日蟹の處から、一匹の使者が参りました。  
何事かとまづ奥へ通して其口條を聞いて見ますと、實  
は私方の親蟹、先日庭の柿の實を取らうと存じてよせ



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ばよいに樹登を致しました處慣れぬ業とて是非もな  
く、忽ち脚を踏み外し、眞逆様に落ちまして、其儘死んで  
しまいました。付ては庭の柿の樹も、もはやこちらに  
不用なものゆゑ、失禮ながら遺品として貴殿へお譲り  
申度いと、子蟹殿の御仰に随ひ、則ち今日御案内に参り  
ましたと、さも叮嚀な口條です。  
猿はこれを知ると、態と大いに驚いた体で、「なんで  
すツて？ 蟹さんが庭の柿樹から落ちて、アノ其の儘お  
死になすつた？ イヤこれは、私に初めて聞かされたが、ど  
うも實に、飛んだ事でしたな。何を隠さう私と蟹さん  
とは、ちさい時分からのお友達で、丁度今から八年前、或

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る川邊に遊んで居た時、蟹さんの握飯と、私の拾った柿  
の種と交換をした事があつたが、それでは其の柿樹  
と云ふのは定めし其時の柿の種が、成長したものであ  
らう。して見れば私だつて、萬更關係の無い者でもな  
し、一そうお氣の毒に思はれる』と、虚涙をボロ／＼流  
して、さも殊勝らしく泣き立てました。  
使者の蟹は之を見て、おのれ何處押しや其様な音が  
出る？ …… 今に見やがれ、眞實の涙を出さしてやるぞ  
と、腹の中では思ひましたが、色には少しも出さず、尙も  
叮嚀に、『其のお悲嘆も御道理、親蟹さんも草葉の隠で、  
嗚お喜悅でムりましやう。シテ只今の口條は、何とお



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聞き下さりましやうか。『イヤそれは申す迄もない。知らぬ事とは申しながら、今日迄お悔みに参らなかつたお謝罪も序にしたいから、すぐにまゐりましやう。』と、まづ使者を歸してしまひ、それから支度をしまして、やがて蟹の棲居へと参りました。蟹の棲居へ来て見ますと、もう仲間の蟹共は、みんな行儀をよくして、石垣の左右に居並び、平突張て出迎ひを致して居ります。猿は之を見ますと、グツと大得意になつて、『イヤ御出迎ひ太儀々々。』と高慢な顔をして、悠々と玄關へ通ります。すると此處には又取次の蟹が出て居りまして、猿の

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姿を見るより、『さア此方へ！』と小腰を屈めて先に立ち、廊下から奥の間へ案内して、設の席へ坐らせました。猿は案内の儘坐に就いて、暫らく休息して居ると、やがて主の子蟹が出て来て、叮嚀に挨拶を陳べますから、猿も言葉を改めて、『これは子蟹殿で御座つたか。此度は誠にとんだ事で、嘸かし御愁傷お察し申します。』など、仔細らしく悔みの口條を陳べて居る。其中に支度が出来まして、其處へ御膳が出るお酒が出る。猿は殊の外よろこんで、勧められるまゝに油断をして、吾知らず腹一杯に食べました。すると今度はお茶をと云ふので、猿は奥の方の茶室



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へ導かれましたが、是で暫時御休息をと云ひ残して子  
蟹は引下つた儘何時まで経ても出て来ません。「全体  
茶の湯と云ふものは、窮屈なものとは聞いて居たが、か  
う何時までも待たされては困る。……早く吞まして呉  
れないと、咽喉か乾いて堪らんワ。」と酔醒で咽が干付  
きさうですから、とう／＼我慢が仕切れなく成て、湯で  
も一杯呑んでやらうと、自分で爐の側まですり寄つて釜  
の蓋へ手をかけますと、さつきから此の爐の中に、忍ん  
で居た例の焼栗、時分はよしと思つたか、ポーンと一發  
猿の頸筋を撃ちました。  
不意を喰つたから堪りません、猿はアツと云つて倒

猿 蟹 仇 討

れましたが、元より死太い奴、一發位では弱りません、ア  
熱つ、と抑へながら、周章て、茶室を飛び出します  
と、其外の庇の處に、待ち構へて居た大蜂は、大身の鎗を  
リウ／＼しごいて、突然猿の頬の邊を、チクウリと一突  
き突きました。  
重ね／＼の伏勢に、猿は大いに度を失ひ、頭を抱へな  
がら一散に、表の方へ逃て来ますと、此處には例の石臼  
が、石垣の上に隠れて居て、猿の逃て来る處を頭の上か  
ら飛降りて、そのまゝ抑へつけましたから、流石の猿も  
身動きが出来ず、ウン／＼云つて苦しがつて居ります。  
處へ參つたのが、主の子蟹、親讓りの鉞を閃かしなが



