

### **Silence Contest Over a Rice Cake** *omochi hitotsu de danmari kurabe*

Long ago, there was an old man and his wife. One day, their neighbors gave them some of the rice cakes. They loved rice cakes. As there were seven rice cakes, they ate one each, first. Then they had another each. After they had next each, there was only one rice cake left.

“Let us have an silence contest. The one who were able to keep silence longer than the other will be the winner, and is allowed to eat the last rice cake,” said the old man. The old man and his wife went to bed earlier than usual as it was boring without chat.

That night a thief came into their house. Both the old man and his wife aware of the burglar, but they were not able to cry out. They pretended to be asleep and silently watched the thief stealing their things. Then the thief found the rice cake on a plate. “What a delicious looking rice cake!”, said the thief and he was about to eat the rice cake. The old man’s wife could not stop herself blurting out, “Hey! Don’t eat that.” The thief shocked of hearing her voice, and ran away, leaving everything.

The old man laughed and ate the rice cake, as he became the winner of the silence contest. The old man’s wife grumbled, “You owed me so much this time. The rice cake will not be here, if I did not stop the thief eating that up.”