

THE LOVE OF AZALEA

"And does not the white beast want females also to sing?" she asked.

"Females!" repeated one of the boys.

"Did the gods ever favor females?"

"The foreign devil is not a god," said Azalea thoughtfully. "Who knows, perhaps he would pay me also to sing with him"

"Time to go home," said Koto, and she pulled Ume's sleeve. "Are you not hungry? Come, Azalea!"

"She won't give me to eat, my most honorable mother-in-law," said Azalea. "I need not go there."

"You will soon be a beggar, too, Azalea," laughed Koto, "and the white man