日 本 昔 噺

日本昔噺 第三編 猿蟹仇討畢

ら、猿のまへに現はれましたが。此体を見て冷笑ひ「な  
んと山猿思ひ知つたか。」猿は苦しい息の中から、「サ、  
さては矢張り……乃公を敵と……。」それは云はずと  
知れた事だ。よくもくわが父を、酷たらしく殺し居  
つたな。『イヤあれは、自業自得……。』「まだ其様な事を  
抜かし居るか。さア其の息の根を止めてくれるぞ。」と  
鋏をサツと開きまして其儘猿の首を切り落し、まんま  
と敵を討ちましたとき。めでたし〜！

巖谷小波先生著新訂  
英國リッデル女史英譯  
米國グリーン女史英譯

和英對譯 日本昔噺

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The Revenge of the Crab upon the Monkey

Crab cut off the Monkey's head and so successfully accomplished his revenge!

FINIS

THE SAGE OF ŌMI

Translated from the Original of Murai Gensai

近江聖人中江藤樹先生の篤行は萬世の師表にして本邦之れを傳ふるの書充棟も音ならず。先生が少年讀本の爲に通俗體に叙述したるもの至つては未だ之を聞かず。本書は靈に村井高柳龍吉君英譯

エム、シー、レナード氏校閱  
高柳龍吉君英譯

（增訂再版）

袖珍洋装  
全壹冊

日和英昔對 猿 蟹 合 戰  
日和英昔對 玉 井  
日和英昔對 桃 太郎  
英國リッデル女史英譯  
表裝插畫富岡永洗君畫  
英國リッデル女史英譯  
表裝插畫小林永興君畫  
英國リッデル女史英譯  
表裝插畫村田丹陵君畫



The Revenge of the Crab upon the Monkey



The Cancerian-Simian War

丹波畫史管原身筆  
目録





The Revenge of the Crab upon the Monkey

in the eaves, working a large-headed spear through his hand with a hissing sound, suddenly thrust it at the Monkey's cheek and stabbed him!

At these repeated ambushes the Monkey was at his wits' end, and holding his head in his hands fled with all speed to the front of the house; but here our old friend, the Stone-mill, was hiding on the top of the wall, and as the Monkey came running out, he jumped upon his head and pinned him down so tightly that even such a monkey, as he was, could not move! He could only lie there groaning in his pain.

Then the master, Young-Crab, appeared in front of the Monkey,

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flourishing the shears which he had inherited from his Father, and mocked at his condition, saying, "Well, mountain monkey! what do you think of it now?"

The Monkey gasped out, "Do you still....think that I am....the....murderer....of your....Father?"

"That does not need putting into words," said Young-Crab. "You *deliberately and cruelly* murdered my Father!"

"No," said the Monkey, "he only met with his deserts!....."

"Do you still dare to say such a thing? You shall not have the breath to say it with again!!" And opening wide his shears, Young-



### The Revenge of the Crab upon the Monkey

Young-Crab, politely begging him to make himself at home and rest at his ease for a short time, bowed and withdrew. He waited for what seemed a very long time but his host did not return.

“I have always heard,” he thought, “that the tea ceremony was a tedious affair,.....it’s an awful nuisance to be kept waiting like this! If they don’t give me something to drink very soon, my throat will be dried up!”

His throat was really burning, as he recovered from the effects of his intoxication, and unable to endure it any longer, he thought he would, contrary to all precedent, help himself to at least a cup of hot water!

### The Cancerian-Simian War

He went to the fire-place and just as he put his hand to the lid of the kettle which hung over it, the previously mentioned Roast-chestnut, who had been patiently biding his time in the hot ashes, burst forth with a loud report and hit the Monkey in the neck!

Taken by surprise there was not anything he could do, and with a scream the Monkey fell down; but being naturally a stubborn sort of fellow, he was not likely to be much affected by a single shot.

Pressing the place and screaming “Oh it burns! it burns! the Monkey rushed from the tea-room, when the Hornet, who had been lying in wait



### The Revenge of the Crab upon the Monkey

Speaking as though he were addressing his inferiors, he said, "You should not have troubled! Much obliged! Much obliged!" Then with haughty demeanour he strutted to the hall-door.

Here again a servant appeared and directly he saw the Monkey invited him to come in, and bowing slightly, led the way from the corridor to the guest-room and gave him the seat which had been prepared in his honour.

The Monkey having assumed the seat to which he was led, rested for a short time, and then Mr. Young-Crab, the master of the house, appeared and saluted him with due

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politeness.

