

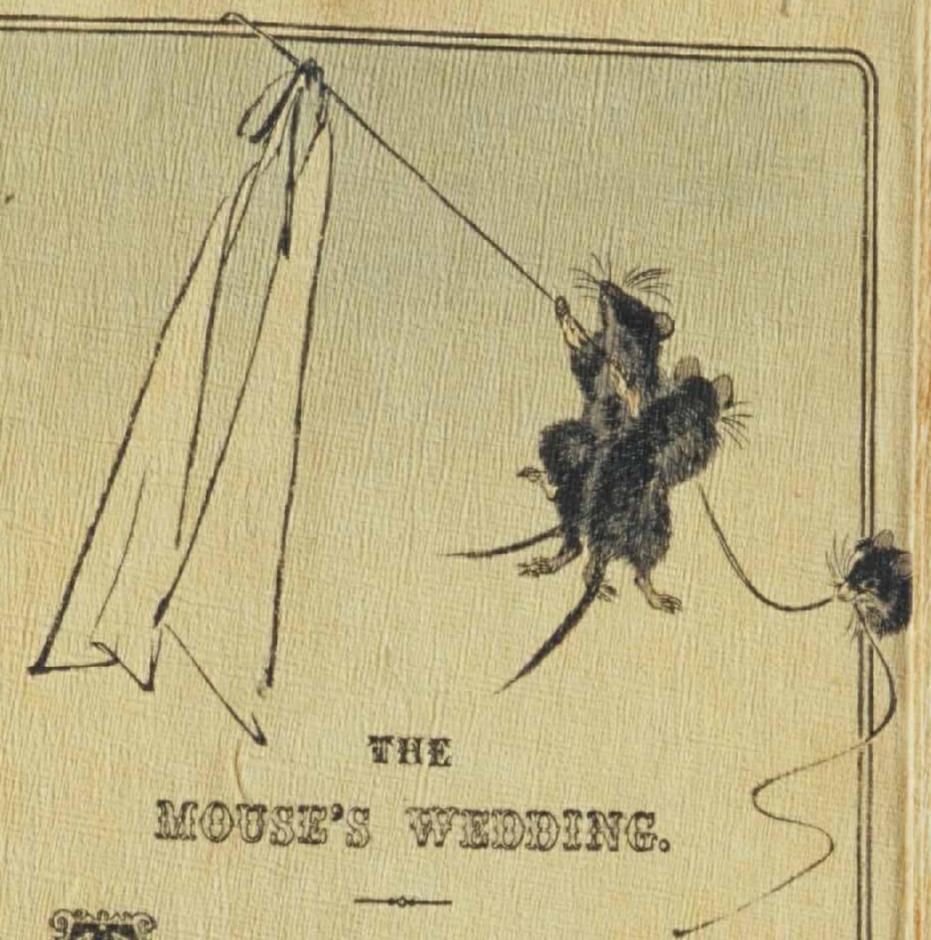
JAPANESE FAIRY TALE SERIES N° 6
THE MOUSE'S WEDDING.





