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S H O C H I K U

Kabuki Play

C.C.D. J-2039

" B U A K U "



*W Sept 48
ECC*

One Act

Music by : TOKIWAZU Musicians

To be presented by Ennosuke Troupe at the Tokyo Theater
from Oct. 2nd to Oct. . '48.

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----- SYNOPSIS: -----

Daimio Ashio told his retainer Shogo to execute another outrageous retainer Buaku, but Shogo felt pity for Buaku and gave a false report to the daimio (Japanese feudal vassal) that he had stabbed Butoku to death.

Nevertheless, Buaku happened to meet the daimio and his followers Shogo and Kuroji at the Kiyomizu Temple for the Goddess of Kwannon. Thereupon the lie was brought to light. However, Shogo said that it was Buaku's ghost and deceived them.

Disguised as a ghost, Buaku told them a story of Hades and said that the daimio's dead father had felt lonesome for his old age and wanted Buaku to bring his son there, so the daimio got startled and ran away.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE:

Daimio Ashio
Retainer Shogo
" Kuroji
" Suaku

Tokiwazu Musicians

PROPERTIES:

Case of Wigs;
Rice-Wine Things.

On the stage there is made a minor stage for acting; on both sides of the clapboard made of pine wood there are drawings of bamboos; on the left there hangs a drop-curtain; at a suitable place there are seated in a row some musicians and players of three stringed Japanese guitars on a stand for reciting a "Joruri" (a ballad-drama) of Tokiwazu; and with the melodious sounds of music the curtain rises.

In less than no time Tokiwazu starts:

"On a balmy spring day the mist over the hills and fields lifts when his glamorous, ceremonial pleated skirt looks dazzling."

During the recitation, Daimio (Japanese feudal ^Svasal) Ashio comes out angrily, followed by Kuroji holding up the daimio's sword and Shogo.

Ashio: Is there anybody here, is there anybody here?

Sho & Ku: Have you summoned me, have you summoned me, my lord?

Ashi: (Comes in the middle.)

Well, is there nobody here?

Sho & Ku: Here, my lord.

(Both of them sit down formally on the left.)

Ashi: Where have you been?

Shogo: I've been in the ante-room.

Ashi: I've been calling you aloud for some minutes, so I'm now hoarse.

You ought to have heard me.

You should be on the alert.

Both Very well. (Get near to Ashio.)

Ashi: Well, Shogo, I've been thinking about the negligent Buaku secretly, but he doesn't deserve his life, so I'll tell you to behead him. Hasten there and behead Buaku.

Sho: Huh? (Exchanges glances with Kuroji.)
No wonder you're angry with the guy, but I hear he is getting better though he's still ill.

Kuroji: He says informally he'll be in your service again one of these days, so please forgive him this time.

Ashi: You've kindly interceded for him.
Of course I've wanted to pardon him, because he has been in my service for many years, but I've lost my temper now.

Go there right away and behead him.

Sho: I'm sorry to argue against your words, but from our childhood Butoku and I have been on so good terms with each other that we've often slept together. I'll give him a good talking-to secretly, so please forgive him this time.

Ashi: Well, then, are you going to disobey my order, for you've sympathized with Buaku?
(Stamps his feet and gets angry.)

Sho: I beg your pardon, my lord.

(Apologizes to Ashio.)

Hey, Kuroji, there is no help for it. You go there and behead him.

Ku: Oh, don't talk nonsense. It's you that have been ordered to do so by our lord. It's no concern of mine.

Sho: That's why I ask you to do so.

Go there, go there, please.

Ku: No, it's no concern of mine.

Sho: Well, then, won't you go there at any cost?

Ku: Oh, I won't.

Both: What? (Quarrel with each other.)

Ashio: What have you been grumbling about?

Shogo, I'll tell you to do so.

Tell me frankly whether you'll go there or not.

(Says sternly.)

Sho: Well, (Unwillingly) I'll obey your orders.

Ashio: Oh, well said, well said! That sword is a treasure of our house.

Never fail to behead Butoku. There! (Orders Kuroji to hand the sword to Shogo.)

