S H O C H I K U:

KABUKI PLAY

"ISE-ONDO KOI NO NETABA"

BY HISAMATSU TOKUSO

Second Act

(One (1) Scene)

TO BE PRESENTED BY KIKUGORO
AND ENNOSUKE AT TOKYO THEATRE
FROM JUNE 4TH TO 1948.
The stage indicates the Shrine of Ise. The curtain rises with the sound of various drums for sacred music and dance, a number of Shinto-priests in white sitting in front the shrine.

From the right side, the head of the religious association makes his appearance carrying a wooden stand with a package of money on it, and gets seated.

Sayoji, and Sakaki in the attire of a maiden in the shrine service, and several members of the association appear.

Through the door to the left side Hikidayu, an old instructor makes his appearance with a fan wearing a ceremonial head-gear, and Shodayu in the same attire.
Hikodayu: (praying to the shrine with a hand-clapping) I congratulate you upon the performance, sir.

The head: Thank you for your trouble, everybody.

Hikodayu: Master Magodayu is absent for he has started for Edo by order of the governor. I am his younger brother named Hikodayu, I shall be glad if you give directions to me during his absence.

The head: Is that so? I am sorry to have neglected the ceremony for a long time. This year the membership of the association has increased and here I have brought the membership fee of 100 ryo.

(The head of the association submits the package to the instructor. Hikodayu receives it.)

Hikodayu: Many thanks, sir. Now the ceremony shall be held.

(Hikodayu puts the wooden-stand in front of the shrine, and begins to read an address. The shrine-priests and others read in unison. Sayoji dances to it taking a fan and bells of the shrine.)
Shodayu: (Takes Sakaki to the stage passage pulling her by the hand.) Just, Miss Sakaki.

Sakaki: Oh my! Again you are doing an evil thing?

Shodayu: Be quiet! I could not find a chance till this time hindered by Mr. Mitsugi. While they are beside themselves with the prayers, just I want you to hear an answer.

Sakaki: Oh no! I don't like such a thing, you see.

Shodayu: I will not let you go since that I set my heart upon you.

Sakaki: How persistent! Excuse me!

(Thereupon Mitsugi makes his appearance and seems vexatious seeing the two.)

Mitsugi: Miss Sakaki! Mr. Shodayu!

Shodayu: Well.

(Shodayu goes back to the stage and joins the prayers. Mitsugi goes to the stage passage.)

Mitsugi: Say, Miss Sakaki, you have been
chattering with Shodayu in broad daylight? You must behave yourself, you see.

Sakaki: I have been chattering with Shodayu?

What a thing you should say!

Mitsugi: I shall hear the excuse, later.

Let me go now a son-in-law to this family, and we are to get married to each other in the future, you see.

Mitsugi: It goes without saying such a thing.

Sakaki: Then, there is no anxiety.

Mitsugi: All right!

Sakaki: How glad I am!

(Sakaki is about to approach Mitsugi. Thereupon the prayers raise their voice.)

Prayers: Oh!

Shodayu: Where is Mr. Mitsugi? Hallo, Mr. Mitsugi!

Mitsugi: Oh yes!

Shodayu: Mr. Mitsugi, Mr. Mitsugi!

(Shodayu goes to the stage passage.)

Mitsugi: Oh! (raises his voice in unison with the prayers and goes back to the stage. Sakaki follows him, but Shodayu
keeps her.)

Shodayu: Oh! The dove approached you attracted by your lovely figure!

Mitsugi: Shodayu, Shodayu!

(Sakaki shakes herself free from Shodayu and joins the prayers.)

Shodayu: Oh!

The prayers: Oh!

(Shodayu goes to the stage after Sakaki.)

Hikodayu: Now you had better scatter the money.

(The head of the association scatters the money and the Shrine-priests gather coins in struggle. Shodayu snatches coins from their hands. The scene is thrown into a confusion. In this time Mitsugi takes Sakaki and enters the back room. The head tries to settle the matter.)
Soon all of them enter the back room with parting shots. Shodayu takes the wooden-stand.)

Shodayu: Quiet down, everybody!

(Shodayu enters the back room after the others. Soon however he makes his appearance pulling Sakaki by the hand.)

Sakaki: No! Excuse me, otherwise I will tell it to my father, you see.

Shodayu: Well, but your father Magodayu-sama is absent I am not doing anything bad for you. Just sit down and listen to me, please.

Sakaki: No! I am unwilling.

Shodayu: How slow witted you are! Though you dislike me, Mr. Mitsugi doesn't like you, you see.

Sakaki: Eh!

Shodayu: There! You change colour like that hearing of Mr. Mitsugi. I know your father Magodayu intends to make you get married to Mr. Mitsugi in the future. He, being the son of a former samurai of
Awa, fell low and is now under the care of this family as an adopted son. You wish to get married to him, but he has a sweetheart of Furuichi.