日本昔噺
第六号

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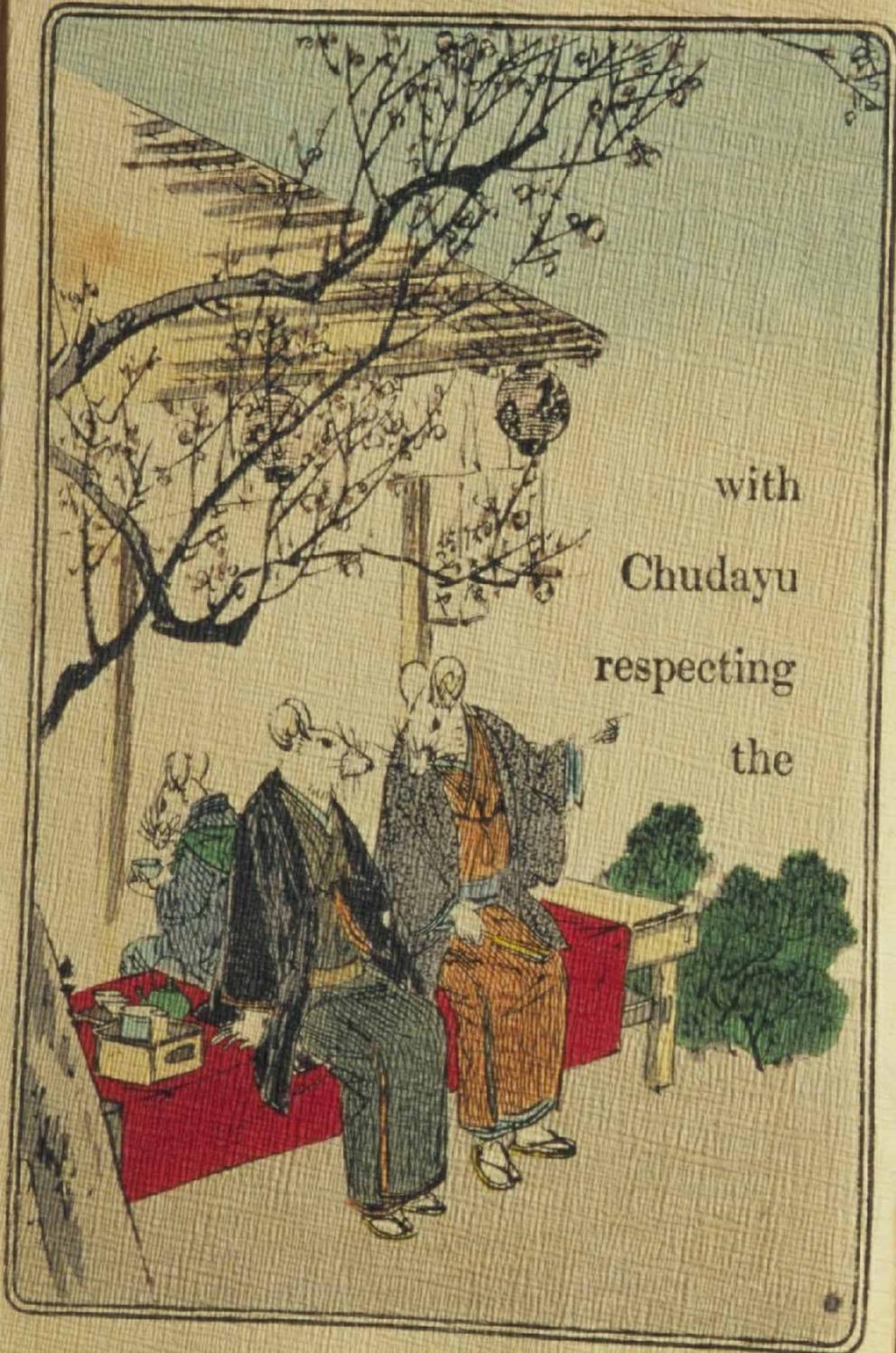
THE
MOUSE'S WEDDING.

LONG time ago there was a white mouse called Kanemochi, servant of Daikoku, the God of Wealth. His wife's name was Onaga. Both Kanemochi and

his wife were very discreet. Never in the day time nor even at night did they venture into the parlor or kitchen, and so they lived in tranquility free from danger of meeting the cat. Their only son Fukutaro also was of a gentle disposition. When he was old enough to take a wife, his parents concluded to get him one, transfer their property to him, and seek retirement. Fortunately, one of their relatives named Chudayu had

a lovely daughter called Hatsuka. Accordingly a go-between was employed to enter into negotiations





with
Chudayu
respecting
the



marriage.
When the young folks
were allowed to see each other,
neither party objected, and so
presents were exchanged.

The bridegroom sent the bride
the usual articles:



an *obi* or belt, silk cotton,
dried bonito, dried cuttle fish,
white flax, sea-weed, and *sake*
or rice wine. The bride sent
the bridegroom in like manner:

a linen *kami-shimo*, dried bonito,
dried cuttle-fish, white flax,
sea-weed, fish, and *sake*;
thus confirming the marriage
promise.

A lucky day was then chosen,
and every thing prepared for
the bride's removal to her new
home, her clothes were cut out
and made, and needed articles
purchased. So Chudayu was
kept busy preparing for the
wedding.



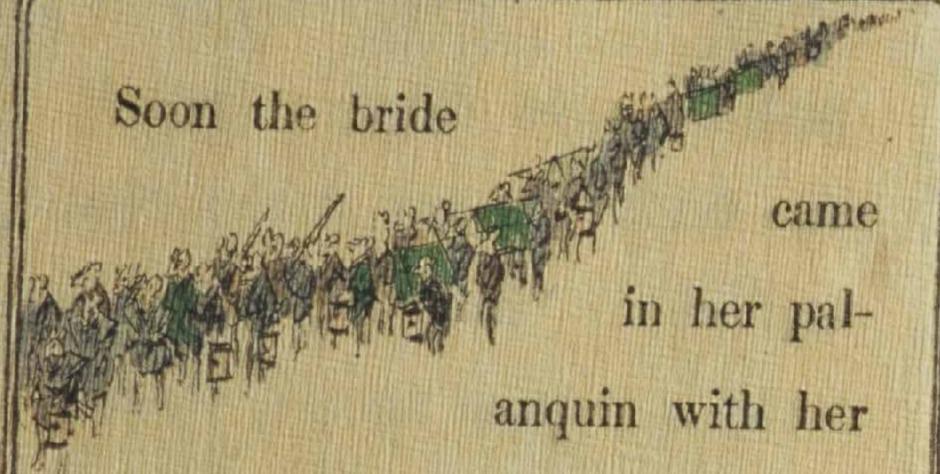


The parents made their daughter Hatsuka blacken her teeth as a sign that she would not marry a second husband; they also carefully taught her

that she must obey her husband, be dutiful to her father-in-law, and love her mother-in-law.

