NECK PULLING

(Kubi-Biki)

Father Demon

Chinzei

Daughter Demon

Demons

CHINZEI I am from Chinzei. I have been in the Western Region on business for a long time. But everything is settled, so now I am hurrying home to the capital. It is often and well said that one never forgets one’s hometown. And everybody there is likely wondering what I have been doing and when I will come home. So when I get there and tell them of the success of my business venture, I am sure they will all rejoice. Well, I have already arrived at a broad plain. I wonder what it is called. Oh, I see. It is the Inami Plain in Harima. Suddenly clouds have gather and I hear a roaring sound from that mountain. I need to get out of here fast and find a village where I can take shelter. I hope I can find one without anything happening to me.

FATHER I’ll catch and eat you!

CHINZEI How frightening! A demon has appeared.

FATHER I’ll catch and eat you!

CHINZEI I beg you to let me live.

FATHER Hey, you rascal!

CHINZEI Aagh!

FATHER You hateful rascal! This is the Inami Plain. Nobody passes through here after twilight. You must be very brave. I will eat you head and all in one bite.

CHINZEI I am not brave at all. Please let me go on living.

FATHER You don’t want to die?

CHINZEI Indeed, I do not want to die.

FATHER Then raise up your face.

CHINZEI I will.

FATHER Wait there.

CHINZEI I will.

FATHER What to do? He is a really handsome. What a waste to gobble down such a man. I have a daughter, so I will have her eat her first man. Hey, did you hear me?

CHINZEI What is it?

FATHER I have a daughter who has not yet eaten a man, so I think I will give you to her as her first man-feast. Choose whether you want her or me to eat you.

CHINZEI If I must die, I choose her to eat me.

FATHER Good choice. So I will bring my daughter, so don’t move.

CHINZEI I will not move.

FATHER Hey, where is my daughter?

DAUGHTER My father calls for me. I wonder what he wants. What do you want?

FATHER I want you to do something. First come in here.

DAUGHTER I will. Now what do you want me to do?

FATHER It is just that a nice man has come here, so I want to give him to you as your first man-feast. I had him wait over there, so go and eat him.

DAUGHTER That is too embarrassing for me to do.

FATHER If you keep refusing, when will you have your first man-feast?

DAUGHTER Then I will have a look at him.

FATHER That’s good.

DAUGHTER Oh, he is handsome, so please let him live.

FATHER It is because he is handsome that I give him to you for your first man-feast, so stop refusing and go eat him.

DAUGHTER Then I want you to chew him to pieces for me first.

FATHER No, because that would not make him your first man-feast.

DAUGHTER Then at least come and stay beside me while I eat him.

FATHER I will stay beside you, so go eat him.

DAUGHTER Alright. Shall I begin by eating his arm, or his leg, or his head?

CHINZEI (He coughs)

DAUGHTER He scared me.

FATHER What’s wrong?

DAUGHTER He scolded me.

FATHER You say he scolded you?

DAUGHTER He did.

FATHER Don’t worry. I’ll scold him.

DAUGHTER Please scold him.

FATHER Hey, why did you scold my dear daughter?

CHINZEI I have a cold and sometimes I cough. I think she was frightened by my cough. Please forgive me.

FATHER You say you coughed?

CHINZEI Yes, I coughed.

FATHER What a bother! Hey, daughter, he says he simply coughed and didn’t scold you. How could you let a cough scare you?

DAUGHTER But his cough was frightening.

FATHER There is nothing to fear, just go back and eat him.

DAUGHTER I will. Shall I begin by eating his arm, or his leg, or his head? Ouch!

FATHER What happened?

DAUGHTER He hit me hard.

FATHER He hit you?

DAUGHTER He did hit me.

FATHER What a hateful rascal. I will go scold him.

DAUGHTER Go scold him quickly.

FATHER Hey, why did you hit my dear daughter?

CHINZEI When I get excited, I use my fan in defense. The end of my fan just touched her. Please forgive me.

FATHER So you used your fan?

CHINZEI I used my fan.

FATHER What a bother! Hey, daughter, this time he used his fan in defense and the end touched you. There is nothing to fear, just go back and eat him.

CHINZEI Excuse me.

FATHER What is it?

