



**"Hi! My name is Mariko.
I live in Japan.
I am Japanese".**

THE STORY OF HIROSHI

*"One, two, three, follow me!
Come and see my country!
Read the story
of a man who was bored
and searched and searched
for something more!"*

This is the story of Hiroshi. Hiroshi is a miner. He works all day long inside a dark mountain and pounds, pounds, pounds with his hatchet... He pounds in the morning and pounds at night. He pounds in the summer, in the autumn, in the winter and in the spring.

*"I want to make a tunnel!
I want to make it round!
I want to make it deep and long!
I dig and pound! I dig and pound!"*

But Hiroshi is not very happy with what he does. He wants to do something different, something more. One day he sees a caravan of merchants and sighs:
"Oh... I want to be a merchant too! I'm tired of this boring life! I want to be rich and happy!"

The merchants see him too and ask him to follow them. And after a few years Hiroshi opens his own little shop and is very happy. Now he sells china and sings:

*"I'm tired! So tired!
My life is a bore!
I'm so very tired!
There must be more!"*

*"Teapots and plates!
Vases and jugs!
Cups and saucers!
Bowls and mugs!"*

Now I am happy! I have a big shop and I sell five thousand different things made out of china!"

But one day a very important mandarin enters Hiroshi's shop. Two men are carrying him in a bamboo chair while another one is fanning him with a silk fan. He buys cups and saucers, teapots and jugs and when he is about to leave Hiroshi sighs: "Oh... I want to be a mandarin too!"

The mandarin hears Hiroshi, turns around and smiles. "Come with me!", he says. "You can work for me and live a better life!"

And... after a few years Hiroshi becomes a mandarin himself and works for the Emperor! But... "It's so boring to obey orders all day long!", says Hiroshi. "I want to be as powerful as the sun!"

And, like magic, Hiroshi becomes the sun himself! But soon a grey cloud covers him. "Mmmh... Clouds can be more powerful than the sun!", he says. "I want to be a cloud!"

And... like magic Hiroshi becomes a big grey cloud. But very soon he sees that the wind is more powerful!

"Mmmh... The wind can take me wherever it wants! I want to be the wind!" And, he becomes the wind.

*"I push and pull and know no rest.
I blow and blow and go... around the world!"*

But the wind flies around like crazy. It crashes against anything it meets on its way: trees, hills and... mountains! "I want to be a mountain!"

And... like magic he becomes a mountain. But soon after he feels someone poking at his feet and pounding in his skin... Yes! A miner is working his way through the stone walls of the mountain...

Hiroshi understands and says: "True power lies in patience! I want to be a miner again!"

*"I will make a tunnel!
I will make it round!
I will make it deep and long!
I will dig and pound, dig and pound".*