Mukō Yokochō 向こう横丁 (Mukō Yokochō)

Traditional Children's Song from Edo period (1603-1868)

Arranged by MOTOORI Nagayo 本居長世 (1885-1942)

むこう よこちょうの おいなりさんへ 向こう横町のお稲荷さんへ

Mukō yokochō-no oinarisan-e ([I went] to the Inari shrine on the alley on the other side,)

(other side alley of Inari shrine to)

いっせん あげて 一銭上げて

Issen agete (Offered one cent,)

(one cent gave)

ざっと おがんで おせんの ちゃやへ ざっと拝んでお仙の茶屋へ

Zatto ogande Osen-no chaya-e (Prayed briefly and [I went] to Miss Sen's tea shop.)

(briefly prayed Miss Sen's tea shop to)

こしを かけたら しぶちゃを だして 腰をかけたら渋茶を出して

Koshi-o kaketara shibucha-o dashite (As I sat down, bitter tea was served)

(hips put down bitter tea presented)

しぶちゃ よこよこ よこめで みたらば 渋茶よこよこ横目で見たらば

Shibuca yokoyoko yokome-de mitaraba (Bitter tea side side, when I saw with my sideways glance)

(bitter tea side side side eye by when I saw)

こめの だんごか つちの だんごか 米の団子か 土の団子か

Kome-no dango-ka tsuchi-no dango-ka (Sweet rice dumplings or soil dumplings?)

(rice of sweet dumplings or soil of dumplings)

おだんご だんご お団子 団子

Odango dango (Dumplings, dumplings)

(dumplings dumplings)

このだんごをこの団子を

Kono dango-o (These dumplings)

(these dumplings)

いぬに やろうか ねこに やろうか 犬にやろうか 猫にやろうか

Inu-ni yarō-ka neko-ni yarō-ka (Shall I give them to a dog or to a cat?)

(dog to give or cat to give ?))

とうとう とんびに さらわれた とうとうとんびにさらわれた

TŌtŌ tombi-ni sarawareta (In the end they were snatched by a black kite.)

(in the end black kite by was taken away)

⁻This was a traditional children's song, which was sung while (usually) girls were playing with a ball (mari).

- -All letter g's in the text are pronounced [η], soft and nasal sound. But it must be short. However, "dango" will have a double η sound [da η η o].
- -Oinarisan (Inari shrine) is a popular type of Shintō shrine and associated with fox and rice. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inari_shrine
- -Osen (Miss Sen) (1751-1827) worked in a tea shop in Edo (Tōkyō) and famous for her beauty.