

しゅりじょうせいでん

首里城正殿のヒミツ

Secrets about the Seiden
Main Hall of Shuri Castle

しし

ぼたん

獅子と牡丹

Lions and Peonies





Wow!



How lovely!

Lions with
beautiful
flowers!



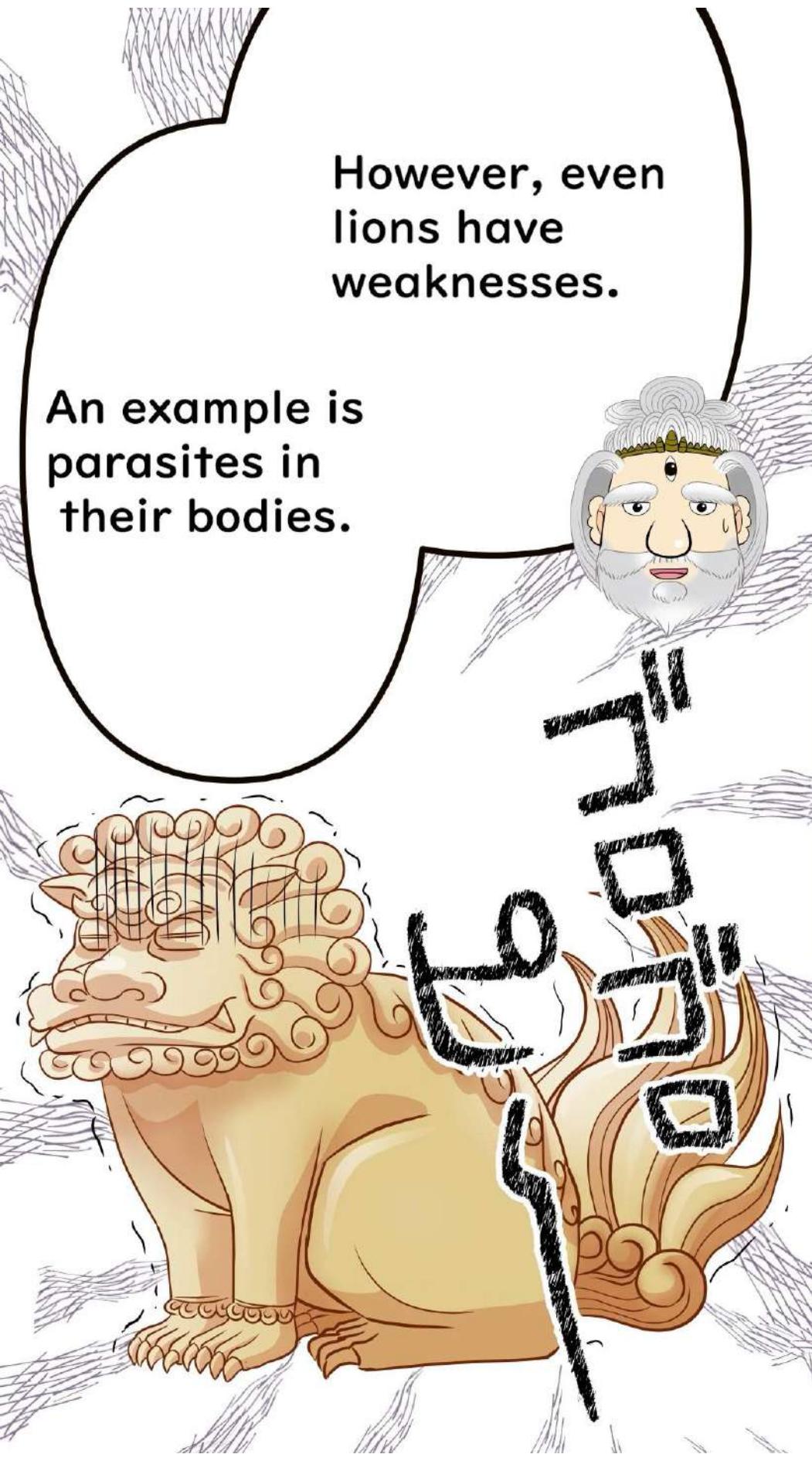
What do you
mean,
Hakutaku?

They are lions
and peonies.



The lion is traditionally the king of beasts.