"I presume you are Mr. Young-Crab," said the Monkey. "This recent sad occurrence is indeed a very terrible affair. You have my sympathy!" And putting on a consequential air he continued to offer expressions of condolence.

In the mean time preparations having been made to offer him food and wine, the Monkey was uncommonly pleased and heedlessly yielding to the urgent invitations of his host he gorged himself without realising it.

Then he was conducted to the tea-room at the back of the house that he might be served with tea from the water boiled there, and



### The Revenge of the Crab upon the Monkey

senger and made his own preparations he forthwith set out for the Crabs' residence.

When he got there he saw that all the Crabs and their friends had come out to meet him, and with the strictest regard to etiquette were ranged to the right and left of the stone wall, prostrating themselves before him.

The Monkey's sense of importance rose at once!



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friends from childhood, and it is just eight years ago that he and I went out for a day's pleasure together by the riverside and we made an exchange of a ball of rice which he had picked up and of a persimmon seed which I had. In all probability the persimmon tree which you speak of has grown from that very seed! As you see, I am personally concerned in this matter, and I am more than grieved for you all!!"

And then the Monkey lifted up his voice in pretended great lamentation, his false tears raining down in large drops!

The Crab's messenger, seeing this, thought to himself, "Whereabouts

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did he press to produce such a sound? Wait a little! he will shed real tears before long!!" but he did not betray his feelings, he retained his polite attitude and said, "Your grief is most reasonable, and it will, I am sure, rejoice Father Crab in his grave. But will you not consent to the request which has now been brought to you?"

"Of course I will consent," said the Monkey. "Not knowing anything of what had happened, I have not yet been to offer my sympathy, and as I wish to apologise for that, I will take this opportunity and go without further delay."

Then, having dismissed the mes-



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it would have been as well if he had paid a visit of consolation at the time and carefully assumed complete ignorance of the facts.

However, one day a messenger came to him from the Crab's place. Before ascertaining his business he first conducted him to the guest-room, and on enquiring what the message was, the messenger said very politely that. "a few days ago the Father Crab had thought he would like some persimmons, and if he had waited for them it would have been all right, but he climbed the tree himself, and not being used to it, and as might have been expected, he had suddenly lost his footing and fallen down

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head foremost, and in that way had died on the spot. Therefore his young master had directed him to say that, as the persimmon tree in their garden was of no use to them, they hoped the Monkey would accept it as a legacy, and that he had come to invite him to go see it."

The Monkey on hearing this pretended to be greatly surprised and said, "What is that?" Do you mean to say that Mr. Crab has fallen from the persimmon tree in his garden, and is dead! Dear me! Dear me! I can hardly believe it!! This is the first I have heard of it! It is indeed a shocking affair! To tell the truth, Mr. Crab and I have been



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However, being the presumptuous fellow he was, he began to reflect that, "Perhaps, after all, I was unnecessarily anxious. When I killed the Crab, there was not a single creature near, and as I took care to see that he was quite dead, no one else can possibly know that I did it——! And if no one knows, there is no necessity whatever for me to be anxious or afraid."

Thus arguing to suit his own convenience, he went one day cautiously into the neighbourhood of the Crab's dwelling, and while pretending to pay no particular attention to his surroundings, he carefully investigated the condition of things. Every-

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thing seemed to be just as he had imagined;—the crabs certainly did not bear any ill-will towards the Monkey; they supposed that the father Crab, wishing to get some persimmons himself, had climbed the tree in spite of great difficulties, but that the weight of his shell had made him slip, and that he had fallen down head foremost, when the half-ripe persimmons fell in a shower and struck him, thereby causing his death; therefore, his household were all resigned to the fact and bore no resentment towards anybody.

The Monkey experienced great relief and indulged in all manner of pleasant reflections, thinking too, that



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“in the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom,” these three put their heads together and entered earnestly into consultation.

While talking quietly there, it seems they entirely settled all their arrangements, for presently the Stone-mill said, “Now whatever happens, don't let there be any blundering!”

“Trust us for that!” replied the other two; and they separated for that day in the gayest spirits. But the Stone-mill, who had been a very great friend of the dead Crab's, returned with his son to the house and assisted him in disposing of the corpse in a decent manner, and in carefully carrying out the funeral

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arrangements.

To change the subject:—the Monkey, though he had lawlessly killed the Crab and confiscated the whole of the sweet persimmons, and was very pleased with himself, nevertheless knew quite well all the time that he had been very wicked, and thought it probable that everybody connected with the Crab's household bore him ill-will.

