

KINTARO  
The golden boy  
by  
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## **KINTARO by Dean Lundquist**

### **CHARACTERS**

STORYTELLER

KINTARO

BEAR/DEMON KING

MOTHER/HARE/DEMON GUARD

RAIKO/MONKEY

STORYTELLER

Some years ago in old Japan,  
Is where this story first began.  
It is the story of a boy  
Who brought his mother special joy.  
In the mountains they made their home  
Where Kintaro was free to roam.  
On his chest written so bold  
Was a symbol that named him "gold."  
To fend off any wild attacks  
He wielded a mighty axe.  
He travelled far from west to east,  
And had the power to speak with beasts!  
*(KINTARO prepares to chop down a tree)*

BEAR

Hey little boy! Don't chop down that tree! These  
forests here belong to me!

KINTARO

Listen to me, bear. I'll wrestle you for the tree. If I  
win, I can cut it down. If I lose, you can keep the tree  
and I will go away.

BEAR

You want to wrestle me? Very well!

*(They wrestle sumo-style. The MONKEY and the HARE come to  
watch. KINTARO is the victor.)*

BEAR

I can't believe it. How is it that a boy your size could  
beat me?

KINTARO

Easy, I am Kintaro, the Golden Boy!

HARE & MONKEY

Kintaro! Kintaro! *(he scares them)*

HARE

Please don't hurt us!

MONKEY

Let us go in peace.

KINTARO

I have no need to harm you. In fact, why don't we all be friends? Come, let's leave this tree. It's time to eat and I can smell my mother's cooking. Come with me. Maybe she's made enough for us all.

*(KINTARO climbs upon the BEAR's back and they all leave together. They continue on as the storyteller proceeds.)*

STORYTELLER

Kintaro's father fell from grace  
And dared not ever show his face.  
And that is why he left his life  
And moved away with his dear wife.  
He passed before his child was born  
And his young bride was left forlorn.  
But when the day her child came  
She could not think of an apt name.  
It was a Friday, this she knew,  
The golden day. She thought it through  
And named him for that special day  
And raised him in his father's way.

HARE

Kintaro! How can we cross this ravine?

MONKEY

There is no bridge. We must find another way.

BEAR

What are you thinking, Kintaro?

KINTARO

This mighty tree would make a fine bridge, I think. I'll push it over and then we can cross. *(He grunts and strains and pushes over a tree. KINTARO and the animals cross. As the storyteller relates the tale, the action happens in pantomime)*.

STORYTELLER

Kintaro to his home returned  
But not alone, as he soon learned.  
For lurking very closely by  
Was a most famous samurai.  
He witnessed the boy's weighty deed  
And knew the boy was bound to lead.  
Lord Raiko was the strange knight's name

He knew of the boy's father's shame,  
But loved his father as a brother,  
So he met both son and mother.  
He was met with certain awe  
When his mother's face he saw.

RAIKO  
Could it be?

MOTHER  
Lord Raiko?

RAIKO  
Yayoi?

MOTHER  
It is I.

RAIKO  
I thought you were lost. Where is Kintoki, your husband?

MOTHER  
I'm afraid he has passed. There is only Kintaro and I  
now.

RAIKO  
I have witnessed this boy's strength and find it  
marvellous.

MOTHER  
He's the strongest in the forest.

RAIKO  
Kintaro, I have a favour to ask of you.

KINTARO  
Yes?

RAIKO  
I knew your father well. He was a good man, put to shame  
by a horrible demon.

KINTARO  
A demon?

RAIKO  
Yes, and if your mother permits me, I'd like to train you  
as a samurai so that you can avenge your father's shame.

KINTARO  
Okaasan? Can I go?

MOTHER

What will I do without you, Kintaro? My golden boy?

KINTARO

Don't cry mother. I will be back soon, I promise.

MOTHER

Lord Raiko, he is such a young boy. I know what must be done. But he is simple and innocent in the ways of the world. So please take care of him.

RAIKO

Yayoi, know that your husband was like a brother to me. And I will do my best to ensure young Kintaro is safe and to bring honour upon himself and his family.

MOTHER

Well, then. Goodbye, my golden boy.

KINTARO

Goodbye, Mama. I'll be back soon, I promise!

STORYTELLER

Having gained Lord Raiko's praise,  
The boy learned the warrior's ways.  
He trained and studied night and day  
To slay foes the samurai way.  
Raiko tutored him at length  
To harness all his inner strength.  
So that his father's shame were through  
He taught him lessons old and true.  
He said that life is as a dream  
Things are not always as they seem.  
The Golden Boy he would remind,  
His greatest weapon was his mind.

KINTARO

Lord Raiko, when will I wield a golden sword like yours?

RAIKO

Kintaro, you have weapons more powerful than this sword.

KINTARO

You mean my axe? I can cut down a tree in one swoop!

RAIKO

That may be true. But a warrior knows that his greatest strength lies within.

KINTARO

I don't understand.

RAIKO

Many years ago, your father went to kill an evil demon that plagued us all. Your father was strong, but he was no match for the Demon King. They battled and the Demon King had beaten him. But rather than kill him, the Demon King let him live in disgrace. Ashamed to show his face in the city, he and your mother went to live in the mountains. But you, Kintaro, as strong as you are, may still not be strong enough to beat him.

KINTARO

I am the strongest boy in all the land!

RAIKO

The Demon King is strong of body. So you must have a greater weapon than your strength. You must beat him with your body, your heart and your mind.

KINTARO

Yes, Lord Raiko.

