

Japanese Fairy Tale Series, No. 4.

The Old Man Who Made
The Dead Trees
Blossom.



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日本昔噺第四號

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明治十八年八月十七日印刷

同 十月一日發行

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THE OLD

MAN

WHO

MADE

THE

DEAD

TREES BLOSSOM.



ONCE upon a time there was a kind old couple that kept a pet dog. One day the old man dug where the dog scratched and unex-



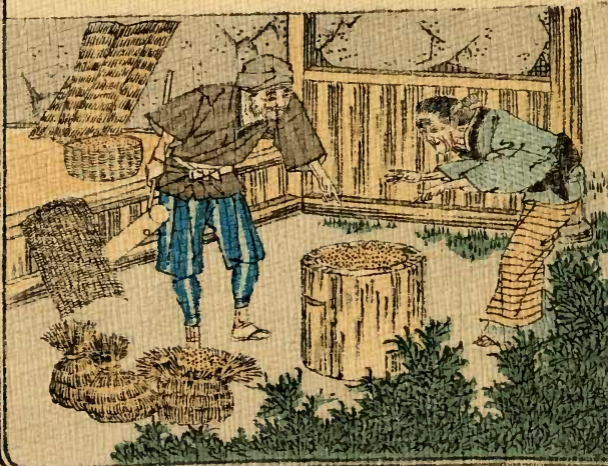
pectedly found a quantity of gold. Now there was a bad-hearted couple, their neighbors, who envied them their good fortune and asked them to lend their dog. As they would take no refusal, they got the dog; but when they took him along the road he would not scratch the ground. Therefore they made him scratch, and then dug where he scratched. But instead of finding gold, they only found a lot of



filthy stuff. Then they got angry
and killed the dog, and buried
him under a
small pine
tree by




the way-side. The pine tree suddenly grew to a great size; and the kind old man cut it down and made a mortar out of the wood. When he pounded barley in that mortar the barley would flow up



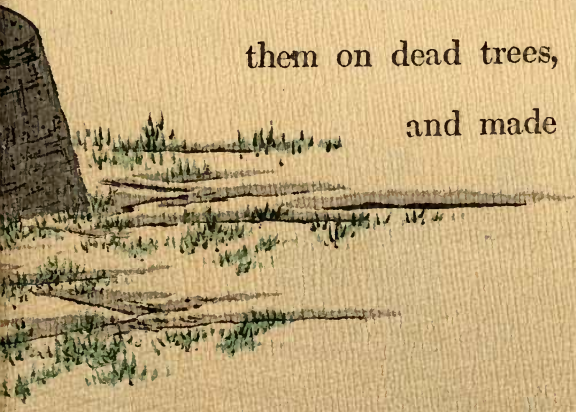
out of the bottom and over-flow
without end. His neighbor again
envied him, and borrowed his
mortar to pound his barley in.
But when he did so his barley
all turned out cracked and worm-







eaten. Then he became
still more enraged and broke
the mortar to pieces and used
it for fire wood. The kind old
man then took some of the ashes
of the mortar and scattered
them on dead trees,
and made



them blossm. He was

plentifully rewarded

for this with gold,

silver and pieces of

silk by the prince of

the country: and

so he came to

be called





“The old man who made dead trees blossom.” Again his neighbor envied him, and attempted to make dead trees blossom with the ashes. But when he took a handful and



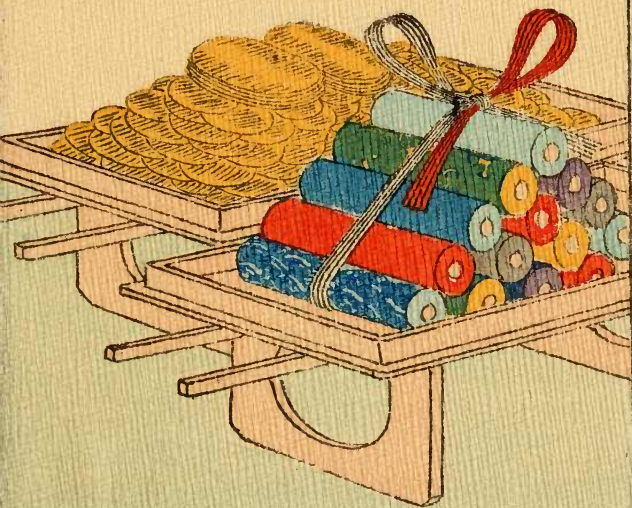
sprinkled it on the limbs of a dead
tree, the tree did not blossom,
but the ashes blew into the eyes

of the prince of the country. The retainers of the prince roared out: "That's a nice state of things!" and seized the old man, and all



hands gave him a sore beating. With his head bruised and bloody he barely escaped. In this condition his wife saw him returning in the distance. "My husband too, I see, has been rewarded by the prince with purple garments," she said. But while she was thus rejoicing, he came near, when she looked more closely and saw that her husband instead of being clothed in purple was stained with blood.

As to the man, he then took to
his bed sick, and at last died.



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