Sakaki: You really mean it?
Shodayu: I don't tell a lie. I swear before God that I am telling the truth.
Sakaki: Oh my! He ought to be ashamed of himself in doing such a thing out of respect to me!
Shodayu: You may well be vexed at it, therefore my idea is ———.

(Thereupon Sayoji is heard to call in the back room.)

Sayoji: Say, Miss Sakaki, haven't you a mind to take my suggestion?
Sakaki: No, enough! I don't like you.

(About to go to the back room shaking herself off from him.)

Shodayu: No, I will not let you go before hearing an answer.

(Thereupon Sayoji makes her appearance.)
Sayoji: Hallo, Shodayu-sama! Your uncle is calling you. You had better go with me.

Shodayu: Get out of the way!

(Sayojo holds him by the hand, but he pushes her away and draws closer to Sakaki.)

Sayoji: But your uncle told me to take you away.

(Sayoji again holds Shodayu by the hand but he pushes her away, and after a confusion among the three Shodayu pulls Sayoji by mistake. Taking advantage of this chance Sakaki escapes away, Shodayu does not notice it.)

Shodayu: Now things have come to such a pass, I must get my wishes granted by all means. Never hesitate in doing what is good. Now ———.

(Holds Sayoji and looks at her face.)

Oh, you are Sayoji, aren't you?

(Thrusts her away.)
Sayoji: Mr. Shodayu! You want me to meet your wishes. Do you really mean it?

(She draws closer to him, but he thrusts her away.)

Shodayu: Don't talk nonsense! That is the last thing I think of now.

(Shodayu enters the back room. Sayoji rises to her feet.)

Sayoji: Just a moment, Mr. Shodayu!

(Thereupon the sacred music starts and Sayoji exits dancing with a fan and bells.)

Soon, Okon, Mitsugi's sweetheart, makes her appearance accompanied by Sasuke.)

Sasuke: Say, Okon-san! You in the style of a tradesman's wife, don't look like a geisha-girl at all.

Okon: Well. Now I must meet Mitsugi-san on urgent business, so I came out asking the waitresses to look after the house.

Sasuke: You look like a tradesman's daughter, and I am a domestic in the service of Mr. Mitsugi. Oh, that stone-lantern is the mark. Let us go quickly.
(The two reach the stage, and Okon whispers something to Sasuke. Sasuke stands at the entrance.)

Sasuke: Excuse me!

(Mitsugi appears wearing a sword.)

Mitsugi: Who is it?

(Opens the door.)

Sasuke: You are Mr. Mitsugi.

Mitsugi: Oh, you are buffoon Sasuke? Come this way.

Sasuke: Excuse me.

(Enters within the entrance.)

Say, Mr. Mitsugi, she has come.

Mitsugi: Whom do you mean?

Sasuke: Of course it is Okon-san.

Okon: Mr. Mitsugi. (Shows her face through the entrance.)

Mitsugi: Oh, you are Okon. Come in.

(Okon enters the house.)

Okon: Mitsugi-san, it's a long time since I saw you last. You have been silent so long. Could you not write a letter to me? To-day I have come to see you feeling uneasy in the style like this.
Mitsugi: Well, for all my wishes I could not find any chance of going to see you because I have been busily occupied. Anyhow, I am glad that you have come all the way from Furuichi.

Sasuke: I wish you would have a good time. I must be going now since that I have done my business.

Mitsugi: Thank you for your trouble. I will see her home in the night.

Sasuke: Then, I leave the matter to you.

Good-bye.

(About to leave the house.)

Mitsugi: Just a moment.

(Takes out some money and wraps it in a paper.)

Here is your drink-money.

Sasuke: Many thanks for your kindness.

Okon: I leave the home matters to you, you see.

Sasuke: Oh I see. I hope you will have a good time having come after a long time.

(Sasuke exits.)

Okon: I am afraid you may given troubles.
Mitsugi: Never mind. (Thinking a bit.)

Well. If anybody appear and hear about you, I will tell him that you are my aunt from Toba, so you had better chime in with me.

Okon: Shall I pretend to be your aunt?

Mitsugi: Yes, Yes. By the way, it doesn't look well for me to keep so close with you. Better be apart a little more.

(Lets her go toward the right side of the stage and brings a tobacco tray.)

Good afternoon Aunt, I am glad you have come all the way.

Okon: Good afternoon. How do you do?

Mitsugi: (Looking around.) By the way, you wrote me the other day that a patron from the country made advances to you. What has become of the matter?

Okon: Well, Waitress Manno acts a go-between and tries to win my heart.

Mitsugi: She is a foxy woman. Is the patron a tradesman or a samurai?

Okon: He is a samurai from Awa, he said.

Mitsugi: What? A samurai from Awa? What is his name, then?
Okon: I remember he is named Iwa.

Mitsugi: He is a samurai from Awa and is named Iwa? How old does he look and how is his appearance?