Ku: It's our lord's order. You have to discharge your duties without fail. (Hands the sword in his hand to Shogo.)

Sho: Certainly.

Ashi: Go there right away and come back soon.

Sho: Very well.

Ashi: See?

Sho: Very well.

("By order of his lord he goes out dejectedly.")

During the recitation, the daimio Ashio and Kuroji go into the drop-curtain on the right. Shogo looks dejected. Music starts.)

Sho: Ah, he has entrusted me with such a troublesome work. This is also our lord's order, so I cannot help it. However, Buaku is at home in tactics, so I shan't be able to behead him easily. Anyhow, I'll have to play a trick on him and behead him.

First of all, I'll hide the sword and go.

("The position of a Government official is really an unenviable one.

Being unable to refuse his lord's order, he starts going his way like a sheep going to be butchered over the eighth hour of the evening.")

Then Shogo tries to hide the sword in various parts of his body and after all he hides it on his back and comes to the left.)

Sho: I've hastened so much that I've already arrived at Buaku's house.

Excuse me, but is Buaku in?

("Hearing his friend's voice, Buaku comes out."
Then Buaku in his favorite costume meets Shogo.)

Buaku: Oh, Shogo, I'm glad you've come.

Step stright in.

Sho: I haven't recently inquired after you for a long time, but I'm glad to hear that you're getting better.

Bu: I'm feeling better and better, so I've wanted to have an interview with our lord one of these days. Did our lord ask you anything about me?

Sho: Today he asked me about you as usual, so I told him something advantageous to you.

Bu: Like my bosom friend that you are, you kindly said so for my sake.

And what have you called on me today for?

Sho: Hmm. (Thinks for a while.) Well, tomorrow a nobleman is to call on our lord as his guest, but there is no fish in his mansion.

Bu: Hm, there cannot be fish in his mansion.

Sho: You're good at angling, so I hope you'll catch a fish or two.

Then I'll say to him, "Buaku has caught the fish for you."

I've wanted to let you have an interview with him on the occasion and come to inform you of it.

Bu: Oh, it's very kind of you. Since I've a fish pond, shall I catch the fish and then have an interview with him?

Sho: That's a swell idea. Let's go to the fish pond right away.

Bu: Well, then, let's go.

Sho: Oh, be ready!

Bu: Okay.

("Without knowing that he might die in a minute, he starts going with his friend, as he is not a saint.")

Then Shogo tries to stab Buaku, but he stumbles over a stone.)

Bu: What's the matter?

The road in this neighborhood is in a bad condition, so you must take care.

(Shogo tries to take advantage of Buaku's unguarded moment and to stab him to death, but Buaku does not know his intention at all.)

Bu: You're on intimate terms with me, so I'm glad you've kindly informed me of it.

Sho: Not at all.

You see, I've long been intimate with you, so I ought to tell you of such a matter whenever it occurs.

(With music, they go to the stage passage. during the time, while they are walking, they chat and taking advantage of Buaku's unguarded moment, Shogo takes the sword and tries to stab him with it, but cannot do so and hides it behind him.)

Bu: Something has flashed.

Sho: Huh? What?

Bu: Was it a flash of lighting ahead of a peal of thunder, the first one in this year?

 Well, let's see!

Sho: Well, let's see.

Both: Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

(Shogo again tries to stab Buaku, who turns round.)

Bu: What fine weather today! Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

"In the twinkling of an eye a splash is heard when they look upon the surface of the water.")

Bu: Here is my fish pond.

Sho: This is very wide indeed!

Bu: First of all, I'll go into the fish pond and spread baits there and then catch fish, so I want you to run after the fish from above.

Sho: Well, then, go into the pond right away.

Bu: Okay.

(A splash is heard.)

"Buaku unconsciously jumps into the water while Shogo runs after fish.

In the water, Buaku scoops several fishes up in his hands."

"Oh, alright."

"That's a carp or a gibel."

"Taking advantage of the unguarded moment of Buaku who is absorbed in catching fish, Shogo draws the sword."

