

Japanese Fairy Tale Series, No. 5.

カチカチ山

ダビッド タムソン 譯述 鮮齋永羅 畫

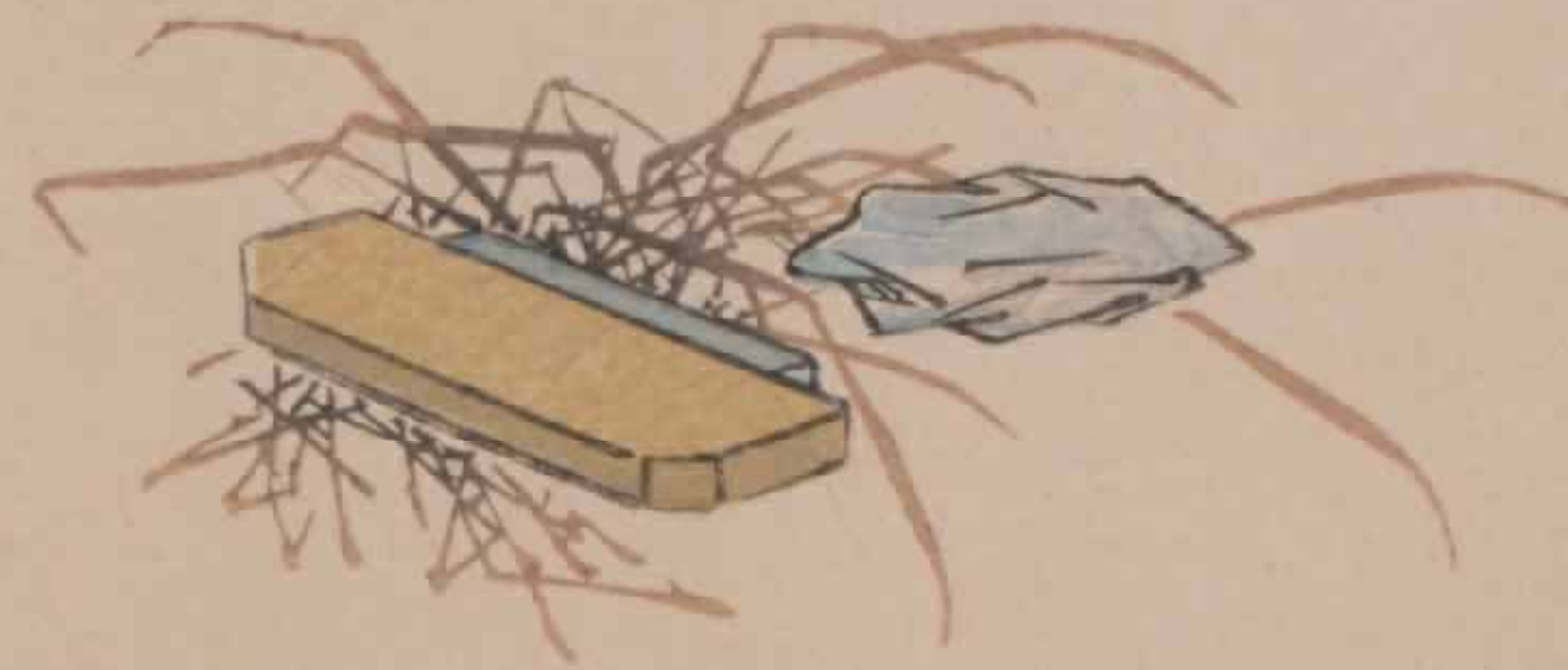
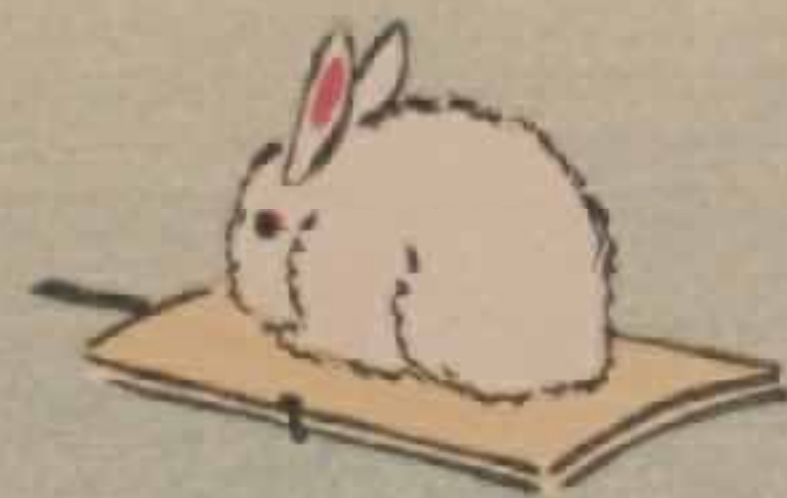
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KACHI-KACHI MOUNTAIN.

