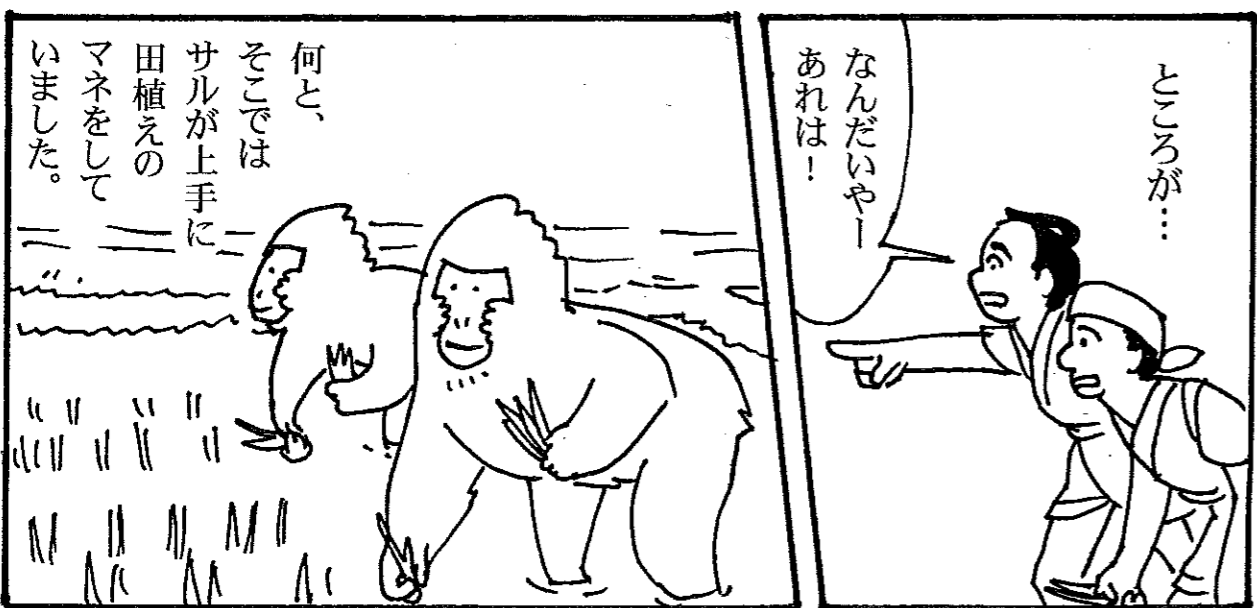
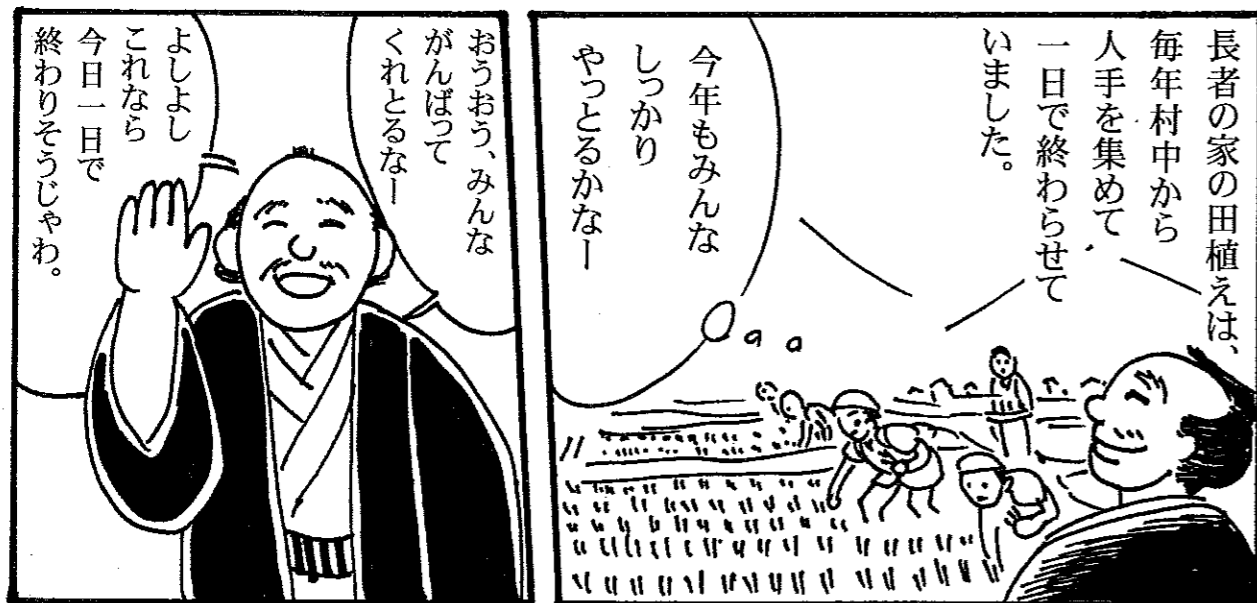