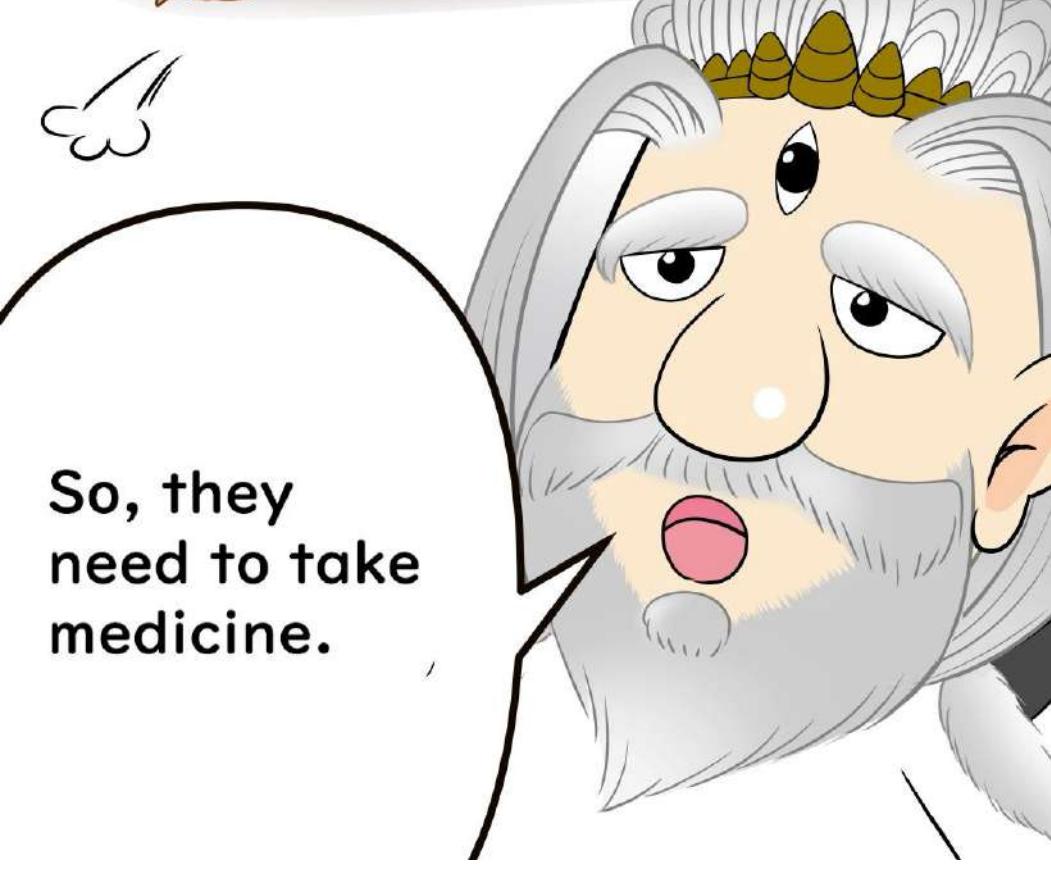
A stylized illustration of a lion standing on the left, facing right. The lion has a golden-yellow coat with black outlines for its mane and features. On the right, a man with a long white beard and hair, wearing a golden crown, stands looking towards the lion. A large speech bubble originates from the man's head, containing the text.

However, even lions have weaknesses.

An example is parasites in their bodies.