ONCE upon a time there was
an old farmer who cultivated a
field in the mountains. One day
his old wife came and brought

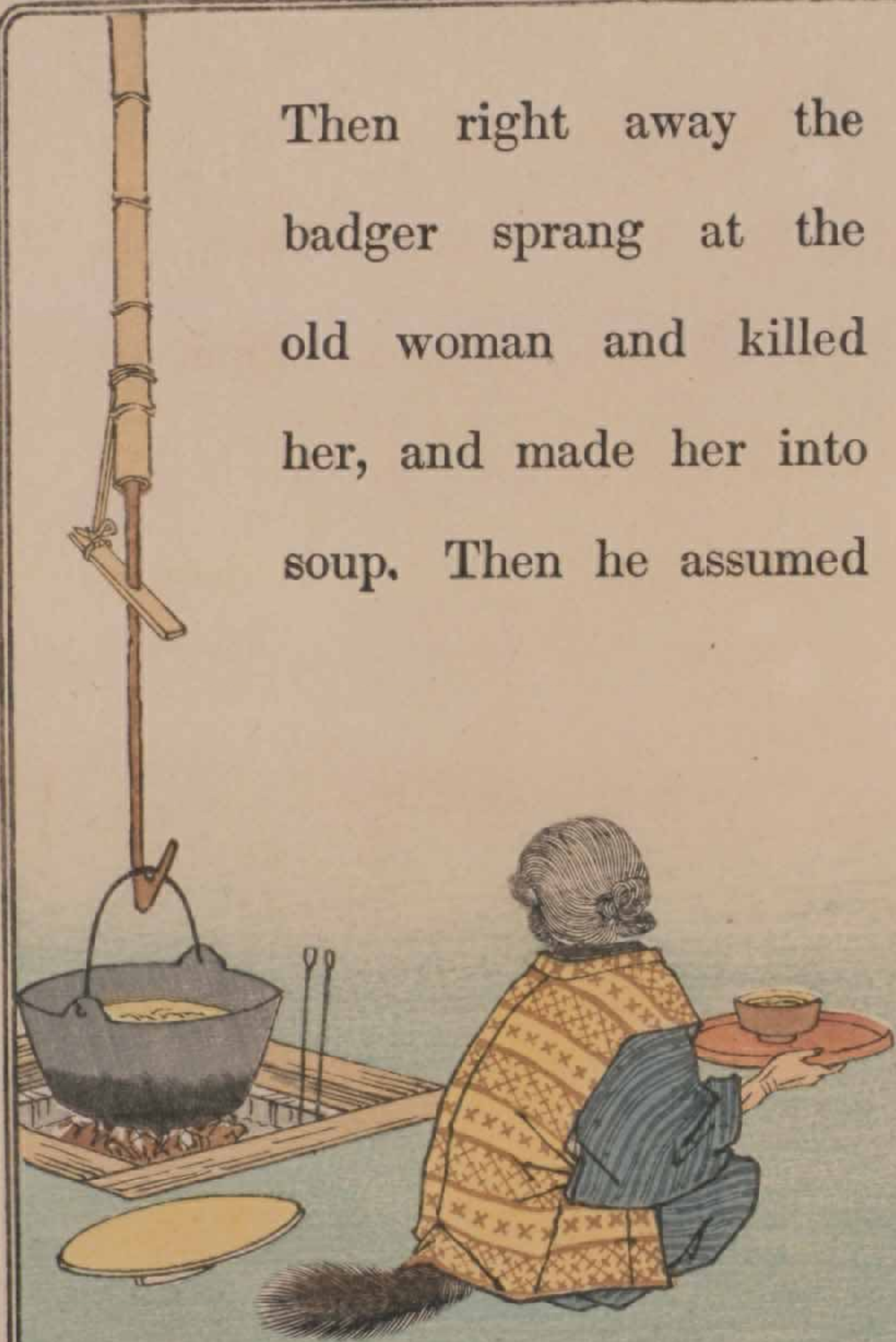


him his dinner; but a badger stole and eat it. This made the old man angry and at last he took the badger alive, carried it home with him, and hung it to a rafter by the feet. Then he said to his wife, "Let us have this badger for soup. Have it well cooked and wait till I come back." Then he went again to the field. His wife was pounding barley in a mortar and singing.

In distress the badger said,
"If you will only spare my life
I will pound the barley for you."
As it was indeed in a sad
plight she untied the cord and
let it down.



Then right away the badger sprang at the old woman and killed her, and made her into soup. Then he assumed



her shape and sat waiting, when the old man returned from the field. When he was about to partake of the soup, the badger assumed his original





form, and cried out,
“You wife-eating
old man you!
Did not you see
the bones under
the floor?” Laughing derisively
it escaped out of
doors and dis-
appeared.



The old man
threw down his
chop-sticks and
cried long and bitterly.



Now in the same mountain
there lived an old rabbit. Hear-
ing the voice of the old man
crying, he came and tried to
comfort him, and said he would
himself avenge the death of the
old woman “First,” he said
“parch me some beans.” And