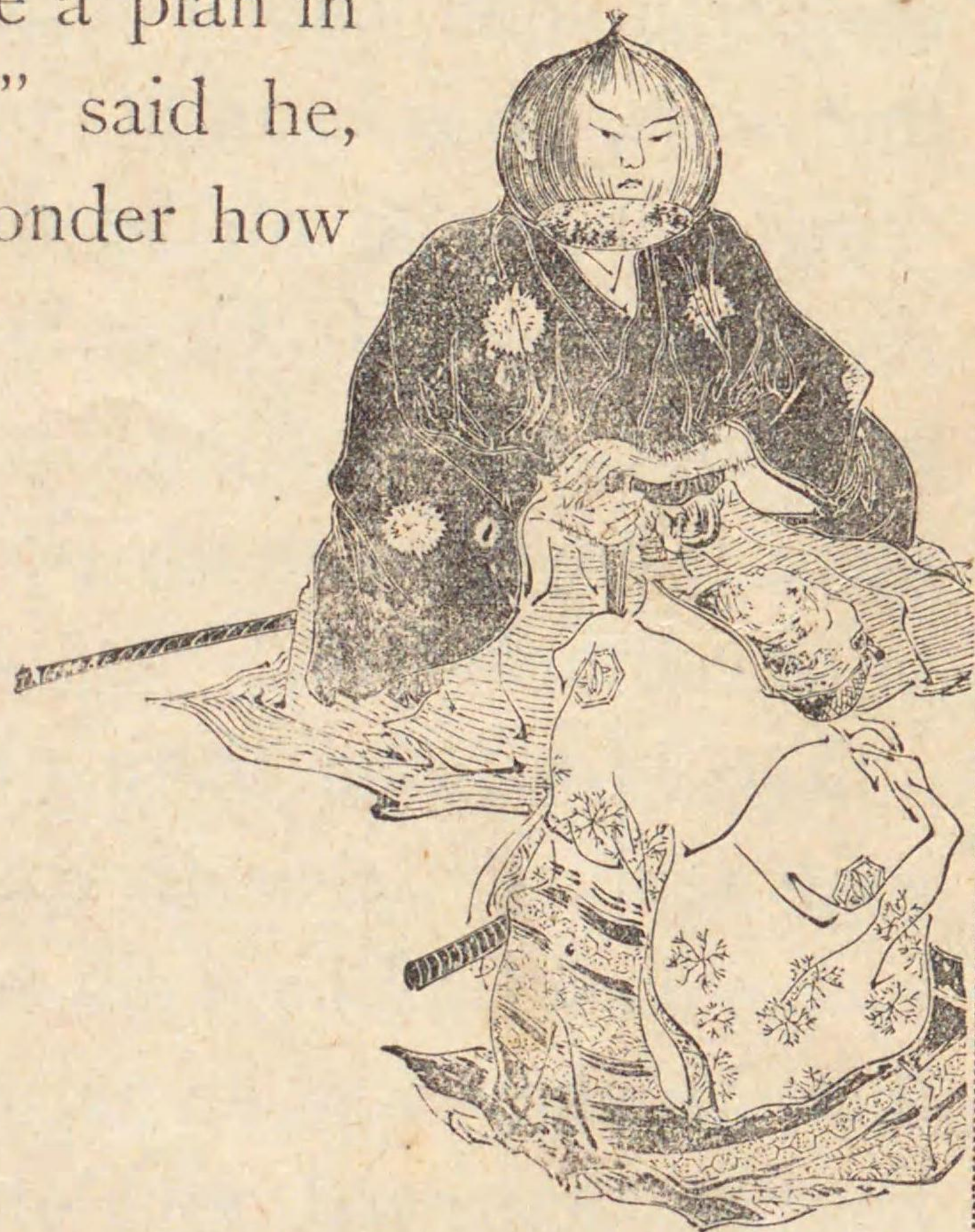
Moreover, when he reflected that perhaps they would issue forth intent upon executing revenge, he felt very uneasy indeed, and for the time being, shrank into himself and remained concealed in his house, wearily watching the days go by.



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times. And if what you say is true, I will join you, and I will certainly pierce him with the spear of my hatred!" And as they all thus cheerfully assumed responsibility, the Stone-mill was very delighted.

"I have a plan in my head," said he, "but I wonder how it would answer!"



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"Pray let us hear it!" cried the Roast-chestnut and the Hornet, both speaking together.

"Then come nearer," said the Stone-mill, "come nearer!" And as





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When the Roast-chestnut and the Hornet, in response to the Stone-mill's message, came to see what he wanted, he said to them, "I must apologise for troubling you to come here to-day, but there is something about which I wish to consult you. It is in connection with Mr. Crab (the Father of this young gentleman whom you see here) who was a very dear friend of mine. However the Monkey, for such and such reasons, has killed him! and I should like to find some way in which to help this young Mr. Crab to avenge him. And therefore, my friends, as I want to implore your help in this matter I purposely asked you to come here.

