वनर विदावश्वाय देन [०३८]



[अर्गनेशभगवाञ्चर]]

सेव्यंत्रे। ब्रु'बेर्द्र'ग्'धेस'च्ड्रबस्। इट'ळे'देट'वीस'च्ड्रुट्रा

র্মন' ব্রামাইন' মার্লি নি নি না স্থানি নি না স্থানি না

२०१५ <u>भ</u> प्रमुप्तः सम्बाद्यः स्ट्रीयः भ्रीयः मुम्यः स्ट्रीयः मुम्यः स्ट्रीयः मुम्यः स्ट्रीयः मुम्यः स्ट्रीयः स

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<u>ब्र</u>ुन'वनेवे'ऄ॔अ'स'सॅ'नॅ'ब्रॅन्'अनॅन'वहुबा

त्येद से दू सेदे मादे से हेर पु भी हो है। है हो हु ६ हे सा १८ हेद स सूर धेवा स्रावरायः विवादित्यः निर्देशः खेवारा देवाः यदः स्रावरायः विवावीः स्रार्थरः विद्वरम् भूनशः नेरः विंदः वी: सः कुः धीना वी: श्वः नाद्दशः पर्देतः रहे तः श्वः रुः नाहें दः रहे ना वुदः प्रदेशः ढ़ऻज़ढ़ड़ॖॴॱक़ॣॴॴऄ॔ॸॱॳॗॴॱॻड़ऀॴॴज़ढ़ऻऺॻॣॸॴऒ॔ज़ॣॸ*ॱ*ड़ॸॱऻऻॎढ़ॗॸॱख़ॗॴॱॺऀ॓॓ज़ॴॴॖॱऄॕऀ॔ क्ट.स.सक्ट्र्य. विय.सर.स.चरी की.लुवा.वट.सैचन्य.ट्रेन.सुट.सपु.सै.वाटट्य.वीट.सक्ट्र्य. ब्रन'सदे'यस'देवा'वर्ळेयाब्रन'राचुर्। र्देन'देर'हेन'वर्नेयाबु केन'र्वेर वीकार्के संदेत्त र्क्षेद्रिः क्षेट्रः व्यायोत् रक्षे रक्षेत्रः भूतकः होन्यः क्षेत्रः व्यायन्त्रः व्यायन्त्रः विष्यः वर्षः विष्यः यम्बारान्त्री नेरायहेबायह्याञ्चीरायहेवाद्याः स्टार्ट्स्याच्यान्याः याववरश्चाप्यस्थेन्यस्यायाया विन्त्यो हिंगाक्षेक्षेत्रस्य धेवस्य स्थेन् हे सम्केष्ट्रस्य वि क्षेदःचर्गेवःचःदेद्। हेःर्देदःषीःचड्दःवह्यःर्थेष्यश्चाःग्रीःम्रेदःवश्वरद्यश्चाद्वः बुँचेथाशी.लीजाबुँजारी.लूटाक्री अवस्त्रिटाजुर्टी जाशूष्टास्रीयशायटा.शाक्रटाशालाहुरा र्श्वे द्वन मः चुर्ना अन्तर विर वीशः र्श्वेन महेर मादर हे र्श्वेन छंद ह्वे प्रार प्राया लर.कुराजास्यान् मुद्रायराणुर। दरार्श्व हेरालार्टरार्श्वेन महेरान्वेद परे हेर विनः सः स्रिक्षेत्रः स्ट्रान्त्रः विन् विन् स्वान्यः विन् स्वान्यः विनः स्वान्यः विनः स्वान्यः विनः स्वान्यः विनः स्वान्यः विनः स्वान्यः स्व

http://www.lensey.com/home.html The Inn of Lost Time

तुषः**ॐ**दःनङ्ग्यतेःतशुत्रः।वदा

by Lensey Namioka बोदःशे| दुःशेर्देःगाःधेशःनङ्गस्थ

Translated from English into Tibetan by Chung Tsering ह्या के दिन जी अपनु होत्र प्येना तु अपने हिन्दी प्येना कुर के दिन जी अपने हिन्दी प्येना कुर के दिन जी अपने हिन्दी हैं।

Will you promise to sleep if I tell you a story?" said the father. He pretended to put on a stern expression.

स्वायाक्षेत्राह्य स्वाया स्वायाक्षेत्र स्वाया स्वायाक्षेत्र स्वाया स्वायाक्षेत्र स्वाया स्वया स्वाया स्वाया स्वाया स्वाया स्वाया स्वाया स्वाया स्वाया स्वाया स्वया स्वाया स्वया स्वाया स्वाया स्वाया स्वाया स्वाया स्वाया स्वाया स्वाया स्वया स्वाया स्वया स्वाया स्वाया स्वाया स्वाया स्वया स्वाया स्वया स्वय

"Yes! Yes!" the three little boys chanted in unison. It sounded like a nightly routine.

The two guests smiled as they listened to the exchange. They were wandering ronin, or unemployed samurai, and they enjoyed watching this cozy family scene.

त्यश्चार्यं । व्याप्ति स्त्रीत्र स्त्रीत् । व्याप्ति स्त्रीत्र स्त्रीत् स्त्र स्त्रीत् स्त्र स्

The father gave the guests a helpless look. "What can I do? I have to tell them a story, or these little rascals will give us no peace." Clearing his throat, he turned to the boys. "All right. The story tonight is about Urashima Taro."

स्थान्नु सर्वेद्या विश्वानित्र स्थानित्र क्षेत्र स्थानित्र स्थानित् स्थानित्र स्थानित्य स्थानित्र स्थानित्य स्थानित

Instantly the three boys became still. Sitting with their legs tucked under them, the three little boys, aged five, four, and three, looked like a descending row of stone statuettes. Matsuzo, the younger of the two ronin, was reminded of the

wayside half-body statues of Jizo, the God of Travelers and Protector of Children

दश्यः न्यान्यः विद्यान्यः स्वान्यः स्व

Behind the boys the farmer's wife took up a pair of iron chopsticks and stirred the ashes of the fire in the charcoal brazier. A momentary glow brightened the room. The lean faces of the two ronin, lit by the fire, suddenly looked fierce and hungry.

कु.य.बुचा.धं.स्यूची य.बुधुंश.कु.य.बूच्यां अ.अं.बुट्.यंधुंट्.युंच्युं क्र्यूंच्यं क्र्यंच्यं क्र्यंच्यं च्यां क्र्यंच्यं च्यां च्यां य.बचा.वट्रयं वट्र्यं अट्रयं क्रयं क्रयं क्रयं क्रयं क्रयं क्रयं क्रयं क्रयं च्यां क्रयं च्यां च्यां च्यां च्यां य.क्रयं क्रयं च्यां क्रयं च्यां च्यां य.क्र्यं क्रयं क्

The farmer knew that the two ronin were supposed to

use their arms in defense of the weak. But in these troubled times, with the country torn apart by civil wars, the samurai didn't always live up to their honorable code.

Then the fire died down again and the subdued red light softened the features of the two ronin. The farmer relaxed and began his story.

यान्यसामान्दात्वेषाःश्चित्रसर्वेद्रायम् सम्बद्धाः स्वाप्त्रस्य सम्बद्धाः सम

The tale of Urashima Taro is familiar to every Japanese. No doubt the three little boys had heard their father tell it before—and more than once. But they listened with rapt attention.

शुःरःविःसा तःर्रेतिः महस्याः सुद्विः देवे हिः हेर्द्रः या स्वेताः स्वरः स्वरः स्वरः स्वरः स्वरः स्वरः स्वरः स् इतः महिस्यो स्वरं स्वरः स्

सर.ट्र.बैट.कुर.त्र्रा.बैट.ज.क्र्यी

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Urashima Taro, a fisherman, rescued a turtle from some boys who were battering it with stones. The grateful turtle rewarded Taro by carrying him on his back to the bottom of the sea, where he lived happily with the Princess of the Undersea. But Taro soon became homesick for his native village and asked to go back on land. The princess gave him a box to take with him but warned him not to peek inside.

