

The Story that a fox became a wife

Long, long ago, a wife who lived in Kyoto went out on business in the evening. As she hadn't come back for a while, her husband was anxious that something bad might have happened to her.

After a while the wife came home. But a few minutes later, another person who had the same face and the same clothes and the same manner entered the house.

He was so surprised that he couldn't speak a word.

He thought the one was a fox, but he couldn't tell the one from the other. He knew by intuition the one who came later must be a fox and pulled out his sword and raised it above his head.

The wife said to him, crying,

“What's the matter? Why do you try to kill me?”

So, he came close to the wife who came earlier and tried to kill her. But she also broke down and cried with her hands together.

He was at a loss what to do, but he was convinced the wife who had come earlier was still strange and caught her, when she passed water, which smelled so badly.

While he shrank from the odor, the wife changed into a fox and ran away from an opening of door to the street and gave a cry. Though he was regretful, what's done can't be undone. (2019/11/1 Kudos)



狐が人妻に変身した話

むかし昔、京都に住む妻が、夕方用事があって外出しましたが、しばらく帰ってこないのので、夫が、不審に思っている中に、妻が帰ってきました。

しばらくすると、同じ顔で、服装、物腰もそっくりの女が入ってきました。夫は、言葉も出ないほどびっくりしました。

きっと、一人は狐だろうと思いましたが、どちらが本当の妻であるか見分けが付きませんでした。直感的に、あとで入っ

てきた方が、狐だろうと考えて、夫は刀を抜いて、刀を振りかざしたところ、その妻は、

「これはどうしたのですか、どうして私を殺そうとするのですか。」と泣きながら言いました。

今度は、前に入ってきた妻を切ろうと近づくと、これも手をすりあわせて泣き崩れました。男は、どうしたものか途方に暮れましたが、やはり前に入ってきた妻が怪しいと思ったので、掴まえました。すると、その妻は、鼻も曲がるほどの臭いおしっこを漏らしました。夫が、その臭さにひるんでいる間に、その妻は狐になって、戸の隙間から道に飛び出して、「こーんこーん」と鳴いて逃げていってしまいました。男は、悔しがりましたが、後の祭りでした。(今昔物語 巻27 第39)