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Will you not lend me a helping hand to kill this rascally Monkey?"

The Roast-chestnut on hearing this, drew nearer, and said, "Your story leads me to conclude that the cause of the quarrel was the fruit of the persimmon, one of our genus. In that case, it is a right and proper thing that I, one of the fruit-family, should support Mr. Crab, as an apology is due to him from our clan. If there is anything in my power to do, pray command me!"

The Hornet on hearing this promising reply felt that he could do no less, and said, "I have always thought that Monkey was an uncivil fellow; he has destroyed my house many



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when suddenly he remembered his Father's old and intimate friend, the Stone-mill. Now this Stone-mill was formerly a partner in the stone wall in which his Father had lived. Later on he had been discovered by a human being and now was promoted into being a Stone-mill. He was by nature very faithful, and as he never failed to carry out anything he undertook for others, the young crab thought that if he were earnestly appealed to he would probably support him. And he hurried off at once to the Stone-mill's house.

When he saw the Stone-mill and with tears told him of the murder of his Father by the Monkey, the

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Stone-mill was exceedingly sympathetic.

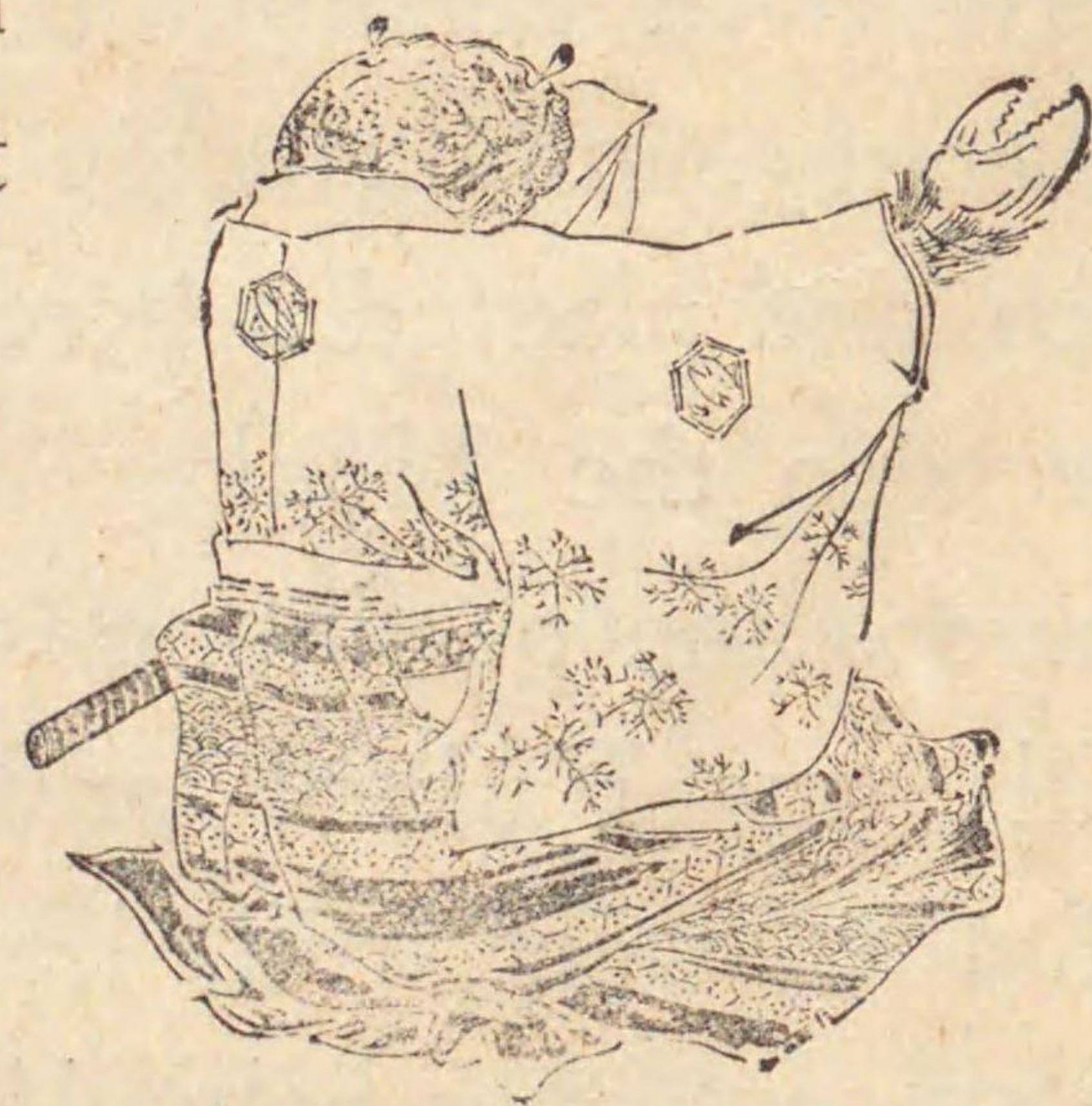
"This is indeed a shocking affair!" he said, "and no doubt you feel it terribly, but don't you be in the least bit anxious about your Father being properly avenged. I will attend to that!" And he comforted him in every way he could. But thinking that after all, the enemy was the Monkey whom he could not attack lightly, the Stone-mill sent a messenger to his old friends, the Roast-chestnut and the Hornet to ask them both to come and see him. The former was a Musketry Instructor and the latter a Master of the Lance.