(Then Buaku takes off his swords, gets himself ready and goes into the pond. Shogo gets glad that he has succeeded in his attempt and tries to take advantage of Buaku's unguarded moment.)

Sho: Brat, I won't let you go. (Draws his sword, takes off his right sleeve and holds himself ready to fight.)

Bu: Here, here, don't crack a joke. The fish will become afraid of you.

Hush, hush -----

Sho: It isn't a joking matter.

Our lord got very angry with you calling you "the negligent Buaku" and by his order I've come to behead you really.

Don't you remember this sword?

Bu: Oh, it's really our lord's sword.
Then, have you come to behead me really?

Sho: Don't let me repeat myself.

Bu: Huh?

("Shogo tries to kill Buaku in the water, so Buaku runs about here and there.")

During the recitation, Buaku spreads out his hands and says, "Don't get near to me."

Shogo runs after Buaku and by the fish pond he draws the sword and stabs at Buaku after all while running after fish.)

Bu: (Checks Shogo.)

First of all, let me speak, let me speak.

Sho: Well, then, have you lost heart?

Bu: ~~For~~ I haven't lost heart, but I bear a grudge against you about this matter.

Sho: Do you bear a grudge against me, eh?

Bu: I'll admit I've always been negligent of my duties, so I shall be obliged to be put to death by our lord's order, but, Shogo, why didn't you confess the matter to me and tell me to disembowel myself?

It shows lack of friendship on your part to have taken me to such a place and to have attempted to stab me in the back.

Sho: No wonder you bear such a grudge against me about the matter, but I was obliged to obey our lord's orders and came here to behead you. However, you're clever at tactics and I'm no match for you, so I've deceived you and taken you here. Resign yourself to fate and be prepared for death.

Bu: Although I'm prepared for death, I don't want to be killed in ~~the water~~ the water, so I'll go ashore.

Sho: Alright. Come ashore. I won't forgive you. ("He holds himself ready not to let Buaku go." "With a splash, Buaku comes out of the water and seems to be in a pitiable condition like a wet rat being run after by a cat." He comes out of the water with a splash and stands at a suitable place.)

Bu: Now, I'm already prepared for death, so you may stab me from any side you like.

Sho: Oh, you're well prepared. Be prepared for death. ("Shogo swings up the sword when Buaku closes his eyes and seems to be in prayer, so Shogo's hands tremble and he cannot behead Buaku, but wets his sleeves with tears." Then both of them gesticulate.)

Sho: Ah, ah, ah.

(Bursts into tears.)

You are in a pitiable condition, so how could I put you to the sword?

Well, then, I'll tell our lord of it so as to please him.

Bu: Really?

Sho: That's true.

Both: Ah -----

("Shogo sheathes the sword when Buaku is beside himself with joy as if he awoke from a nightmare." Shogo puts on the sleeve.)

Bu: It's very kind of you. However, should our lord know of this fact, you would be put to inconvenience, I'm afraid.

Well, I'm now thinking of going to a distant place and hiding myself there, but what do you say?

Sho: That's a good idea. Well, then, you'd better leave here right now.

Bu: I'll see you again if I'm alive.

~~Sho:~~
Sho: Until I see you again.

Bu: Good-bye.

Sho: Good-bye.

- Both: Good-bye, good-bye. Ah, ah, ah.
(Burst out crying. A splash is heard.)
"They regret to part from each other and shed tears.
Seeing off Buaku going with heavy steps, Shogo heaves a sigh."
During the recitation, Buaku unfolds the fan and goes into the drop-curtain. Shogo sees him off.)
- Sho: He lamented it so much that I spared his life, but how shall I tell our lord of it?
I'll have to cajole him into believing my words. Anyhow, I'll go. (Goes round. "He leaves for his lord's house.")
- Sho: Aren't you there, my lord? I, Shogo, am now back.
("Hearing his voice, the daimio comes out with a follower."
Then the daimio and Kuroji come out of the right.)
- Ashi: Oh, Shogo, are you back?
- Sho: Yes, I'm now back.
(Seems to be restless.)
- Ashi: And did you put Buaku to death?
(Music starts.)
- Sho: Yes, my lord.
(Makes a reply hesitatingly, but pulls himself together right away.)
I put him to the sword at a stroke.

