

CHILDREN'S STORIES FROM  
JAPANESE FAIRY TALES  
and Legends

❖ BY ❖

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## 日本——太阳的故乡

THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN

Japan 那儿的居民叫她日本，意思就是太阳的故乡。她是一朵东方之花，一朵雍容华贵花儿，菊花是她的象征。这片土地风景如画，而有些地方雄伟壮丽，有着嶙峋多石的山峦，广袤无际的森林。那里的人们保持着古朴的传统习惯，穿着古色古香的和服。男人们坚强勇敢，女人们妩媚迷人，孩子们活泼可爱。她的艺术绚丽多彩。

而她的文学则包罗了所有这一切的优点。在日本，书是用日文或汉文写的。汉文常用于历史和科学，以及所有严肃的科目，而



日本——太阳的故乡



JAPAN, called by its inhabitants Nihon, or Nippon, which means "sun-origin," is the flower of the East, and a very exquisite flower too; its emblem is the chrysanthemum. The country is picturesque, and in parts magnificent, with its rugged mountains and vast forests. Its people are quaint in custom and costume, the men are strong and brave, the women charming, and the children lovely. Its art is full of colour.

And so it is that its literature includes all these qualifications. In Japan books are written in Japanese or Chinese. Chinese is used for history and science, and for all serious subjects, while Japanese is preferred for the lighter forms, such as poetry and fiction. The earliest book that is in existence to-day goes back to A.D. 712, and is written in a strange mixture of Japanese and Chinese.



FROM "A DAUGHTER OF THE MOON"  
"月亮的女儿"插图

But how about its fairy tales and legends? you will ask; for in the following pages we are more interested in these — as you read them you will be still more interested. They have all the picturesqueness and beauty of colour, the quaintness of the customs, the loveliness of the women and their children, and tell of the brave deeds of the daring knights who fought in shining armour and overthrew wicked magicians, powerful giants, and all others who did wrong.

The delightful stories will bring you nearer to Old Japan, to those islands of the Rising Sun and of the glorious chrysanthemums that blossom in the East.

*Edric Vredenburg*

日文就更多地使用于比较轻松自由的形式，如诗歌和小说中了。日本现存的最古老的书籍可追溯到公元712年，它用的是一种半日半汉，奇怪的混合文体。

你也许会问，他们的童话和传说怎么样？下面的故事则更加集中于他们的童话和传说了——而你越往下读，就会越兴趣盎然。这些童话和传说拥有着一切：如画的风景，绚丽的色彩，古雅的风俗习惯，以及可爱的女人和儿童。故事讲述着身穿银光闪闪甲冑的武士们的英雄事迹，讲述着他们如何将邪恶的巫师、强悍的巨人以及所有行不义之道的家伙打翻在地的故事。

这些赏心悦目的故事将带你更走近古老的日本，带你到太阳升起的岛屿去，带你到盛开于东方的、瑰丽的菊花之国去。

埃德里克·弗雷登堡



日本——太阳的故乡



## 月亮的女儿

A DAUGHTER OF THE MOON

很久很久以前,在某山脚下的一个小村庄里,住着一个叫竹取的老樵夫。他非常穷,他把砍下的竹子编成篮子和其他竹器,以此谋生。实际上,他的名字竹取,就是砍竹人的意思。

一天,他在森林里转来转去寻找适合砍伐的竹竿时,看见一棵树根那儿正发出柔和的亮光,走近一看,发现发光的原来是一个被卡在竹竿里的小不丁儿的小仙女。他惊喜万分地捧起了小仙女,她浑身透明,就像一只萤火虫闪闪发光,老樵夫把小仙女放在袖笼里带回去给他老伴看。这个可爱的小东西使得他们心花怒放,他们决定把她留下抚养。



月亮的女儿



IN bygone days, ever so long ago, there lived in a little village at the foot of a mountain an old wood-cutter called Taketori. He was very poor and earned his living by cutting bamboos, and making them into baskets and other useful things. In fact, his name, Taketori, meant a bamboo-cutter.

One day when he was wandering about in the forest, looking for bamboo-stems fit to cut, he saw a soft light shining from the roots of one of the trees, and on drawing near to it he found that the light came from a tiny fairy who was caught among the stems of bamboo. Wondering greatly he picked up the fairy, who glowed like a firefly, and took it home in his sleeve to show to his old wife, and they were so delighted with the lovely little thing that they resolved to keep it.