वृत्राक्षक्षत्रन्त्वात्रम् क्ष्र्न्त्वात्रम् वित्राक्षक्ष्यः क्ष्र्यः वित्राक्षक्ष्यः क्ष्र्यः क्ष्र्यः वित्राक्षक्ष्यः क्ष्र्यः क्ष्रः क्ष्र्यः क्ष्र्यः क्ष्र्यः क्ष्र्यः क्ष्र्यः क्ष्र्यः क्ष्रः क्ष्र्यः क्ष्रः क्ष्र्यः क्ष्र्यः क्ष्र्यः क्ष्र्यः क्ष्र्यः क्ष्र्यः क्ष्रः क्ष्र्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्र्यः क्ष्र्यः क्ष्र्यः क्ष्र्यः क्ष्र्यः क्ष्र्यः क्

When Taro went back to his village, he found the place

quite changed. In his home he found his parents gone, and living there was another old couple. He was stunned to learn that the aged husband was his own son, whom he had last seen as a baby! Taro thought he had spent only a pleasant week or two undersea with the princess. On land, seventy-two years had passed! His parents and most of his old friends had long since died.

तः र्रः स्टा विंद्यो प्या प्या प्रिया प्रिय प्रिया प्रिय प

Desolate, Taro decided to open the box given him by the princess. As soon as he looked inside, he changed in an instant from a young man to a decrepit old man of more than ninety.

चम्तानदुःम्भान्त्व्यात्वान्यात्वान्यात्व्यात्वान्यात्व्याः व्यात्याः श्रीत्रः व्याः व्यात्याः व्याः व्यः व्याः व्

At the end of the story the boys were close to tears. Even Matsuzo found himself deeply touched. He wondered why the farmer had told his sons such a poignant bedtime story. Wouldn't they worry all evening instead of going to sleep?

स्ट्रियायः विट्रायदे ग्रीट्र श्रेट्र श्रेट्र श्रेट्र श्रेट्र विचाय स्ट्रिया स्ट्रिय स्ट्रिय स्ट्रिय स

But the boys recovered quickly. They were soon laughing and jostling each other, and they made no objections when their mother shooed them toward bed. Standing in order of age, they bowed politely to the guests and then lay down on the mattresses spread out for them on the floor. Within minutes the sound of their regular breathing told the

guests that they were asleep.

सुन्याल्यान्त्रम्याः सुन्याः सुन्याः

Zenta, the older of the two ronin, sighed as he glanced at the peaceful young faces. "I wish I could fall asleep so quickly. The story of Urashima Taro is one of the saddest that I know among our folk tales."

क्ष्य-देन्द्री "क्ष्य-वन्त्री क्ष्य-वन्त्री क्ष्य-देन्द्री क्षय-देन्द्री क्षय-देन्द्र

The farmer looked proudly at his sleeping sons. "They're stout lads. Nothing bothers them much."

ब्रिन्स्य मृत्रेन्स्य वित्ता वित्ता

The farmer's wife poured tea for the guests and apologized. "I'm sorry this is only poor tea made from coarse leaves."

बिरामदेग्नवर्स्यभः भुःसर्मेद्रः स्त्रेन्यभः विष्यः निष्यः निष्यः

Zenta hastened to reassure her. "It's warm and heartening on a chilly autumn evening."

ने सुरह्त मधिरावेषावस्य स्टार्स क्षेत्र क्

"You know what I think is the saddest part of the Urashima Taro story?" said Matsuzo, picking up his cup and sipping the tea. "It's that Taro lost not only his family and friends but a big piece of his life as well. He had lost the most precious thing of all: time."

साशुःहुं धीयाहादगाराञ्चरयाहे त्यष्टराहें रातुः हो दार्शियाह्य हो सा

The farmer nodded agreement. "I wouldn't sell even one year of my life for money. As for losing seventy-two years, no amount of gold will make up for that!"

बिर्म्मश्र्म्भास्त्रम् मुद्रार्थित् मदेन्द्रम् स्थान्य स्थान्

Zenta put his cup down on the floor and looked curiously at the farmer. "It's interesting that you should say that. I had an opportunity once to observe exactly how much gold a person was willing to pay for some lost years of his life." He smiled grimly. "In this case the man went as far as one gold piece for each year he lost."

 च्यान् स्ट्रिंत् स्थानियाची स्थान्ते स्ट्रिंत् स्थानियाची स्थाने स्थानियाची स्थाने स्

That's bizarre!" said Matsuzo. "You never told me about it."

"नेन्द्रे। ह्यन्यस्य स्वान्त्रेन्। ह्यन्ये अन्ते क्षेत्रः ने क्षेत्रः स्वान्यस्यः स्वान्त्रे स्वान्त्रः स्वान्यस्यः स्वान्त्रे स्वान्त्रः स्वान्यस्यः स्वान्त्रे स्वान्त्रः स्वान्यस्यः स्वान्त्रे स्वान्त्रः स्वान्तः स्वान्त्रः स्वान्त्रः स्वान्तः स्वान्तः स्वान्त्रः स्वान्तः स्वान्त

"It happened long before I met you," said Zenta. He drank some tea and smiled ruefully. "Besides, I'm not particularly proud of the part I played in that strange affair."

"Let's hear the story!" urged Matsuzo. "You've made us all curious."

"श्रुट-दे-र्लेट-टर्ग हिट्-ग्रीयन्ट कें कट यन्त्र श्रेट-वर्नेट्र यन्त्र अर्थेट "बेयः

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The farmer waited expectantly. His wife sat down quietly behind her husband and folded her hands. Her eyes looked intently at Zenta.

ब्रीयः मुन्यः विद्यान्यः विद्यान

"Very well, then," said Zenta. "Actually, my story bears some resemblance to that of Urashima Taro. . . . "

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

It happened about seven years ago, when I was a green, inexperienced youngster not quite eighteen years old. But I had had a good training in arms, and I was able to get a job as a bodyguard for a wealthy merchant from Sakai.

ने दे विश्वे स्वान्त क्ष्या की विस्ति विस्ति के स्वान्त के स्वान के स्वान

ब्रीनालुषी लुष्येष्टर्। राजाम् अक्ष्यामी श्रीन्येराचन्याल्याम् श्रीन्या लीयाः भ्राम्येराष्ट्रपालुपाल्याः राजाम् अक्ष्यामी श्रीन्यान्याः श्रीन्यान्याः श्रीन्यान्याः श्रीन्याः श्रीन्यः श्रीः श

As you know, wealthy merchants are relatively new inth.

"There's an inn around here somewhere," muttered Tokubei. "I'm sure of it."

लूर्यात्मायविष्यावेषावेषावेषाव्यात्वेषात्यात्वेषात्वेषात्वेषात्वेषात्वेषात्वेषात्वेषात्वेषात्वेषात्वेषात्यात्वेषात्यात्वेषात्वेषात्वेषात्वेषात्येषात्येषात्येषात्वेषात्वेषात्वेषात्वेषात्यात्येषात्येष्य

We followed our noses. We had to leave the well-traveled highway and take a narrow, winding footpath. But the mouth-watering smell of the rice and the vision of fluffy, freshly aired cotton quilts drew us on.

देन्'महेश'ग्रीश'सूदे'ह्रेश'शु'दब्रद्धा सूत्रश विन्'प्पत'द्वेद'दर्शे सूत्रश'वने

यक्षिमान्तरास्त्रेत्त्र्वेष्ठ्याः व्यक्ष्यः स्त्रेत्त्रः व्यक्ष्यः स्त्रेत्रः स्त्रेतः स्त्

The sun was just beginning to set. We passed a bamboo grove, and in the low evening light the thin leaves turned into little golden knives. I saw a gilded clump of bamboo shoots. The sight made me think of the delicious dish they would make when boiled in soy sauce.

We hurried forward. To our delight we soon came to a clearing with a thatched house standing in the middle. The fragrant smell of rice was now so strong that we were certain a meal was being prepared inside.