Kanemochi on his part cleaned up his house inside and out, made preparation for the marriage ceremony and feast, assembled his relatives and friends, and sent out many of his servants to meet the bride on her way, and to give notice of her approach, that all might be prepared for her reception.

Soon the bride



came

in her pal-

anquin with her

boxes carried before her,

and a long train

of



attendants

following her.

Kanemochi went out as far as the gate to meet her, and ushered her into the parlor.

At a signal from the go-between the bride and bridegroom, to confirm the marriage bond, exchanged between themselves three

cups of *sake*,

drinking

three times

from

each cup

in turns.

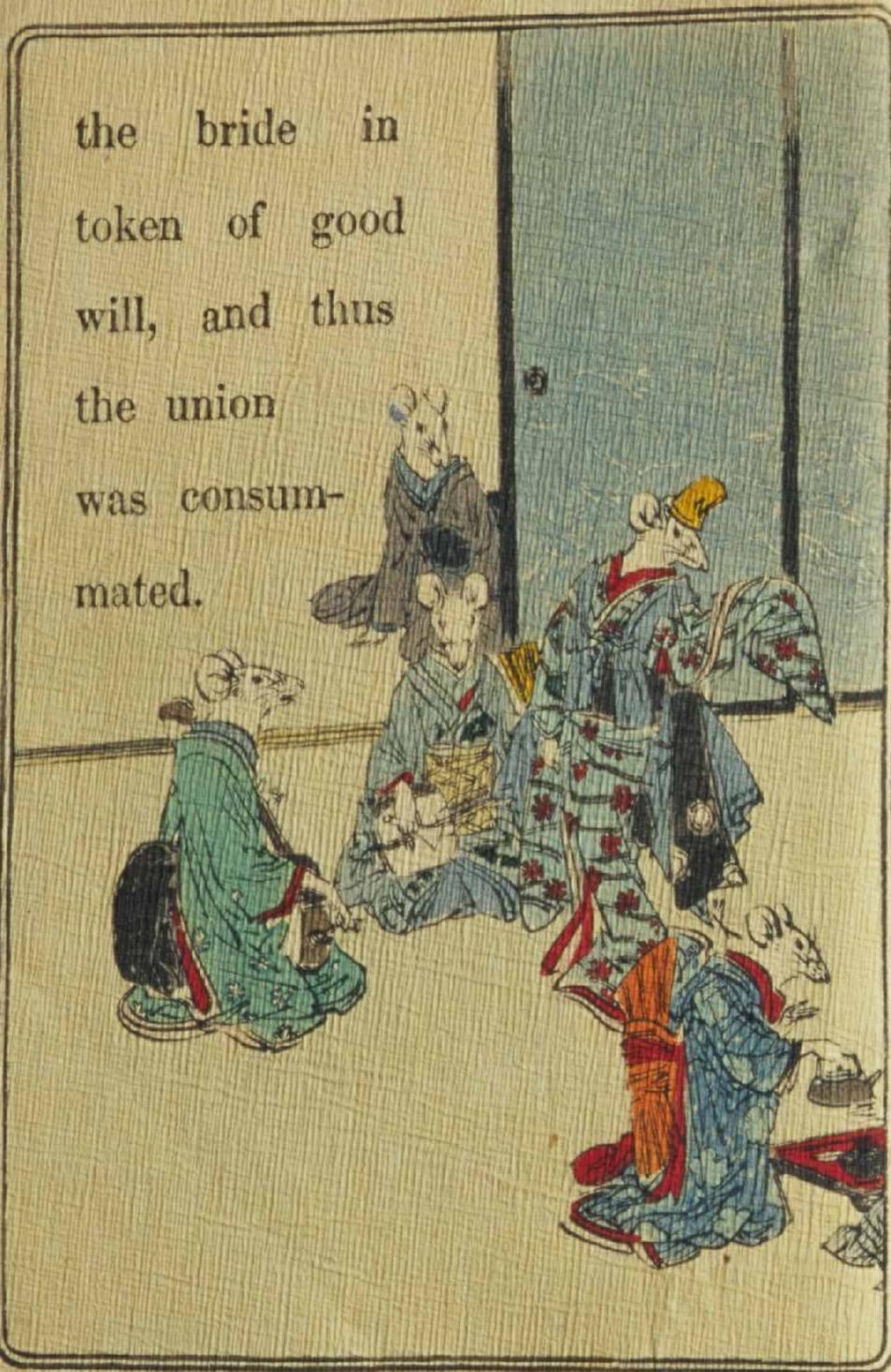




When this ceremony,
the "three times three"
was ended, the guests
exchanged cups with



the bride in
token of good
will, and thus
the union
was consum-
mated.



Shortly afterwards the bride,
her husband, and his parents
visited her home. In the evening
the bride returned home with
her husband and his parents with
whom she lived in harmony,
contented, prosperous and happy,
and much to be congratulated.

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