The Old Man Who Has a Lump

  Long, long ago there lived an old man who had a lump in his cheek. One day he went to a mountain to gather firewood. That day it suddenly began to rain. So he sheltered in a small temple in the mountain.

Soon he fell asleep until he heard some music outside the temple. There were many ogres, red ogres and blue ogres, dancing and drinking, enjoying themselves. He felt like dancing himself because he liked dancing very much.

He forgot the fear and joined the circle of the ogre's dancing. They were very satisfied with his wonderful performance.

When it became light in the morning, the chief ogre said to him:

"You are a wonderful dancer. You can come tomorrow night. Until that time, I will keep your important lump." The ogre took his lump away.

  When he returned his home and told his old wife the whole story, the wicked old man next door listened to his story.

At that night he went to the temple instead of the former old man and waited for the time to come.

Soon many ogres began to gather and dance. He was very afraid of ogres.

As he wanted to have his lump taken away, at last he joined the circle and started to dance. But his performance and his singing were very poor.

The ogres got very angry and attached the lump to his another cheek.

〇いじわる爺さんはどうして「こぶ」をつけられたのでしょう。

こぶとり爺さん

　むかし、むかし、あるところに大きなこぶをもつおじいさんが住んでいました。ある日おじいさんは山へしばかりに行きました。突然雨が降ってきたので、おじいさんは小さなお堂の中に逃げ込みました。やがておじいさんは眠ってしまいました。

お堂の外のにぎやかな音でおじいさんは目を覚ましました。沢山の鬼たちが音楽に合わせて踊ったり、お酒を飲んだりしていました。おじいさんも踊りたくなって、お堂から出ると鬼たちの輪の中に入ってしまいました。おじいさんの踊りのうまさに鬼たちも大喜びです。夜が明ける頃、鬼のかしらがおじいさんに言いました。

「実に踊りが上手じゃ。また明日の夜来なさい。それまでお前さんのこぶを預かっておく。」と言ってこぶを取ってしまいました。

おじいさんは家に帰るとおばあさんに話しました。ところが隣りのいじわるじいさんが聞いていました。

　次の夜、いじわるじいさんはお堂に隠れると鬼が来るのを待ちました。しばらくすると鬼たちがあらわれ、踊り始めました。いじわるじいさんは鬼が恐くてしかたありません。でもこぶを取ってもらいたいので鬼の輪の中に入って踊り始めました。でも踊りも歌もとても下手です。鬼たちはとても怒ってこぶをつけてしまいました。