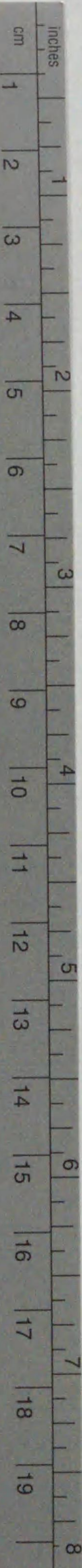
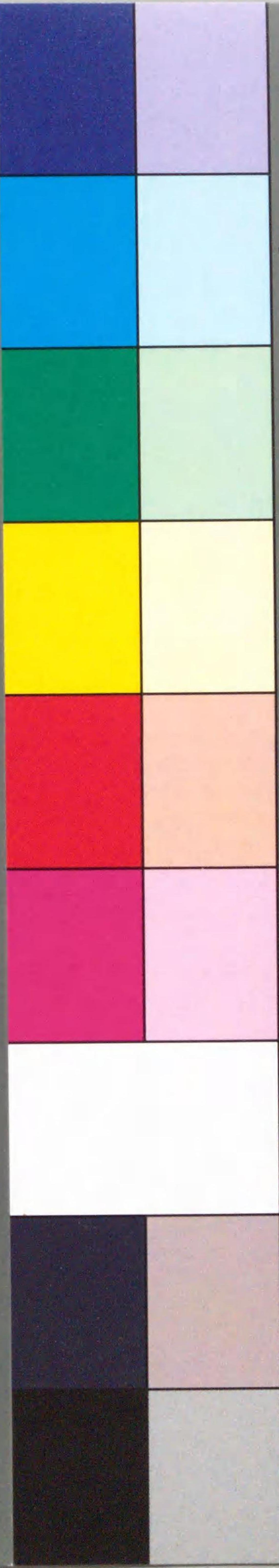


巖谷小波編  
 日 本 昔 新  
 第 六 編  
 舌 切 雀



Kodak Color Control Patches

Blue Cyan Green Yellow Red Magenta White 3/Color Black



Kodak Gray Scale

A 1 2 3 4 5 6 M 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 B 17 18 19



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# 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。

今その全集が文學に堪能なる英米の諸婦人の手に依り、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、  
専ら簡單に、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  
依て日本語を學ばうと思ふにも、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



雀 切 舌

日本昔噺

其六 舌切雀

巖谷小波編



かしくまづある處に爺さんと婆さんがあ  
りましたとき。爺さんはまことに善い人で、兼々一羽の  
雀を飼つて居りましたが、元より子供もない事ですか  
ら、此雀をばわが兒の様に、蝶よ花よと可愛がつて居り  
ました。

或る日の事で、爺さんは例の通り、鎌と籠を持って、山へ





日 本 昔 噺

柴刈に参りましたが、其留守に婆さんは、井戸端へ出て洗濯を初め、やがて之に糊を付けやうと思つて、臺所へ取りに来て見ますと、こは如何に、折角朝から拵へて置いた糊が、まるで消失してしまつて、只鉢ばかり残て居ります。  
「オヤ、折角妾が丹精して煮て置いたものを、誰が取て行たのだらう。ほんとに憎らしい奴だよ。だが先刻から誰も来た様子が無いのに、消失るとはとうも不思議だ。」と小首を傾けながら四邊を見廻しますと、丁度向ふに置いてある籠の中から、例の雀が聲をかけまして、「お婆さん何探して居らッしやる？」

舌 切 雀

「今しがた迄此處にあつた糊が、みんな消失してしまつたから、どうも不思議でならないのさ。」  
「ア、その糊ですか、それは私がみんな頂いてしまひました。」  
「エッお前が喰へた？あの糊を？」  
「へい實はそんなお大切な物とは存じませず、例も私の餌を入れて頂く、あの鉢の中に入りましたから、喰へてもよいのかと思ひまして、つひ残らず頂いて仕舞ひましたが、どうも飛んだ事を致しました、何卒御勘辨なすつて下さい！」  
と雀は正直ですから、自分の麁想を包まず白状して、頻りに謝罪りました。根が根性の悪い婆さん、平常から此雀をあまり可愛がらず、却て邪魔に思つて居る所ですから、



日 本 昔 噺

忽ち眼を剥いて怒り出し、「己れ憎い畜生奴、人が折角丹精して拵へた糊を、よくも〜悉皆喰べて仕舞つたな。さア如何するか覺えて居ろ。」と奥から鋏を持って來て、尙も泣きながら詫びて居る雀をば、いきなり籠から握み出し、「己れ此の舌で甜め居つたか。」と無残にも雀の舌を、根元からプツツリ切り棄て、「これで漸う胸が透いた。さア何處へでも失せやがれ！」と其儘追ひ出してしまひました。

こんな事のは、爺さんは少しも知りません。山で柴を澤山刈り、これで今日の仕事は濟んだ、ドリヤ早く自家へ歸つて、可愛い雀の顔を見やうかと、何より

舌 切 雀

もそれを樂みに、其の日の暮方急いでわが家へ歸つて見ますと、如何したのか籠は空つぽで、大切の雀の影が見えませんが、爺さんは不審に思ひ、「オイ婆さんや。雀は何處へ行つた？」と尋ねますと、婆さんは空とばかり、「何處へ行たか知りませんよ。」でも此籠の中に居ないぜ。」左様ですか。そんなら何處かへ逃げたんでしやう。」と一向濟ました顔で居りますから、爺さんは尙更急ぎ込んで、「ナニあの慣れて居る雀が、何うして自分から逃げけるものか。これは何でも私の留守の間にお前が追出したに相違ない。さア隠さずに云ひなさい！」と正鶴を指されましたから、婆さんも隠すに



