

OLD TALES OF JAPAN

VOLUME 1



by
YURI YASUDA
illustrations
YOSHINOBU SAKAKURA

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OF
JAPAN**

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**ILLUSTRATIONS
YOSHINOBU SAKAKURA**

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FOREWORD

by

Elizabeth Gray Vining

The folk tales of the world are the heritage of the children of all nations. However language and customs may differ, the stories that come out of the childhood of mankind have a universal appeal. The characters and the settings vary, but the themes express lasting truths of human experience. The choice of the most modest of three boxes always brings a reward; a world-wide search finds its final goal at home; and animals repay human kindness; meddling with forbidden mysteries calls down disaster upon the disobedient one.

Here are three old Japanese tales translated and delightfully retold for English-speaking children by Mrs. Yasuda. The tongue-cut sparrow, the kind old man and the jealous old woman, Father and Mother Nezumi and their lovely daughter, and the fisherman who rode turtle-back to the Dragon Palace in the depths of the sea, will all find their way into the hearts of a new generation of children.

To
MY CHILDREN

who have brought me great happiness

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SHITAKIRI SUZUME



ONE fine day a little bird slipped from a tree and broke her wing. Birdies don't fall from trees but this was an unusual accident.