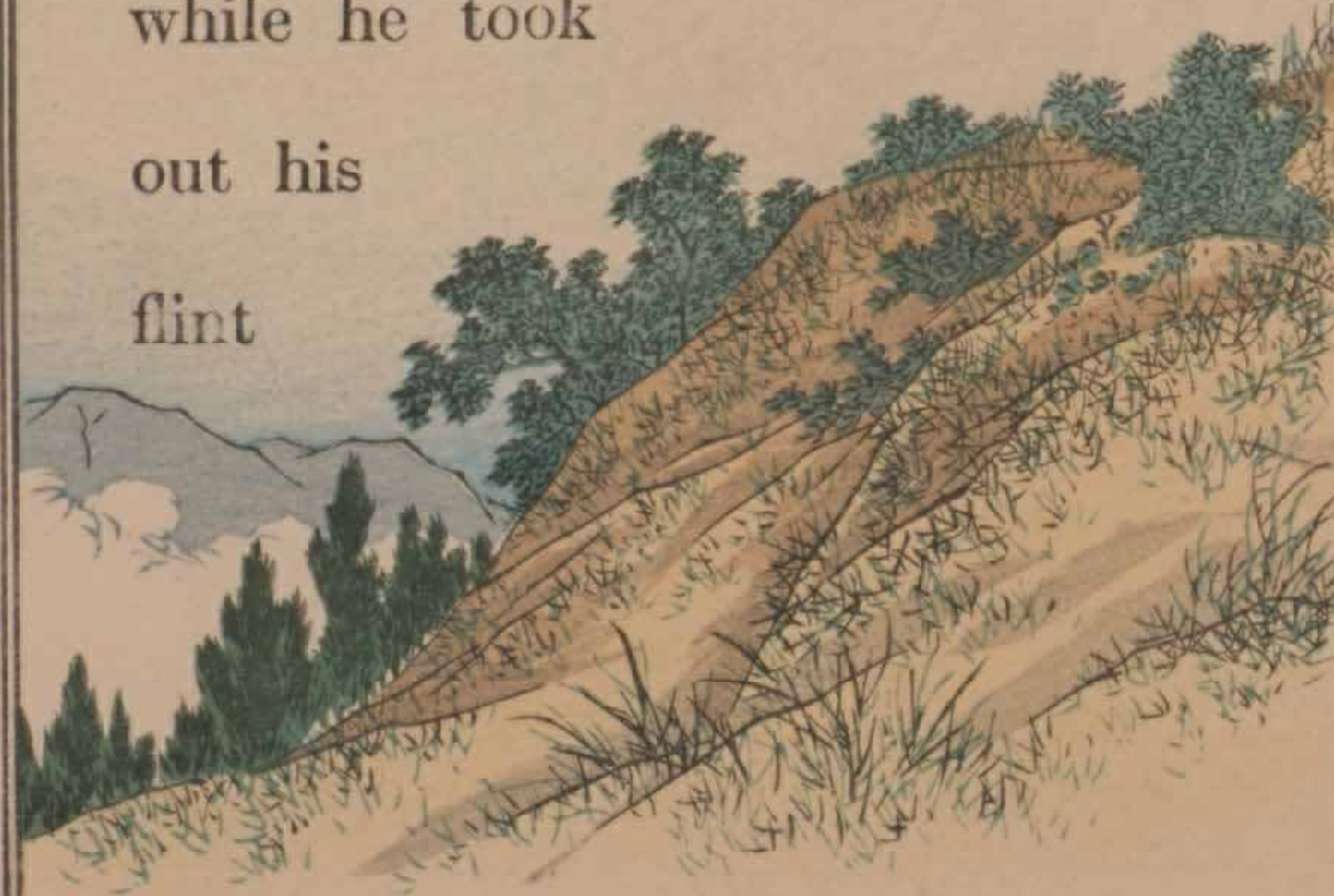
the old man parched them. The rabbit put the parched beans in a pouch and said, "Now to the mountain again;" and away he went. The badger was attracted by the smell, and came and said; "Give me about a handful of those beans." This was what the rabbit was expecting. So he said; "I will if you will carry a bundle of dry-grass for me

over to yon mountain." "I will do as you say without fail" replied the badger, "only first give me

the beans." He begged importunately,



but the rabbit said; "Yes, after you have carried the load of dry-grass." He then put on his back a great pile of dried-grass and sent the badger on before, while he took out his flint



and struck out a spark, and set the bundle on fire. The badger alarmed at the noise asked, "what is that?" The rabbit replied; "That is *Kachi-Kachi* Mountain.*" Soon the fire began to kindle and spread in the dried-grass. The badger, hearing this again asked, "what is that?" The rabbit replied, "That is *Bo-Bo* Mountain.†" By this time the fire had spread to