Ashi: And how did he die?

Sho: Well. (Falteringly).

First of all, I visited him and said, "By order of our lord I've come to behead you, so be prepared for death."

In reply, he said, "I've been prepared for death" and turned to the west and offered prayers about ten times when I put him to death with your sword.

Ku: Did you stab him to death, did you stab him to death?

Sho: I stabbed him to death successfully.

Ashi: Did you? (Hears that he has stabbed Buaku to death successfully and feels pity for Buaku for a moment, but again summons courage and pretends to be pleased.

Well done! Now, I feel swell.

Ku: I'm glad you've brightened up, my lord.

Now, what do you say to having a drink of rice-wine?

Sho: It's a good idea.

Ahi: Oh, rice-wine, rice-wine!

Bring it here right away.

Both: Certainly.

(With music, Shogo with some cups and Kuroji with some bottles of rice-wine come out.)

Ku: Now, now, please drink it right away.

Ashi: Fill the cup with rice-wine, please.

Ku: Very well.

("The lord and retainers exchange cups of rice-wine with one another and they are in a happy mood with a drink."

Being waited on by Kuroji, Ashio drinks.)

Ashi: Shogo, I hear you're good at dancing, so I want you to display a dance.

Sho: Very well. (Takes off his ceremonial dress and dances.

("Mr. Togo Ishiko pulls a stone -- pulls a stone covered with a dress. The man of my heart is the second man from the top wearing the ceremonial dress with his large family crest, the pleated skirt and the large sword.

First of all, pull it, pull it. Pulling is very easy."

Shogo dances and then finishes.)

Ku: Bravo, bravo!

Sho: Now, my lord, please display a dance.

Ashi: I'll also dance.

(Seems to be worried about something.) What shall I dance?

That's it, that's it.

("The waves are running high off the coast of Susaki Island at Uji. The roar of the sea.

The plovers are calling their ~~fix~~ friends."

During the time, Kuroji serves Shogo with rice-wine and Shogo drinks.

Ashio dances.

"From behind the island over which the plovers are calling their friends, we row out the boat with a high sound of the stern."

The daimio finishes dancing when Kuroji rises to his feet and dances.)

Sho: Bravo, bravo!

(Kuroji takes off his ceremonial dress and dances.

"When I look around the expanse of water, I see nothing but the waves." The roar of the sea.

I can catch a carp, a bream or a flatfish with my fishing-rod."

Then Kuroji keeps on dancing.

"A sea-perch jumps into the boat.

An octopus adheres to me and won't let me go."

Then Kuroji finishes dancing.)

Sho: Bravo, bravo! However, my lord, you look gloomy.

Aren't you feeling ill?

Ashi: Well, Buaku had long been in my service and I heard of his death just now, so I feel pity for him now.

Ku: I also feel pity for him.
(The toll of a bell.
"At dusk; they all feel gloomy."
The sound of the evening bell comes within hearing.)

Ashi: Ah, night has fallen again.
Let's worship at the Kiyomizuji Temple for the repose of Buaku's soul.

Both: That's a good idea.
(A splash is heard.
"Now, let us go to the Kiyomizuji Temple at Higashiyama Hill so as to ask for Goddess's mercy."
The sound of the bell dies down.
The stage-settings change.
The lord and his two retainers hasten to the Kiyomizuji Temple.
In the meantime, out of the drop-curtain at the stage passage comes Buaku and throws a sedge-hat.)

Buaku: It's strange that I've been saved from death; I must have been favored by the Goddess of Kwannon at Kiyomizu.
I'll visit the temple for the last time.

("He is on his way to the temple when he happens to meet the lord and his two retainers.")

The three meet with Buaku on their way.

Ashio and Buaku exchange glances with each other. Shogo gets astonished and surrounds Buaku in a flurry. Kuroji looks suspicious.)