RAIKO

When you have defeated him, you will gain a reward greater than any golden sword.

STORYTELLER

With carefulness they did prepare  
To journey forth into the lair.  
As if guided by divine will  
They travelled through both swamp and hill.  
Over the mountains, through the trees  
Propelled by an auspicious breeze  
They journeyed to the fabled place  
To confront that demon face.  
With steady pace and will divine  
They soon arrived at an old mine.  
There stood a guardsman: red, irate,  
A demon sentry at the gate.

RAIKO

Kintaro, look there.

KINTARO

I see them.

RAIKO

A demon guard blocks the entrance. How shall we get passed him?

KINTARO

I know. I will take some of this red mud and smear it on my face. Then he will think I am a demon like him!

RAIKO

It just might work. Go ahead. (*KINTARO smears his face with red mud*)

KINTARO

There. How do I look?

RAIKO

I hope this works. (*KINTARO approaches the DEMON GUARD*)

DEMON GUARD

Who is that?

KINTARO

It's me. A demon child who loves to dance and sing!

DEMON GUARD

What do you want?

KINTARO

To perform before the Demon King!

DEMON GUARD

Show me!

KINTARO

*(he dances and sings a silly song)*

There was once a golden boy  
The strongest of his day!  
He would dance with silly joy  
And often would he say,  
"Some day the demons I'll destroy  
And send them all away!  
I will meet the Demon King  
And show him he's no match!  
I will laugh and dance and sing;  
His crown I will then snatch!"

DEMON GUARD

Ha! Ha! You are the funniest demon child I have ever seen. I am sure the King will be entertained! Come, follow me.

STORYTELLER

Fooled by his false red demon skin  
The foolish guard then let him in.

He led him through the darkened cave—  
Kintaro thought "I must be brave!"  
He would soon face the Demon King  
But this time he'd not dance and sing.  
He'd bring the demon to disgrace  
By wiping the mud from his face  
And then reveal his true self  
That he was no little red elf!  
And everyone would sing his song  
For setting right his father's wrong.

DEMON KING

Who is it that disturbs me?

DEMON GUARD

Your majesty, this demon boy has a hilarious tale to tell you. He sings and dances about a Golden Boy who will come and destroy all the demons! Ha! Ha! You must see it to believe it!

DEMON KING

Such a delightful bit of entertainment is not suited for guards. Leave us!

DEMON GUARD

Yes, your Majesty. *(he exits)*

DEMON KING

Now, demon boy. Show us this silly tale of how a boy can come and destroy the demons.

KINTARO

Your Majesty. Performing for the royal guard has made me tired and thirsty. Could I have some water to quench my thirst?

DEMON KING

Of course. Here. *(KINTARO washes his face with the water)* You are a funny boy indeed. That water is for drinking, not washing your face!

KINTARO

I am no demon, you silly fool! I am Kintaro! The Golden Boy come to defeat you! *(they fight without weapons. KINTARO defeats him)* You are not fit to wear a crown!

DEMON KING

Mercy, mighty warrior!

KINTARO

You shamed my father, Demon King. And for this you must pay. But to end your life would pay no debts. When you defeated my father, you doomed him to a life of shame. I shall subject you to the same fate as him. (*KINTARO puts the DEMON KING's crown upon his head and ties the DEMON KING up*)

STORYTELLER

The demon king was thus beguiled;  
Made captive of the Golden Child.  
Lord Raiko and the Golden boy  
Paraded him to cheers of joy.  
All up and down the city square  
The people stopped to have a stare.  
Kintaro freed them of their fear:  
They called him "hero," far and near.  
The Demon King, with great disgrace,  
Apologized to save his face.  
And in a show of pride and grace  
He told the demon, "flee this place".

RAIKO

Citizens! Listen here. Before you stands the great Kintaro—the golden boy. Son of Kintoki, the great samurai warrior. This day, he has captured the Demon King and avenged his father's shame.

KINTARO

People! Look at this demon who has plagued you for so long. No longer will he steal your children, eat your pets or frighten you in the middle of the night. He is a king no longer. Demon, do you have anything to say for yourself?

DEMON KING

I am sorry for the things I have done. Please forgive me.

KINTARO

Do you know that if you trouble these people again, I will hunt you down as I have now?

DEMON KING

Yes, great Kintaro.

KINTARO

I will let you go if you promise to go away and never be seen by human eyes again.

DEMON KING

Then so it must be.

KINTARO

Very well. Run away, Demon, never to return. (*he runs away*)

MOTHER

Kintaro, why have you let him go?

KINTARO

Mother? The demon knows that I will find him if he troubles us again. As Lord Raiko has taught me, mercy is a gift that only can be bestowed by champions.

LORD RAIKO

Agreed. Now, Kintaro, I promised you a reward for defeating the Demon King.

KINTARO

But I thought redeeming my father was its own reward.

LORD RAIKO

It is, indeed. And can only pale in comparison to this golden sword. (*he gives KINTARO a sword*) A golden sword for a golden boy.

MOTHER

I am filled with pride. If only your father had seen this glorious day before he died.

STORYTELLER

So Kintaro had saved the day  
His friends returned to hear him say  
All was well and would ever be  
Because he had set them all free  
From the fear of demon's ways  
Not just for now, but future days.  
He brandished his bright golden sword  
And cherished his special reward.  
His father's name had been restored  
For he had smote the demon lord.  
But some did fear he would return  
To make Japan's villages burn.

DEMON KING

Oh, when Kintaro's gone I may  
Return unto this land some day!  
(*he laughs maniacally*)

[END]