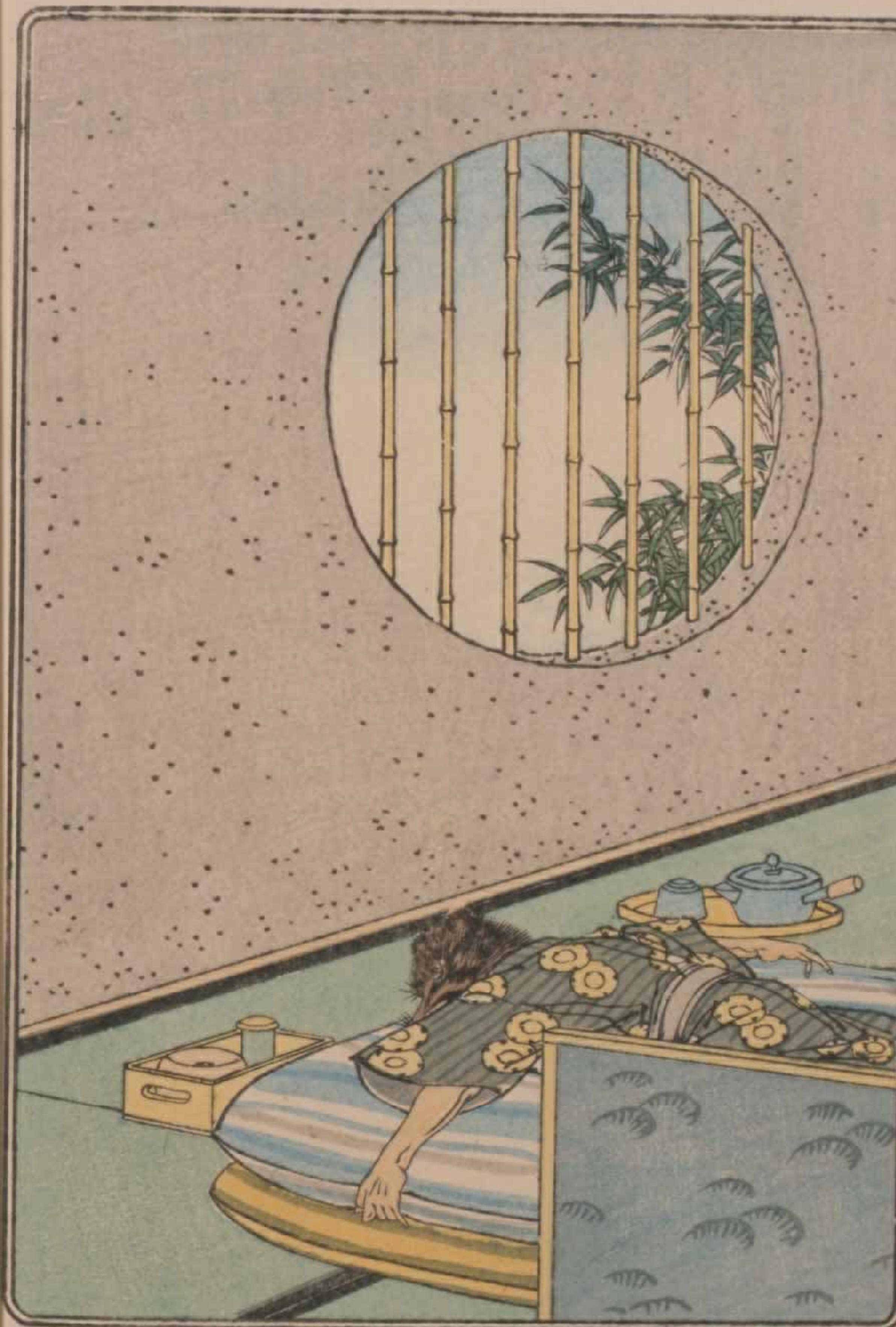
* Click-Click Mountain, or the Mountain of victory.

† Crackle Mountain, or the Mountain of Defeat.

the badger's back and burnt it badly. Crying out in pain, he rolled over and shook off his load and ran away out of sight.



The rabbit next mixed
some sauce and red-pepper
and made a sticking
plaster, put on
a hat and
set out



to sell it as a cure for blisters and burns. The badger was then lying helpless with his back all raw and sore. That must be a good medicine, he thought, when he heard of it. So he got some applied to his back. But there is no language to tell how he smarted when the red-pepper sticking plaster was applied to his sore skin. He just rolled over and over and howled long bitterly. Now

after about twenty days the badger's sore was healed. The rabbit was then making a boat, and the badger seeing it asked "what are you going to do with this boat?" The rabbit replied, "I intend to catch fish,"



thus deceiving. The badger felt envious, but was dull in that kind of work. "I too will make a boat of clay," he said.



So having made a clay boat he rowed out to sea along with the rabbit.





Then the badger's boat began to sink, and when it was sinking the rabbit brandished aloft his oar and struck the badger dead, thus avenging the death of the old man's wife.