日 本 昔 噺

隠されず、『實はお前さんの留守の間に、妾が煮て置いた大切な糊を、悉皆喰べてしまつたから、舌を切て追ひ出してやりました。』と事實を咄して聞かせますと、爺さんは嘆くまい事か、『ヤレ、可愛さうに、縦令糊を喰べたからと云つて、高が畜生の所業、悪氣で仕た譯でも無からうから、堪忍してやればよいのに、舌を切て追ひ出すとは、情無い事をしてくれた。私が其時居たならば、何ともして許してやつたものを、私が留守なばかりに、飛んだ殺生をしてしまつた。是が泣かずに居られやうか。』とまるで吾兒に別れでもした様に、聲も惜まず泣いて居りましたが、よく、懐かしく思つた

舌 切 雀

ものか、其翌日は仕事も其方退け、婆さんの止めるも聞かず、朝早くから家を出て、雀の行方を探しに参りました。『舌切雀お宿は何處だ？ 舌切雀お宿は何處だ？ チウ、く、く！』と云ひながら尋ねて行きますと、雀も永年御恩を受けた、主人の爺さんの聲ですから、速くもそれと聞きつけて、自分の宿を飛び出し、途中までお迎ひに出まして、『これは、お爺さま、ようこそ尋ねて来て下さいました。』と云ひますと、爺さんも喜んで、『オ、此處に居てくれたか。私はお前に別れてから、戀しくツて、たまらないので、わざわざ、今日は尋ねて來



日 本 昔 噺

たよ。』それは誠に難有うムいます。しかしこれは途中、むさくろしうはムいますが、何卒私の宿まで御入來下さいます。』としほらしくも爺さんの手を取て、自分の宿へと案内しました。

元より雀の宿の事ですから、お定まりの藪の中で、竹の柱に竹の屋根とは云ひながら、中々立派な住居です。雀は先に立て、『さア何卒此方へ！』と爺さんを上の間へ通し、『さて今日はようこそ御尋ね下さいました。お婆様のお糊をば、お断りもなく頂いてしまひました。不埒ものゝ私ゆるさぞ御立腹の事と存じましたのも、別段御叱りもなく、かうしてわざくお尋ね下さ

舌 切 雀

いますとは何と御禮を申しましてよいやら、誠に嬉しくてく、嬉涙が出るほどでございます。』と改まつて禮をのべますと、爺さんは手を左右に振つて、『なんのく、叱るなどゝは餘所の爺の事だ。此の阿爺はお前が可愛くてく、兒よりも大切に思つて居るものを、高が糊を嘗めた位の麁想で、酷たらしう舌を切つて、逃がすとは、自家の婆こそ不埒な奴、昨日も散々叱つてやりました。だがさうして無事な顔を見て、私も此様に嬉しい事はない。』とホクく喜んで居ります。

雀は大切の恩人が、わざく尋ねて來てくれた事ですから、何とかして其心を慰めたいものと、それから家



日 本 昔 噺

内の雀に云ひつけ、出来るだけの御馳走をして爺さんを  
歡待し、又下物には自分達の御得意の雀踊などをし  
て見せましたから、爺さんは大喜び、私は此年齢になる  
まで、こんな面白い目に逢つた事は無いと、まるで極樂  
へでも行た心持で、殊の外の御機嫌です。  
其中に日も暮れかゝつて來ましたから、爺さんは氣  
がついて、ヤレ／＼おかげで今日は壽命が伸びた。し  
かしもう日が暮れるから、今日はこれで告別としやう。  
と云ひますと、雀はなか／＼歸さうともせず。「お爺様  
何を仰有います。たとひ日が暮れましやうとも、お泊り  
遊ばせばよいでは、ムいませんか。こんな汚い處では

舌 切 雀

ムいませすが、お厭でなくば幾日でも御滞留下さいまし。  
今迄お世話に成りました御恩を思へば、一日や二日御  
馳走致しましたからと云つて、中々萬分一もお返しは  
出來ません、何卒今晚はお泊まりを……。「イヤ其厚志  
は嬉しいけれど、私も家を明ける譯にはいかなから、  
今日は一まづ歸るとしましやう。其代り此後は、度々  
遊びに來るから、其時には又今日の様に面白い事をし  
て見せておくれよ。」それでは如何でも今日はお歸り  
でムいませるか。それはまアお名残惜うムいませず。  
志かし左様云ふ事ならば、少々お待ち下さいまし。」と  
やがて奥の藏の中から、葛籠を二つ持て來まして、「さ



日 本 昔 噺

てお爺様、折角のお入來に何のお愛想もなく、此儘お別  
れ申しますのは、誠に本意無い事で、ムいませう。就きま  
しては、此處に軽い葛籠と重い葛籠がムいませうが、何方  
でもお氣に召しました方を、お土産にお持ち下さいま  
せんか！』「ナニお土産を？ 御馳走に成たりお土産を貰  
つたり、それではどうも濟まない子。然し折角の志だ  
から、遠慮なく貰つて行かう。』「それでは此の重い方を  
お持ち下さいますか。』「イヤ、私には此通り年を取  
居るから、重い方はとても負へない、軽い方で澤山だ。』  
『それでは軽い方をお持ち下さいます。』と此處で爺さ  
んは軽い葛籠を背中に負はして、もらひ門口まで送ら

