

A Mirror from Mother

Long, long ago there lived a young samurai(soldier) and his wife in a town. They had a little daughter.

One year the father went to Edo(Tokyo) to do his duty as a samurai. The young wife stayed with her daughter in the town and waited for him to come home.

When he came home, he never failed to bring souvenirs for them. He brought sweet cakes and a pretty doll for his daughter, and a mirror for his beloved wife.

She was very interested in the mirror because she had never seen it. She saw a face in it, which she didn't know, a woman's face, young and beautiful and smiling. She asked his husband who she was.

He smiled at her and said, "It's you. It's your face!"

She loved the mirror because it was a present from her beloved husband and kept it in a drawer for several years.

After some years of happiness, she suddenly became very ill. She knew she would die. She called her daughter to her bed and said to her daughter ,handing the mirror to her.

"My daughter. Listen to me! I am very ill. I can't live any more. But don't grieve for my death. If you look into the mirror, you can always see me."

After her death, the daughter looked into the mirror every day as she was told by her mother, who was always there in it.

She didn't know she was looking at her own face. When she looked into the mirror, she thought she was seeing her mother, as she looked exactly like her mother, young and beautiful.

She talked to her mother every day and loved the mirror better than any thing else.

The father sometimes noticed what his daughter was doing and said to his daughter one day.

"My daughter. Why do you speak to the mirror every day?"

"Because every time I look into it, my mother is in it. She is always young and pretty and smiling at me. I am encouraged by my mother in the mirror, though she never speaks to me." she answered.

Listening to her, the father couldn't say anything but tears spilled over and ran down his face.(2002.8.17 with Itaya)



松山鏡

むかし、むかし、ある所に、若いお侍さん夫婦が住んでおりました。二人には幼い娘さんがおりました。

ある年のことです。お侍さんは江戸に所用で出かけました。若奥さんは娘と一緒に帰りを待ちました。

夫は、いつも必ずお土産を買ってきてくれました。娘にはお菓子と人形を、愛する妻には鏡を買ってきました。

初めて鏡を見た妻は、興味津々でした。鏡の中に顔が、女の人顔が、若い美しい笑顔の顔が見えました。それが誰だかわかりませんでした。妻は、誰だか、夫に尋ねました。

夫はニコッと笑って言いました。

「お前だよ。お前の顔だよ。」

妻は愛する夫からの贈り物を大事に引き出しにしまっておきました。

数年の幸せの日々が過ぎた時、妻は突然の病に倒れてしまいました。死期を悟った母は、娘を枕元に呼び寄せると、鏡を手渡し、言いました。

「娘よ、よくお聞き！お母さんは病で、もう駄目です。でもお母さんが死んでも悲しがってはいけません。鏡を見れば、いつもそばにいますから。」

お母さんが亡くなり、娘は毎日鏡を覗きました。いつもそこにはお母さんがいました。

娘は自分の顔を見ているとは思いませんでした。鏡を見れば、お母さんに会えると思っていました。

娘はお母さんとそっくり、若く美しくなっていました。お母さんに毎日話しかけ、鏡を大事にしました。

父も、時々その光景を目にし、ある日娘に言いました。

「娘や。どうして毎日鏡に話しかけるのだ。」

「鏡を覗くと、いつもお母さんがいます。お母さんはいつも若くて綺麗で微笑んでくれます。話しかけてはくれませんが、いつも励ましてくれます。」

父は、娘の話聞き、言葉が出ません。涙が頬をつたわりました。(kudo)

