

JAPANESE FAIRY TALES

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Japanese Fairy Tales by Lafcadio Hearn

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LAFCADIO HEARN

**JAPANESE
FAIRY TALES**

JAPANESE FAIRY TALES
BY LAF CADIO HEARN
AND OTHERS



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The versions of the first four tales in this volume are by Lafcadio Hearn. The others are by Grace James, Professor Basil Hall Chamberlain and others.

The Lafcadio Hearn tales in this volume are reprinted by arrangement with Captain Mitchell McDonald of the United States Navy, Hearn's friend and literary executor.

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CHIN-CHIN KOBAKAMA

THE floor of a Japanese room is covered with beautiful thick soft mats of woven reeds. They fit very closely together, so that you can just slip a knife-blade between them. They are changed once every year, and are kept very clean. The Japanese never wear shoes in the house, and do not use chairs or furniture such as English people use. They sit, sleep, eat, and sometimes even write upon the floor. So the mats must be kept very clean indeed, and Japanese children are taught, just as soon as they can speak, never to spoil or dirty the mats.

Now Japanese children are really very good. All travelers, who have written pleasant books about Japan, declare that Japanese children are much more obedient than English children and much less mischievous. They do not spoil