देन निहेश चेता स्वराप्त स्वराप्त स्वर्ग प्रमानिक के विकास किया होन

ॻॖऀॴपटः सः देवे स्वायाः श्वायाः स्वायाः स्वायः स्वायाः स्वायाः स्वायाः स्वायाः स्वायाः स्वायाः स्वयः स्वय

Standing in front of the house was a pretty girl beaming at us with a welcoming smile. "Please honor us with your presence," she said, beckoning.

There was something a little unusual about one of her hands, but, being hungry and eager to enter the house, I did not stop to observe closely.

You will say, of course, that it was my duty as a bodyguard to be suspicious and to look out for danger. Youth and inexperience should not have prevented me from wondering why an inn should be found hidden away from the highway. As it was, my stomach growled, and I didn't even hesitate but followed Tokubei to the house.

श्चिम्राश्चार्म् ग्री झेट्टा हे शाश्चारयाम् श्वीय स्थान्य स्यान्य स्थान्य स्यान्य स्थान्य स्थान्य स्थान्य स्थान्य स्थान्य स्थान्य स्थान्य स्य

Before stepping up to enter, we were given basins of water to wash our feet. As the girl handed us towels for drying, I saw what was unusual about her left hand: She had six fingers.

वटा लयासान्त्रस्य वर्षात्त्रमात्त्व । याद्यात्रस्य स्थान्त्रस्य स्थान्य स्थान्त्रस्य स्थान्त्रस्य स्थान्त्रस्य स्थान्त्रस्य स्थान्त्रस्य स्थान्त्रस्य स्थान्त्रस्य स्थान्त्रस्य स्थान्त्रस्य स्थान्त्रस

Tokubei had noticed it as well. When the girl turned away to empty the basins, he nudged me. "Did you see her

left hand? She had——" He broke off in confusion as the girl turned around, but she didn't seem to have heard.

क्रांच्याक्ष्यमाळ्यमाळ्या द्वाचारात्याची । वाक्षात्याचारायाः व्यापायाच्याची । वाक्षात्याची । वा

The inn was peaceful and quiet, and we soon discovered the reason why. We were the only guests. Again, I should have been suspicious. I told you that I'm not proud of the part I played.

त्रज्ञात्राप्तरम् क्षेत्रविद्ये त्रिः विद्याप्त विद्ये विद्या विद्याप्त विद्य विद

Tokubei turned to me and grinned. "It seems that there are no other guests. We should be able to get extra service for the same amount of money."

र्ने.गु.ड्रेश्वाट.ज.सूर्याश्वयात्रश्चर्याट.क्रुंट.क्रुंट.ट्र...ज्रेट.शर्च्य्यंत्र.स्.यावव.स्रेट.

यःवर् देरःचहेदःदेरःगहेशःवःदेदःग्रिंदःग्रिवःयदेश्वाःयदेश्वाःवःव्ययःव्ययःव्यः र्वतःस्वाःदेशःदेरः छेशः सेदा

The girl led us to a spacious room which was like the principal chamber of a private residence. Cushions were set out for us on the floor and we began to shed our traveling gear to make ourselves comfortable.

The door opened and a grizzled-haired man entered. Despite his vigorous-looking face his back was a little bent, and I guessed his age to be about fifty. After bowing and greeting us, he apologized in advance for the service. "We have not always been innkeepers here," he said, "and you may find the accommodations lacking. Our good intentions must make up for our inexperience. However, to compensate for our inadequacies, we will charge a lower fee than that of an inn with an established reputation."

षिरःसदेः क्कें हो नः नृरः भ्राः भ्राः कें न्याः सदे से किया वरः व्यवाशः शुः वहं वा व्यवः

चित्रः विकासिक्तः स्वास्त्रं स्वस्त्रं स्वस्त्रं स्वस्त्रं स्वस्त्त्रं स्वस्त्रं स्वस्त

Tokubei nodded graciously, highly pleased by the words of our host, and the evening began well. It continued well when the girl came back with some flasks of wine, cups, and dishes of salty snacks.

स्ट्रिंग् कें ने न्या श्री में क्ष्य श्री में क्ष्य स्त्रिया क्ष्य स्त्रिय स्त्रि

While the girl served the wine, the host looked with

interest at my swords. From the few remarks he made, I gathered that he was a former samurai, forced by circumstances to turn his house into an inn.

यः स्त्राचित्रः विवाप्येव स्तरः स्त्राच्या स्वाप्यः स्वा

Having become a bodyguard to a tight-fisted merchant, I was in no position to feel superior to a ronin-turned-innkeeper. Socially, therefore, we were more or less equal.

योष्ट्रिक्टरम्ब्रियास्त्र्र्ट्याः स्त्रियाः स्त्रियः स्त

We exchanged polite remarks with our host while we drank and tasted the salty snacks. I looked around at the pleasant room. It showed excellent taste, and I especially admired a vase standing in the alcove.

दर् महिशाक्ती अविश्व में महिशास अर्केंद्र महिमान्य स्वास्त्र स्वा

यक्ष्मभः यक्ष्मभः स्वाभः विद्याः विद्य स्वाभः विद्याः विद्य

My host caught my eyes on it. "We still have a few good things that we didn't have to sell," he said. His voice held a trace of bitterness. "Please look at the panels of these doors. They were painted by a fine artist."

निवादिया।

विवादिया।

विवादिया।

विवादिया।

विवादिया।

विवादियाने विवादियाने

Tokubei and I looked at the pair of sliding doors. Each panel contained a landscape painting, the right panel depicting a winter scene and the left one the same scene in late summer. Our host's words were no idle boast. The pictures were indeed beautiful.

 द्रश्र.चे.याधेश्व.ट्र्श.याष्ट्रश्र.के.वे.कें.व्यक्ष्यात्म.खेया.थे.क्ष्यात्म.खेया.थे.क्ष्यात्म.खेया.व्यक्ष्यात्म यहूर्यंत्री क्ष्य-यायात्राक्ष्य-यद्रक्ष्य्य्यायः य्राच्यायः व्यक्ष्यः यद्र्याय्यः व्यक्ष्यः व्यक्षयः विष्यः व्यक्ष्यः व्यक्ष्यः विष्यः विषयः व

Tokubei rose and approached the screens for a closer look. When he sat down again, his eyes were calculating. No doubt he was trying to estimate what price the paintings would fetch.

After my third drink I began to feel very tired. Perhaps it was the result of drinking on an empty stomach. I was glad when the girl brought in two dinner trays and a lacquered container of rice. Uncovering the rice container, she began filling our bowls.

ष्णस्यान्याराष्ट्रियायश्चियायन्ति । याद्वेषायायायः वित्तास्त्रेष्ट्राय्याः । याद्वेषायायायः वित्तायः । याद्वेषायायायः वित्तायः । याद्वेषायः वित्तायः । याद्वेषायः वित्तायः । याद्वेषायः वित्यायः । याद्वेषायः वित्तायः । याद्वेषायः वित्तायः । याद्वेषायः वित्तायः । याद्वेषायः वित्तायः । याद्वेषायः । याद्वेष

क्री.स्र. प्रमुख्य भी या.स्र्या. प्रस्ता भी स्था. प्रमुख्य प्रमुख

Again I noticed her strange left hand with its six fingers. Any other girl would have tried to keep that hand hidden, but this girl made no effort to do so. If anything, she seemed to use that hand more than her other one when she served us. The extra little finger always stuck out from the hand, as if inviting comment.

याः स्ट्रेन् वित्त्वीतः स्त्रीतः स्त्रीतः स्त्रीतः स्त्रीतः स्त्रीतः स्त्रीतः स्त्रीतः स्त्रीतः स्त्रीतः स्त्र स्त्रीतः स्त्रीत

The hand fascinated me so much that I kept my eyes on

it and soon forgot to eat. After a while the hand looked blurry. And then everything else began to look blurry. The last thing I remembered was the sight of Tokubei shaking his head, as if trying to clear it.

यनासन्तर्भादते स्वीत् द्वाना स्वीत् द्वाना स्वाना स्वाना

When I opened my eyes again, I knew that time had passed, but not how much time. My next thought was that it was cold. It was not only extremely cold but damp.

