



# Japanese Tales from Times Past: Stories of Fantasy and Folklore from the Konjaku Monogatari Shu

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This collection of translated tales is from the most famous work in all of Japanese classical literature—the *Konjaku Monogatari Shu*. This collection of traditional Japanese folklore is akin to the *Canterbury Tales* of Chaucer or Dante's *Inferno*—powerfully entertaining tales that reveal striking aspects of the cultural psychology, fantasy, and creativity of medieval Japan—tales that still resonate with modern Japanese readers today.

The ninety stories in this book are filled with keen psychological insights, wry sarcasm, and scarcely veiled criticisms of the clergy, nobles, and peasants alike—suggesting that there are, among all classes and peoples, similar failings of pride, vanity, superstition and greed—as well as aspirations toward higher moral goals.

This is the largest collection in English of the *Konjaku Monogatari Shu* tales ever published in one volume. It presents the low life and the high life, the humble and the devout, the profane flirting, farting and fornicating of everyday men and women, as well as their yearning for the wisdom, transcendence and compassion that are all part and parcel of our shared humanity.

### Stories Include:

Wasps Attack a Spider in Revenge

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