Okon: I am not sure about it, but he seems about forty and has black eyes being much haired. He frequently visits me.

Mitsugi: Well. Is the samurai staying still?

Okon: Not only staying, but he annoyingly dangles after me. These days he always says he wants to ransom me and take to his country. I think it a great nuisance, indeed.

Mitsugi: He wants to ransom you?

Okon: Well, but there is no anxiety about it. The master says he would not let me get ransomed against my will.

Mitsugi: No, it is doubtful however the master may be sensible, because Manno is a very fair-spoken woman.

Okon: Maybe.

Mitsugi: I must consider a bit about the matter.

(Draws closer to her. Thereupon Sakaki’s father Hikodayu makes his appearance.)
Hikodayu: Hallo, Mitsugi!
(The two get surprised and keep apart from each other.)

Hikodayu: O, here you are. I am glad the ceremony has ended with success. Let us have a drink. Come with me.

Mitsugi: It is good. Go ahead, please.

Hikodayu: Will you please go with me?

(Looking at Okon.) Who is this person?

Okon: I am -----. (Hesitates.)

Mitsugi: You are my aunt as I said now. Be careful about what you say, you see.

Okon: I am Mitsugi's aunt, sir.

Hikodayu: Oh, you are Mitsugi's aunt?

Mitsugi: This is my aunt living in Toba I often talked of.

Hikodayu: On what business have you come all the way, however?

Okon: Let me see ----- That is -----.

Hiko: What business?

Mitsugi: She wanted to see the arm of the demon -----.
Hikodayu: Don't talk nonsense!
Okon: Indeed!
Hikodayu: Indeed!
Okon: Trully speaking, I just dropped in to see my nephew and say thanks to his father-in-law Mr. Magodayu, because today I visited the Kannon temple.
Hikodayu: 'Is that so? You are welcome. But, as ill luck would have it, you cannot see my brother Magodayu for he is absent now.
Mitsugi: Because he is absent, the game is not up.
Hikodayu: By the way, you look very showy for Mitsugi's aunt, don't you?
Mitsugi: Such as she looks, she is still 67 years old.
Hiko: Let me see.
Mitsugi: She looks very young for her age.
Hikodayu: Well, I see. You seem to have something to talk with her. So, you had better show her to that room and serve her at leisure what with making her bed, what with massaging her waist.
Mitsugi: But it is the daytime now.
Mikodayu: Though in the daytime, nobody will say anything while you are talking with your aunt.

Okon: Yes, you are right.

(Okon holds Mitsugi by the hand, but he shakes it off.)

Mitsugi: Let me see. I wonder there is such an indecent aunt.

Hikodayu: You had better go ahead, aunt.

Okon: 0 my! How vexing!

(Enters the room to the right side and beckons to Mitsugi. Mitsugi shakes his head.)

Hikodayu: You had better serve her with sake.

Mitsugi: No, she does not drink.

(Okon reckons to Mitsugi with a hand-clapping.)

Hika: She seems to want you. Better go over-there.

Mitsugi: How impatient she is!

(Approaches the room.)

What do you want with me?

Okon: Come overhere. I have something to do with you.

Mitsugi: Can't you tell me your business?
Hikodayu: I don't believe she is already 67 years. She looks very young like a daughter. Ha, ha, ha.

(Thereupon Shodayu appears.)

Shodayu: Oh, here you are, Uncle! I pilfered the money of 100 ryo taking advantage of the head's unguarded moment. Here it is. (Takes out the package of money.)

Hikodayu: Hey! (Checks Shodayu.)

My brother Magodayu is a retainer of the governor of Ise and comes of a good family among the shrine priests. I wished that you might become the heir of him by making your wife of the daughter of this family. Just at that time Mitsugi came to this family as a son-in-law. He is an eyesore to us in everything. We can do as we like if we drive him away finding faults with him.

Shodayu: By the way, I received a secret letter from a samurai named Sugiyama Daizo.
By the letter he asked me to take the sword of Shimozaka which he had pawned and said he would give me a status of samurai as a reward. Here is the letter.

(shows the letter taking it out of his pocket.)

Hiko: Then, if you get the sword and hand it to him, ------.

Shodayu: It would be a greater advancement to become a samurai than to take the place of a shrine-priest.

Hiko: We wish we could obtain the sword.

(Thereupon Shodayu finds Mitsugi's purse he dropped, and picks it up.)

Shodayu: This is Mitsugi's purse. By making use of this pause, we can fasten the crime upon him for having stolen the money of 100 ryo.

(Whispers something to Hikodayu.)

Hiko: Capital!

(Thereupon the sacred music starts.)

Shodayu: The shrine-priests are going now.
Hiko: Make arrangements in the confusion.

Shodayu: Be careful not to make a slip, Uncle.

Hiko: All right!

(Hikodan enters the back room.

The sacred music continues. Thereupon Mitsugi's aunt Omine makes her appearance at the stage passage carrying a sword wrapped in a cloth.)

