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One Inch Boy

Long ago, a gentle old couple went to the temple every week. They would ask Buddha to bless them with a child. They pleaded, "Please give us a cute baby".

One morning they heard a baby crying outside their home. They were very surprised and went to look. They said, "What a cute baby, it is a one-inch boy. They carried him carefully into their home. They called him Issunboshi. They lived happily together.

The years passed happily, but Issunboshi didn't grow at all. He had the heart of a lion, and he always said, "I will be a strong samurai". One day he decided to go to Kyoto. His parents were sad but cheered him on. They said cheerfully, "Do your best".

The quickest way to Kyoto was by river. Issunboshi set off in a boat made from a rice bowl. His paddle was one of his mother's chopsticks. He looked back at his parents. They shouted, "Be fine", it was sad, but they kept brave faces.

In Kyoto, he found a big house, and he worked there. He was appointed as a special bodyguard to the cute Princess Makiko because he was small but strong. They became close. One day, the princess was suddenly attacked by a demon. When the brave Issunboshi tried to help her, he was eaten by the demon. Inside the demon, he stuck the demon's stomach with a needle instead of a sword. The demon screamed out in pain, "Stop, stop!" The demon spat Issunboshi out of his mouth and ran away to the mountain. The princess said, "Thank you very much".

Finally, Issunboshi shook the gravel dropped by the demon and began to grow and grow and grow. He married the princess. Not forgetting his loving parents, Issunboshi invited them to share his home and newfound happiness in Kyoto. And they all lived happily ever after.