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the least doubt about it! If he wished to have some persimmons, he had only to give his reasons for wishing for them and my Father was not the person to refuse to share them!—But to kill him in that brutal fashion!!—Confound that Monkey! But I'll soon make him sorry for it!" And the Young Crab gnashed his teeth with impatience.

But when he thought it over again, the enemy certainly was an



The Cancerian-Simian War

experienced and terrible animal who had killed even his Father without any difficulty. How then could he, with his childish strength, oppose him?

This thought so depressed this brave young crab that for a time he was quite bewildered,





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There was nothing left to be done but to avenge his Father by killing his enemy. But who and where was the rascal who had done this foul deed?

“Surely,” he thought, “there must be a clue of some kind!!”

And while pursuing his investigations on the spot in search of a clue, it occurred to him that until the previous day there had been a good number of perfectly ripe persimmons, but that now there was not one left on the tree: there were only green, astringent persimmons scattered round about it.

It looked as though, perhaps, it was with those hard green persim-

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mons that his Father's shell had been injured and broken to pieces—

Presently the young crab slapped his knee, exclaiming “I have it! The deed was done by that rascally Monkey! there is no doubt at all about it! I remember hearing my Father tell frequently, how that long ago when he was out for a day's pleasure with the Monkey at some riverside place, he received a persimmon seed from the Monkey, in exchange for a ball of rice, and planted it here. Well now, because the Monkey again wants to have some persimmons, he violently kills my Father! and takes away all the sweet fruit, leaving only the astringent ones behind! There is not



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corpse in his arms he cried to him at the top of his voice:—but alas! it was no longer of any avail! Never again would the Father hear the voice of his son!





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blow on the top of his head. Unable to bear the pain, he cried out and fell over, and as he fell there came another blow!

"It hurts! it hurts!" called the Crab, "what are you doing?"

"You want to know what I am doing? Well, these persimmons all belong to me, every one of them! and you had better die without any grumbling! So there!"

The Monkey being, as there is no doubt, a very violent fellow, he pelted the Crab with green persimmons like a shower of hail, till he saw without any pity, the Crab's shell entirely crushed, and the Crab himself, to be barely alive. Then

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he hurriedly gathered every one of the sweet persimmons left on the tree, and carrying them under his arm fled to his own house.

However, the Crab had a son. It so happened that on this day he had gone with some crab-friends to amuse themselves on the edge of a distant swamp, but returning after a while, he was astonished to find his Father lying on the ground under the persimmon tree in the garden, with his shell and claws crushed to fragments and altogether in a condition too dreadful to look at, and absolutely dead!!

The young crab was overcome with grief and taking his Father's



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"All right, I'm not forgetting!" said the Monkey, and forthwith he completed his preparations and climbed easily up the tree, and immediately plucked off a persimmon and began to crunch it up. "Ah!" he cried, "this is excellent! it's as sweet as it can be!"

The Crab waiting anxiously below called out, "I say! isn't it rather bad manners for you to begin to eat by yourself before I do?"

"What's the matter?" said the Monkey, "I am only trying them for you."

"But you are at it again! Don't eat in that greedy fashion all by yourself, throw some down here too!"

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"All right, I'll throw some now!" and the Monkey picked one and threw it. The Crab rushed to pick it up and taking a mouthful received a shock! for his mouth and lips were almost benumbed by the astringency of the persimmon.

"Oh, I say, this thing's astringent!" he shouted, "please send me quite a sweet one!"

"Is it? How's this one?"

"Bah! this is just as bad!"

