

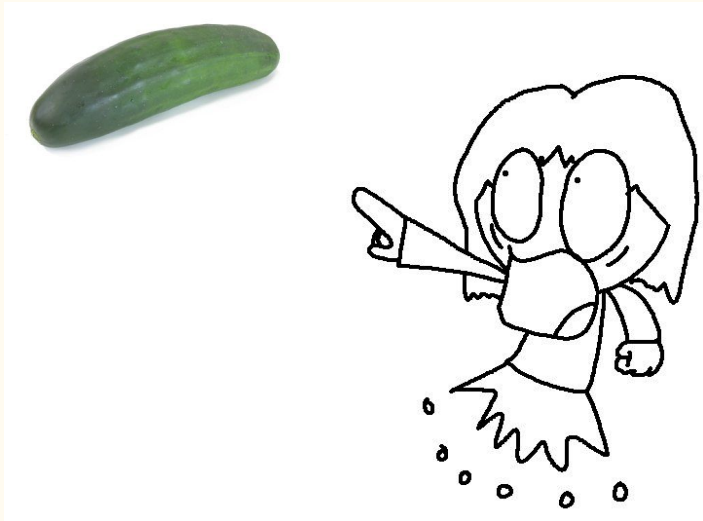
Essences of Japanese Folklore



~Daniela, Andrew, Natsuki, D'Andre~

A Flash in the Palace

“The room was open to the breezes....Akisada had just whipped out his tool.”



- Unusual
 - No other story quite like this one
 - Truly surprising
 - No indication as to what is coming
 - A simple sense of humor
 - It's a penis. Relevant throughout the ages
 - Always expect the unexpected
 - ...especially when reading this story
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The Fox's Ball

“The medium drew from the fold at the breast of her robe a little white ball (foxes often have one), and began tossing it in the air and catching it.”



- Mischievous
 - intents are *not* malicious
 - Involved with mortal affairs
 - fox spirits are neither above, nor below us
 - Innocent and childlike
 - recurring theme of curiosity and playfulness
 - Loyal and trustworthy
 - guardian-esque, honorable
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What the Snake Had in Mind

➤ Characteristics of Snake

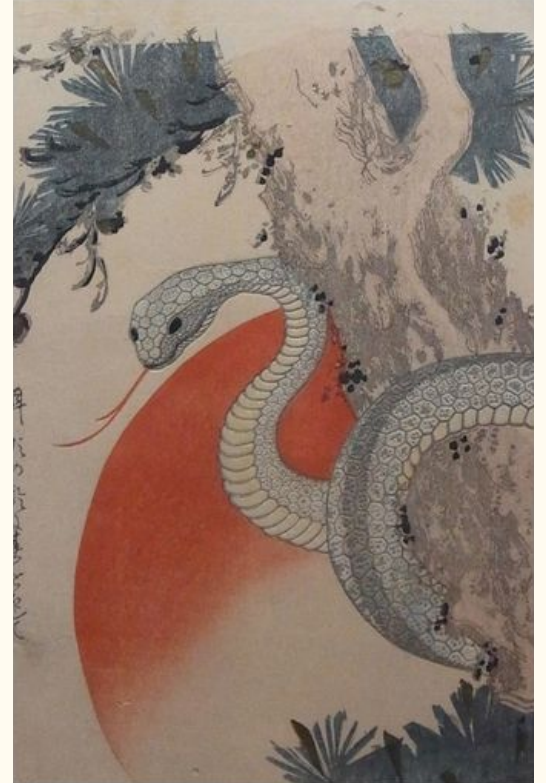
- they can control life
- symbol of rebirth

➤ Sin and Gratitude

- show buddhism

➤ Importance of Dream

- fortune-telling
- message from dead people (e.g. the Tale of Genji)
- message from living people and things



Genjo

➤ Biwa as a Treasure

- traditional Japanese musical instrument from China
- treated as a Japanese treasure even now

➤ 8 million Gods

- 八百万の神 in Shintoism
- god dwells in all the things of nature

➤ Importance of Gate

- religious spot in both Buddhism and Shintoism
- e.g.) Torii Gate(鳥居), Kimon(鬼門)
- entrance of misfortune





The Jellyfishes Bones

- Blessing of protection
- Pious
 - Sutras
- “Improper” behavior to challenge others
- Live in each moment

The Dyeing Castle

- Ennin fleeing persecution from Chinese Emperor
 - Years 845-846
 - Tang Dynasty peak of art and culture in China (tie dye)
- Isolated from society
 - individualistic
- High walls, large compound, very rich person
 - recurring theme
- Kannon
 - black dog (animal)
 - Lotus Sutra



Sparrow's Gifts “Oaks, Melon, Gourd...”

- Respect
- Taking Care of others(Not just people, but respecting animals)
- Envy



Mercy “Pure Hearts”

- Preparing the dead “Burial Rites”
 - The word *nōkan* refers to the act of putting the body into the coffin
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“It’s not the rules that count it’s the person.”



Young Lust

- Young girl alone
- Farmer attempts to save her
- Snake
 - wrapping around
 - close to head, flinches
- Dream of handsome boy
- Sonsho Darani amulet
 - Buddhist
- 1260s-1270s
 - Kamakura era



Cannibal Island

- Exploration of the unknown
 - uncertainty, adventurous
- Fear of the unknown
 - knowledge=safety
- Be instinctive
 - better safe than sorry
- Appearances mean nothing
 - deception can mean death



What we learned

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