Shodayu: If I can only get this sword in question, I shall make great advancement. On the other hand I have obtained the money of 100 ryo. I've got it!

Aunt: Good afternoon.

(Shodayu gets startled.)

Aunt: Is master Magodayu at home?

Shodayu: No, he started to Edo and is not at home. What do you want with him?

Aunt: I am Mitsugi's aunt living at Toba. I should like to ask you to see my nephew.

Shodayu: Is that so? Just wait a moment. I will soon bring him here.

(Enters the back.)
Aunt: Something is suspicious with his action.
Let me see. ———

(Thereupon Hikodayu makes his appearance.)

Hiko: (Speaks to himself.) Strange that it is Mitsugi's Aunt! (To Omine) Come this way please.

Aunt: Excuse me. I hear Mr. Magodayu is absent. Who are you, however?

Hiko: I am Magodayu's younger brother named Hikodayu. Something is beyond me, for truly speaking, a lady under the name of Mitsugi's aunt called upon Mitsugi and is talking with him in the room overthere, while you are the aunt of Mitsugi, you say. I cannot but think either of the two is a fake.

Aunt: What did you say? Somebody came using the name of Mitsugi's aunt?

Hiko: Yes! Either of the two must be a faked aunt. Both of you shall be examined now.

(Thereupon Shodayu is heard to cry in the back room.)
Shodayu: Come on!

(Shodayu appears pulling Okon followed by Mitsugi.)

Mitsugi: Say, Shodayu! What are you doing with my aunt?

Shodayu: What! This is your aunt?

Enough of your nonsense! This must be Okon of Aburaya at Furuichi! I will make her show herself in true colours.

Okon: I am Mitsugi's aunt, it is true.

Hiko: Two can play at this game. The true aunt from Toba is here, you see.

Mitsugi: Eh!

(Get surprised and looks at his aunt) Oh Aunt!

Okon: Then, your aunt ------?

(Okon tries to escape, but Shodayu holds her back.)

Shodayu: Don't move, you imposter! (To Mitsugi)

You brought disgrace on the family taking this prostitute into the room. Both two of you shall be judged by the Way of Gods.

(Shodayu is about to take away Mitsugi and Okon.)

Aunt: One moment, please!
Aunt: (To Okon) Oh, you are my sister Oyuki! Why did you come here, eh? This is my younger sister, sir.

Hiko: What, your sister?

Aunt: Yes this is my sister. (To Okon) Have you forgotten me in confusion? Can't you recognize me? I can't believe such a thing.

(Okon understands Omine's intention.)

Okon: Oh, I remember. You are my sister!

Shodayu: Well, you are not the prostitute from Furucichi?

Hiko: This is Aunt's sister?

Sho: Let me see ---.

Aunt: Listen to me please. I started Toba with my sister. Some people whom we met on the way said we looked like mother and daughter. Truly speaking, we are half-sisters nephew though an aunt for him. It is natural that strangers may think as if the two were lovers seeing them talking with each others. Say, Mitsugi, why didn't you tell the truth? How vexing!
Shodayu: I don't understand well the circumstances. What do you think of her talk, however?

Hiko: Now that she assure us in person, we have made a mistake, I suppose. The matter has been settled.

Shodayu: But ---.

Hiko: Come with me, anyhow.

( Hikodanyu and Shodayu exit.)

Mitsugi: Say, Aunt, I am ashamed of my folly seeing you after a long time. And I don't know how to say thanks for your kind solicitude to me.

Okon: My name is Okon, and, in the service of a geisha-house at Furuichi I made a love compact with your nephew. To-day, compelled by some circumstances, I came to see him under the name of his aunt. Please pardon me. I know you are angry with me for my having enticed your nephew, but as things have come to this our connections cannot be severed.

Aunt: Well, I noticed your relations at the first glance. No wonder they suspected you. However, I know human feeling, and
I am not so senseless as to say this or that about the love affairs of young men. Mitsugi is short-tempered by nature and it would be his wife who can correct this bad disposition. I hope you would never a rash thing whatever hard circumstances you might be put in. Mitsugi has not parents and I am his only relative. Though in low circumstances now, he comes of a good family. I wish you would continue to be kind to him. By the way, I must tell you a sorrowful story.

(The aunt takes the sword out of the parcel.)

(To Mitsugi) You ought to recognize this sword. Better examine it.

(Presents the sword.)

Mitsugi: (Takes the sword.) Oh, this is fine in every point. (Draws out.) Well, how fine it is! There is no sign, but this undoubtedly the celebrated sword of Shimezaka which I have been in search for by order of Mr. Fujinami. How did you come to obtain it?

