The Price of a Smell

Adapted by Mistress Dervila ni Leanon
I don't know where I got this one
Japanese
Time: About 2:08

If you change the type of eatery from a fish stand to, say, a tavern, you can make this a generic European story

Once there was a student who was so poor he had nothing but rice to eat. But he discovered that if he ate his rice where he could smell the fish cooking at a nearby fish stand, his rice tasted much better.

[Big sniff] "Ahhhh!" So he ate there every day. But soon, the owner of the fish stand noticed the student and asked

"What are you doing here?"

"Oh, I have found that eating my rice where I can smell the fish cooking makes my rice taste much better."

"What!", said the owner, who was a mean and greedy man. "You are stealing that smell! You owe me money"

"But - a smell? Money for a smell? That's not right!*[short laugh]* And besides, I have no money to spare!"

They stood in the road arguing until finally the owner dragged the student before a judge. The judge heard the case and turned to the student.

[hand out]"Give me all your money."

"But Your Honor - I have so little! If I give it to you, I won't be able to eat or pay my rent!"

[hand out futher, speak more sternly] "That doesn't matter. Justice must be done. Give me all your money!"

[Crestfallen] [Big sigh, hang head] And the student gave the judge the few coins he had. *[Pick head up]* The owner was thrilled! He loved money! He could hardly wait, even though it was just a few coins!

The judge sat and jingled the money in his hand.

[hands out, greedy face] "Your Honor - please, give me my payment"

"I already have", said the judge, handing the coins back to the student. "The price of the smell is the sound of the money"