प्राचित्रकार्यं स्त्रीत् स्त्

I rolled over and sat up. I reached immediately for my swords and found them safe on the ground beside me. On the ground? What was I doing on the ground? My last memory was of staying at an inn with a merchant called Tokubei.

यदः क्ट्रान्तः विवानी सक्ष्यः न्यस् न्यस् विवानी विवानी स्वानी स्वानी हो स्वान्तः स्वानः स्वान्तः स्व

The thought of Tokubei put me into a panic. I was his bodyguard, and instead of watching over him, I had fallen asleep and had awakened in a strange place.

ट्रस्याकृत्यान्त्र्यान्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्र स्ट्राव्ट्रियां भ्रुप्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्र कृत्याः भ्रुप्ताः कृत्याः विवाध्येव स्वतः स

I looked around frantically and saw that he was lying on the ground not far from where I was. Had he been killed?

दशःश्चें पद्धनायद्धनायर है। योर्चर नुः श्वेषा श्चुत्या नुश्वास्था विदायमा स्वास्त्र स्वास्त्र स्वास्त्र स्वास्

I got up shakily, and when I stood up, my head was swimming. But my sense of urgency gave some strength to my legs. I stumbled over to my employer and to my great relief found him breathing—breathing heavily, in fact.

When I shook his shoulder, he grunted and finally opened his eyes. "Where am I?" he asked thickly.

क्ट्र-क्ट्र-प्ट-देश व्यवश्वितः वःश्वायाविश्वःवित्रश्वः व्यवश्वः वित्रः क्ट्र-क्ट्र-प्ट-क्ष्यः विश्वः क्ट्र-क्ट्र-क्ष्यः विश्वः क्ट्र-क्ष्यः विश्वः क्ट्र-क्ष्यः विश्वः क्ट्र-क्ष्यः विश्वः क्ट्र-क्ष्यः विश्वः क्ष्यः विश्वः क्षयः विश्वः क्ष्यः विश्वः क्ष्यः विश्वः क्ष्यः विश्वः क्षयः विश्वः क्ष्यः विश्वः क्ष्यः विश्वः क्ष्यः विश्वः क्ष्यः विश्वः क्ष्यः विश्वः क्ष्यः विश्वः क्षयः विश्वः कष्यः विश्वः विश्व

It was a reasonable question. I looked around and saw that we had been lying in a bamboo grove. By the light I guessed that it was early morning, and the reason I felt cold and damp was that my clothes were wet with dew.

यदुःश्री-यावविद्युंद्वित्त्वे न्दुःश्चित्रः विवायस्य विद्युंद्वित्त्रः विद्युंद्वित्त्रः विद्युंद्वित्तः विद्युंद्वित्तः विद्युंद्वित्तः विद्युंद्वित्तः विद्युंद्वित्तः विद्युंद्वितः विद्युंद्वितः

"It's cold!" said Tokubei, shivering and climbing unsteadily to his feet. He looked around slowly, and his eyes became wide with disbelief. "What happened? I thought we were staying at an inn!"

"ने त्यन्ते चारा ना त्या हैं त्या चे अप विस्ता विष्य क्षेत्र त्या के अप विस्ता के

His words came as a relief. One of the possibilities I had considered was that I had gone mad and that the whole episode with the inn was something I had imagined. Now I knew that Tokubei had the same memory of the inn. I had not imagined it.

च्रिं-मं अभ्यान्त्रम् कार्ने न्द्रिं स्वेश्वर्या विवास प्रेत्रम् स्वेश्वर्या विवास प्रेत्रम् स्वर्या स्वर्य स्वर्या स्वयं स्वयं स्वयं स्वर्या स्वर्या स्वर्या स्वर्या स्वर्या स्वर्या

But why were we out here on the cold ground, instead

of on comfortable mattresses in the inn?

क्यानम् अःकःश्रम् स्तिविक्षायश्चायाः विष्याने विष्याने विषयः स्ति । सि । स्ति । स्ति । सि । स्ति । स्ति । स्ति । स्ति । स्ति । स्ति ।

"They must have drugged us and robbed us," said Tokubei. He turned and looked at me furiously. "A fine bodyguard you are!"

"देळ्यादेन्यादेश्यायाद्यादेशः विष्याद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्य कृत्याच्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्यायाद्याया

There was nothing I could say to that. But at least we were both alive and unharmed. "Did they take all your money?" I asked.

Tokubei had already taken his wallet out of his sash and was peering inside. "That's funny! My money is still here!"

हें। बर लेंग्र शुंबिय सुर्विय स्वाधिय हो। "स्त्री दे प्यत्ये हिन सक्त स्वाधिया हो स्वाधिय हो स्वाधिया हो स्वाधिय हो स

सन्दर्ग"डेसःबेस्

This was certainly unexpected. What did the innkeeper and his strange daughter intend to do by drugging us and moving us outside?

देवीन्यस्यस्यस्य स्वर्त्त्रम्यस्य स्वर्त्ते स्वर्ते स्वरत्ते स्वरत्ते स्वर्ते स्वरत्ते स्वरत्ते स्वरत्ते स्वर्ते स्वरत्ते स्वर्ते स्वर्ते स्वर्ते स्वरत्ते स्वर्ते स्वरत्ते स्वरत्ते स्वरत्ते स्वर्ते स्वरत्ते स्वरत्ते स्वरत्ते स्वर्ते स्वरत्ते स्वर्ते स्वरत्ते स्वर्ते स्वरत्ते स्

At least things were not as bad as we had feared. We had not lost anything except a comfortable night's sleep, although from the heaviness in my head I had certainly slept deeply enough—and long enough too. Exactly how much time had elapsed since we drank wine with our host?

याययरायरा। याययराय्ये प्राप्त स्थान्य प्राप्त स्थान्य स्थान्य

All we had to do now was find the highway again and continue our journey. Tokubei suddenly chuckled. "I didn't even have to pay for our night's lodging!"

न्द्रन्त्विभाग्चेशन्त्र्युन्द्रन्ति क्रिंगुः ह्रेश्वेश्वेत्त्र्यः हे । व्यायान्त्रव्यः व्यायान्यः व्यायान्त्रव्यः व्यायः व्यायः

As we walked from the bamboo grove, I saw the familiar clump of bamboo shoots, and we found ourselves standing in the same clearing again. Before our eyes was the thatched house. Only it was somehow different. Perhaps things looked different in the daylight than at dusk.

त्रियान्त्रियाञ्चान्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्रात्त्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्त्रात्त्र्यात्र्यात्त्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्यात्र्यात्यात्यात्यात्य

But the difference was more than a change of light. As we approached the house slowly, like sleepwalkers, we saw that the thatching was much darker. On the previous evening the thatching had looked fresh and new. Now it was dark with age. Daylight should make things appear brighter, not darker. The plastering of the walls also looked more dingy.

क्ष्र्याहित्यस्त्रेक्ष्यः भ्रूत्। क्षेत्रः स्वाहित्यस्त्रेक्ष्यः स्वाहित्यस्त्रेक्ष्यः स्वाहित्यस्त्रे स्वाहित्यस्त्रे स्वाहित्यस्त्रे स्वाहित्यस्य स्वाहित्य स्वाहित्यस्य स

Tokubei and I stopped to look at each other before we went closer. He was pale, and I knew that I looked no less frightened. Something was terribly wrong. I loosened my sword in its scabbard.

We finally gathered the courage to go up to the house. Since Tokubei seemed unable to find his voice, I spoke out. "Is anyone there?"

अन्यः देन् निर्ध्यायः क्षेत्रः व्याप्तः क्षेत्रः व्याप्तः क्षेत्रः व्याप्तः व्याप्तः व्याप्तः व्याप्तः व्याप्त स्वयः देन् निर्ध्यः व्याप्तः क्षेत्रः व्याप्तः क्षेत्रः व्याप्तः व्याप्तः व्याप्तः व्याप्तः व्याप्तः व्याप्तः

After a moment we heard shuffling footsteps and the front door slid open. The face of an old woman appeared. "Yes?" she inquired. Her voice was creaky with age.