(Puts up the sword.)
Aunt: "(With tears) I must tell a terrible story about the sword. Listen to me, Okonden no too. Mitsugi's grandfather Aoyagi Gyobu was a retainer of the Lord Awa and the chief of the gun corps. He had a bosom friend named Hamada Juhei, one of his fellow-retainers. One day a stranger came to sell this sword. The grandfather recognized it and wished to get it. But, his friend got eager to obtain the sword and the two came to compete with each other. Now the sword cost fifty gold coins. Juhei thoughtlessly said with contempt that such a precious sword was too good for a samurai in a humble position like Gyobu. Soon it came to be talked of in the whole fief that Gyobu had been put to shame by Juhei. Gyobu, out of a samurai's pride, managed to obtain the precious sword by disposing of even his personal effects, and named the sword "Shimozaka." It was May 4th."
He waited for Juhei on the way to the castle and got avenged on him by putting him to death. Then, returning home, made a will that the family should never part with the sword he had obtained at the risk of his life, and committed harakiri. Since then, your father, a brother for me, was discharged by the lord and went to Toba to lead his life as a country samurai. In the meantime, he came to be pressed by poverty, and to make the matter worse, was taken ill. But he would not part with the sword according to his father's last words. At last his disease took a serious turn and he breathed his last on May 4th, the third anniversary of his father's death. Your mother, in the excess of her grief, died on the same day and only I and you were left behind. At that time you were a mere child, only nine years old. Thinking it a wonder that the three of them died on the same day of the month,
I consulted with a fortune-teller and was told that it was due to this cursed sword and that the curse would continuously fall upon the descendants. Therefore I sold the sword dirt-cheap and sent you to this family as a son-in-law. Seventeen years have elapsed since that time. However, recently, I bought it back after a hard search and have brought it here with me. Thinking it was due to this cursed sword that we came to fall low to say nothing of the death of your grandfather and parents, I feel like casting it way. But I have brought it for the sake of the old lord thinking that fortune depends upon the owner. This is my story concerning the cursed sword.

Mitsugi: I hear, for the first time, the history of the sword which brought evil upon my family, but I feel as if having an interview with my grandfather for he set his soul and spirit
upon this sword. Many thanks for your kind intention, Aunt.

Okon: Now I understand your kind lessons. I wish you will have a continued favour toward me.

Aunt: Oh I see. If times were better for us, you would be made much of as the wife of Aoi Ayobu's grandson.

Mitsugi: But our family's star is on the wane like this.

Okon: I suppose you have gone many hardships.

Aunt: The cause of our griefs consists in this cursed sword. Be careful not to lose your temper; the sword of Shimosaka is dangerous.

Mitsugi: Yes, I remember it well.

(Thereupon Kimbe makes his appearance from overthere in a travelling attire.)

Kimbe: Oh, the fifth house from the nettle tree. This is what I am looking for.
Approaches the entrance. What, the door is closed in the daytime!
Good afternoon. (Knocks the door.)
(The three in the house get startled.
Mitsugi whispers something to Okon and lets her get under cover on the right side of the stage. The Aunt wraps the sword in the cloth and conceals it beside her. Mitsugi opens the door in the time.)

Mitsugi: Who is it? Where have you come from?

Kimbe: I have something to ask to you.

(Kimbe peeps into the house.
On seeing him the aunt tries to escape.)

Hey! Wait a moment! (Approaches Omine and holds her back.) You shall not run away. Come with me, you swindler!

Mitsugi: What are you doing with my aunt branding her as a swindler? It must be a case of mistaken identity. If it is her blunder, I will give her lessons later. Go away!
Kimbe: Don't talk nonsense! I am named Kimbe well known in Yamada. For some reason I sold the sword of Shimozaka to this woman, but she gave me no money for it. That is why I called her a swindler.

Aunt: It is natural he brands me as a swindler. Being anxious that you might be faithful to your old lord.

(Mitsugi gets startled.)

Kimbe: She is your aunt, you said. Then, you are her accomplice? Be that as it may, get out of the way; I will give you lessons later.

(Mitsugi looks indignant.)

What a face you are making! That sword is what I had received from a samurai as security.

The other day this woman asked me to sell it to her. She wished to take it saying she would give me money on the following day. I left the sword with her thinking her a reliable woman because, she said she was a country samurai's wife. On the following day I found her absent from home. Since
that I visited her house several times in vain. I became aware that I had been defrauded and searched for her this place or that. At last I found her in this house. Now gave me money!

Aunt: You are right in saying so, but I have never an intention of deceiving you. When I return to Toba I will surely pay the price even by disposing of my personal effects lest I should inflict a loss upon you. Therefore, will you please wait till that time? I ask you for mercy's sake.

Kimbe: No, no! Come on with me to the police without any ado!

Mitsugi: All right, I will give the money.

Kimbe: What?

Mitsugi: Well, I will pay the price of the sword. However, I have not money with me now. Therefore I assure you I will raise some money and pay the price within one or two days. Can't you wait for some time?

