

The little bug flew off. It was a long and hard journey. He flew for many days. When he finally got to the Moon, he was exhausted.

The Moon listened to his story and said, "I cannot undo what the King of Heaven has done. But maybe I can help them. Tell the lovers to go back to work. They must work hard and do a good job for one whole year. If they do, on the seventh night of the seventh moon next year, I will build a bridge across the river so that they can meet."

The little bug was very happy to hear this. He thanked the Moon and was about to fly away, when she said, "Even though you are just a little bug, it was kind and brave of you to come all the way here to talk to me. For that, I am going to give you a gift."

She gave him a tiny piece of herself, a grain of sand shining in a gentle golden color. She told him to swallow it. When he did, the gentle golden light stayed inside him and shone through his body. The little bug became a firefly! Happily, the firefly flew back to the girl, singing the song,

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

As for the two lovers, they each went back to their work. They worked very hard for the whole year. And the next year, on the seventh night of the seventh moon, they were able to see each other on the bridge the Moon had built.