むかし、むかし
 有名なぶげんしゃ
 (お金持ち)が
 湖山に住んでいました。
 家は大変大きく
 まるでお城のように
 立派で、
 持っている
 田んぼは
 海のように
 広がったと
 いわれています。
 そのぶげんしゃは
 湖山長者と
 呼ばれていました。
 大変にお金持ちなので
 何でも自分の
 思い通りになると
 思っていました。

湖山長者

浮土 蘭・画



「まんが 湖山昔話」

Folk Tales from Lake Koyama

むかし、むかし [...] 思っていました。

Once upon a time there lived a very wealthy man, whom people called "the rich man from Koyama". He had a house as big as a castle, rice fields as large as the sea and was so wealthy, that he thought he could always have things his way.

湖山長者 浮土蘭

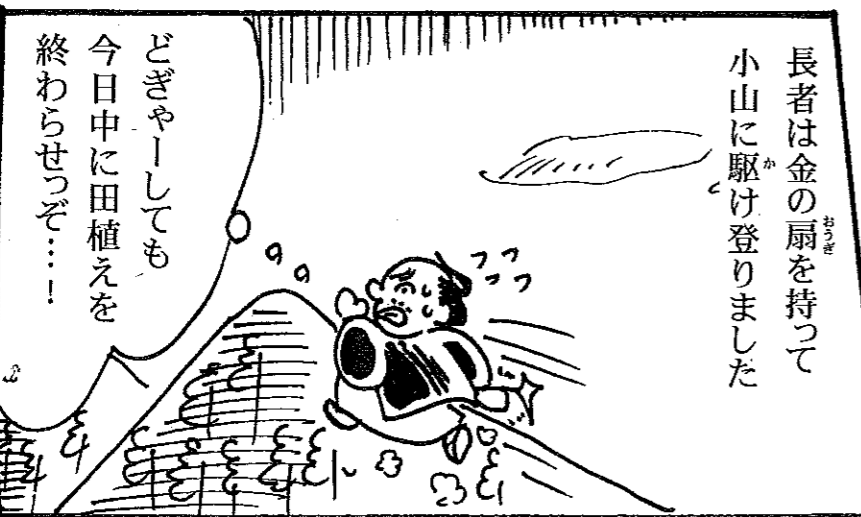
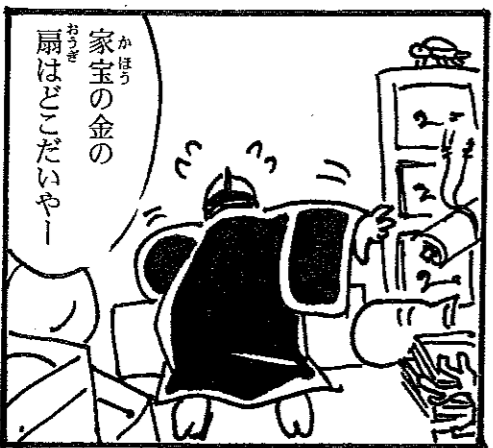
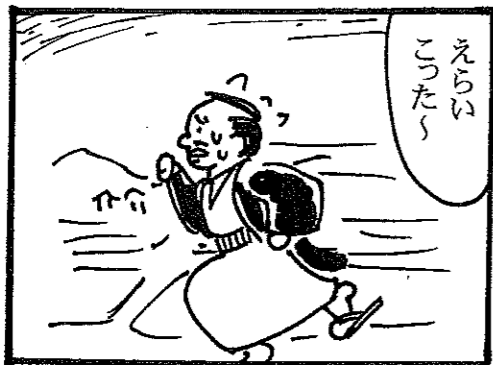
The rich man from Koyama (illustr. by Ukizuchi Rin)

Every year, the rich man would gather the villagers and have them plant his rice fields all in one day.
 "Hopefully they'll work as diligently as last year..."