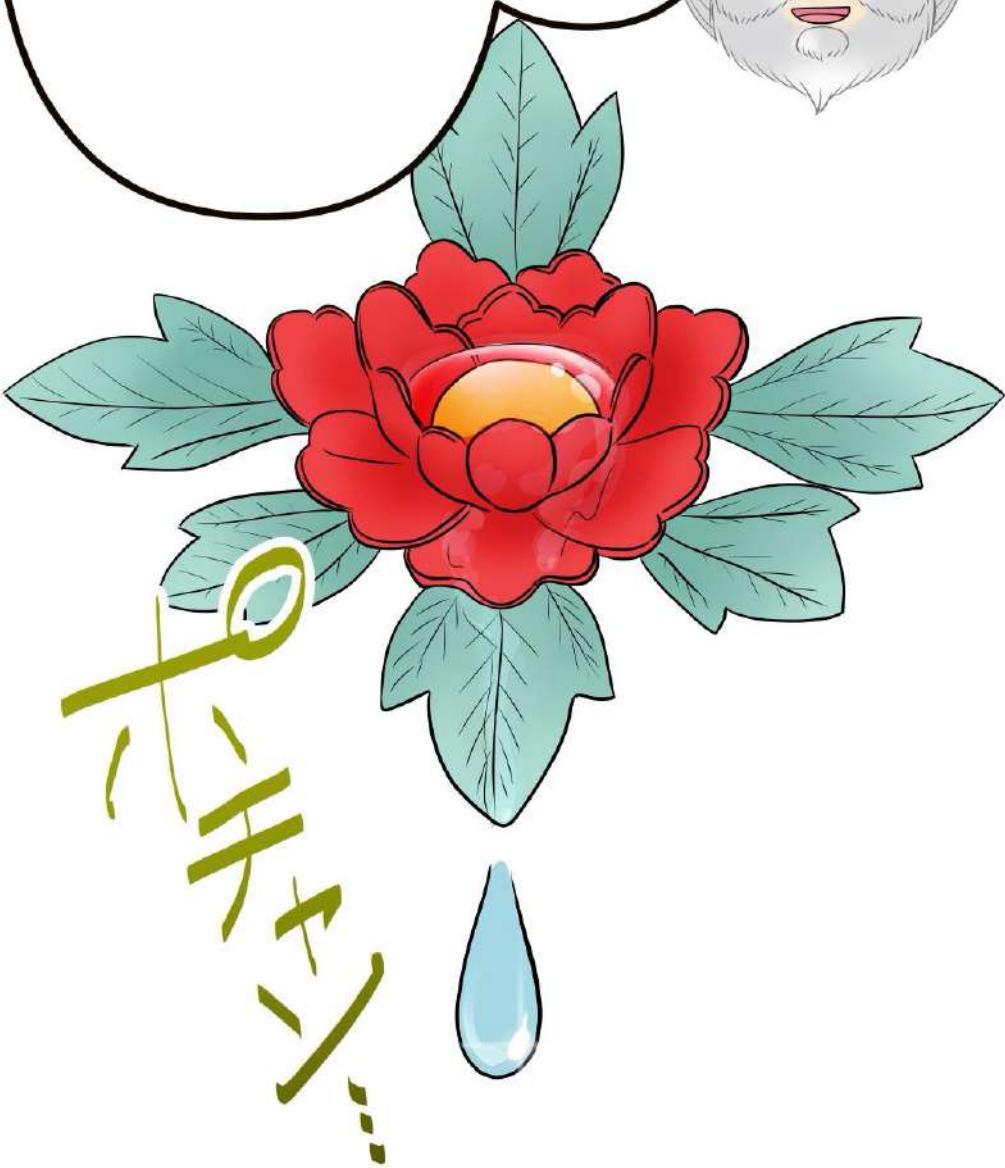


Lions cannot remove parasites from their body.



So, they need to take medicine.

They take
morning dew
drops on the
petals of peonies
as medicine.



To protect themselves,
the beasts cannot part
from peonies.

I see.





As a symbol of strength,
lions are hidden together
with peonies all over the
Seiden Main Hall.



Let's go
and find them!

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Main Hall of Shuri Castle

りゅう かえんほうじゅ

龍と火焔宝珠

Dragons and flaming jewels





Hey,
Hakutaku.