舌 切 雀

れながら、『それでは種々難有う、又其中に遊びに來る  
よ。』「吃度お待ち申して居ります。氣をつけて入らつ  
しやいませ、御機嫌よろしう！』と見送る雀に見かへ  
る爺さん、互ひに名残を惜みながら、其日は別れてしま  
ひました。  
話變つて婆さんは、只一人留守番をして居ました  
が、爺さんの歸來の晩いのに、もうブツ／＼と小言を云  
つて居ります。『だから云はない事ぢやない、あんな悪  
戯者の雀の行方なんぞ尋ねて、なんの役に立つんだら  
う？』ほんとは氣の知れないお爺さんだよ。』と頻りに  
悪口を云ひながら、門口まで出て待て居ますと、やがて



日 本 昔 噺

前面から爺さんが葛籠を背負つて歸つて來ました。  
「何だねエお前さん、今時分に歸て來て！」と叱るや  
うに云ひますと、爺さんは汗を拭き、「婆さんさう  
小言を云つてくれるな。今日は雀の家へ行って面白い  
感をして來たぜ。それにコレ此通りお土産まで貰つ  
て來た。」と背中にあつた葛籠をおろし、「重いのと輕  
いのと出して、何方が好いと云つたけども、重いのは背  
負て來るのが大變だから、輕い方を貰つて來た。一體  
何が這入て居るんだらう、早く開けて見るがい。」と  
云はれて、婆さんは俄かにニコニコ、「さうですか、それ  
はまあ好い事をして來なすつた。ドレお土産を拜見

舌 切 雀

しやう。」と遠路を歩行いて來て、艸臥れて居る爺さん  
には、澁茶一杯酌んでもやらす、直ぐに葛籠の蓋に手を  
かけ、急いで開けて中を見ると、さアあること〜！金  
銀珠玉は云ふに及ばず、立派な衣服や奇麗な財寶が、溢  
れるばかり這入て居ます。  
これを見て爺さんは、先刻見て來た雀踊の、温習でも  
初めたやうに、跳り上つて嬉しがると、婆さんは何思  
つたか、不足さうに頬をふくらし、「お前さんも氣が利  
かないねエ。こんなに好い物が這入てるなら、何故そ  
の重い方を貰つて來ないんです？。ほんとに慾を知  
らないお爺さんだよ。」これサ何を馬鹿を云ふんだ。



日 本 昔 噺

これだけあれば澤山ぢやないか。慾張りも好い加減にするがいと。『それでも見すく、重いのがあるのに、軽い方を貰つて来るなんて、ほんとにお前さんは馬鹿な人だよ。いゝさ、これから妾が行て、その重い方を貰つて来やう。』とはや立ち上りますから、爺さんは頻りに止めて、『よしなく、お前が行つたつて無駄だから。』と云つても婆さんは耳にも入れず、直ぐに尻を端折つて、爺さんの杖をそのまゝつき、『舌切雀！お宿は何處だ？チウくく！』とおんなじ事を云ひながら、雀の宿へと急ぎました。さて又雀の宿では、爺さんを送り出してから、直ぐに

舌 切 雀

表をめてしまひ、後には家内の者が寄り集つて、『ほんとにあのお爺さんは好い方だ。今度又お入來に成たら、何の御馳走をしてあげやうか知ら？それに引かへて、あのお婆さんの意地の悪さ、高が糊を甜めた位の罪科に、舌を切て追出すとは、ほんとに慈悲を知らないにも程がある。』など、頻りに噂をして居る處へ、噓をしながら門口を叩いて、『モシく、舌切雀のお宿は此方かエ？』と尋ねる者がありますから、誰かと思つてあけて見ると、噂をすれば影とやら、舌を切つた婆さんです。雀はそれと見て、舌を切られた恨はありますが、何し



日 本 昔 噺

ろ永年飼はれた恩もありますから、町噺に辭儀をして、  
「これはくお婆さん、ようこそ御入來下さいました。  
さア何卒此方へ！」と先に立て案内しかけますと、婆  
さんはそれをうち消して。「イヤもう決して構つて下  
さんな！私にはちつと急ぐのだから、直ぐに告別に仕や  
うよ。」それでも折角お入來に成たものですから、一寸  
でもお上り下さいまし。」「イエもうさうしては居られ  
ない。直ぐに歸らなければならぬのだから、御馳走  
も雀踊もぬきにして、早くそのお土産を貰つて行かう。」  
と此方からお土産の催促です。  
雀は、「何と云ふ慾張り婆だらう！」と心の中で呆

舌 切 雀

れながらも、「左様でございますか、それではお土産を  
さし上げましやう。しかし軽い方は先刻お爺様がお  
持ちになりまして、残つて居りますのは重い方は  
かりで、誠にお氣の毒様でムいませうが……」  
「イヤ妾はお爺さんと違つて、まだ年も若し力もあるから、重  
い方が却て結構だ。ドレ早く出して下さい。」  
「それでは只今持て参ります。」と雀は奥の方から、  
大きな葛籠をさも重たさうに持出しますと、婆  
さんはそれを受け取つて、「これさへ貰へばもう用  
はない、ドレ雀さん御免なさいよ。」と挨拶も碌  
にはせず、どっこいしよと背負ひ出しました。