What set my heart pounding with panic, however, was not her voice. It was the sight of her left hand holding on to the frame of the door. The hand was wrinkled and crooked with the arthritis of old age—and it had six fingers.

साचरी हे.क्.सहं य.सू.चीय.तर्या। देश.सूचीय.सहं यीय.येंद्रवर्यां में आयी.ग्रींचा.क्यीय.कृटा। योक्रेस.सया.वृद्धां स्थान्य. तहं य.सहं पूर्टा से स्वारायालूच या.हे.सहं स्तया.हे.स्याया. हेंद्राया.यंह्याया.वृद्धां या.हे.स्याया.कृष्याचीया.कृष्याया. स्वाराया.वृद्धां से स्वारायालूच या.वृद्धां स्वाराया स्वराया स्वाराया स्वराया स्वाराया स्वाराया स्वाराया स्वाराया स्वाराया I heard a gasp beside me and knew that Tokubei had noticed the hand as well.

इतुः स्वान्तरः द्वीयान्त्र स्वान्तरः स्वान्तरः स्वान्तरः स्वान्तरः स्वान्तरः स्वान्तरः स्वान्तरः स्वान्तरः स्व

The door opened wider and a man appeared beside the old woman. At first I thought it was our host of the previous night. But this man was much younger, although the resemblance was strong. He carried himself straighter and his hair was black, while the innkeeper had been grizzled and slightly bent with age.

श्चित्रः के स्थान्त्रः विकार के स्थान्त्रः के स्यान्त्रः के स्थान्त्रः के स्थान्त्यः के स्थान्त्रः के स्थान्त्रः

"Please excuse my mother," said the man. "Her hearing is not good. Can we help you in some way?"

योश्यापार्थः स्टायाश्यायाश्याप्यात्राचीत्र्यः प्याप्यात्राचीत्र्यः प्याप्यात्राचीत्र्यः प्याप्यात्राचीत्र्यः प्याप्यात्राचीत्र्यः प्याप्यात्राचीत्र्यः प्याप्यात्राचीत्र्यः प्याप्यात्राचीत्र्यः प्राप्यात्राचीत्र्यः प्राप्यात्राचीत्र्यः प्राप्यात्राचीत्र्यः प्राप्यात्राचीत्र्यः प्राप्यात्राचीत्र्यः प्राप्यात्राचीत्रः प्राप्यात्राचीत्रः प्राप्यात्राचीत्रः प्राप्यात्राचीत्रः प्राप्यात्राचीत्रः प्राप्यात्राचीत्रः प्राप्यात्राचीत्रः प्राप्यात्राचीत्रः प्राप्यात्रः प्राप्यात्यात्रः प्राप्यात्रः प्राप्यात्रः प्राप्यात्रः प्राप्यात्रः प्राप्यात्रः प्राप्यात्रः प्राप्यात्रः प्राप्यात्रः प्राप्यात्रः प्राप

वर्गाम्याः"बेरा

Tokubei finally found his voice. "Isn't this the inn where we stayed last night?"

देन् महिना में निकार के प्राप्त के प्राप्त

The man stared. "Inn? We are not innkeepers here!"

यन्ताः संस्थितः । बेर् यन्ताः संस्थितः । बेर्याः अः स्थाः विष्यः । विषयः । विष्यः । विषयः । विष्यः । विषयः । विष्यः । विषयः । विष्यः । विषयः । विष्यः । विषयः । विषयः । विषयः । विषयः । विषयः । विषयः । विष्यः । विषयः । वि

"Yes, you are!" insisted Tokubei. "Your daughter invited us in and served us with wine. You must have put something in the wine!"

स्ति हिन्द्रस्य प्राप्त विन्त्री हिन्द्रिया हिन्द्री हिन्द्रिया हिन्द्री ह

The man frowned. "You are serious? Are you sure you didn't drink too much at your inn and wander off?"

शुद्धःवर्योकः।वटःबटःकःरयोःवर्वेदःक्षैःश्चरःरयोशःधे। स्टःक्ष्योशःशःव्रुवेदःसरःब्रुःकः शुद्धःवर्योकः।वटःबटःकःस्योःवर्वेदःक्षैःश्चरःरयोशःधे। स्टःक्ष्योशःशःव्रुवेदःसरःब्रुःकः

विद्यस्य व्याप्त निवासित्र प्रति देशाया हेता ग्री वर्षा वर्या वर्षा वर्षा वर वर्षा वर्षा वर्षा वर्षा वर्षा वर्षा वर्षा व

"No, I didn't drink too much!" said Tokubei, almost shouting. "I hardly drank at all! Your daughter, the one with six fingers on her hand, started to pour me a second cup of wine . . ." His voice trailed off, and he stared again at the left hand of the old woman.

"I don't have a daughter," said the man slowly. "My mother here is the one who has six fingers on her left hand, although I hardly think it polite of you to mention it."

"I'm getting dizzy," muttered Tokubei, and began to totter.

"८.अर्यु.लूश.पंतूर्य.मु.पर्या.भू.यं.मुंश.पंत्य.यंर.श्रॅश.स.टर.पत्रीय.पीश.

र्राष्ट्र-विंद्र-विंद्र-विंद्र-विंद्र-विंद

"I think you'd better come in and rest a bit," the man said to him gruffly. He glanced at me. "Perhaps you wish to join your friend. You don't share his delusion about the inn, I hope?"

द्रमः चेत्रं भ्रेत्न । हिन् प्रत्वरम् । विन् प्रत्वरम् । विन प्रत्वरम् । विन प्रत्यम् । विन प्रत्यम्यम् । विन प्रत्यम् । विन

"I wouldn't presume to contradict my elders," I said carefully. Since both Tokubei and the owner of the house were my elders, I wasn't committing myself. In truth, I didn't know what to believe, but I did want a look at the inside of the house.

"८श्वास्त्र प्रत्याप्तर प्रति स्वर्थ स्वर्य स्वर्थ स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्थ स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य

The inside was almost the same as it was before but the differences were there when I looked closely. We entered the same room with the alcove and the pair of painted doors. The vase I had admired was no longer there, but the doors showed the same landscapes painted by a master. I peered closely at the pictures and saw that the colors looked faded. What was more, the left panel, the one depicting a winter scene, had a long tear in one corner. It had been painstakingly mended, but the damage was impossible to hide completely.

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Tokubei saw what I was staring at and he became even paler. At this stage we had both considered the possibility that a hoax of some sort had been played on us. The torn screen convinced Tokubei that our host had not played a joke: The owner of a valuable painting would never vandalize it for a trivial reason.

स्ट्रिंगः के स्ट्रिंगः स्

As for me, I was far more disturbed by the sight of the sixth finger on the old woman's hand. Could the young girl have disguised herself as an old crone? She could put rice powder in her hair to whiten it, but she could not transform her pretty straight fingers into old fingers twisted with arthritis. The woman here with us now was genuinely old, at least fifty years older than the girl.

८.ज.षक्ष्यं वर्षे सर्च न.ष्र्.चै.वर्षः वर्षः में स्पर्न न्या स्वाप्तः स्वाप्तः स्वाप्तः स्वाप्तः स्वाप्तः स्वाप

It was this same old woman who finally gave us our greatest shock. "It's interesting that you should mention an inn, gentlemen," she croaked. "My father used to operate an inn. After he died, my husband and I turned this back into a private residence. We didn't need the income, you see."

यव्या होर्क्स्यावे त्याचार्यो श्राम्य व्याचार्ये श्राम्य व्याचे स्वाच्या व्याच्या व्याच्याच्या व्याच्या व्याच्या व्याच्या व्याच्या व्याच्या व्याच्या व्याच्

"Your . . . your . . . f-father?" stammered Tokubei.

"होत् र्रा र्वोहोत् र्रा र्वो ...च्या या या क्षेत्रं त् गु हो या द्वा र्वा देव रहा

7951

"Yes," replied the old woman. "He was a ronin, forced to go into inn keeping when he lost his position. But he never liked the work. Besides, our inn had begun to acquire an unfortunate reputation. Some of our guests disappeared, you see."