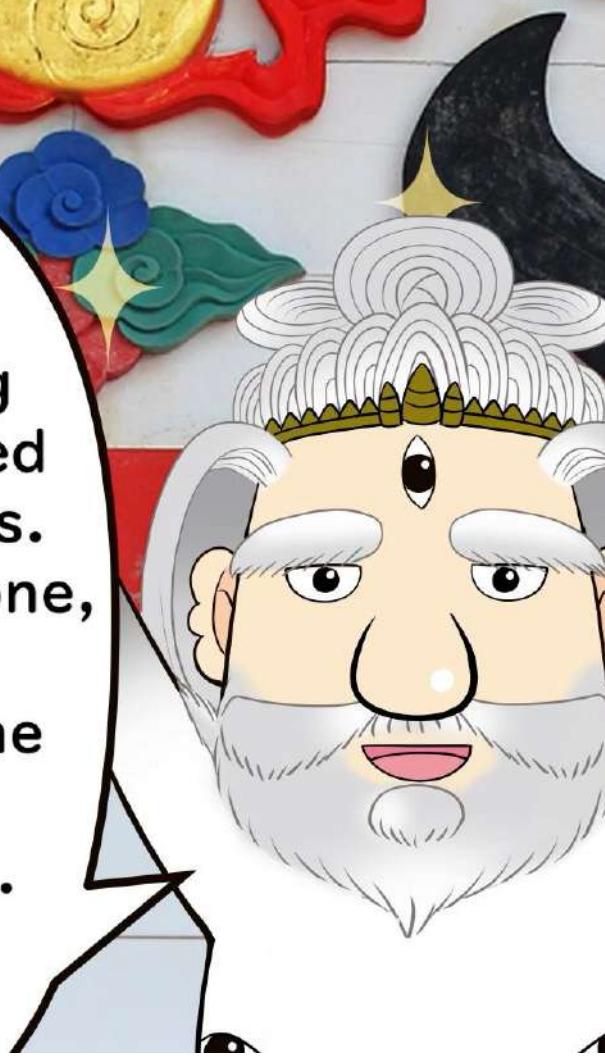


Shuri Castile has a lot
of paintings of dragons
and flaming balls.
Is there any reason
for this?





These flaming
balls are called
flaming jewels.
If you catch one,
you can make
your wish come
true,
whatever it is.





Apparently,
a pair of dragons
are fighting over
the jewel.



Maybe
that is true.