Ashi: What was that?

Sho: Ah, that was a ghost.

Ashi & Ku: Aghost, eh? (Shudder with fear.)

Sho: Here is Toribeno Field. (Makes a sign to Buaku with the eye.)

Disguise yourself as a ghost and come on.

Ashi & Ku: Huh?

Sho: Well, ghost, ghost!

(As if letting Buaku understand his intention) Disguise yourself as a ghost right away.

Bu: I've never disguised myself as a ghost before.

Both: What, eh?

(Then the daimio and Kuroji look in.)

Sho: Nothing. (Hiding Buaku with his sleeves.)

Right away, right away. Do it right away.

(Thrusts Buaku to the left. Music starts.)

Ashi: It was Buaku, I guess. Well, then, you didn't put Buaku to death, I should say.

Sho: Oh, I really put him to death.

- Ku: You said you had stabbed him to death at a stroke, but how did you stab him?
- Sho: First of all, I stabbed him in the back and beheaded him successfully.
- Ku: Well, let's see!
You said you stabbed him in the back and beheaded him successfully, but I can hardly understand your words.
I can't understand at all what you said.
- Sho: Oh, don't talk nonsense. If you doubt my words, go to Buaku's house, and you'll find his head separated from his body ^{there}. (Says gruesomely.)
- Ashi: His head separated from his body?
(The sound of the wind; Ashio exchanges glances with Kuroji saying so.)
- Both: How horrible, how horrible! (Turns to Shogo tremblingly.)
- Ashi: Well, then, what was it that we saw here just now?
- Sho: That -----
- Ashi: That -----
- Sho: That -----
- Ku: That -----
- Sho: Be ready, be ready! (Gesticulates so as to let Buaku disguise himself as a ghost at once.)
- Bu: Okay, okay. (Gesticulates so as to indicate that he has complied with it.)

- Ashi: Hih? What, what? (Says strictly.)
- Sho: That's Buaku's ghost.
- Ashi: Is it his ghost really?
- Bu: It's Buaku's ghost really. (Comes forward wearing a fur coat and a bathing-suit.)
- Sho: That's the very ghost.
- Sho & Ku: Yipe!
- (Fall on their buttocks and get frightened out of their wits.)
- Ashi: Say, Kuroji, you mustn't run off, you mustn't run off.
- You mustn't run off leaving your lord behind.
- Ku: No, I won't.
- Ashi: Hey, Buaku. (Bluffs.)
- Why did you turn in your grave and appear as a ghost?
- Bu: Now that I've been put to the sword, my spirit is in the other world while my ghost has remained in this world and transmigrated. (Draws close to Ashio, who stops him.)
- Ashi: Don't get near to me, don't get near to me.
- Remain there, remain there. Hey, Buaku, you disobeyed the orders of your lord and parents, so I had you executed.

Well, Buaku, there are a great many people who went to the other world from this world, but did you see anybody there?

Bu: Yes, my lord, I saw your father, our old lord there.

Ashi: Did you see my father there, eh?
How I have longed to see him!

Bu: Our old lord sent me some messages for you.

Ashi: Oh, what did he say?

Bu: Even in Hades robbery has become prevalent recently, so he needs a long sword very much and wants me to get him a sword when I meet you.

Ashi: That's a serious matter. Send this for him.
Now, Kuroji, -----

Ku: Well, my lord, you'd better hand it to him yourself.

Ashi: Tut, tut, it's your lord's order.
Are you goin' to disobey your lord's words?

Ku: Of course not.
(Hands the sword to Buaku with fear.)

Bu: Another message for you.

Ashi: What's it, what's it?

Bu: When our old lord suffers from ennui and wants to recite an utai (a Japanese lyrical drama), he wants a fan very much, so he has told me to fetch it for him.

