

Cat Wagon (猫車)(4)

- 1) “Prepare yourself monster!” (challenges the passing rōnin Akitsuki Hayato). He attacks the monster-cat. “MEEOOW!” (growls the monster). It glares at Akitsuki momentarily. Just then...

Note: a rōnin was a masterless samurai, either by choice or through the death etc. of his master.

- 2) ...Ochiyo, who the monster-cat had helped in a moment of danger, runs home, having escaped the clutches of Gonta. “Kōshichi, Kōshichi,” (calls out Ochiyo). “Dear sister what is it?” (asks a worried Kōshichi).
- 3) “Just now, Gonta tried to sell me into slavery. Because of the danger, I cannot remain here. Let’s run away to our uncle’s place, on the opposite side of the mountain pass,” (insists Ochiyo). “Yes, that’s best,” (replies Kōshichi).
- 4) The siblings quickly make preparations. “If we take this, this and this, we’ll be fine,” (says Ochiyo). “Sister, it would be better if we came back and got that later,” (says Kōshichi).
- 5) The two, fearing an attack by Gonta’s gang, leave for the uncle’s house on the opposite side of the mountain pass. Just then...
- 6) Akitsuki Hayato and the monster-cat are fighting ferociously. “Yar!” (yells Akitsuki), “Grrr!” (goes the monster-cat).
- 7) “Growl!” (goes the monster-cat) “Uh, no good!” (winces Akitsuki). The monster-cat has grabbed Akitsuki’s sword with its teeth. As can be expected, Akitsuki can’t get out of this tough situation. Then he grabs for his short sword with his left hand...

- 8) ... “Yar! (yells Akitsuki). “Yeow!” (screeches the monster-cat). The monster-cat is surprised by Akitsuki’s two sword attack; leaps into the air, and just like that, runs off.
- 9) “Hhm, I’ve come across a frightful, magical being. No mistaking, it’s able to transform itself into a cat... Well, I am going to leave no stone unturned until I find it and exterminate it!” (says Akitsuki with resolve).
- 10) Tama, having escaped Akitsuki’s blade, climbs onto the roof of her home and begins to cry, “Mee-oww, Mee-oow” but Ochiyo and Kōshichi are no longer there...

Well...