

The Story of Kwairiyō.



小経

ashidori

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There was a falcon, called named Sajo, who lived in the district called Tamura-no-go, in the Province of Mutsu. One day he went out to hunt, with his falcon hawk; but he could not find any game. On his way home, however, at a place called A. he caught sight of a pair of mandoshinori (an. d.) swimming together in a stream. To kill such birds is thought to be unlucky; for the mandoshinori has long been the emblem of conjugal affection: but Sajo was hungry & disappointed; and so he at once seized his bow and shot at the pair. His arrow killed the male; but the female escaped into the rushes on the further side of the stream. Sajo took the dead bird home, and cooked it, and ate it.

That night he dreamed a painful dream. ^{He thought} A beautiful woman came and stood by his pillow, and began to weep so bitterly that the sound of her weeping pierced into his heart. And she cried out:—"Oh, why—why did you kill him? Neither to you nor to any one did my husband do any wrong,—and you killed him. Long we lived together at Akasumma—and we were happy, and we did no harm to men. Do you know what you have done?—what a cruel thing you have done? And you have killed me too; for I cannot now live without my husband. ^{That is what I came to say.}" Then she wept again so bitterly that the voice of her weeping seemed to pierce into the marrow of his bones,—and she looked out this poem.