

The Herd Boy and the Weaving Maid wanted to be obedient, but they wanted to be together even more. They finally just started spending all day together. The King of Heaven decided to punish them. One night, while they were sitting together, a heavenly river suddenly appeared right between them. It was a huge river of stars, very wide and very deep. There was no way that they could cross it. They knew right away that it was their punishment from the King of Heaven. This great river of stars would separate them forever.

The girl was sitting beside the river crying. Then, to try to make herself feel better, she began to sing their song.

Ho, Ho Hotaru Koi
Atchi no mi zu wa Nigai Zo
Kotchi no mi zu wa Amai Zo

As she sang, a little bug came and asked, "Weaving Maid, why are you crying?" She answered, "My boyfriend and I have been spending all our time together, and we did not do any work. So the King of Heaven punished us, separating us by this huge river of stars."

The little bug said, "Well, you know they say that the Moon always helps people who are in love. Why don't you go talk to her?"

The Weaving Maid said, "Even though we live right here in Heaven, the Moon is still hundreds of miles away. How can I get to her? I don't have wings to fly with."

The little bug said, "You don't have wings to fly with, but I do. If you sing me that pretty song once more, I will fly to the Moon and talk to her for you." So together, they sang,

Ho, Ho Hotaru Koi
Atchi no mi zu wa Nigai Zo
Kotchi no mi zu wa Amai Zo