日 本 昔 噺

處が其葛籠の重い事と云つたら、自家にある澤庵押  
の石よりは、二層倍も重たいので、流石の婆さんも驚い  
て、湯玉の様な汗を額からダク／＼流しながら、ウンウ  
ン云つて歩行いて來ましたが、それでも心の中では、此  
の重量なら、さぞ澤山這入てるだらうと、それを第一の  
慰樂に、一生懸命に成てやつて來ましたが、何分重くツ  
て堪らないのと、又早く中が見たいのと、家へ歸るま  
で待ち切れず、いつそ此處等で開けてやれと、やがて葛  
籠を路傍へおろし、汗を拭きながら蓋を取て見ると、こ  
は／＼如何にこは如何に、中は財寶と思ひの外、三眼小  
僧に蝦蟇の入道、蝮に毛蟲に螳螂など云ふ、さも恐ろ

舌 切 雀

しい妖怪が、ウシヤ／＼詰まつて居ますから、婆さんは  
膽を潰し、キヤツと云つて引くりかへると、中の妖怪は  
其聲を聞きつけて、そろ／＼頭を持上げ、蝮がまづ這ひ  
出して、婆さんの手足にまきつけば、蝦蟇は舌を出して、  
頬べたを甜めまはすと云ふ騒動に、婆さんはもう九死  
一生。『助けて呉れ助けて呉れ！』と泣きながら、轉が  
るやうに逃げ出しましたが、やつとの事で家へ歸つて、  
爺さんに此話をする、爺さんは却て驚かず、『それだ  
から云はない事か。慾を張るとそんなものだ。』と段  
々云つて聞かしましたので、婆さんも初めて目が覺め、  
それから後は善心に立ちかへつて、爺さんとおなし様







The Tongue-Cut Sparrow

but said, "Did not I tell you not to be too greedy? You have been justly punished."

And by degrees he instructed her until the old woman was convinced of her own sin and was sorry for it. The story goes on to say that after that time she was as good as the good old man, for which, God be thanked.

THE SAGE OF ŌMI

和英對譯 近江聖人

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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、されど其英文を以て之を記述するものに至つては未だ之を聞かず。本書は曩に村井弦齋氏が少半讀本の爲に通俗體に叙述したる「近江聖人」を直譯せるものにして英文は圓熟にして平易且つ能く原文の體と意とを傳ふ、されば第二版なるに際し原書の全文を轉載したれば之を原書と相對し行はれ今其英譯出で、爰に初めて藤樹先生を英文界に傳ふるものとなる。

日和 日和 日和 日和 日和  
本英 本英 本英 本英 本英  
昔對 昔對 昔對 昔對 昔對  
嘶譯 嘶譯 嘶譯 嘶譯 嘶譯

花松猿玉桃

蟹の太  
山合

爺鏡戰井郎

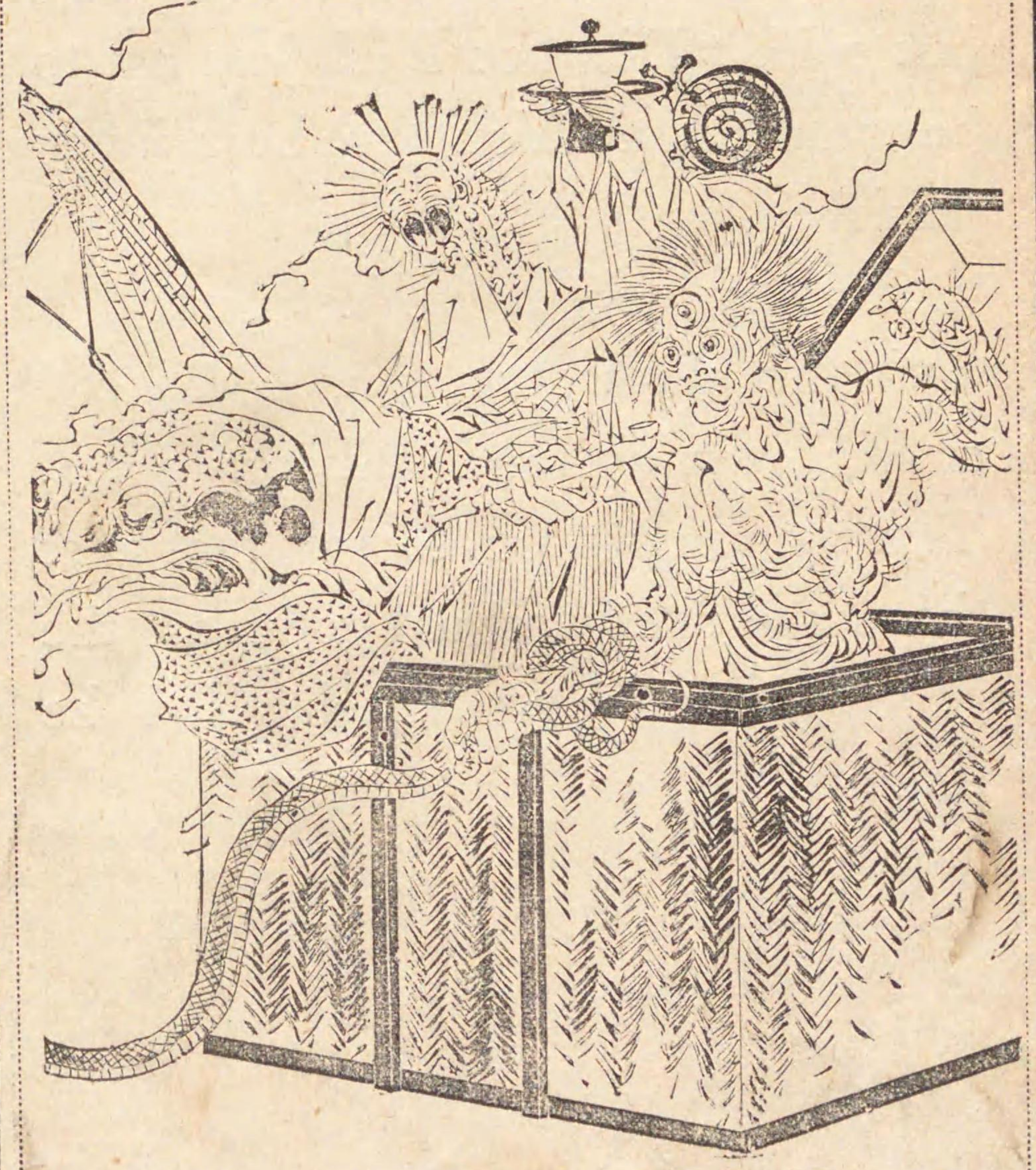
英國リッデル女史英譯  
表裝插畫富岡永洗君畫  
英國グリオン女史英譯  
表裝插畫小林永興君畫  
英國リッデル女史英譯  
表裝插畫村田丹陵君畫  
英國リッデル女史英譯  
表裝插畫武内桂舟君畫  
英國グリオン女史英譯  
表裝插畫水野年方君畫



