

One day Yuka had been heard to make much fun of her neighbor Taka Hasche, who was very ugly. This made Taka the more spiteful than ever. He felt he never could forgive Yuka. He sat in his little garden sometimes and thought how best he could pay her out, who had openly made fun of him in public. So he thought and thought, and then his thoughts grew into shape, and his face cleared and he jumped to his feet delighted at a sudden idea that had come to him. This was what he had thought. He would make Yuka his wife. Nothing could be better. She who had always flaunted him so should be made to submit to him; Ido who had helped her, should have her taken from him. He knew how poor and yet ambitious Yuka's mother was, and he also knew of the advantage to be gained by him in the eyes of the people by having a wife of Samourai blood. He began at once to take steps. He did not go himself to her mother and ask her in marriage; he hired a professional Nakoda, (a matchmaker) and this man did the business for him.

It takes a great deal of tact to be a Nakoda. They must never be known as such if they wish to succeed in their business.

Taka Hasche's Nakoda was a very discreet man. First he began simply to stop to chat with Kasaka Onoto; then in a quiet manner he praised Yuka's beauty; then he spoke with respect of her blood; then he hinted that she ought to make a rich marriage; finally he expressed surprise at the idea of Kasaka Onoto thinking of giving her to Ido. Of course, this could not but have effect on a weak, vain woman like Kasaka Onoto; but it had none whatever on Yuka, because of the blood of her father, which would not be influenced by flattery. So Kasaka grew to be discontented. She found fault with Ido, grew positively to hate poor Ido - in a fit of petulance she forbade him to come any more to the house to see Yuka.

So the lovers did not see each other often, but only at intervals, when they met at friends' houses, and then Ido would look so sad that Yuka grew impatient with him sometimes, and said "Kitishima Ido,

what think you - that I be untrue to you? !"

They did not dare to arrange meetings whereby Yuka's mother would not know, for it is so strongly a thing of duty to obey the parent, that they never dreamed of doing otherwise. Besides Ido's parents had taken umbrage at the slight cast upon their son, and there had been words passed between the two families. But Ido knew instinctively the places Yuka would be most likely to be, and Yuka went more often to one place when Ido had chanced to be there before, and thus they met, and were dearer to each other than ever. Ido often grew despondent, but Yuka, never. Her sharp mind had made her understand what had caused all this, and true to her race there was growing up in her heart an honest desire for revenge. Just as Takahashi had wanted to punish her, so now she wished to punish him, only her feeling was deeper and more intense, for she was a woman.

Things went on in this way for some time. The Nakoda went back and forth from Takahashi's house to Onoto's. Soon he had Onoto in his net, and they began to make terms by which Yuka should be given to Takahashi. Finally all was completed, and Nosse Onoto betrothed her child to Takahashi.

When Yuka first heard it she only bowed her head gracefully, and so well did she hide her true feelings, that her mother thinking she had become resigned, was delighted, for Takahashi was a very rich man. She was mistaken. No true Japanese will allow themselves to