

Students translated a famous Japanese folk tale, "The Moon Princess."

The Moon Princess

Translated by Students in English-Expression-II Class

Long time ago, there was an old couple. They cut bamboo trees for a living and used them for various things. One day, the old man found a shining bamboo. Inside, he found a girl who was only nine centimeters tall. They decided to raise the girl themselves. After this day, the old man found gold coins in many bamboo trees every day and became rich. The girl grew up to be an attractive woman in only three months. She was called "Nayotake-no-Kaguyahime," the Moon Princess. Many men wanted to marry the Moon Princess. They tried to see the Moon Princess, by digging a hole in order to see her. Therefore the word "yobai," a night-creeping was born.

Finally, only five men remained who had been proposed to her. The grandfather told the Moon Princess, "You should marry one of them." However, the Moon Princess said, "I will marry the one who can get what I request." Then she told him five very rare things that were to be found and be brought to her. In actuality, those things did not exist in the world and none of them could complete her difficult mission. Among the five men, one even got sick in the process of pursuing the present, and eventually died.

Meanwhile, the Prince of the country heard about the Moon Princess and wanted to see her. His request to meet her was rejected to meet her three times but he didn't give up. In many letters he wrote, "Please give me a chance." Finally, one day the Prince pretended to be hunting near the Moon Princess residence, and eventually went into the house of the Moon Princess. Inside, He found the Moon Princess. She was so brilliant and beautiful. The Moon Princess disappeared quickly but the Prince could not believe that such a beautiful person existed in this world. At home, the Prince met many pretty court-ladies. However, after seeing the Moon Princess, he had lost any interest he had in these ladies and thought only about the Moon Princess.

Then, the Moon Princess and the Prince started to exchange letters and it continued for three years. Meanwhile, the Moon Princess began to think deeply, watching the moon. One night in August, when the full moon appeared, she began to cry hard. She confessed that she had to go back to the moon, which was her true home. when



the Prince heard this, he sent a big troop to her house. On August 15th, about 2000 samurai soldiers gathered outside the Moon Princess' residence. They guarded the Moon Princess day and night. The grandmother kept the Moon Princess in the room at the very back of the house. The grandfather stood in front of the house. The Moon Princess said that she didn't want to return to the moon but she seemed to have already given up. She told her grandparents, "I am so sorry that I have to say good-bye. You loved me so much. People up on the Moon are very beautiful and never get old forever, but I don't care about that gift."



In the middle of the night, many people came from the sky riding on clouds. Closed doors opened and the Moon Princess departed. The people from the moon had a medicine for immortality. The Moon Princess licked it and wrote a letter to the Prince. "Now, I have to wear a legendary robe of feathers. I'm sorry that I have to go. I will miss you." She gave him the letter and

the medicine for immortality. Then the Moon Princess lost her mind and soon felt happy, because all her sadness was just gone.

The Prince was very sad. He ordered his subjects to burn the letter and the medicine for immortality, for "fushi 不死" on the highest mountain in the country. The mountain was named "Fuji-no-yama," which means immortality in Japanese language. The smoke still rises from the top of the mountain.