To their great surprise, in a few months' time the tiny fairy grew up into a tall and beautiful maiden. Nobody on earth had seen a fairer or a more noble-looking girl. As they had no children of their own, old Taketori and his wife were exceedingly glad that this good luck had come to them,

令他们非常惊奇的是,不出几个月,小仙女就长成了一个修长的美丽姑娘。世界上没有人见到过比她更美丽、更高贵的淑女了。老夫妻膝下无子女,能有这样的好运,使他们感到无比的欣慰,所以决定尽全力养育好这个孩子。他们给她穿丝绸和服,给她建造新居,把她培养成一个真正的淑女。你也许会奇怪,这么贫穷的老夫妇俩怎么供得起这些费用?原来小仙女不但给老樵夫和老伴带来了无限欢乐,也给他们带来了财运。说来也奇怪,自从那天在森林里发现她开始,只要老樵夫出去砍竹,他总能发现藏在竹节里的金元财宝。不久,竹取和老伴就变得很有钱了,他们建造了一座雄伟壮观的宫殿,和他们的养女一起住在里面。

到了该给女儿取名字的时候了,因为她已经长大了,总不能老叫她仙女小宝贝吧。于是,他们举行了一个盛大的宴会庆祝命名仪式,并邀请了全国各地所有的王子和贵族。你知道给美丽的姑娘取

and tried to rear the child in the best possible way. They dressed her in silken robes, built her a new house, and indeed made a great lady of her. And you must wonder how these two poor old people could afford to do all these things; but the fairy proved to be a bringer of good fortune to them, besides being herself the greatest joy to the wood-cutter and his wife. Strange to say, ever since the day he first saw her in the forest, whenever he went out to cut down a bamboo, the wood-cutter found golden treasures hidden between the joints of the stem, so that soon Taketori and his wife became very rich, and were able to build a magnificent palace, where they lived with their adopted daughter.

Now the time came for her to be named, for it would not do to always call her the Fairy Baby when she was grown up. So they gave a royal feast to celebrate the occasion, to which all the Princes and nobles of the country round were invited. And what do you think was the name chosen for the lovely maiden? She was called Nayo-Take-no-Kaguya-

了个什么名字？叫做嫩竹之辉夜姬，意思是嫩竹般娇柔、光彩熠熠的公主。名如其人，当然和公主惊人的美貌很般配。

盛宴持续了三天。在此期间，客人们几乎不能相信他们的眼睛：这位新发现的公主竟如此美丽！竹取和他的妻子小心翼翼地将女儿藏在深宫，因为他们害怕世人贪婪的目光或许会玷污她的纯洁，而且他们相信，对出身如此高贵的公主，这是表示敬意的最好的方法。

很快，公主端丽容姿的名声传遍了天下，人人都恨不得一睹其芳容。许多王子离开了他们的皇宫，在竹取的花园高墙外面徘徊，希冀或许能有幸瞥见美丽的少女一眼。

自然，有很多求婚者向她求爱，渴望能和她结婚。其中最殷勤的是两位皇子和三位出身于国内最有名望族的王子。老樵夫很想让他养女能和这些地位显赫的求婚者中的一位结婚，可是



月亮的女儿



Hime, Princess Splendour of the Feathery Bamboo, a name which surely suited her wonderful beauty.

After the feast had been going on for three days, during which time the guests could not believe their eyes — so beautiful was this new-found Princess — Taketori and his wife took good care to keep her within the inner court of the palace, as they feared that the eager gaze of all sorts of people might rob her of her glory, and, besides, they believed it the most fitting way of showing honour to a Princess of such noble birth.

Before long the fame of the Princess's beauty spread all over the whole world, till everybody was crazy to see her. Many of the Princes of the realm left their palaces, and spent days and nights hovering around the high hedge of the garden enclosure, hoping that by some happy chance they might catch a passing glimpse of the lovely maiden.

Naturally there were many suitors who came to court her, and longed to marry her, and among those who were most devoted were two

他非常失望,因为她拒绝了所有人的求婚;她说,不管他们的求爱多么迫切,这些人易变无信。她又告诉父亲说,她担心这些贵族出身的求婚者或许没有认识到她出身于一个贫穷的樵夫之家,他们也许很快就会厌倦她。所以,她想在顺从父母的意愿,认真考虑婚姻大事之前,让求婚者完成一些伟业,以示他们的真心诚意。

皇子和王子们很乐意地接受了这个条件,可是当他们一听到年轻的公主给每个人提出的要求时,便犯起愁来,因为姑娘想马上打发他们,她提出的要求实在难以实现。

一个皇子被派去印度寻觅古老的佛陀的石钵,几千年前,佛陀曾生活在那片土地上;另一个皇子她派他去寻找飘浮在东海上的蓬莱仙岛,要他把岛上长的宝石树折下一枝带给自己;第三人,要设法取下潜居深海的龙颈上的七彩项链献给她;第四人,要从

Princes of royal blood, besides three of the highest nobles of the land. The old bamboo-cutter much desired to have his adopted daughter married to one of these suitors of exalted rank, but to his great disappointment she refused all their offers; she said that men were fickle, and not to be trusted however eager they might be in their love-making. Besides — she told her father — she was afraid that these nobles who were courting her might not realize that she was brought up as a poor wood-cutter's daughter, and they might soon become tired of her; and so before she would consider the matter seriously, as her parents wished her to, she desired that her lovers should do some great deed to prove their true devotion to her.