The Tongue-Cut Sparrow



The Tongue-Cut Sparrow





The Tongue-Cut Sparrow

walked she growned with pain.

There was, however, in her heart a strong hope that she would find great treasure in this heavy basket; and this made her walk with all her energy. But inspite of this her burden was getting too heavy to carry and her desire to see the contents of the basket too strong to resist, so she could not wait until she reached home but determined to open it on the way.

So she put the basket down by the roadside and took off the cover. What do you think she found there? No treasure, but a monster with three eyes, a giant toad, a viper, some larvae, a mantiss, and other terrible reptiles and slimy creatures which

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swarmed about the basket.

The old woman was almost frightened to death and fell on the ground with a shriek.

When these dreadful creatures heard the scream they slowly lifted up their heads. First of all the viper crawled out of the basket and wound itself about her hands and feet; then the toad began to lick her cheeks.

The old woman was desperate by this time and kept on calling for help, when at last she escaped from them she fell down and stumbled over things all the way home. She arrived there after great difficulty.

When she told the old man what had happened, he was not surprised,



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without any proper words of thanks,  
only saying, "I have no more busi-  
ness, so good-bye."



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Now this rattan basket was twice  
as heavy as the large stone which was  
used as a weight to press radish  
pickle in her home, and even such a  
woman as this was filled with wonder  
at it and sweat came rolling down  
her face in big drops and as she



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you hear the rustle of his wings."

When the sparrow saw her, though he resented having had his tongue cut off, yet he felt he ought to be grateful to her as she had been his mistress for so long a time; "Welcome, dear mistress, please come in," he cried, and was about to lead her in when the old woman stopped him saying, "Please don't trouble, for I am in a hurry and must go at once."

"But won't you come in and rest a little while?" said the sparrow, "for you have come so far."

"No, thank you," said the old woman, "I have to go home at once, so don't trouble yourself about a dinner or a sparrow dance but instead

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I will take a present home with me." "Very well," said the sparrow, "I will give you a present, but I am sorry there is only a heavy basket left as your husband took the light one home."

"Never mind," said the old woman, "I am much younger and stronger than my old man and would rather have the heavier bundle; so please bring it to me at once."

"Very well, I will bring it," said the sparrow and soon he carried a large rattan basket which seemed very heavy from an inner room.

The old woman took the present and put it on her back with many an 'Ah!' and 'Oh!' and then went out



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"Stop! stop!" cried the old man, "it will do no good," and he tried to prevent her from going. But the old woman did not listen to his words and tucking up the skirts of her garments, she set forth taking the old man's staff as she went; and as she hurried along she repeated the same song as the old man:

"Tongue-cut-sparrow,  
where are you?  
Where is your lodging?  
Chu, chu, chu."

Let us turn again to the sparrow's lodging. After the old man had gone, the door had been locked and the family were now talking among themselves about the old man and woman.

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"He is truly a good old man," said the Tongue-cut Sparrow. "How shall we entertain him next time he comes, I wonder. How different his ill-natured wife is from him! There seems no limit to her cruelty, for she drove me away with my tongue cut for so small a fault as licking starch."

At that moment there was a knock at the door and a voice called out sneezing, (for they say people sneeze when they are backbitten by others.) "Is this the house of the Tongue-cut Sparrow?" When the sparrow went to see who it was, he found the old woman who had cut his tongue, standing at the door, for as the proverb says: "Speak of an angel and



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sparrow gave me two baskets from which to choose; one heavy, the other light; and I chose the lighter one rather than the heavier, which I thought would be too heavy for me to carry. Open it and see what is inside," he added.

"In truth," said the old woman suddenly becoming cheerful, "you enjoyed yourself then. Let us see what is inside," she continued and without so much as troubling herself to give the tired old man a cup of tea, she hastened to take off the cover and open the basket. What do you think they saw there?—beautiful garments and costly treasures, to say nothing of gold, silver

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and precious stones.