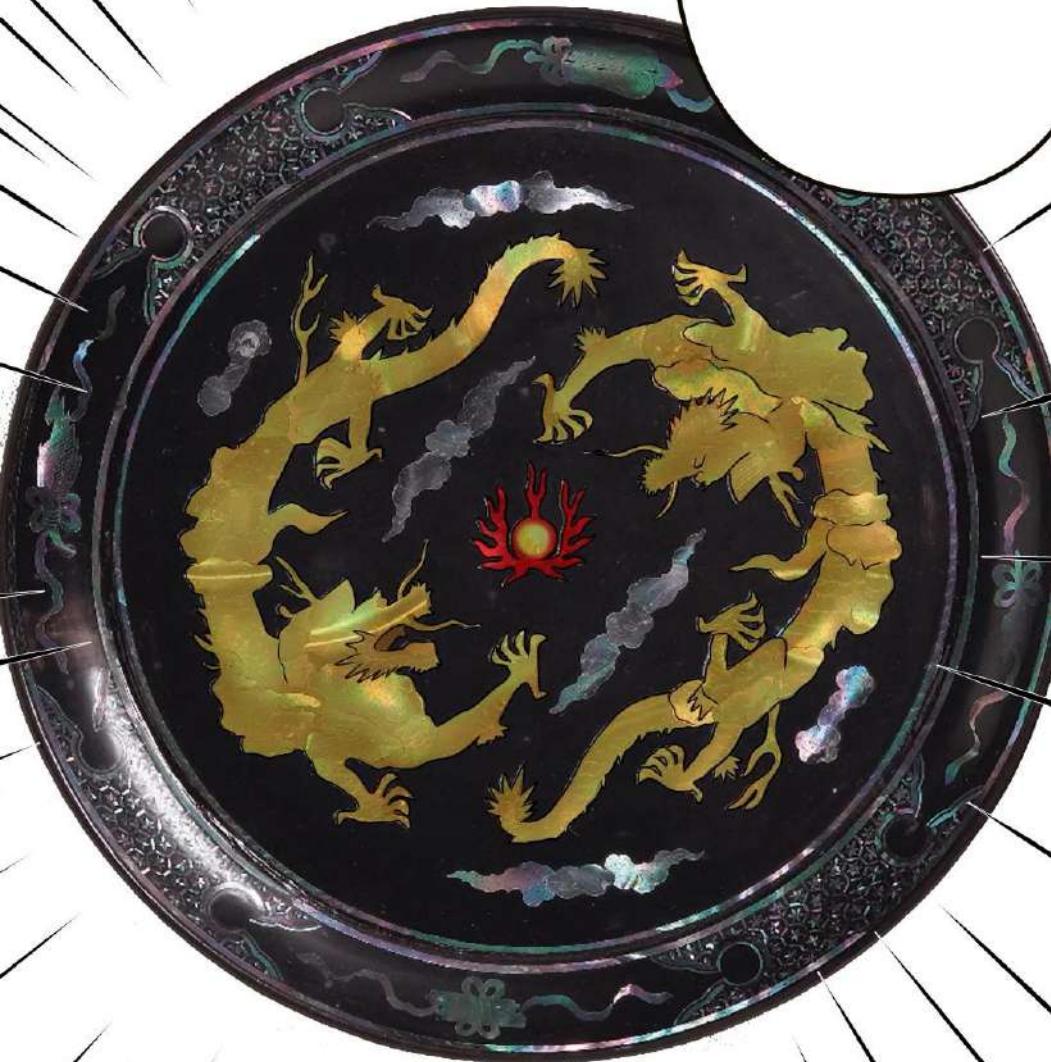




**Dragons and
flaming jewels are
also depicted on**



lacquerware



**Black Lacquered Mother-of-Pearl
Inlay Tray with a Motif of Clouds
and Dragons**

A photograph of a person from the waist up, wearing a vibrant orange garment. The garment has a large, stylized yellow and red dragon motif on the left side. The background fabric is pink with blue and green swirling patterns. The person's head is replaced by a white circle containing a cartoon illustration of an elderly man with a long white beard and a crown.

Bingata-dyed fabrics





It seems like the
Ryukyuan people of the
past loved this motif.



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ぶどうりす

葡萄と栗鼠

Grapes and Squirrels





This is a throne.

Squirrels are depicted here.





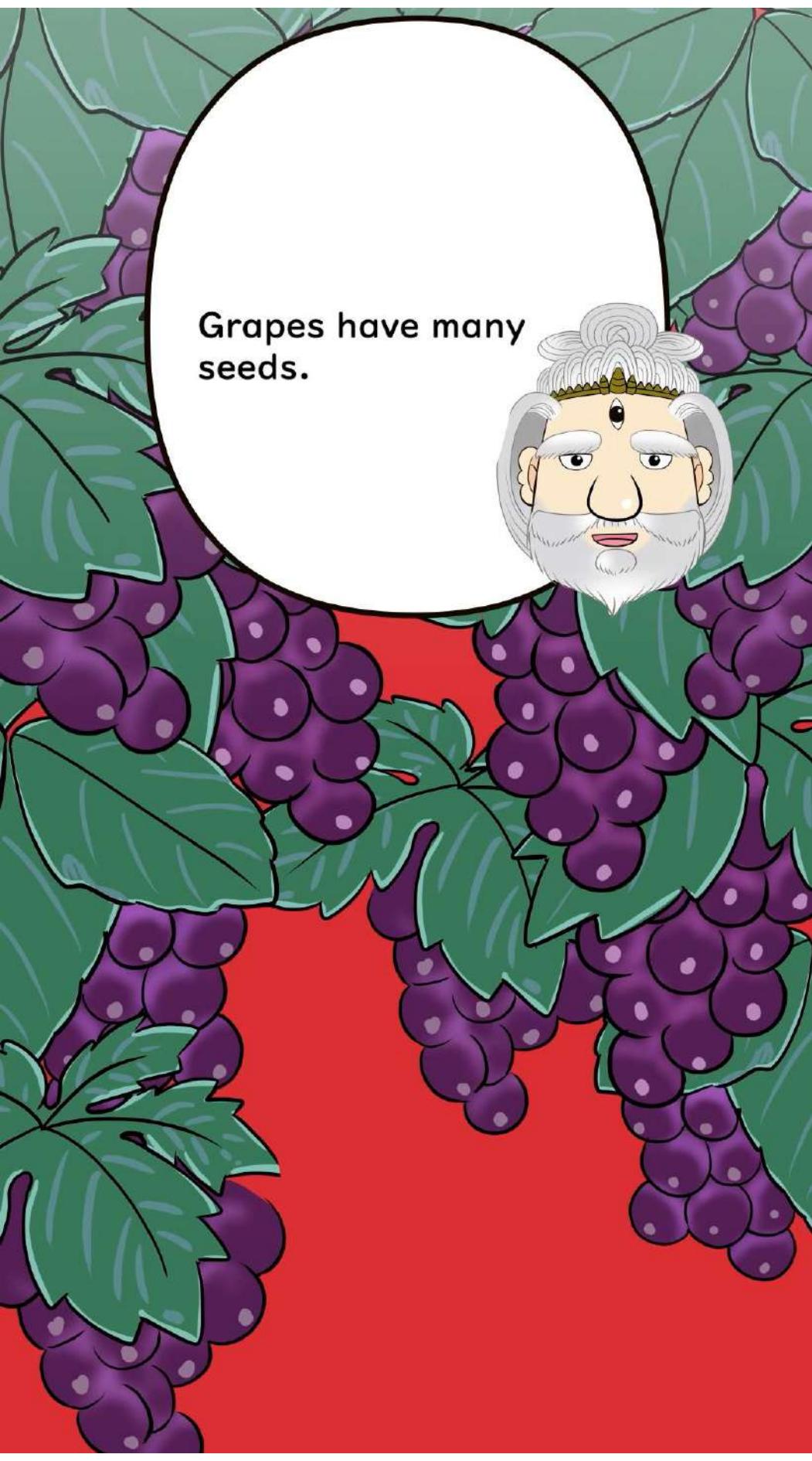
A boy with dark hair and a red beret is looking up at two small, light-colored hamsters. The hamsters are eating purple grapes hanging from green leaves. One hamster is in the foreground, holding a grape in its paws, while the other is behind it, also eating a grape. A single grape is falling towards the boy's head. The background is a soft pink gradient.