त्रश्चार्यः क्री स्त्राच्याः स्त्राचः स्त्राचः स्त्राचः स्त्राच्याः स्त्राच्याः स्त्राच्याः स्त्राच्याः स्त्राचः स्त

Even before she finished speaking, a horrible suspicion had begun to dawn on me. Her father had been an innkeeper, she said, her father who used to be a ronin. The man who had been our host was a ronin-turned-innkeeper. Could this mean that this old woman was actually the same person as the young girl we had seen?

प्रतार्श्यक्षेत्रप्रान्ता ने क्षेत्रक्षेत्रप्रवा त्या त्या क्षेत्रप्रवा विद्या विद्या

बैवान्तेन नेवन्त्रन्था वैत्रम्भ्या बुर्याया बैवान्य अप्यावित्र वित्रम्भ्या वैवान्त्र विवान्त्र विवान्त्य विवान्त्र विवान्त्य विवान्त्र विवान्त्य विवान्त्र विवान्त्य विवान्त्य विवान्त्र विवान्त्र

I sat stunned while I tried to absorb the implications. What had happened to us? Was it possible that Tokubei and I had slept while this young girl grew into a mature woman, got married, and bore a son, a son who was now an adult? If that was the case, then we had slept for fifty years!

The old woman's next words confirmed my fears. "I recognize you now! You are two of the lost guests from our inn! The other lost ones I don't remember so well, but I remember you because your disappearance made me so sad. Such a handsome youth, I thought; what a pity that he should have gone the way of the others!"

स्ट्रिस्ति स्ट्रिस्ति

A high wail came from Tokubei, who began to keen and rock himself back and forth. "I've lost fifty years! Fifty years of my life went by while I slept at this accursed inn!"

तीय.वट.वट्य.चुच.वटीच । की.चेट्.वुम.वचूटी कुच.म्ट्र.कं.च थे.बश्च.स.ट.ट्यूट.जूच.प्रे.स्.च्य्.ट्र.कं.च थे.बश.स.च क्या.यूट.। ट्यु.श्र. कुच.म्ट्र.कं.च थे.बश.स.ट.ट्यूट.जूच.प्रे.स्.च्य्.ट्र.कं.च थे.बश.स.च क्या.यूट.। ट्यु.श्र. कुच.म्ट्र.कं.च थे.बश.सं.चुच.यूट.च्या.यू.कुच.यू.चुच.यू.चुच.यू.चुच.यू.च्यु.च्या.यू.चुच.

The inn was indeed accursed. Was the fate of the other guests similar to ours? "Did anyone else return as we did, fifty years later?" I asked.

ज्या-लूट-भावय-भी-भा-भिर-श्रीट-टभा, खेश-टशःहैश

The old woman looked uncertain and turned to her son. He frowned thoughtfully. "From time to time wild-looking people have come to us with stories similar to yours. Some of them went mad with the shock."

क्रुंत्रचट्ट्यंत्रावित्राकृत्राकृत्रावित्राकृत्रावित्राकृत्रावित्राकृत्राव्यः वित्राव्यः वित्रावयः वित्रावय

Tokubei wailed again. "I've lost my business! I've lost my wife, my young and beautiful wife! We had been married only a couple of months!"

A gruesome chuckle came from the old woman. "You may not have lost your wife. It's just that she's become an old hag like me!

म्राज्यस्य वहेवासासु सुरानदे हिलानुस्य निष्य निष्य स्यान्य विष्य स्यान्य विष्य स्यान्य विष्य स्थान्य स्थान्य स

That did not console Tokubei, whose keening became louder. Although my relationship with my employer had not been characterized by much respect on either side, I did begin to feel very sorry for him. He was right: He had lost his world.

न्याः भूना न्र्यान्य श्राचित्र वी व्यान्य स्त्राची व्यान्य स्त्र स्त्र

As for me, the loss was less traumatic. I had left home under extremely painful circumstances and had spent the next three years wandering. I had no friends and no one I could call a relation. The only thing I had was my duty to my employer. Somehow, someway, I had to help him.

चिश्रमः क्रीतिः चाद्रभः स्वाद्यम् स्वर्थः स्वर्यः स्वर्थः स्वर्यः स्व

दर्नन्द्रभः सः शुः धरः स्रेन्। दः स्टः त्यः खेन् । स्टः नीः श्रुकः निरः त्यः स्वनः स्वनः स्वनः स्वनः स्वनः स्व स्वन्य सः स्वानः स्वानः स्वनः स्व

"Did no one find an explanation for these disappearances?" I asked. "Perhaps if we knew the reason why, we might find some way to reverse the process."

सक्त्यान्त्रेस्त्रेत्रेत्रेत्रेत्र्याः स्वाप्त्रेत्र्याः स्वाप्त्रेत्रः स्वाप्त्रेत्रः स्वाप्त्रः स्वाप्त्रः स्वाप्त्रः स्वाप्त्रः स्वाप्त्रः स्वाप्त्रः स्वाप्त्रः स्वाप्त्रः स्वाप्त्रः स्वाप्तः स्वापतः स्वाप्तः स्वापतः स्

The old woman began to nod eagerly. "The priestess! Tell them about the shrine priestess!"

"Well," said the man, "I'm not sure if it would work in your case. . . ."

क्षेत्रशास्त्रम् । देशक्षित्रक्षेत्रम् व्याक्ष्यक्षेत्रक्षेत्रम् व्याक्षेत्रक्षेत्रम् व्याक्षेत्रक्षेत्रम् व्य विष्णात्री विष्णात्रीत्रम् । विष्णात्रीत्रम् विष्णात्रीत्रम् विष्णात्रम् विष्णात्रम् विष्णात्रम् विष्णात्रम् व

"What? What would work?" demanded Tokubei. His

eyes were feverish.

र्वेर मी स्वीपानिकेश प्रमेश वार्रेश वुरुष्य प्रमेश स्वीपानिक स्विप स्वीपानिक स्वीप स्वीप

"There was a case of one returning guest who consulted the priestess at our local shrine," said the man. "She went into a trance and revealed that there was an evil spirit dwelling in the bamboo grove here. This spirit would put unwary travelers into a long, unnatural sleep. They would wake up twenty, thirty, or even fifty years later."

क्री.स्.संक्रीन्त्रम् श्रीन्त्रम् श्रीत्रम् श्रीन्त्रम् श्रीन्त्रम् श्रीन्त्रम् श्रीन्त्रम् श्रीन्त्य

"Yes, but you said something worked in his case," said Tokubei.

"रेप र्वेद ग्रुप्ति ग्रुर विदेशम्बर्ग कुंव र्वेन तुर्व पर्वेद प्रदेश क्रिंप विवा

गशुरुषार्थेदानः"वेषार्हेग्गुः ह्रेषान्वन्।

The man seemed reluctant to go on. "I don't like to see you cheated, so I'm not sure I should be telling you this."

क्षे.प्रेस्.क्षे.कर्चे.वर्च्च वर्ष्ट्च वर्ष्ट्च क्षेत्रःक्षेत्रः क्षेत्रः कष्टे क्षेत्रः कष्टे क्षेत्रः कष्टे क्षेत्रः कष्टे कर्ये कष्टे कष्टे कर्ये कर्ये कर्ये कष्टे कर्ये कर्ये कर्ये कर्ये कर्ये कर्ये कर्ये कर्ये करि

"Tell me! Tell me!" demanded Tokubei. The host's reluctance only made him more impatient.

या अर्था व्या विकास के स्वा के स्व क

"The priestess promised to make a spell that would undo the work of the evil spirit," said the man. "But she demanded a large sum of money, for she said that she had to burn some very rare and costly incense before she could begin the spell."

"हे न द्वंत्र सम्भागत्वा उत्तर्देत् नार्त्त स्वेत् स्वेत् सम्भावि न स्वेत्र स्वेत्य

At the mention of money Tokubei sat back. The hectic flush died down on his face and his eyes narrowed. "How much money?" he asked.

$$\begin{split} & + 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1$$

The host shook his head. "In my opinion the priestess is a fraud and makes outrageous claims about her powers. We try to have as little to do with her as possible."