"I declare you grumble at everything!" said the Monkey. "Well then, try this one," and exerting all his strength, he threw down an absolutely green persimmon as hard as a stone. It struck the Crab a terrible



### The Revenge of the Crab upon the Monkey

Monkey, "isn't it just as I told you it would be? And it has a lot of fruit too, I expect?"

"Fruit! I should think so indeed! it is simply laden with fruit! And, I say, Mr. Monkey, just listen to me for a moment!—I am awfully put about! for although I have such a lot of legs I am not very expert at climbing trees, and I cannot get at those special persimmons! It will be a great bother for you, but won't you just come over to my place and get them for me? I will give you a few for yourself by way of thanks for your trouble."

"That," said the Monkey, "is a very easy thing to do! Why should

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thanks be mentioned between such intimate friends? I will come at once and get them for you." And with this ready assurance from the Monkey they set out together for the Crab's house.

On arriving there, he saw for himself what he had already heard, that the persimmon had indeed become a tree to gaze at with admiration for its size, and was laden with crimson fruit in great luxuriance.

"What splendid fruit it has!"—said the Monkey, "and it's a very good kind of persimmon too!"

"We can dispense with all that just now," exclaimed the Crab, "make haste up please, and pick some!"



### The Revenge of the Crab upon the Monkey

simmons, growing in bell-like clusters, just as the Monkey had said it would.

The Crab was in ecstasies! Wishing to eat some of the persimmons at once, he tried with all his might to reach them from below, but being, as it is unnecessary to point out, of low stature, the claws with which he was provided by nature, did not answer the purpose. And also as it was his custom to move sideways, it seemed very doubtful whether he could climb the tree to gather any.

At last, being in much doubt and perplexity, he folded his arms and gave a short time to consideration of the situation, and eventually came to

### The Cancerian-Simian War

the conclusion, that, as his own resources were insufficient, the very best thing to do, was to ask his friend the Monkey to pick the persimmons for him, and forthwith he went to call on the Monkey.

“Are you at home, Mr. Monkey?” he called at the front door. And the monkey’s voice answered from within, “Oh! can it be you, Mr. Crab! what a very long time it is since we last met!”

“It is indeed,” said the Crab, “and in that long time of separation the persimmon seed for which I once made an exchange with you has become a very fine tree.”

“Now, look at that!” replied the



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simple-minded Crab, who replied guilelessly, "All right, in that case, I will sow it myself and see."

"Very well, then," said the monkey, "we will exchange." Having thus successfully deceived the Crab, he took the ball of rice in his hand, and hurriedly eat it up before the Crab could change his mind, and giving the persimmon seed to the Crab as though he regretted parting with it, they separated for that day.

The Crab returned to his home carrying the persimmon seed with him, and immediately, according to the Monkey's directions, planted it in his garden. In a little while it sprouted, and from two leaves came

### The Cancerian-Simian War

four; and from five inches it grew to a foot; and as the days went by it increased and flourished. The Crab was delighted and thought the tree was indeed an interesting thing; and found his only joy in hoping it would speedily grow large and bear a great deal of fruit.

