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The Crane Lady



鶴の恩返し

Tsuru no On-ga-eshi

The Grateful Crane Lady

----- Old Stories of Japan



昔、昔あるところにおじいさんとおばあさんが住んでいました。二人は貧しかったけれども、とても親切でした。ある寒い雪の日、おじいさんは町へたきぎを売りに出かけた帰り、雪の中に何かが動いているのを見つけました。「あれは何だろう。」おじいさんはわなにかかっている一羽の鶴を見つけました。動けば動くほどわなは鶴を締めつけます。おじいさんはとてもかわいそうに思いました。

「じっとしていなさい。動いてはいかん。今助けてやるからなあ。」鶴を助けてやると、鶴は山の方に飛んでいきました。

家に帰ると、おじいさんはその話をおばあさんにしました。

「今日はよいことをした。わなにかかった鶴を助けてやった。」すると入口をたたく音がしました。

「だれでしょう。」とおばあさんは扉をあけました。美しい娘さんがそこに立っていました。

「夜分すみません。友達を尋ねてこの村に来たのですが、雪が激しくて道に迷ってしまいました。どうか一晩ここに泊めてもらえないでしょうか。」

「今夜は特に冷える。さあ入んなさい。ごらんの通り貧しくて十分な布団はありませんがよかったですら泊まって行って下さい。」

Long, long ago there lived an old man and his wife in a village. They were very poor but very kind.

One cold snowy day the old man went to the town to sell the woods. On his way back home he saw something moving in a snow-field.

"What is that?"

He found a crane in a trap. The more it moved, the harder the trap caught it. The old man felt very sorry for it.

"Stop, don't move. I'll help you."

He helped it from the trap. It flew away toward the mountain.

He came home and told his wife the story in the evening.

"I did one good thing today. I helped a crane from the trap".

Then there was the sound of knocking at the door.

"Who is it?" said his wife opening the door.

She found a beautiful lady standing.

"Excuse me, but I came to this village to visit my friend. It is snowing heavily outside and I got lost in the dark. Please let me stay with you for a while."

"It is very cold tonight. Why don't you come in? We are so poor and we don't have good bedclothes. But if it is okay, you can stay with us."



娘さんはこの言葉に喜び、そこに泊まることにしました。
次の日も、また次の日も雪は降り続き数日が過ぎました。
娘さんは心優しく二人のために炊事、洗濯、何でもやりました。寝る前にはおじいさん、おばあさんの肩をやさしく揉んであげました。
子供のいない二人は、わが子のように思いました。
ある晩のことです。娘はこう言いました。
「私を子供にして下さい。」
二人は喜んでためらいもなく「いいよ」と言いました。
ある日、娘はこう言いました。
「私は綺麗な布をおりたいと思います。糸を買ってきてくれませんか。」
おじいさんはさっそく糸を買って来ました。作業を始めるとき、こう言いました。
「これから、機をおります。機をおっている間は、決して部屋をのぞかないでください。決して、決してのぞかないでください。」
「わかりましたよ。決してのぞきませんよ。素晴らしい布をおってください。」
部屋に閉じこもると一日じゅう機をおり始めました。夜になっても出て来ません。次の日も次の日も機をおり続けました。おじいさんとおばあさんは機のを聞いていました。
三日目の夜、音が止むと一巻きの布を持って娘は出てきました。
「おとうさん、おかあさん。これを見てください。できました。」
それは実に美しい、いままで見たことのない織物でした。
「何と美しい織物でしょう。こんな素晴らしい織物を見るのは初めてです。」とおばあさん。
「これは鶴の織物と言うものです。どうか明日、町に行って売ってください。そしてもっと糸を買ってきてください。」
次の日、おじいさんは町へ出かけました。

The lady was very happy to hear the kindness and decided to stay there.
old house The next day and the following day it was snowing heavily and she had to stay there for several days.

She was so kind that she cooked and did everything for them. She massaged the old couple's shoulders with her gentle hands before going to bed every night.



As they had no children, they thought of her as if she were their own daughter.

One night she said to them,
"Please make me your daughter."

They were very happy to hear it and answered "Yes" without hesitation.

One day she said to her parents.

"I want to make fine cloth. So please buy thread for it."

Her father bought her thread. When she prepared to make fine cloth in her room, she said to her parents.

