

## **The Boy Dreaming** *yumemi kozou*

Long time ago, there was a wealthy man. He called his servants on the second day of New Year, then asked what kind of first dream they had the previous night. All the servant reported his master about their first dream, except for the little servant. The little servant said, "I cannot tell you about my first dream, because it was too good."

There is a telling that the good dream has to be kept secret. The wealthy man offered some prize for his first dream, but the little servant refused to tell. The wealthy man was furious about his attitude and the little boy was pushed into a boat and sent out to the sea with a rice cake.

The boat reached to the island with monkeys. The monkeys were about to eat the little servant, but he barely escaped throwing a piece of rice cake towards the monkeys.

The boat flew and flew to the island with demons. The demons were also interested in the little servant. When they were about to eat the little servant, he threw a piece of rice cake again towards the demons. Without looking at the rice cake, the demons said, "We wonder whether we should eat from your head or toes". The little servant shouted, "I will tell you my first dream, which I did not tell even to my master. But what will you give me in return?" The demons offered him a swift wheel and a needle that can cure any kind of disease. The little servant drove away with a swift wheel, keeping a magic needle without telling the demons about his first dream.

The little servant took rest at a tea shed on his way back home. When he was eating a rice cake, he heard that a daughter of a wealthy man was seriously ill. He went out to see the daughter with his magic needle. When the daughter got well with the needle, her father asked him to marry his daughter. He married her.

The little servant had a happy time with his wife. One day her wealthy father told him that there is another girl suffering from ill on other side of the river. He went there and cured her ill again. Her father asked him to marry his daughter. The little servant said, "I cannot marry with to girl, as I have one body".

The wealthy man of the other side of the river made a golden bridge across the river. The first dream he saw on the New Year's day was about the golden bridge just like the one in front of him.