Do they eat
grapes?
How adorable!



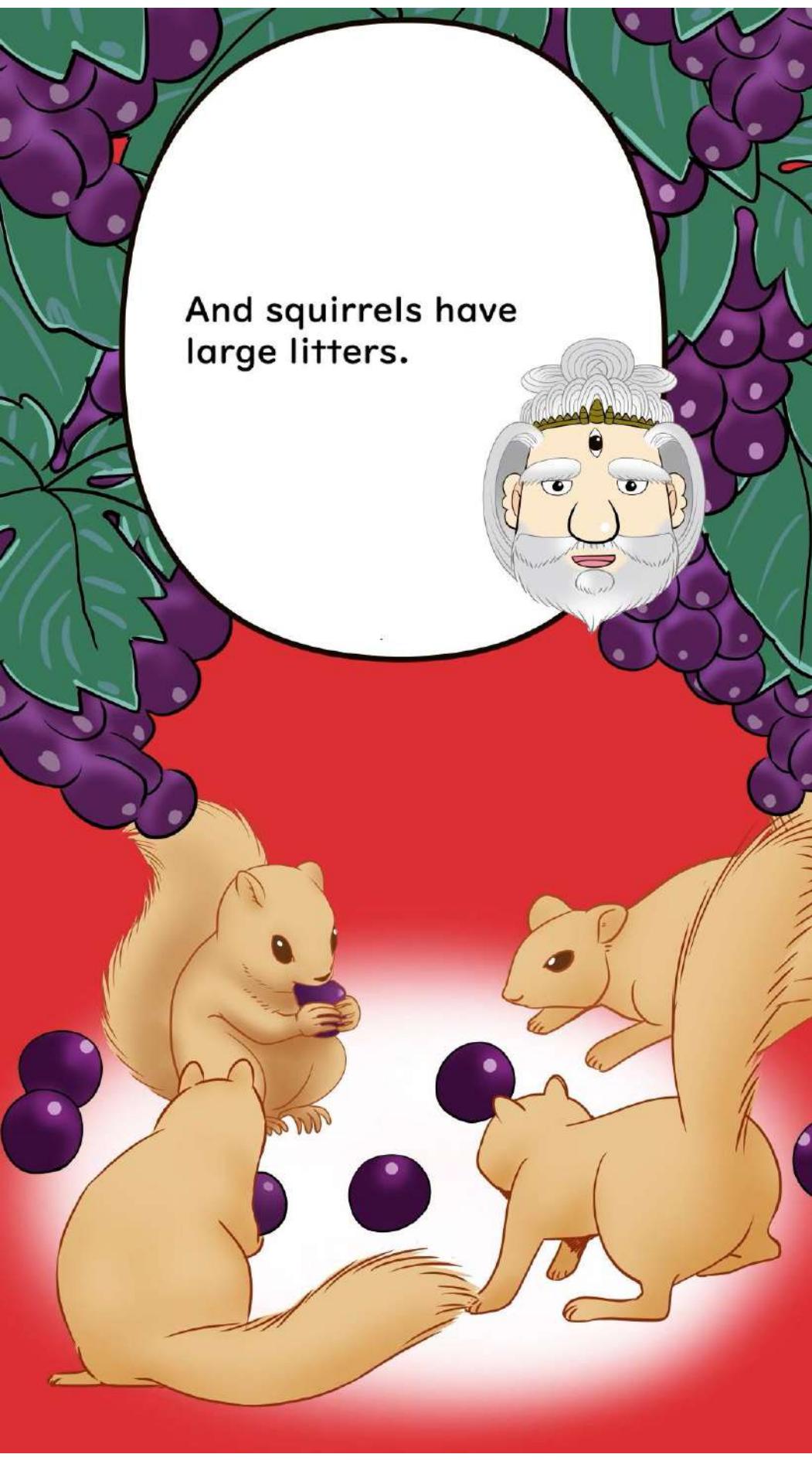
What?