Kimbe: I cannot wait even for half a day to say nothing of one or two days. You seems to be in distress circumstances
though a retainer of the governor.  
Now I remember you intended to defraud 
me in collusion with your aunt, you 
swindler! (Mitsugi holds the hilt of 
his sword with an indignant, look. 
The aunt checks him imploringly. 
Kimbe draws back a bit.) 
What are you doing with me? Do you 
intend to cut me? (Approaches him) 
Now you my try! You can't overcome the 
the power of money, though a retainer 
of the governor. Come with me! (Kimbe 
is about to take away Mitsugi and his 
aunt. Thereupon Hikodayu makes his 
appearance in a hurry.) 

Hikodayu: Good Heavens! ☀ The money of the 
Dai-dai association is missing! Nobody 
in the house shall go! 
(Shodayu appears accompanied by four 
shrine priests.)

Shodayu: Uncle! The money of the Dai-dai 
association has been lost? 
Hikodayu: Well. I received it from the head 
of the association and put it in the
cabinet for account-books a little while ago. However, somebody broke the lock and stole the money, just now. It cannot be that the thief is gone out.

(Looking toward the aunt.)

Something is suspicious about them.

Shrine-priest A: We must investigate the matter.

Shrine-priest B: Of course, Mr. Hikodayu.

" G:) Everybody must be put through a severe examination.

Hikodayu: Well. First of all, I must prove my innocence because I was trusted with the money.

(Brings a bunch of cut-paper for the exorcism, burns it and dips it in a cup of water.)

Now, I want everyone of you to swallow the ash. The criminal will die spitting out blood, as you know.

Shodayu: Well. That is the most positive way of examination. Everybody must
Hiko: Say, Shodayu, you take it first and pass round.

Shodayu: Eh!

Hiko: Let me see. As you are my nephew, I must make you take it first of all that I may prove my innocence.

(Puts the cup in the middle.)

Shodayu: By no means! I would do anything but that.

Hiko: What! You cannot take it? Then, it is you who stole the money?

Shodayu: Don't talk nonsense, please! I am an honest man as my name indicates. How could I do such a thing?

Hiko: Then, you might swallow this.

Shodayu: Let me see. That is ---

(Sinks in thoughts.)

All right! I will bear witness to the matter Mr. Mitsugi, I must say something to you.

Mitsugi: To me?

Shodayu: Yes. Now you know how suit is the Heaven's judgment. Now things have
come to such a pass, you must reveal the truth.

Mitsugi: Hey, Shodayu! What on earth do you mean?

Shodayu: It is you who stole the money of the association, I know.

Mitsugi: Shut up! Don't say a silly thing! Here is my aunt. Be careful about what you say in the presence of the shrine priests, otherwise you will be sorry for it!

Shodayu: Don't pretend ignorance. Here is a positive proof for your theft.

(Shows the purse he took some time ago.)

You ought to recognize this.

Mitsugi: Yes, I know. That is my purse.

Shodayu: A little time ago when I entered the back room I found the lock of the cabinet. To my astonishment the money had been lost. Just then, I found this purse fallen near the cabinet with the broken lock in it. Once I had a mind to arrest and examine you,
closely but I felt pity for your distress circumstances and intended to talk with you later that you might give back the money lest the matter should be aggravated. But as ill luck would have it, things have come to this now. Heaven's vengenance is slow but sure. You cannot excuse yourself as things are like this. You had better give the money back.

Mitsugi: I am innocent in my heart whether there is a proof or not.

Shodayu: Then, how did the broken lock come to be put in your purse?

Mitsugi: Let me see.

Shodayu: Can't you make a confession?

Mitsugi: Let me see.

Shodayu: You cannot deceive me. Reveal the truth right away!

(Shodayu throws the lock at Mitsugi. All look at the lock.)

Mitsugi: Oh, now I remember!

(About to take up the cup. Shodayu checks him.)
Shodayu: What do you do with it?

Mitsugi: I will prove my innocence by drinking this God water.

(Mitsugi takes up the cup. Shodayu knocks it from his hand and pulls him down.)

Shodayu: Don't move, you thief! You may do it while it is unknown whether you are right or wrong. But now that there is a positive proof like this, it is silly of you to do such a thing. You must have committed theft in collusion with your aunt.

(Okon is about to come out opening the sliding door of the back room.)

Mitsugi: Hey, you must not come here! You have nothing to do with the matter. I am afraid you may be involved in the trouble, so you had better leave the house through the back gate as soon as possible. (To his aunt.) You, had better return home quickly.

(Okon closes the sliding door.)