- Ashi: By golly!
Doesn't he quit reciting an utai even in Hades
so as to trouble others?
I'm afraid the other departed souls would be
troubled a great deal by him.
- Sho: I'm afraid he's still despotic even in the other
world.
- Ashi: If it's his order, I can't help it.
Send this for him.
- Bu: I've still another message from him for you.
- Ashi: What's it, what's it?
Still another message, still another message?
- Bu: He presents himself to the judgment seat of
Yama three times in the night as well as in the
daytime, so he wants a ceremonial dress and a
small sword and has told me to fetch them for him.
- Ashi: What a pitiful state, what a pitiful state!
(Bursts into tears.)
If I were in the mansion, any good articles would
be ready, but I'm on my way to the temple, so
I'll have to give him my worn-out dress.
You send these for him. (Hands the ceremonial
dress and small sword to him.)
- Ashi: Well, Buaku, some say that there are Hades
and Heaven, but others say just the opposite.

Is it true that there exist Hades and Heaven or not?

Bu: It's true that there are Hades and Heaven.

Ashi: Well, then, do you mean to say that we shall have to be happy in our future lives?

Bu: That's right, that's right.

Ashi & Ku: Save us, merciful Buddha, save us, merciful Buddha. (Offer prayers when Shogo laughs.)

Ashi: Well, then, will you tell us here how things stand in Hades?

Bu: Then, I'll tell you the state of affairs of Hades.

("Speaking of Hades, it is hundreds of thousands of miles away from this world and called Hell of Utter Darkness with agonizing cries. When I reached the bank of the River Styx by ferry-boat ((the sound of a wooden gong)), I was abhorred by the hag standing by the willow on the riverbank and lost my way wondering whether I should go to the west or to the east for lack of money."

(The sound of a xylophone.)

"On the sixteenth day of the 'Bon' festival the lid of the iron-kettle at Hades opened when the departed souls started making a racket and displaying a "Bon" dance in a circle."

(Shogo cautions Buaku against his careless words.)

"Just then a brown goblin loomed suddenly and tortured the children who had been absorbed in piling stones at the Children's Limbo. What a sad plight!

Being saved by Jizo ---- Guardian Deity of Children, the children shed tears behind his sleeves. Save us, merciful Buddha! (Shogo laughs and warns Buaku against his words. The sound of the winds.)

In the presence of the King of Hades I climbed Mt. Sword and fell off the large needle-pad when I found myself in Blood Pond.

Hades is a place of sorrow, suffering and grudge.")

Bu: That was because I had given no service to our lord.

("No wonder I had met with the danger of perishing by the sword," said he tearfully.

Then Buaku finishes dancing.

Kuroji looks at him tremblingly.)

Ashi: Hey, Kuroji, anybody who disobeyed the orders of his lord and parents would be in the same boat. (Says so to Kuroji.)

Ku: I can understand well what you have said.

Bu: I'm sorry I've forgotten our old lord's important message.

Ashi: No more, thank you. Get out of here right away.

Bu: No, I won't; I've one more message from him.
(Being unable to remain a mere spectator, then Shogo speaks to Buaku.)

Sho: Hey, Buaku, Buaku's ghost, you mustn't run to an extreme.

Bu: Well, leave the matter to me, please.

Ashi: What?

Bu: My lord, he told me to accompany you to the other wide world instead of your staying in this narrow world.

Ashi: My word! (Falls on his buttocks.)
What do you mean?
Since I am in this world, I could hold a mass for the repose of his soul, but if I should go to the other ~~xxx~~ world, nobody would hold a mass for the repose of his soul.
Tell him that I'll remain in this world.

Ku: Right you are, my lord! You'd better not go to the other world.

Bu: Since it's our old lord's order, I'll take you there by all means.

Ashi: Even if it's my dead father's order, I will do anything but that, I will do anything but that.

Bu: I'll take you there by all means.

Ashi: Pardon me, pardon me.

"Saying, 'Don't get near to me, don't get near to me, he disengages himself from Buaku's grasp. Is it false or true, is it true or false that the lying people in the land of the living have had their tongues extracted and had pains?

Ku: (Says parting words.)

My legs, my legs!

("They feel heavy in the legs.")

The sound of a drum is heard.

During the recitation all of them pose when the drop-curtain falls.)

----- CURTAIN -----