याक्क् नःश्चिमः अर्थोः न्यायान्य स्थाः स्

"Yes, but did her spell work?" asked Tokubei. "If it worked, she's no fraud!"

म्याने म्याने म्याने स्थाने स

"At least the stranger disappeared again," cackled the old woman. "Maybe he went back to his own time. Maybe

he walked into a river.

म्रा व्याप्त व्यापत व्याप्त व्यापत व्या

Tokubei's eyes narrowed further. "How much money did the priestess demand?" he asked again.

र्ने अप्येन् चेत्रस्य विश्वप्यत्त्वस्य स्युन्ति । "हे नहुव्यस्त्रे अप्तृत्या विश्वप्यत्त्वस्य स्युन्ति । "हे नहुव्यस्य ने अप्तृत्य विश्वप्यत्त्वस्य स्थित्

"I think it was one gold piece for every year lost," said the host. He hurriedly added, "Mind you, I still wouldn't trust the priestess."

च्यायाः सेन्यः म्याविद्या दावे प्रत्याच्याः स्वायः स्वतः स्वर्षः स्वरं स्वरं

"Then it would cost me fifty gold pieces to get back to my own time," muttered Tokubei. He looked up. "I don't carry that much money with me."

"No, you don't," agreed the host.

"र्लिन्स सेन्। ब्रिन्स्म विस्य प्रिक्त स्थिन्स सेन्य स्था सेन्य स्था सेन्य स्था सेन्य स्था सेन्य स्था सेन्य सेन्य

Something alerted me about the way he said that. It was as if the host knew already that Tokubei did not carry much money on him.

व्यस्त्रेयान्त्री हुं.यी.चेयान्तर्यान्त्रेयान्त्रीयान्तर्यान्त्रेयान्त्रेयान्त्र्यान्त्रेयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रेयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्यान्त्रयान्त्यान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान्त्रयान

Meanwhile Tokubei sighed. He had come to a decision. "I do have the means to obtain more money, however. I can send a message to my chief clerk and he will remit the money when he sees my seal."

५५,० इससर राया महिरादेश से रा है सा हे सा

"Your chief clerk may be dead by now," I reminded him.

दशः" ब्रिन् ग्री:दुर धिवा वार्डे ते दी न क्षे ब्रिंट शक्तर खेंन श्रेन "हेश द्व श्रुवः"

"You're right!" moaned Tokubei. "My business will be under a new management and nobody will even remember my name!"

र्हें गुः चे अः क्रें चूर दर प्रकार के प्रति देश के दा के के स्वर्थ के प्रति के प्रति के के प्र

"And your wife will have remarried," said the old woman, with one of her chuckles. I found it hard to believe that the gentle young girl who had served us wine could turn into this dreadful harridan.

सर्भिन्छेशन्त्रावन्त्रः श्रुम्। अर्द्वाकेश्वः स्विनः स्विन

"Sending the message may be a waste of time," agreed the host.

चर्ष्या.धे.तज्ञ्.चोषु.ख्या.इट....कुश.चलेटी चर्ष्या.धे.तज्ञ्.चोषु.खुया.इट....कुश.चलेटी

"What waste of time!" cried Tokubei. "Why shouldn't I waste time? I've wasted fifty years already! Anyway, I've made up my mind. I'm sending that message."

म्न्या नक्ष्या व्याप्त स्थाय स्थाय

"I still think you shouldn't trust the priestess," said the host.

म्री:अ:रेन्:इत्:म्री:यन्त्रम: हेर:यहंत्रअ:रोन:धेन:केर:म्री:अतः स्त्रम: केर:स्त्रम: केर:स्त्रम: केर:स्त्रम: केर:स्त्रम: केर:स्त्रम:स्त्

That only made Tokubei all the more determined to send for the money. However, he was not quite resigned to the amount. "Fifty gold pieces is a large sum. Surely the priestess can buy incense for less than that amount?"

भूत्रकःतेशःर्त्रेगुःचेशःत्रुवःचीःकेतःतुःवद्येषःधेषाःतभूतःकुवैःकेत्।सेसशःहेः

यक्ष्यान्त्री "वाश्चरार्म् वाल्यात्वर्ष्यान्त्री व्याप्त्री व्याप

"Why don't you try giving her thirty gold pieces?" cackled the old woman. "Then the priestess will send you back thirty years, and your wife will only be middle-aged."

क्त्र-स्थान्ति स्टान्नि स्टान्स्य स्टान्य स्टान्स्य स्टान्स्य स्टान्स्य स्टान्स्य स्टान्स्य स्टान्स्य स्ट

While Tokubei was still arguing with himself about the exact sum to send for, I decided to have a look at the bamboo grove. "I'm going for a walk," I announced, rising and picking up my sword from the floor beside me.

श्रुग।

The host turned sharply to look at me. For an instant a faint, rueful smile appeared on his lips. Then he looked away.

विट्यन्त्री स्वर्धित्वास्त्र प्रम्मित्र स्वर्धित्वास्य विद्यत्त्र स्वर्धित्व स्वर्धित स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्धित स्वर्धित स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर

Outside, I went straight to the clump of shoots in the bamboo grove. On the previous night—or what I perceived as the previous night—I had noticed that clump of bamboo shoots particularly, because I had been so hungry that I pictured them being cut up and boiled.

यान् विन्यान् म्यान् स्वाप्त्र स्वाप्त स्वाप्

The clump of bamboo shoots was still in the same place. That in itself proved nothing, since bamboo could spring up anywhere, including the place where a clump had existed fifty years earlier. But what settled the matter in my mind was that the clump looked almost exactly the way it did when I had seen it before, except that every shoot was about an inch taller. That was a reasonable amount for bamboo shoots to grow overnight.

द्री विचान्त्राचित्राची श्रुम् तुः श्रुम् त्राच्या स्थान्त्राची स्थान्त्रची स्थान्यची स्थान्त्रची स्थान्त्रची स्थान्त्रची स्थान्त्रची स्थान्त्

Overnight. Tokubei and I had slept on the ground here overnight. We had not slept here for a period of fifty years.

वियासायां विया । हिंगा हो निर्मा से प्रत्या । इसा सुद्रा से प्रत्या से प्रत्या

Once I knew that, I was able to see another inconsistency: the door panels with the painted landscapes. The paint-

ing with the winter scene had been on the right last night and it was on the left this morning. It wasn't simply a case of the panels changing places, because the depressions in the panel for the handholds had been reversed. In other words, what I saw just now was not a pair of paintings faded and torn by age. They were an entirely different pair of paintings.

But how did the pretty young girl change into an old woman? The answer was that if the screens could be different ones, so could the women. I had seen one woman, a young girl, last night. This morning I saw a different woman, an old hag.

The darkening of the thatched roof? Simply blow ashes over the roof. The grizzled-haired host of last night could be the same man who claimed to be his grandson today. It would be a simple matter for a young man to put gray in his hair and assume a stoop.

स्त्रः द्वार्थे विवादितः हे त्वाः तुः हि स्कृतः श्वातः त्वातः त्वातः विवादितः विवाद

And the purpose of the hoax? To make Tokubei send for fifty pieces of gold, of course. It was clever of the man to accuse the shrine priestess of fraud and pretend reluctance to let Tokubei send his message.

नार्थे वनमारी न्यामा पुला हे पोदा बेचा ने हे हैं न्या हे नामे न हैं ना हु न हु

वश्चर-नर्गेश्वराविः भी महिंदानु वहुना केन्सेन शिंद्र अपनि स्वेत्राविः स्वेत्र स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्र स्व वित्र महिंदानु स्वात्त्र स्वात्त्

I couldn't even feel angry toward the man and his daughter—or mother, sister, wife, whatever. He could have killed me and taken my swords, which he clearly admired. Perhaps he was really a ronin and felt sympathetic toward another one.

