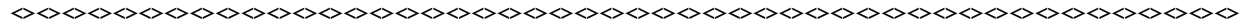


The Stonecutter  
A folktale from Japan  
by Lisa Blau

CHARACTERS: (6) Narrator 1 Narrator 2 Narrator 3 Narrator 4 Narrator 5 Stonecutter



Narrator 1: Once upon a time there was a Stonecutter.

Narrator 2: Every day the Stonecutter cut stones from the mountain and put them in his cart.

Narrator 3: The Stonecutter worked hard all day with his chisel and his hammer.

Narrator 4: All day, every day, the Stonecutter worked. He cut the stones and he put them in his cart.

Narrator 1: One day the hot sun beat down upon the Stonecutter.

Stonecutter: How I wish I could be strong and powerful like the Sun.

Narrator 1: Said the Stonecutter.

Narrator 5: Now it just so happened that a mountain spirit lived nearby.

Narrator 2: When the mountain spirit heard the Stonecutter's wish, he decided to grant him the wish.

Narrator 3: The Stonecutter became the Sun!

Stonecutter: Look at me! I am the Sun! I am powerful! I am strong! I am the most powerful thing in the world!

Narrator 4: Just then a Cloud floated in front of the Stonecutter.

Stonecutter: With that Cloud in front of me, I cannot shine brightly. The Cloud is more powerful than the Sun. How I wish I were a Cloud!

Narrator 2: And as before, the wish was granted and the Stonecutter became a Cloud.

Stonecutter: It is fun to be a Cloud. I can rain upon the mountains and gardens. I am very powerful.

Narrator 3: Just then a strong Wind blew and pushed the Cloud across the sky.

Stonecutter: The Wind is so strong. It is stronger than a Cloud. How I wish I could be the Wind!

Narrator 1: And as before, the wish was granted and the Stonecutter became the Wind!

Stonecutter: It is grand being the Wind, for I am so strong and powerful!

Narrator 2: Then the Wind bumped into the Mountain.

Stonecutter: Aha! The Mountain is stronger than the Wind! I wish to be a Mountain!

Narrator 3: And just like that, the Stonecutter became a Mountain!

Stonecutter: Look at me! I am a strong and powerful Mountain!

Narrator 4: Just then, the Stonecutter felt something. He looked down and saw a man with a chisel and a hammer. The man was cutting the stones from the Mountain and placing them in his cart.

Stonecutter: Who dares to cut away at this Mountain? I see now that the Stonecutter is stronger than any Mountain. How I wish that I could be a mighty Stonecutter!

Narrator 5: His wish was granted.

Narrator 2: The Stonecutter cut stones from the mountain and put them in his cart.

Narrator 4: He worked hard all day with his hammer and his chisel and he said...

Stonecutter: I am a mighty Stonecutter. I am strong and powerful!

Narrator 1: And then the Stonecutter never made another wish.