"From now I'll make fine cloth. While I am working, promise me never to look into my room, Never. Never."

"Ok. We promise. We will never look into your room. So please make a wonderful cloth."

She began to make cloth all day in her room. In the evening she didn't come out of her room but next day and following day she kept on weaving the cloth.

Her parents were listening to the sound of her work.

crane lady 2 Three days later in the evening, the sound stopped and she came out with a roll of cloth.

"Mom and Dad, please look at this. I made it."

It was the most beautiful cloth that they had ever seen.

"What a beautiful cloth this is! I've never seen such a beautiful thing before." They were astonished at the beauty of it.

"This is called a crane textile. Why don't you go to the town to sell it tomorrow?"



「鶴の織物はいらんかね。鶴の織物はいらんかね。」とおじいさんは町を歩きました。とても高いお金で売れたので、おじいさんは糸と他の物を買いました。そしてうれしく家に帰りました。

次の日、娘はまた織物をおりはじめました。三日が過ぎたとき、おばあさんはおじいさんに言いました。

「すばらしい織物をどうやっておるんじゃ

ろ。ちっとのぞいてみたい。」

「そんなことするもんじゃない。決してのぞいてはいけないと言っていた。」

でもおばあさんはおじいさんの言うことには耳を傾けませんでした。

「ちょっとだけ。ほんのちょっとだけですよ。」とうとうのぞいてしまいました。

「まあ、」鶴が機をおっているのを見て驚きました。

一羽の鶴が長いくちばしを使って羽根を抜いて糸に織り込んでいました。残っている羽根はあとわずかでした。

「おじいさん、鶴が機をおっていますよ。」とささやきました。

その夜、娘は織物を持って部屋から出てきました。

「おとうさん、おかあさん、ご恩は決して忘れません。私はわなにかかっているところを助けられた鶴です。恩返しに来たのですが、姿をみられたからにはもうここにはいられません。長い間ありがとうございました。」と手を広げると、鶴になり、空に舞い上がると家の上を回って、山の方に飛んで行ってしまいました。(2002.2.22)

And please buy me more thread." she said to her parents.

The next morning the old father went to the town.

"Fine crane textile! Fine crane textile!" said he walking the street. It was sold at a very high price to a rich man. He bought thread and other things with the money. He returned home happily.

The next day the lady began to make a textile again. And three days passed.

The old woman said to her husband.

"What a beautiful textile she makes! I want to look into her room."

"Don't do that. She told us not to look into her room."

But the old wife wouldn't listen to him.

"A little, only a little." she looked into her room.

"Oh my God!" She was very surprised to find a crane in the room.

The crane was making a textile using her long bill; she picked up her feathers and mixed them into the thread.

She almost used up all her feathers.

"There is a crane making textile." She whispered to her husband.

That night she came out of the room with the textile.

crane "Father and Mother. I'll never forget your kindness. I am the crane you helped on that cold snowy day from the trap. I came here to help you, but I had my true figure seen. I can't stay here any longer. I must say goodbye to you. Thank you very much".

They asked her to stay, but it was impossible.

Opening her arms, she changed into a crane and flew up in the sky and circled over the house and flew away toward the mountain.

The old man and his old wife lived happily ever after with the money they sold the textile.(2006/5/27 Remake helped by Mazuka)