When the old man saw these things he began to dance with joy, the sparrow dance he had seen that day; but the old woman frowned and said: "How dull-witted you are! Why did you not bring back the heavier basket? You are not grasping enough."

"How can you say so?" said the old man. "Are not these enough? You are too grasping, my old woman."

"But what a fool you were to take the lighter one when you might have had the heavier one. Well, I will go now and fetch that heavy bundle." So saying she rose to go.



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the cross old woman angrily.

“Oh, don't scold me,” said her husband wiping away sweat and putting down his burden. “I had a charming time at the sparrow's house and have brought back a present as well. The





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load; the lighter one will do well enough."

"Then please take the lighter one," said the sparrow.

Thereupon the old man placing the lighter basket on his shoulder with the sparrow's help, went and stood at the gate, together with the birds who had come to see him off.

"Good-bye, sparrow dear, I will be back again before long," said the old man.

"I expect you to come back again soon," said the sparrow, "good-bye, take care of yourself on the road."

So the old man started off, often looking back as he went along, while the sparrow watched him grow

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farther and farther out of sight, for they had parted from each other sorely against their will.

But now let us turn and look at the old woman. She was left at home alone in the absence of her husband and was growing tired of waiting for him for he was so long in coming. "I suppose my old man must be looking for that mischievous sparrow," she grumbled, "I cannot understand why he does it." Saying this she went and stood at the gate waiting for her husband to return.

By and by the old man came home carrying the rattan basket on his back.

"How can you be so late?" asked



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please stay?"

"No," answered the old man, "I heartily thank you for your kindness, but I have to return to-day, as I must not be away from home too long. I shall often visit you in the future and I hope you will show me as interesting a dance as I saw to-day."

"Then you are determined to go away?" said the sparrow. "How I wish I could keep you! but if you must go, please wait a minute." And bringing forward two rattan baskets, the sparrow continued, "It is quite against my wish to part with you, dear old master, for I have not entertained you, after your long

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journey, in such a way as to prove my gratitude to my satisfaction. Now here are two rattan baskets; one heavy, the other light. Take whichever one you like home with you as a present."

"A present?" said the old man. "No, I could not do so mean a thing as to take a present home after having received such entertainment. Nevertheless, this special forethought on your part ought not to be slighted, so I will take one of the baskets with me."

"Will you take the heavier one?" asked the sparrow.

"No, no," answered the old man, "I am old and can not carry a heavy



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to this time I have ever received your most tender care and I do not think I can ever repay one thousandth part of it by entertaining you for a day or two. Won't you



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my wife for the wrong she did in driving you away, with your tongue cut off for a fault so small as that of eating starch. I for my part have never felt more delighted than in finding you happy here." And his face betrayed his heartfelt joy.

The sparrow was anxious to give as much pleasure as possible to the kind and generous master who had come from so far to see him, so he entertained him with a feast which was prepared by his family with the greatest care. To add to the mirth the sparrows danced the "Sparrow Dance," a favourite dance of theirs.

This pleased the old man very much and he said that he had never

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enjoyed himself so much before in all his long life: so happy was he that he felt as if he were in paradise.

While he was enjoying himself thus, darkness was coming gradually on them and when the old man recognized this he said, "You have given me such enjoyment that I feel as if I had taken a new lease of life. But now, I must say goodbye, for the sun has nearly set."

But the sparrow would not let him go and said, "Why are you in such a hurry? If it grows too dark for you to go home, can't you stay over night? We should feel very happy if you consented to stop here several days in this lowly hut of ours. Up



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out of his house to meet him.

“Is it you, my dear old master?” he cried, “it is kind of you to come to look for me.”

“Ah! here you are at last,” cried the old man joyfully. “I could not restrain my longing for you, so I came to seek you.”

“How can I ever thank you enough?” said the Sparrow affectionately. “But why stand in the road? Please enter my humble cottage.” Saying this he led the old man into his house.

The house was made of bamboo bush as sparrow's houses always are, and though the pillars and roof were of bamboo too, the cottage

