

Crane and Tortoise

Long ago, there are three daughters living with their parents. Elder two daughters married with nice husbands, but the husband of the third daughter was bit naive. One day, the parents of three daughters invited three husbands of their daughters. The husband of the third daughter had no gift to bring with him for the invitation, but wore snow shoes and brought his hunting gun. He found wild ducks on his way to his wife's home, and shot three of them by luck. The wife's parents were so pleased of his offering of three wild ducks. When the husband of the third daughter took off his snow shoes, lots of shrimps came out from his shoes. Then his wife's parents were decided to make shrimps' dumplings. He was not able to eat enough food at the dinner in front of his wife's parents.

The husband of the third daughter became so hungry in the middle of night, and asked his wife something to eat. The third daughter told him that she stored leftover shrimps' dumplings in a pot, so he went out the room to find the pot with dumplings. When he found the pot, he was so hungry that he put his head into the pot (*kame*), and got stuck. While he was not able to do anything with his head in the pod, the father of his wife came to the toilet. As there was no toilet papers left, the father used a stone instead of toilet papers, and threw the stone away. The stone hit the pot of the husband of the third daughter, and they looked each other with surprise. The father and the husband of the third daughter promised not to tell anyone about their embarrassing encounter.

The husband of the third daughter went back his room to sleep. While he was sleeping, a wild duck fried across him. He shot the wild duck and went back to sleep. Next morning, he offered the duck for the breakfast, and the father of the third daughter was so glad. The father started to drink and sung a song as follows: "A crane and a tortoise (*kame*) besides the pond...." As the husband of the third daughter heard the word "kame," (a "pot" and a "tortoise" are the same sounded words in Japanese.) he thought

the father revealed his secret that he had stuck in the pot, and sung loudly after the father “The father also cleaned his back with a stone.”