Satonushi, this motif
has a meaning.

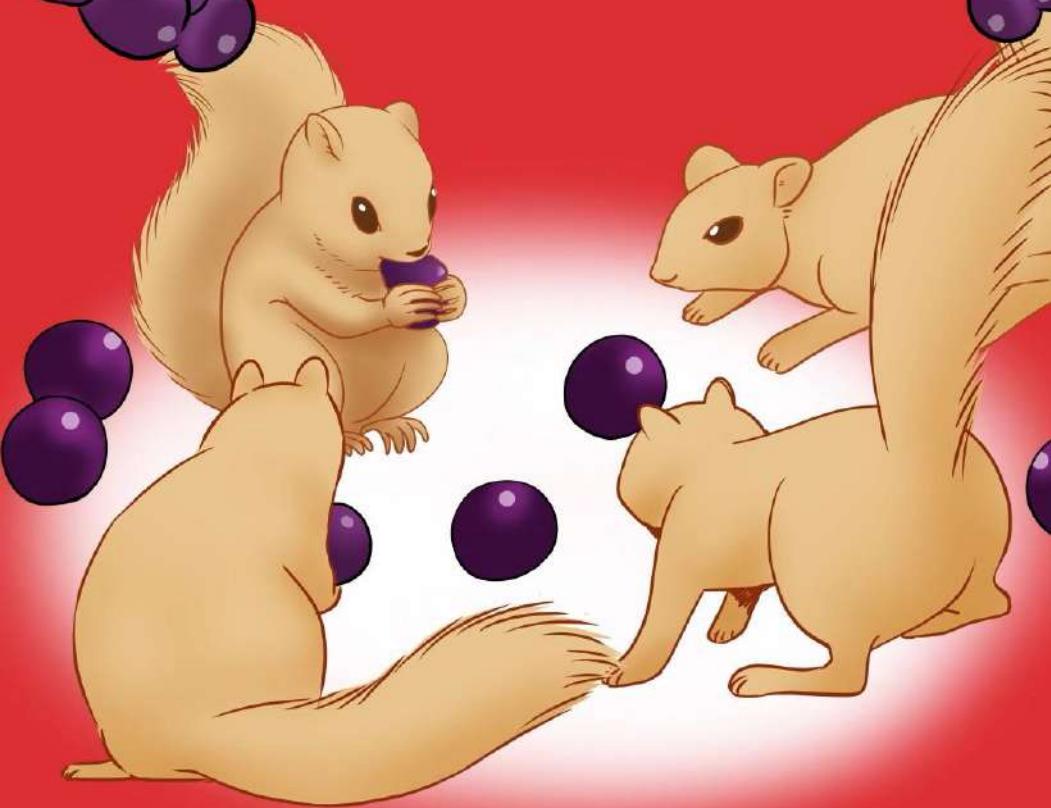


Grapes have many
seeds.





And squirrels have
large litters.

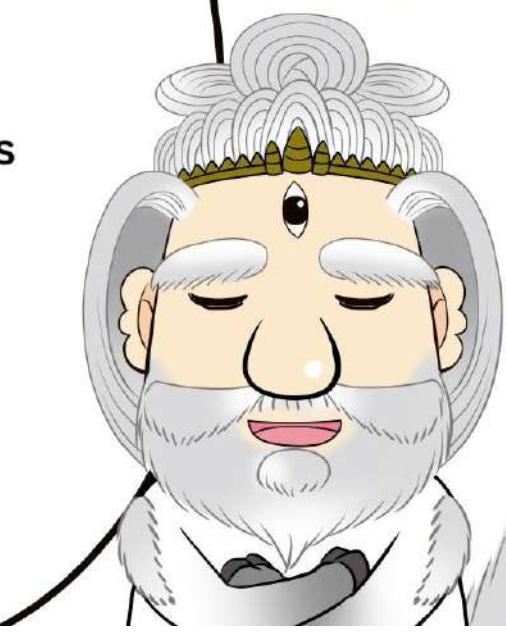


So, the motif of grapes and squirrels represents wishes for happiness and prosperity





for the descendants
and the state of
Ryukyu.





Don't miss it when
you come here!