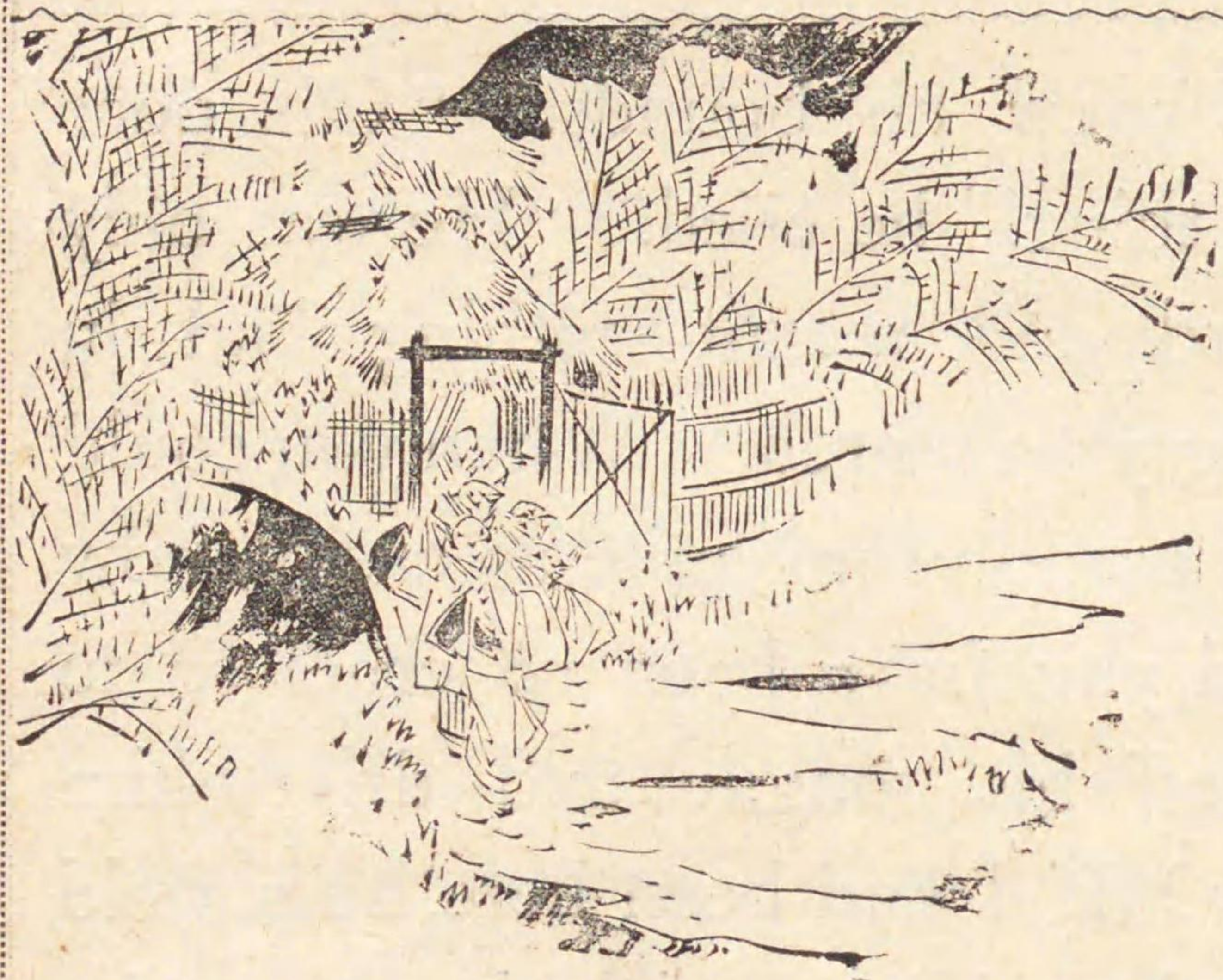
The Tongue-Cut Sparrow

seemed neat and roomy. The sparrow led the old man along and asked him to enter the parlour and thanked him again politely for his kindness in calling on him. “I think,” the sparrow said, “I deserve your anger, for having eaten my mistress' starch without asking her leave; yet you do not blame me at all, but come a long way to see me. I do not know how to thank you enough and I can not help weeping tears of joy.”

“No, no,” said the old man waving his hand from right to left, “another old man might have scolded you, but I, on the contrary, loving you more than a child of my own, reproached



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neglecting his work and paying no heed to his wife's advice not to go.

And as he went along seeking his favourite, he sang :

“ Tongue-cut sparrow,  
where are you?  
Where is your lodging?  
where are you?  
Tongue-cut sparrow,  
chu, chu, chu.”

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The Sparrow soon recognized the voice of the master who had cared for him for so many years, and came





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then, I suppose he must have flown away somewhere." And saying this she tried to look indifferent.

"Nonsense!" cried the old man who was getting more and more excited. "How could so tame a bird fly away by himself? You must have done something to make him fly off when I was away. Now tell me exactly what you did to him."

When the point was reached in this way the old woman could do nothing but tell the truth; so she said. "While you were away, my husband, the bird ate up my carefully prepared starch, so I cut off his tongue and drove him away."

When the old man heard this, his

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grief knew no bounds. "Oh, poor little thing!" he cried. "He was only a bird and meant nothing bad in eating your starch. When you could have pardon him quite as easily, how could you have been so cruel as to cut off his tongue and drive him away? If I had been here he should never have been punished so severely; this heartless deed was done because I was away. Alas! alas! how can I help shedding tears?" continued the old man and he wailed as bitterly as if he had lost a child; nor could he restrain his heart-felt longing for the sparrow.

So early the next morning he went forth to seek his lost pet, entirely



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woman only grew more and more angry; for she had never loved the bird and had always treated him harshly.

“You hateful thing!” she cried. “How could you eat up my carefully prepared starch? See how I shall punish you!” Saying this she took a pair of scissors and though the bird with tears in his eyes was still praying for mercy, she seized him out of his cage and cut his tongue off from the root. “Was it this tongue that licked my starch?” she cried. “Now I am at last fully avenged; go wherever you will.”

The old man meanwhile, little dreaming of what had happened at

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home, went on cutting wood on the mountain. At last he said to himself, “Today’s work is done; so now I will go home so that I may see my dear sparrow’s face again.”

Toward evening he reached home, especially glad at the idea of seeing the bird. But when he looked into the cage he could not see his dear sparrow, for the cage was empty. The old man thought this strange and asked his wife where the bird was, but she pretended to be silly and to know nothing about it. “I don’t know where he is.” said she. “But don’t you see,” said the old man, “that he is not in the cage?”