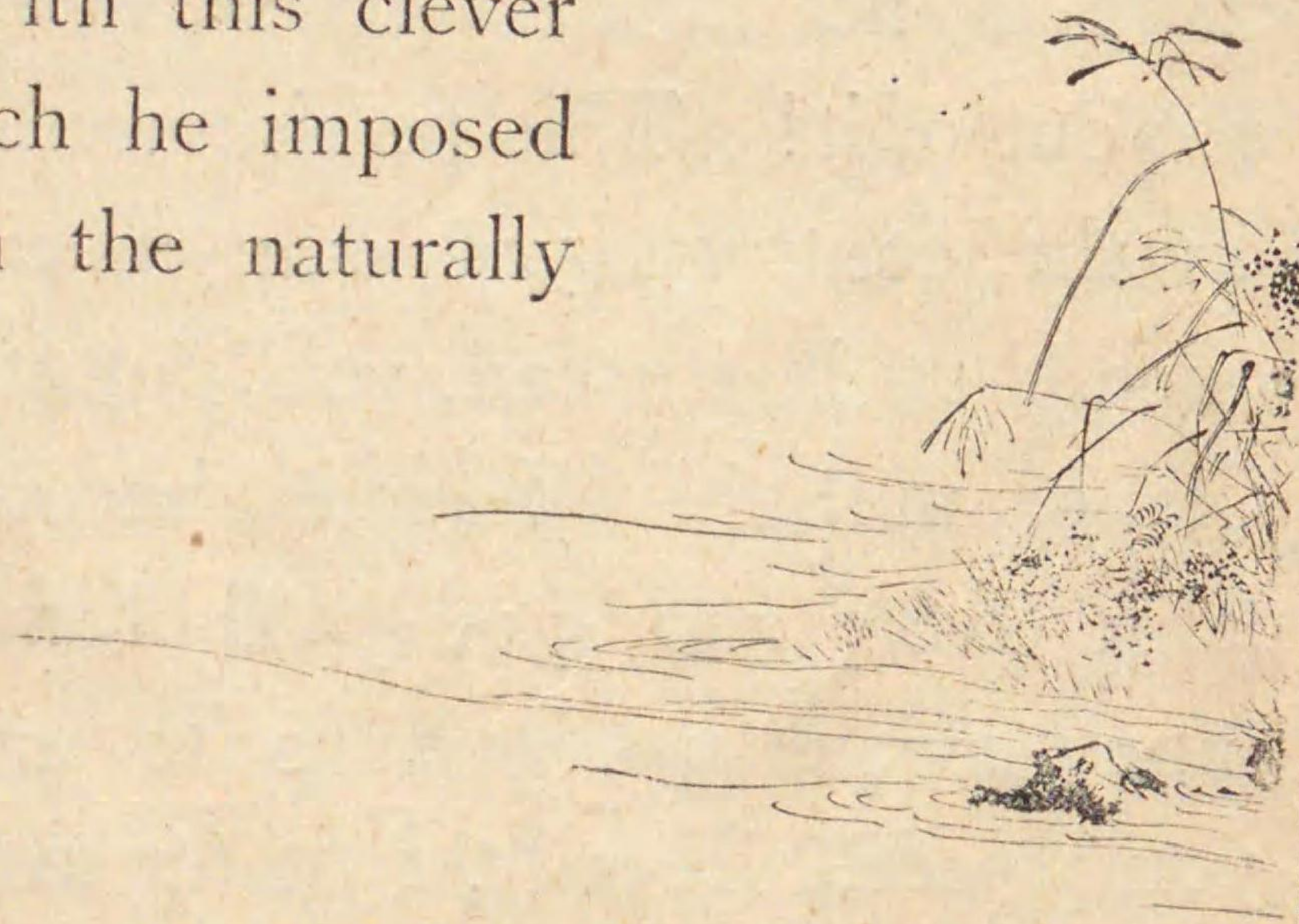
There is a saying, that peach trees and chestnut trees bear fruit in three years, but that persimmon trees need eight years; and it was exactly in the eighth autumn from the time that the seed no bigger than the top of your finger was planted, that it had become not only a large tree to gaze upon, but was also covered with most enticing looking red per-



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it myself, but because I want to shew you for once in your life, a whole lot of persimmons growing, I suggested we should exchange! However if you don't like it, I won't persuade you against your will, I will just take it home and plant it myself. But in that case, please remember that by-and-bye, when the tree is in fruit I will not give you *one!*"

With this clever speech he imposed upon the naturally



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have found!" and then the Monkey said, "And look what I have picked up too!" and shewed him the persimmon seed, but though he liked persimmons better than anything else, the seed only was not of much use, while, on the contrary, the ball of rice was eatable at once! hence, the Monkey was so envious he did not know how to bear himself.

Then he considered how he could possess himself of the ball of rice, and purposely looking very serious, he said, "I say, Mr. Crab, would you not like to exchange that ball of rice for this persimmon seed?"

The Crab shaking his head said, "I shouldn't like it at all,—yours is

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such a very little thing, is it not? and for me to exchange such a big thing as my ball of rice for your seed would be a decided loss to me."

"What you say is very true, Mr. Crab," replied the monkey, "but though the ball of rice is much bigger than the persimmon seed, and also you can eat it at once, yet when you have eaten it, that is the end! there is no further pleasure to be got out of it! This persimmon seed, on the contrary, you cannot eat at once, but if, instead, you put it into the ground, it will soon become a large tree and you will have as many sweet persimmons to eat as you please. Really, I prefer to keep



The Cancerian-Simian War

THE  
CANCERIAN-SIMIAN WAR.

The Revenge of the Crab  
upon the Monkey.



**L**ONG, long ago, there lived in a certain place, a Monkey and a Crab.

One day these two went out together to enjoy themselves, and by-and-bye on the bank of a river the Monkey picked up the seed of a persimmon, and the Crab found a ball of rice.

The Crab was the first to exclaim —“Oh! look what a nice thing I



138-1526

*Iwaya's*  
*Fairy Tales of Old Japan*



THE  
CANCERIAN-SIMIAN  
WAR

THE REVENGE OF THE CRAB  
UPON THE MONKEY

TRANSLATED BY

HANNAH RIDDELL



TOKYO  
EIGAKU-SHIMPO-SHA

1903