Shodayu: No! They shall not go out! I
will investigate them later.
You would not make a confess with an
ordinary means. Rather, I will ---/.
(Brings a broom and thriles at
Mitsugi with it.)
Mitsugi: Wait a moment! What are you doing
with your master?
Shodayu: You are not my master, but a thief!
(Mitsugi stares at Shodayu.)
What a face you make! I must punish
you in a way like this!
(Shodayu strikes Mitsugi hard.
Thereupon Sakaki appears.)
Sakaki: One moment, Shodayu!
Shodayu: This is none of your business,
Miss Sakaki. Get out of the way,
please.
Sakaki: No, Mitsugi is not a thief.
Shodayu: While there is a positive proof
like this?
Sakaki: It is out of question whatever proof
there may be. Mitsugi sama is my
father's son-in-law, isn't he?
Shodayu: It goes without saying.
Sakaki: Father says he will let me get married to him that he may be the heir of this family. Father's money is as good as Mitsugi-sama's, therefore.
Shodayu: Well.--
Sakaki: He took his own money. There is no reason for him to be called a thief.
Shodayu: Let me see.
Sakaki: That's not your cue!
Shodayu: Well.
Sakaki: Mitsugi-sama is quite innocent.
Shodayu: Let me see.
Sakaki: What do you say to it?
Shodayu: Well.
Sakaki: Mitsugi-sama.
Shodayu: What shall I do, Uncle?
Hiko: Well. During Mr. Magodayu's absence, I am in charge of this family's affairs. I will not pardon him.
Shodayu, you shall strike him harder and harder to make him confess where the money is!
Shodayu: All right!

(Pushes away Sakaki and strikes Mitsugi hard.)

Aunt: One moment please!

Shodayu: Again you check me?

Aunt: No, I am not checking you. I wish the matter shall be settled in peace.

Shodayu: What shall you do for it?

Aunt: Can't you sell it to me?

Shodayu: What do you mean by it?

Aunt: I mean the right of the Dai-dai association, there is no need of investigating either the thief or the money. So I wish you will sell it to me.

Shodayu: Well, but it costs one hundred ryo in gold coins. You have not such a large sum of money, have you?

Aunt: Yes, I can raise the money.

(Takes the sword out of the parcel.)

Mr. Hikodayu. I wish to say something to you.

Hiko: To me?

Aunt: Yes. Thank you for your trouble.
Hikodayu: All right. What do you want with me?

Aunt: Things are such as you hear. Since that you are Master Magodayu's brother, I wish you to take a thing in pledge till I raise the money.

Hiko: In pledge?

Aunt: This is the celebrated sword of Shimo-zaka worth fifty gold coins. Though it is extremely valuable for our family, I should like to leave you with it in pledge for the right of the association.

Mitsugi: No, no. You must not part with the sword.

Aunt: Let me see. I will not do anything bad for you. Better hold your tongue.

(To Hikodayu) Can't you grant my wishes?

Hiko: No, I can't. A sword is of no use for a family of shrine priest however valuable it may be for samurai. I don't like to receive such a thing in pledge.
Shodayu: Say, Aunt. The sword is what I was asked to obtain by Iwajiro. That is just like a windfall. You had better sell the right of association by taking the sword in pledge.

Hikodayu: Oh, now I remember. If it is really the sword of Shimozaka, I am ready to sell it to you.

Aunt: Thank you very much. Here the sword is.

Hikodayu: All right.

Aunt: Then, please accept this sword.

Hiko: I have received it surely.

Aunt: Now there is no reason for Mitsugi to be called a thief, you see.

Hiko: By no means. I have cleared myself of suspicion.

Sakaki: I am glad the matter has been settled in peace thanks to you.

Kim: Now that your matter has been settled, I must take you to the governor if you cannot pay the price of the sword.
Aunt: You are right. I am ready to go anywhere according to your directions.

Hiko: Now I have nothing to do with you. Better go right away.

Aunt: Yes, I want to go now without your direction.

(The Aunt brings up the wooden stand from the altar. Shodayu looks surprised.)

Shodayu: What do you do with the stand?

Aunt: Now that I have bought the right of the association, I wish to take this away with me.

Shodayu: By no means! You shall not take such a thing.

Aunt: Why? There is no reason why I cannot take this, I have become the proprietor of the offering, you see.

Shodayu: Let me see. What shall I do?

Hiko: Say, Shodayu! You had better give such a small sum of a offering.

Shodayu: You know nothing. In that stand there is the thing in question. Well, I will not give it to you.
Aunt: Something is shady with you about this offering, then?

Shodayu: By no means.

Aunt: As you name indicates, there is nothing shady with you, I suppose.

Shodayu: No, by no means!

Aunt: I am taking this away with me, therefore.

Shodayu: No, you shall not.

Aunt: It's strange.

(Thereupon gold coins fall with rustle from within the wooden stand.)

Mitsugi: Oh, here is the money of association. Strange!

Hiko: Now, I remember, you.

(Shodayu loses his self-possession.

Mitsugi gathers the coins and hands them to the aunt.)

Aunt: Now that there have appeared the money, I need not buy the right of the association. Give the sword back to me.

Hiko: No, this is ———.
Shodayu: Uncle, you must not give it back once you have bought it.

Hiko: All right. You shall not have the sword.