To this condition the Princes and the nobles willingly agreed; but when they heard what the young Princess demanded of each of her suitors, they were very much troubled in mind, because the maiden hoping to get rid of them now and for ever asked them to perform such deeds as were almost impossible.



月亮的女儿





One of them the Princess sent to India to find the age-buried stone bowl of Buddha, who lived in that land thousands of years ago; and another she sent to seek a floating island called Horai, in the Eastern Ocean, and to bring her a branch of a jewel-tree which grew there; a third was to procure for her the rainbow jewel from off the neck of the dragon that lived in the depths of the ocean; a fourth was to go to China and bring back a fur robe made of fire-rats, which would not burn even if it were held in flames of fire; and the last one was to find the pearl-shell which the swallows keep hidden away in their nests. It was clear that these wonderful things were all out of the reach of her lovers, but they pretended willingly to obey her wishes, even at the risk of their lives, for each and all declared that life was not worth living without her.

### THE STONE BOWL OF BUDDHA

Now, the Prince who was to go to India to find the stone bowl of

中国给公主带回一件火老鼠的裘皮长袍，这长袍放在火中也不会烧焦，最后一个人应该找到密藏燕窝里的子安贝<sup>①</sup>。显然，没有一个求婚者能够找到这些奇珍异宝，可是他们却假惺惺地满口应承公主的要求，即使是冒生命危险，因为，他们异口同声地声明，生活中没有了公主，生命也就失去了意义。

### 佛陀之石钵

话说指定去印度找寻佛陀石钵的皇子，他是一个懒汉。他虽

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<sup>①</sup> 子安贝就是我们中国人常见的宝螺，日本人称之为宝贝。古人认为燕子要下蛋时，会衔子安贝筑巢。因此，古时候，怀孕的妇人生产时，产婆往往让孕妇紧握这类宝螺，既有助于用劲生产，也因为宝螺自身美丽吉祥，因此，为了讨个口彩，就把这种宝螺叫做子安贝。子安贝的外壳有美丽的花纹和光泽，古时候，人们将它当作货币使用，因此它也象征着财富和好运。——译注



"HOPING THEY MIGHT CATCH A PASSING  
GLIMPSE OF THE LOVELY MAIDEN"  
"他们希冀或许能有幸瞥见美丽的少女一眼"



Buddha was a lazy fellow, and though he wished to marry the Princess, he thought he would never be able to cross those thousands of miles of sea and reach that country alive; and even if he arrived there, how could he ever succeed in finding Buddha's bowl? So very cunningly he sent word to the Princess that he had set out for India that very day, but what he really did was to go and hide himself for three years, which was the time necessary to journey to India and come back again. At the end of the three years he went secretly to an ancient Buddhist temple near by and found there an old stone bowl covered with soot and dirt. Taking this home he wrapped it in embroidered silk, and in the bowl he dropped a love-letter in which he told the Princess how he had shed his heart's blood in crossing seas and mountains to obtain the desired bowl, and how he longed to have her favourable answer to his suit.

The Princess was much surprised to see the bowl when it was

然想娶公主,可是他知道,他不可能远涉重洋,活着踏进那块土地。即或到了那里,又怎能保证一定找得到佛钵?于是,他很狡黠地送口信给公主,说他就在当天出发去印度了。然而,实际上他只是躲藏了三年,这正好是往返印度需要的时间。

三年到了,他悄悄去了附近一间古寺庙,找到了一个黑糊糊、脏兮兮的旧石钵,把它带回家。他用绣花丝绸将石钵裹好,留了一封情书在里面,告诉公主他如何不惜跋山涉水,呕心沥血才得到这只期待的石钵,他多么渴望公主能答应他殷切的求婚。

当石钵送来时,公主惊异不已,因为她没有料到这个懒皇子能为了自己,不辞千辛万苦远渡印度。可是,一打开裹在外面的丝绸,她马上识穿了他的诡计,这个石钵根本不是她所期待的圣钵。佛陀的圣钵一定会闪耀着天国之光,而这个又丑又脏的石钵几乎

sent to her, for she did not expect this lazy Prince would have taken the trouble to travel all the way to India for her sake. But on opening the silken wrapper she soon discovered the trick, for the stone bowl was not at all the one she expected. She knew that the sacred stone bowl of Buddha must sparkle with heavenly lustre, while this ugly dirty old bowl was mere rubbish. So she sent the present back to the Prince with a short note thanking him for all his trouble, but saying at the same time that she failed to find any sign of true devotion in this commonplace piece of stone which could be found in any temple near at hand.