"Oh, keep up the hard work!
 "Good, at this pace, we will finish all the planting today."

But then...
 "What ...!? Did you see that?"

...the villagers spotted monkeys in the fields that were skillfully imitating the villagers' rice planting.



Soon, everybody gazed in total amazement at the monkeys.
"The monkeys are copying us."
"Gee, so meticulous."

The sun was about to set and the rich man came to look after his fields.

"What!? It's getting dark and work is still not finished?"

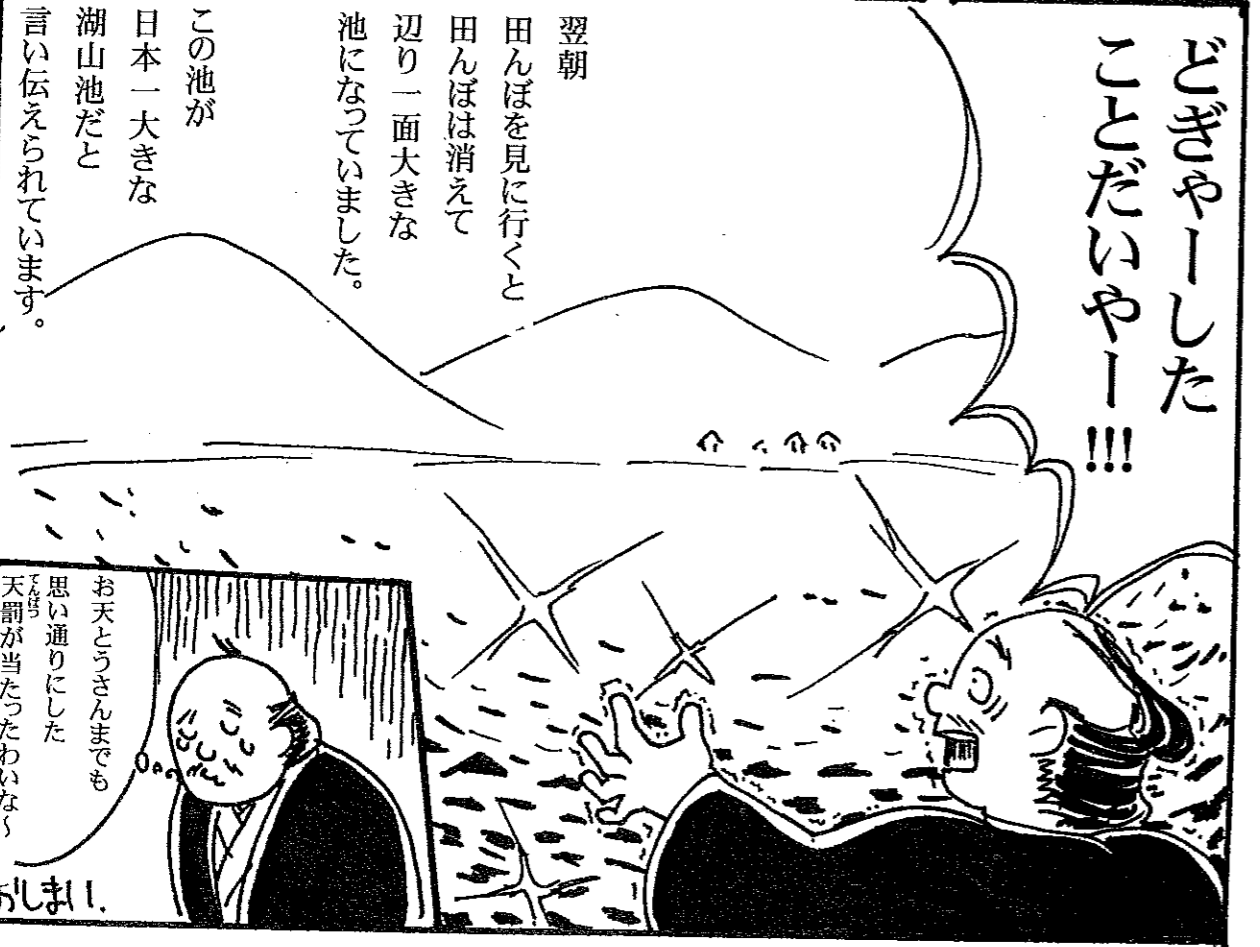
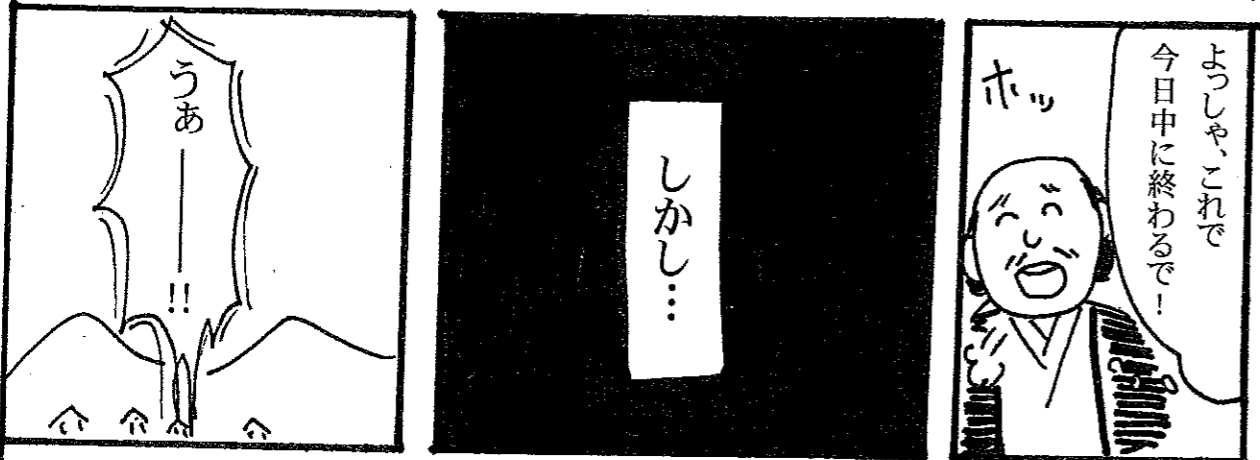
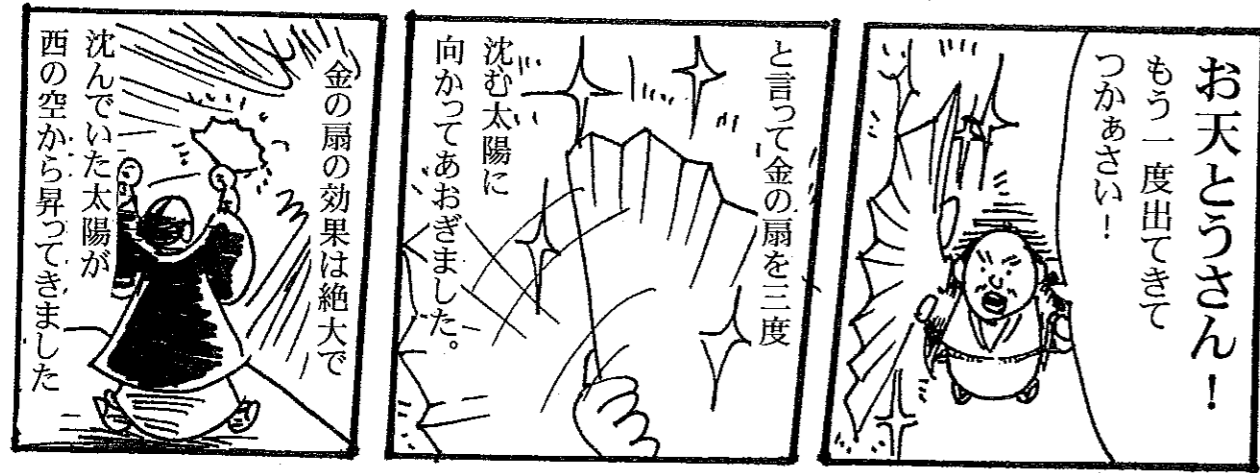
"This is bad!"

"Where is my precious golden fan?"

"There!"

The rich man grabbed the fan and hurried to the top of a nearby hill.

"I will have the planting finished today, no matter what!"



"Sun! I beg you, rise again!"

Three times he called upon the setting sun and waved his golden fan.

The effect was exceptional. Indeed, the sun began to rise again.

"Excellent, this will get the work finished today."

However...

"Nooooo..."

"What happened?!"

When the rich man came to look after his fields the next morning, they had all but vanished and a great lake had appeared instead. This lake is Lake Koyama and it is one of largest in Japan.

"That must be my punishment from heaven for trying to have even the sun do my bidding."