

The Mountain Pass of Blowing Snow (吹雪峠)(3)

- 1) The policeman asks Tenkichi many questions, putting him in a bind. “This baby, her name’s Hitomi! She’s my little sister!” (protests Tenkichi). “But, your mom’s belly wasn’t big at all,” (says the policeman, keeping the pressure on). “B, bye...,” (says a nervous Tenkichi), taking off back home.
- 2) “That Tenkichi, he really had a tough time answering my questions – and running off like that. Well, I will have to go and have a talk with the village head. I will go and investigate tomorrow. I think that baby belongs to that lady,” (says the policeman to himself).
- 3) Tenkichi hurries back to his mountain pass home.
- 4) “Uncle, aunt, there’s trouble! Uhm, the policeman Ōgawa said this and that...,” (explains Tenkichi). “Aah, so, what did you tell him exactly?” (asks Ootoyo sternly). “I told him we bought the baby for 10,000 Yen!” (says Tenkichi). “I’m dumbfounded - you really are absentminded, aren’t you? Oh, we’re in for it now, what will we do?!” (says a worried Ootoyo). She goes to consult with Shinsaku.
- 5) “Dear, what shall we do? We might be asked to return the child to the parents,” (says Ootoyo). “Hmmm, even though we went to all the trouble to raise the child as our own...? Anyway, let’s think about it,” (says Shinsaku).
- 6) That night Shinsaku is unable to sleep, kept awake by his thoughts. “We don’t have any children of our own. We took in the child as our own, and raised it, only to have this happen... there’s no alternative other than to run away from this village,” (says Shinsaku to himself). The next morning...
- 7) “Hey, Ootoyo, what if we take the child and go to Tokyo? I am sure I could find some work. I don’t want them to take her away from us – I’ve made my

decision,” (says Shinsaku defiantly). “Is that so? Well, I am going along with you,” (says Otoyō reassuringly).

- 8) The family hurriedly packs their belongings, and leaves their mountain pass home, the one they have grown accustomed to living in over the years.
- 9) The family crosses the mountain pass into the neighboring village, catching a steam train they expect to take to Tokyo.
- 10) Policeman Ōgawa takes a member of the village office to the house of Shinsaku and his family. “Oh, look, there’s a notice,” (says the policeman). The notice reads: “We have been in your debt for a very long time. Thank you very much. We are going to Tokyo.” “They’ve gone to Tokyo?! Ah, that’s a pickle!” (says the policeman).

And then...