

# **JAPANESE MYTHOLOGY**

## **(THE TWO FROGS)**

In the town of Osaka, by the coast, a frog lived in a small ditch. The frog hopped around his ditch, wistfully wishing to see more of his native land; hoping there was more out there than his little dwelling in Osaka. In the city of Kyoto, another frog lived in a clear stream which wound through the city. He too hopped about in the stream, and wondered what more there could be to see in the world.

Though the two frogs knew nothing of one another, they each set out from their opposing cities, venturing across the land to the city of the other. It was a crisp morning in the spring when the frogs began their separate journeys.

With a distance of 30 miles between the two cities, and unaccustomed to long distance travel, the frogs found themselves tired out by their journeys. As they each approached the halfway point between Osaka and Kyoto, there stood a great mountain.

With great effort, the two frogs ascended the mountain. The frog from Kyoto ascended the Eastern side whilst the frog from Osaka ascended

the Western side. Hop by hop, the frogs made their way to the apex of the mountain.

Upon reaching the top of the mountain, the two frogs met eye to eye. For a moment, they watched one another in silence, shocked that another frog should be in such an unusual location. Quickly, the two frogs began to talk about the places they'd come from. The frog from Kyoto talked about how his city was quite dull and he'd grown tired of it. The frog from Osaka responded, explaining that his city was boring and uneventful, and he sought something new and different.

The two frogs felt a mutual bond based on the fact that they'd both set out upon journeys for similar reasons. Worn out from ascending the hill, the two frogs found a cool, damp spot in which to sleep, agreeing to set off on their separate ways the following day.

The following day, in the early morning light, the two frogs talked about how, from their vantage point atop the mountain, they could stand on their hindlegs and hold onto one another. With their combined height, they could see the remainder of their journey laid out before them.

The two frogs jumped up, holding onto one another's paws so that they would not fall down, whilst rising high on their hind legs so that they could see as far as possible. The Kyoto frog's nose pointed Westward,

and the Osaka frog's nose pointed Eastward.

Unfortunately, the two frogs forgot that their eyes were on the back of their heads, and though their noses pointed to the direction they wish to travel, their eyes were looking back on their home towns.

The Kyoto frog looked at his home town, thinking he was looking upon Osaka. The Osaka frog looked at his home town, under the impression he was looking upon Kyoto.

The two frogs dismissed their destinations as no different from the places they had come, and elected to end their travels and simply return home.

Q: What is the overall message of this passage?

A: Always make sure you know your destination.

Q: Where did the Osaka frog live?

A: In a ditch

Q: Why did the frogs leave their homes?

A: To see something new, to see more of their native land.