CHINZEI They say demons are honest. Frankly I do not want to be simply gobbled down. Let me compete with her. If I lose, I will accept defeat, but if I win, please let me live.

FATHER This is reasonable. So how will you compete?

CHINZEI I will arm wrestle.

FATHER I am good at arm wrestling. Let’s have a bout.

CHINZEI If you are to eat me, I would have a bout with you, but since your daughter is to eat me, I will arm wrestle with her.

FATHER This is reasonable. So I will tell her what you said. Wait right there.

CHINZEI I will wait here.

FATHER He says that there should be a competition, and if he loses, he will accept defeat, but if he wins, he wants me to let him live. When I asked him what sort of competition, he said he want to arm wrestle, so go and arm wrestle with him.

DAUGHTER I do not want to do such a rough thing.

FATHER For a daughter of mine, you are very cowardly, I will go along with you, so go and arm wrestle with him.

DAUGHTER Then come along with me.

FATHER I will come along. Hey, you, come over here.

FATHER I will be your referee.

CHINZEI What an honor.

FATHER Ready, go!

CHINZEI Here goes.

DAUGHTER Ouch, ouch, oh, ouch!

FATHER What’s wrong?

DAUGHTER He squeezed my gentle willowy arm roughly.

FATHER He squeezed you?

DAUGHTER He did, and it still hurts terribly.

FATHER I will scold him.

DAUGHTER Scold him quickly.

FATHER Hey, you rascal! Why did you squeeze her gentle willowy arm roughly?

CHINZEI Well, since it was a competition, I attacked her a bit strongly. Please forgive me.

FATHER This is reasonable. So how will you compete next?

CHINZEI Next, let’s do knee wrestling.

FATHER That sounds interesting. Here, daughter, he says that since it was a competition, he attacked you a bit strongly. And he begs forgiveness. So for the next competition, he says he will do knee wrestling. So go over there again.

DAUGHTER I will. You come with me.

FATHER Yes, I will come with you. You go over there again

CHINZEI I will.

FATHER I will be your referee.

CHINZEI What an honor.

FATHER Ready, go!

CHINZEI Here goes.

DAUGHTER Ouch, ouch, oh, ouch!

FATHER What’s wrong?

DAUGHTER He squeezed my soft thigh with his hairy leg.

FATHER You say he squeezed you?

DAUGHTER That he did. Ouch, ouch, oh, ouch!

FATHER Don’t worry. I will scold him again.

DAUGHTER Please scold him.

FATHER Hey, you rascal. Why did you squeeze her soft thigh with your hairy leg.

CHINZEI Since I am fighting for my life, I must have attacked her strongly. Please forgive me.

FATHER Then I forgive you. And what will you do next?

CHINZEI Let’s do neck pulling.

FATHER That is even more interesting. Here, daughter, when I scolded him severely, he said he is fighting for his life, and begged me to forgive him. And he says he wants to do neck pulling next, so go over there again.

DAUGHTER Then you come with me again.

FATHER I will come with you. You also go over there.

CHINZEI I will go over there.

FATHER Here, daughter, put this around your neck.

DAUGHTER I will do that.

FATHER You also must put this around your neck.

CHINZEI I will do that.

FATHER I will be referee again.

CHINZEI What an honor.

FATHER Ready, go.

CHINZEI Here I go.

FATHER Oh, wait a minute. Since my daughter is weaker, I will call out our demon relatives and have them help her.

CHINZEI That will be a bother.

FATHER What sort of bother? Hey, relatives!

DEMONS Here we are.

FATHER My daughter is doing neck pulling, and since she is the weaker, you all join in and help her.

DEMONS We will help her.

FATHER I will lead your chorus, so pull in rhythm.

DEMONS We will pull in rhythm.

FATHER Here goes, pull, pull.

DEMONS Here goes, pull, pull.

FATHER Pull you demons, pull with all your might.

DEMONS Here goes, pull, pull.

FATHER My daughter is weaker, so you demons, pull with all your might.

DEMONS Here goes, pull, pull.

FATHER Pull all you demons, pull with all your might.

DEMONS Here goes, pull, pull.

CHINZEI Down you go! I won, I won!

DEMONS We’ll catch and eat you.

DAUGHTER Oh, I say, take me along with you all. Wait for me, just wait for me.