Mitsugi: Considering that you are so anxious to obtain the sword, you must have some reason. Tell the truth!

Shodayu: Don't talk nonsense! There is nothing shady about me as my name indicates.

Aunt: Nevertheless, here is a secret letter you dropped.

(The aunt shows the secret letter.)

To Mr. Shodayu from Iwajiro, ---.

What do you say to it?

Shodayu: Heavens!

(Shodayu tries to take the secret letter, but Mitsugi holds him back. After a grapple Shodayu falls down.)

Aunt: Mitsugi, read the letter.

Mitsugi: (Receives it and reads.) April 26th I hasten to request you by a
secret letter. The tradesman who acted as a go-between for me to get the sword of Shimozaka has become missing from Yamada. Therefore I request that you will take the sword/finding him and give it to me. If you make a success, I would arrange that you may be given the status of a samurai, through the good offices of my uncle Daigaku. To Mr. Shodayu, from Iwajiro.

Well, this is the style of writing of the secret letter which I got last month at Futamiga-Ura. Here I have found the first step toward the solution of the question.

(Shodayu is lying as if dead pretending not to hear it. Hikodayu looks nervous.)

Hiko: Now I see. You may take the sword.
Aunt: Do you understand me?
Hiko: I don't know the circumstances written in the secret letter, but anyhow I will give the sword such to you.
Aunt:  All right. Then you may take the money in question.

Hiko:  Now that the matter has been settled, you have nothing to say to me, have you?

Aunt:  No, nothing.

Kin:  Now I must take the sword away with me.

Mitsugi:  One moment! I must closely examine Shodayu and make him reveal the truth about the sword.

Hiko:  No, you need not do it, Shodayu is dead.

Mitsugi:  What did you say?

Hiko:  As you see he is lying senseless like that. Now that the addressee of the secret letter has died, it is of no use to examine him. A dead man tells no tales.

Mitsugi:  There is no help for it since he is dead. Say, Shrine priests, you had better take the body to the border mountain and cremate it.
Shrine priest A: That's good. Let us take the dead out of the house.

All: All right.

(Shodayu gets astonished hearing it. Hikodayu holds them back.)

Hiko: One moment, please. It is the custom of Buddhism that when a man dies the body should be left as it is for 24 hours. I will have my own way whether to bury or to cremate.

Aunt: No, according to the custom of Buddhism the dead should be cremated. We must obey it.

Mitsugi: You had better take the body away as soon as possible that the dead may rest in peace.

Shrine-Priests: All right!

Mitsugi: I feel pity, but that is the custom of Buddhism.

Hiko: Wait a moment, everybody! I will buy the body.

Mitsugi: What?
Hiko: If I buy the body, I can have my own way whether to cremate or bury it. That is why I want to buy the body.

Aunt: Well, I see. You need not examine about the secret letter if he buy the body. You had better sell it to him to hush up the matter.

Mitsugi: Then, you may have it. The price is 100 ryo, however.

Hiko: That's too dear, isn't it?

Aunt: If you don't like it, we shall cremate the dead.

Hiko: One moment please. There is no help for it. Now you may take the money.

Aunt: (Receives the money) We have nothing to do with the body now.

Hiko: Now I feel relieved.

(Kimbe steps forward)

Kim: What shall you do with my question.

Aunt: Here the money is.

Kim: (Takes the money of 100 ryo.) I assure you I have received 100 ryo.
Mitsugi: I want to examine you closely concerning the sword, but now I let you go lest the matter should be aggravated. Go right away as soon as possible. (Pushes Kimbe to the gate.)

Kim: You ought to have nothing to say while I am taking my own money with me. But that sword is ---.

Mitsugi: What?

Kim: Everybody shall soon know!

(Mimbe exits. The evening bell rings.)

Mitsugi: Oh, the bell strikes six.

(Hands his aunt the secret letter.)

Aunt: You had better give this sword to Manjiro-sama as soon as possible.

Mitsugi: All right, Aunt.

(Mitsugi takes the sword. Thereupon Okon makes her appearance through the gate.)

Okon: Say, Mitsugi-san!

Mitsugi: Oh, Okon!
(Shodayu is about to raise his body hearing it. As the aunt looks at him, he again falls down. Hikodayu is going out, but Mitsugi closes the door from outside.)

Mitsugi: Aunt!

Aunt: Go away hurriedly.

(Mitsugi exits to the left side pulling Okon by the hand Shodayu rises to his feet.)

Shodayu: Confound him! (About to go to the gate.)

Aunt: Oh, the addressee of the secret letter has come to life!

Shodayu: Oh!

Aunt: Shall I examine you closely?

Shodayu: No, I am dead. (Falls down.)

Aunt: Many thanks for your good entertainments. (Hikodayu starts to hold her back Shodayu raises his face again. The aunt gets outside the gate and closes the door.)

Good luck to you!

(The curtain falls with the sound of wooden clappers.)