鶴の恩返し（つるのおんがえし）は、日本の民話。動物報恩譚の一つ。	Tsuru no Ongaeshi
一般に「翁が罾にかかった鶴を助け、その鶴が人間の女性に姿を変えて翁とその妻に恩を返す」という筋立てが知られているが、類似する話は日本全国で報告されており、文献・伝承によって細部で差違が見られる。	Tsuru no Ongaeshi (鶴の恩返し?, lit. "Crane's Return of a Favor") is a story from Japanese folklore about a crane who returns a favor to a man. A variant of the story where a young man marries a young crane is known as Tsuru Nyōbō (鶴女房?, "Crane Wife").
<p>昔々、ある所に老夫婦が住んでいた。ある冬の雪の日、老翁が町に薪を売りに出かけると、罾にかかった一羽の鶴を見つける。かわいそうに思った彼は、鶴を罾から逃がしてやった。激しく雪が降り積もるその夜、美しい娘が夫婦の家へやってきた。親に死に別れ、会った事もない親類を頼って行く途中、道に迷ったので一晩泊めて欲しいと言う娘を、夫婦は快く家に入れてやる。次の日も、また次の日も雪はなかなか止まず、娘は老夫婦の家に留まっていた。その間、娘は甲斐甲斐しく夫婦の世話をし、彼らを大そう喜ばせた。ある日娘が、顔も知らない親戚の所へ行くより、いっそあなた方の娘にして下さい、と言う。老夫婦は喜んで承知した。</p> <p>その後も孝行して老夫婦を助けていた娘が、ある日「布を織りたいので糸を買ってきて欲しい」と頼むので老翁が糸を買って来ると、娘は「絶対に中を覗かないで下さい」と夫婦に言い渡して部屋にこもり、三日三晩不眠不休で布を一反織り終わった。「これを売って、また糸を買ってきて下さい」と彼女が夫婦に託した布は大変美しく、たちまち町で評判となり、高く売れた。老翁が新しく買ってきた糸で、娘は 2 枚目の布を織り、それはいっそう見事な出来栄で、更に高い値段で売れ、老夫婦は裕福になった。</p> <p>しかし、娘が 3 枚目の布を織るためにまた部屋にこもると、初めのうちは辛抱して約束を守っていた老夫婦だが、娘はどうやってあんな美しい布を織っているのだろうと、老妻の方がつい好奇心に勝てず覗いてしまった。娘の姿があるはずのそこには、一羽の鶴がいた。鶴は自分の羽毛を抜いて糸の間に織り込</p>	<p>Once upon a time, there lived an elderly couple in a certain place. On a snowy day in winter, the old man was going to town to sell firewood, when he found a crane that was caught in a hunter's trap. Feeling sorry, he released the bird from the trap. That night while the snow fell violently, a beautiful girl came to the couple's house. According to her explanation, ever since her parents died, she had been traveling between relatives she had never met before, when she got lost and as a result would like to stay for one night. The couple heartily welcomed her into their home. The snow had not quite stopped the next day, and the day after that, as the girl remained in the house of the elderly couple. Meanwhile, the girl tirelessly took care of the couple, making them happy. One day, the daughter asked the couple, instead of sending her off to meet relatives she had never met before, to please make her their daughter. The elderly couple was delighted to accept.</p> <p>As she continued to help the old couple, one day she requested: "I would like to weave a cloth, so please buy me yarn". When she was handed the purchased yarn, she stated: "Please don't ever look in the room." to the couple; then hid in the room, and wove for three days straight without a break. "Sell this, and buy me more yarn", she told the couple. The cloth was very beautiful, and became the talk of the town immediately, and sold for a good price. With the new</p>

み、きらびやかな布を作っていたのである。もう羽毛の大部分が抜かれて、鶴は哀れな姿になっている。驚いている夫婦の前に機織りを終えた娘が来て、自分が老爺に助けてもらった鶴だと告白し、このまま老夫婦の娘でいるつもりだったが、正体を見られたので去らねばならないと言うと、鶴の姿になり、別れを惜しむ老夫婦に見送られ空へと帰っていった。

thread that was bought with the new money, their daughter wove another fabric with stunning workmanship, selling at a higher price and making the elderly couple wealthy.

However, when she confined herself to the room to weave a third piece, while the couple persevered in keeping the promise at first, they began to wonder how she wove such beautiful cloth. Unable to fight curiosity, the old lady took a peek inside. Where there should have been a girl was a crane. The crane plucked its own feathers to weave between the threads to produce a glittering cloth. Large portions of the wing has already been plucked out, leaving the crane in a pitiful state. In front of the shocked elderly couple, the daughter who finished weaving approached them, confessing that she was the crane that was saved. While she intended to remain their daughter, she had to leave, as her true identity has been discovered. She turned back into a crane and flew into the sky, leaving behind the remorseful elderly couple.

In "The Crane Wife", a man marries a woman who is in fact a crane disguised as a human. To make money the crane-woman plucks her own feathers to weave silk brocade which the man sells, but she become increasingly ill as she does so. When the man discovers his wife's true identity and the nature of her illness, she leaves him. There are also a number of Japanese stories about men who married kitsune, or fox spirits in human form (as women in these cases), though in these tales the wife's true identity is a secret even from her husband. She stays willingly until her husband discovers the truth, at which point she abandons him.

バインセオ

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