

Fukurasuzume - a japanese legend – fairytale – the tongue-cut sparrow.

'Nasakeji' an old man had a little sparrow as a pet. He called him 'Bidori'.

One day coming home 'Bidori' was missing. He went to his neighbour 'Arababa', a nagging old woman, asking her if she had seen the bird. Very angry she told him that the bird had picked in her homemade pie. As penalty she had cut his tongue.

Very sad the old man went into the forest where he expected to find 'Bidori'. - He called for him and soon 'Bidori' came flying by. 'Nasakeji' apologized for the bad behavior of this neighbour and offered to take him back home. 'Bidori' refused but as a joy he offered him two baskets.

A large big heavy one and a smaller lighter one. 'Nasakeji' as a rather old man took the smaller basket.

In his home he opened the present: it was full of gold, silver and jewels, making the old man rich.

'Arababa' the neighbour heard what has happened. Being of a mean and greedy disposition she also went into the forest, calling for 'Bidori'. When she met the little bird she apologized for her bad behaviour and asked for a present.

As expected she took the big heavy basket. 'Bidori' ordered her not to open it before arriving home. But she could not refrain from opening it to look for the treasure: A host of goblins and ghosts sprang forth and tortured her for the rest of her life.

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