ब्र-मानवः निमानः श्रीनः हे श्रीभानः त्येतः श्रीन। व्यथना विन्यानः स्थानः स्थान

When I returned to the house, Tokubei was looking resigned. "I've decided to send for the whole fifty gold pieces." He sighed.

"८श्रःवाश्रुरः हूं वाः खं : व छः छः दः दिष्ठेरः बेरः कुं देः क्वें : ववाः व छ रः प्यतः अवः । विशः । "८शःवाश्रेरः हूं वाः खं : व छः छः दः दिष्ठेरः बेरः कुं देः क्वें : ववाः व छ रः प्यतः अवः । विशः

भुवाश सेट द्र न्य उश्वास में द्र न्यू हैं ।

"Don't bother," I said. "In fact, we should be leaving as soon as possible. We shouldn't even stop here for a drink, especially not

ल्लास्याम् । केन् प्रत्यास्य । स्वाप्त । स्वापत । स्वाप्त । स्वाप

Tokubei stared. "What do you mean? If I go back home, I'll find everything changed!"

"Nothing will be changed," I told him. "Your wife will be as young and beautiful as ever."

दशार्वेदायः "नदायायदायुर्वेन विदानी सारेद्र हिर्ने ही नवत हुत्रे स्र

"I don't understand," he said. "Fifty years . . ."
বিদ্যাপ "দ্ধান্ধর্লি ক্রমান্ত্রিশানার্শনি দুবনু "" बेদ্

"It's a joke," I said. "The people here have a peculiar

sense of humor, and they've played a joke on us."

"ने हो होन् केंन् केंग्र होन् का नाम अपने का निकार केंन् का केंग्र केंग

Tokubei's mouth hung open. Finally he closed it with a snap. He stared at the host, and his face became first red and then purple. "You—you were trying to swindle me!" He turned furiously to me. "And you let them do this!"

"I'm not letting them," I pointed out. "That's why we're leaving right now."

"दशार्षेट क्षेत्र ने निवासी देवे प्रत्य मेश हेन महिशान होते । विवास में स्वासी क्षेत्र प्रत्य मेश क्षेत्र प्रत

"Are you going to let them get away with this?" demanded Tokubei. "They might try to swindle someone else!"

म्यान्त्र स्वयः अर्थे भूतः स्वर्धः स्वरं स्वर्धः स्वरं स्वरं स्वरं स्वर्धः स्वरं स्

"They only went to this much trouble when they heard of the arrival of a fine fat fish like you," I said. I looked deliberately at the host. "I'm sure they won't be tempted to try the same trick again."

वयानकर्वसान्हेर् व्या केसानभी वितान स्थानकर्ति स्थाने स्थानकर्त्यसान्धेर वितान स्थानकर्त्यसान्धेर वितान स्थान स्यान स्थान स्य

* * * * * * * * * * * *

"And that's the end of your story?" asked Matsuzo. "You and Tokubei just went away? How did you know the so-called innkeeper wouldn't try the trick on some other luckless traveler?"

 Zenta shook his head. "I didn't know. I merely guessed that once the trick was exposed, they wouldn't take the chance of trying it again. Of course I thought about revisiting the place to check if the people there were leading an honest life."

इंत्र प्रत्येश सर्वो त्रिंद्वी सर्वेश स्वर्थ हो । द्रश्च स्वर्थ हे स्वर्थ स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्थ स्वर्थ स्वर्य स्वर्थ स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर

Why didn't you?" asked Matsuzo. "Maybe we could go together. You've made me curious about that family now."

अर्थः ह्रेन् छेत्र छेत्र छेत्र से प्रक्षा विषय विषय हिन् केत्र से प्रक्षित्र स्ट्रिया हिन् केत्र से प्रक्षित्र से

"Then you can satisfy your curiosity," said Zenta, smiling. He held his cup out for more tea, and the farmer's wife came forward to pour.

"नेश्वा हिन्द्रीयान्यत्वेषान्यत्वेषाय्यत्ति विद्यायेन्यत्वयः स्वान्त्रीयान्यत्वेषायः विद्यायत्वेषायः विद्यायः विद्यायत्वेषायः विद्यायः विद्यायत्वेषायः विद्यायः विद्यायः विद्यायत्वेषायः विद्यायः विद्य

Only now she used both hands to hold the pot, and for the first time Matsuzo saw her left hand. He gasped. The hand had six fingers.

चेर्यायदेराम्बिन्य्यार्थेयाम्बिन्यः स्थान्त्रः स्यान्त्रः स्थान्त्रः स्थान्त्रः स्थान्त्रः स्थान्त्रः स्थान्त्रः स्थान्त्रः स्थान्त्रः स्थान्तः स्थान्त्रः स्थान्तः स्थान्तः स्थान्तः स्थान्तः स्थान्तः स्थान्तः स्थान्त्रः स्थान्तः स्थान्तः स्थान्तः स्थान

"Who was the old woman?" Zenta asked the farmer's wife.

"She was my grandmother," she replied. "Having six fingers is something that runs in my family."

क्रीत्रः वित्तत्वे त्राचे क्रीत्रः क्रीत्रः क्रीत्रः क्षीत्रः व्याप्त्रः वित्रः व्याप्ते व्याप्ते व्याप्ते व्य व्याप्ते वित्तं वित्ता क्षीत्रः क्षीत्रः क्षीत्रः व्याप्ते व्याप्ते व्याप्ते व्याप्ते व्याप्ते व्याप्ते व्यापत

At last Matsuzo found his voice. "You mean this is the very house you visited? This is the inn where time was

lost?"

"Where we thought we lost fifty years," said Zenta. "Perhaps I should have warned you first. But I was almost certain that we'd be safe this time. And I see that I was right."

द्वः ५ : धेरा ने : वर्षे वा : विद्यः विद्यः

He turned to the woman again. "You and your husband are farmers now, aren't you? What happened to the man who was the host?"

"He's dead," she said quietly. "He was my brother, and

he was telling you the truth when he said that he was a ronin. Two years ago he found work with another warlord, but he was killed in battle only a month later."

र्श्वरः भ्रम् । क्रुं न्या । क्रुं न्या । व्या विष्य । व्या विष्य विषय । व्या विष्य । व्या विषय । व्या

Matsuzo was peering at the pair of sliding doors, which he hadn't noticed before. "I see that you've put up the faded set of paintings. The winter scene is on the left side."

The woman nodded. "We sold the newer pair of doors. My husband said that we're farmers now and that people in our position don't need valuable paintings. We used the money to buy some new farm implements."

तुन् स्रोन् ने श्रास्त्रीं के श्री न्या न्या क्ष्या त्या के स्रोत्य क्ष्या क्ष

ननशः इव म्यीः श्रेनः नेव महा के निवे ने स्वाहित्य विष्या माना स्वाहित्य माना स्वाहित्य माना स्वाहित्य माना स्व

She took up the teapot again. "Would you like another cup of tea?" she asked Matsuzo.

बियान्गराम् ज्ञान्येराधरान्त्रभुरान्तेन्याः स्वित्रासास्य वित्रासास्य वित्रास्य वित्रासास्य वित्यास्य वित्रासास्य वित्रासास्य वित्रासास्य वित्रासास्य वित्रासास्य

Staring at her left hand, Matsuzo had a sudden qualm. "I—I don't think I want any more." Everybody laughed.

अःशुः द्विभः स्रोदिः व्यवाः वार्ष्यद्वः स्रमः हेमः चित्रः स्त्राः वुमः स्त्रः स्त्रः स्त्रः स्त्रः स्त्रः स्त्र स्रो । "य्यवाश्वः स्त्रेद्वाः व्यवः वार्ष्यद्वः स्त्रः स्त्रः स्त्रः स्त्रः स्त्रः स्त्रः स्त्रः स्त्रः स्त्रः

तुर'सळदा

१ ईसायदेवेयद्यो क्षेत्रप्तया हेश्यादे प्रवासित हिल्ला हिल्ला है स्वास्त्र है स्वास

বাধার্য ব্যব্দ

বনম:(বৃধ:গ্রীঝা