### THE JEWEL-BRANCH OF HORAI

Now the Prince who was sent in quest of the floating mountain of Horai was very crafty and very rich, and he determined to gain the hand of the Princess at any cost, so he bade farewell to his friends at Court and started on the journey



一文不值。于是，公主把礼物退还给皇子，还附上一纸短筒感谢他的辛劳，同时也表示她从这个附近任何佛庙都能找到的普通石钵上，看不到他的一丝真情实爱。

### 蓬莱之玉枝

谈到派去探寻蓬莱浮岛的皇子，他既狡猾又有钱，他决心无论用什么代价都要把公主弄到手，所以，他在宫廷和朋友们告别后，随即启程。据他说，旅程至少要三年。当然喽，他捎了口信给公主，说为了赢得她的芳心，他就要出发寻找宝树玉枝，不惜生命。





which he said would take him at least three years. Of course he sent word to the Princess that he was about to set out in search of the jewel-branch even at the risk of his life in order to win her favour.

That was the last the Princess and the world heard of him for the three years; but one fine day there came a rumour that the Prince had returned from his travels bringing a splendid branch of the wonderful Udongé flower which is believed to bloom but once in three thousand years. You can imagine how much the Princess was surprised when a messenger from the Prince brought her this wonderful jewel-branch in a richly ornamented box. She had never seen such a beautiful thing in her life. The stem of the branch was of pure gold, the delicate leaves of shining silver, while the glorious flowers were precious gems of many brilliant colours! As the Princess was admiring this wonderful jewel-branch the Prince himself was announced, and entered all travel-stained and weather-beaten, having, it was supposed, come direct from his long

自此三年,他的行踪一如石沉大海。终于有一天,传闻皇子回来了,带来了一枝美轮美奂的奇葩“优昙华”<sup>①</sup>,人们相信此树三千年才开一次花。当使者将装在一个珠光宝气的盒子里的珍奇玉枝献给公主时,你可以想像她有多么惊奇。她一生还未见过这么美丽的东西。玉枝的主干是纯金,细茎是晶银,瑰丽的花儿是万紫千红的珍宝!正当公主啧啧称奇这柄珍奇的玉枝时,有人禀告皇子亲自登门了,他看上去风尘仆仆,饱经风霜,想必刚刚远行而归,直奔这儿宣告履行了对公主的承诺。

接着,应竹取老翁之请求,皇子开始讲述他三年来不可思议

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① 优昙华是梵语Udumbara的略称,表示灵瑞呈祥的意思。优昙花原产喜马拉雅山麓以及南亚等地,属桑科。树身高约三尺,花形与无花果的形似,呈壶形。在佛教中,此花三千年开花一次,花期很短,称之一现,昙花一现的成语就是这么产生的。据说,开花时,金轮王或如来佛会现身,因此,优昙花在佛教徒中被视为很尊贵的花卉。——译注

journey to claim the fulfilment of the maiden's promise.

Then at the request of old Taketori, the Prince began to tell the story of his marvellous adventures during those three long years. He told them how he set out on his journey on an unknown sea, entirely trusting to fortune, having determined never to return alive unless he found the jewel-branch, how his ship was driven day after day, month after month, by a strong gale, during which time the rough seas seemed to swallow him up at any moment; how on some occasions the ocean became suddenly becalmed so that they were unable to sail anywhere; how the food was all gone and the Prince and the sailors were compelled to live on jelly-fish and seaweed; and how often horrible demons of the sea rose from the deep to devour them! Then he went on to describe, in great detail, how after five hundred days he finally reached the floating island of Horai, where he at last succeeded in obtaining the jewel-branch that the Princess had described to him.

的冒险经历。他告诉大家他如何开始了在一个陌生的海洋上的旅程,虽然只能相信命运,却下定决心不找到玉枝,绝不活着回来的故事。他还说他的船如何成天成月地在风暴中挣扎,粗暴的大海随时都可能吞噬他,而有时海洋会突然风平浪静、水静如止,使他的船寸步难行。当食物吃光时,皇子和水手们如何被迫以水母和海草为生;凶恶的海怪又如何频频地升出海面企图吞食他们!他接着很详细地描述了五百天以后,他如何终于登上蓬莱浮岛,最后成功地获得了公主描述的玉枝。

“我可以保证,我亲爱的公主,”他在结束时说,“仙岛自身就是一片巨大的宝石,沙是银子,山是黄金,树木挂满了珍宝;令人更惊叹不已的是,岛上的居民不知何谓死亡,他们青春常驻。事实上,在那里我遇见很多天使般的美女,只要我愿意她们都很想嫁给我。在这个仙岛上,人们都希冀能永远留住,但是当我采下玉枝