“Is that so?” she answered. “Well



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After she had washed for some time she found she wanted some starch; so she went into the kitchen to fetch it. But what do you think had happened? All the starch she had made that morning was gone and the dish was empty.

"Dear me!" she said, "I wonder who can have stolen the starch I made so carefully. Some horrid fellow, I suppose! and yet how? for no one has been here for hours." Saying this and feeling much puzzled she began to look about her, until the sparrow in the cage in the corner of the room, called out:

"What are you looking for, my old mistress?"

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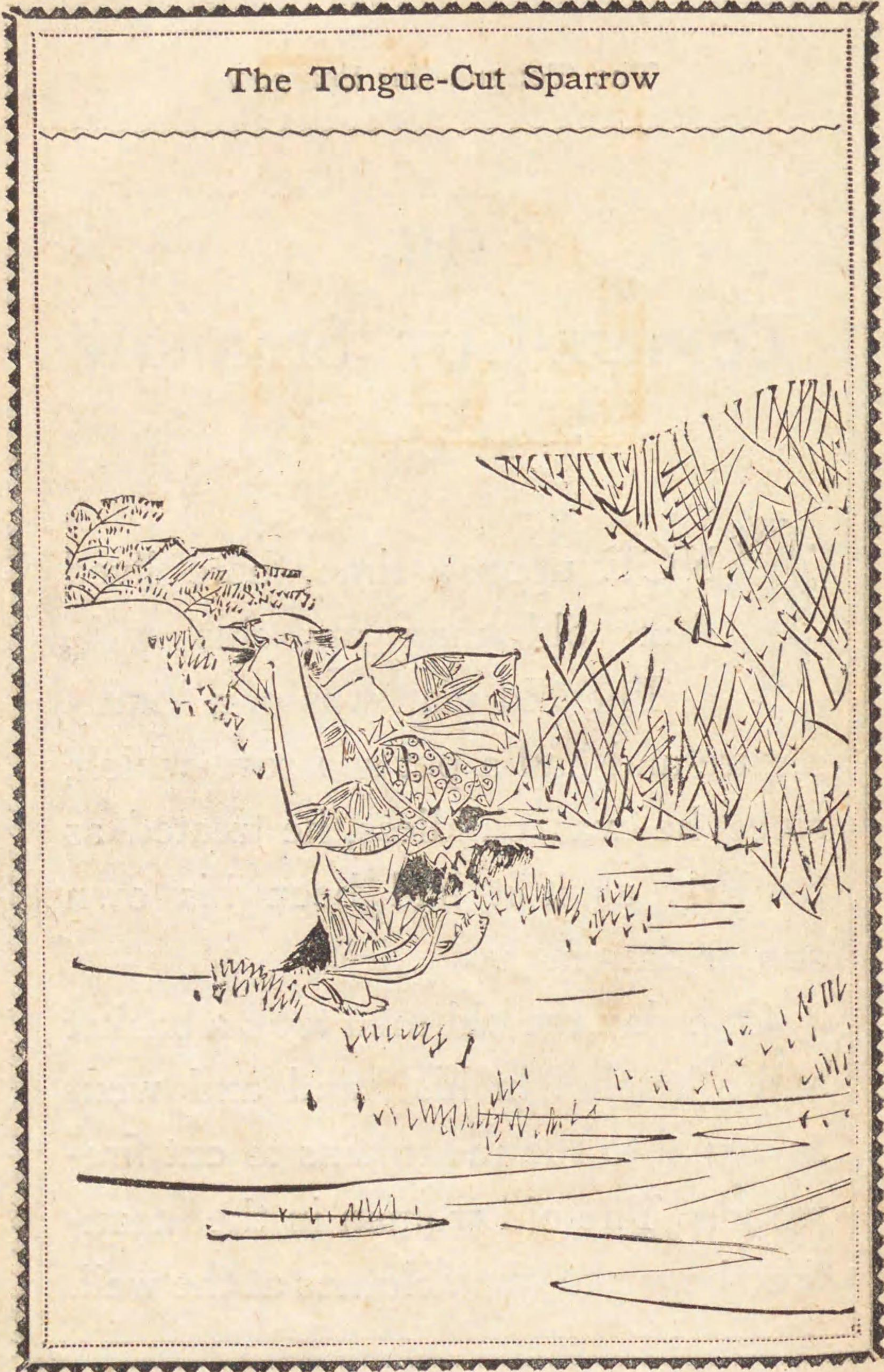
"Nothing," she answered, "only I can not help wondering why the starch is all gone when I saw it here only a few moments ago." "O!" said the sparrow, "I helped myself to that starch." "What!" she cried, "did you eat the starch?"

"Yes, mistress, to tell the truth, I did," he replied. "You see I did not know it was such useful stuff, nor did I know that it was wrong to eat it, since it was in the dish out of which I sometimes feed. It was very careless of me, but please forgive me."

Yet, though the Sparrow frankly confessed his fault and asked her pardon over again and again, the old



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The Tongue-Cut Sparrow


THE  
TONGUE-CUT SPARROW


ONCE upon a time there lived an old man and his wife. The old man was of a kindly nature and had a pet sparrow which, since he was childless, he treated as tenderly as if it had been his own son or daughter.

One day the old man took a basket and a hatchet in his hand and went as usual to the mountains to cut firewood. The old woman in the meantime began to wash clothes at the well.



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 Iwaya's  
Fairy Tales of Old Japan

 THE  
TONGUE-CUT

SPARROW

TRANSLATED

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