

Deity of Poverty and the Deity of Wealth *binbou-gami to fuku-no-kami*

Long ago, there used to be a very poor man as there was a deity of poverty in his house. The neighbors of his house could not just stand by, and helped him to find his wife. His wife worked so hard and the poor man also worked hard to help her. The deity of poverty gradually became uncomfortable to stay there.

One New Year's Day, the poor man and his wife heard someone crying in the attic. They found the deity of poverty crying as he had to leave the house before the deity of wealth moves in. The kind poor man and his wife told the deity of poverty that they will never mind if he stays at their home. The deity of poverty wept for joy.

As soon as the New Year's bell rang and the deity of wealth turned up, the deity of poverty quickly tried to kick the deity of wealth out from his place. The kind poor man and his wife supported the deity of poverty to push the deity of wealth down.

The deity of wealth was so shocked that he was not warmly welcomed at the poor man's house. Then the deity sadly walked back his own home. As the deity of wealth forgot to bring his mallet of good luck with him, the poor man and his wife lived rather happy life with the deity of poverty.