

S H O C H I K U

KABUKI DRAMA

"FUTATSUCHOHCHOH KURUWA

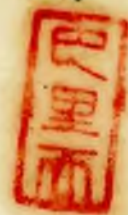
NIKKI" ..... Scene of Yawata Village

One Act

(Travelling Troupe)

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G.C.D. J-2033



7/30/46

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Nuregami Chohgoroh

Tanbeh Hiraoka

Denzoh Mihara

Okoh, Chohgoroh's Mother and Yohei's Stepmother

Yohei Minami (afterwards Fujibeh Minamikata)

Okoma, a village girl

Yoshimatsu, a village boy

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Synopsis:

Nuregami Chohgoroh, a champion wrestler, was wanted by the police on a charge of murder. Though he had resigned himself to fate, he wanted to see his mother Okoh once for all before being arrested and called on her.

Okoh had married again, giving Chohgoroh to another when he had been five years old. She happened to know the circumstances and tried to shelter Chohgoroh from maternal love.

It was cynical, however, that Okoh's stepson Yohei was entrusted with arresting Chohgoroh. Understanding Okoh's mind, Yohei sympathized with her and after all intentionally let Chohgoroh escape.

The stage represents Yohei Minami's residence in Yawata Village.

Yohei's young wife Chaya places an earthenware mortar with small potatoes in it before her and is peeling the potatoes. Beside her, Okoma, a village girl, is dancing. After a while the curtain rises.

Chaya: Oh, Okoma Chan, you are very good at dancing.

Okoma: Very kind of you to say so, Aunt. As you know, the ball will be given tomorrow evening, so I'll go to Chohju San's house and ask him to teach me how to dance well.

Yoshimatsu: As for me, I've been dancing up to now since I came home from school, you know.

Chaya: I expect the ball will be a great success, so I should like to go and see it tomorrow evening.

Yoshimatsu: If you really want to see it, Aunt, I'll call for you tomorrow evening.

Okoma: I'll also do so.

Chaya: I appreciate your kindness, but tomorrow I shall be busy with making an offering to the moon and what not early in the evening, so I'll go to the ball after finishing my work and I hope you will take no trouble to call for me.

Yoshimatsu: Then we won't call for you, Aunt.

Okoma: Be sure to come and see the ball, please.

Chaya: Certainly I'll come and see you dance late in the evening. I'm extremely fond of dancing.

Yoshimatsu go to the door.

Okoma go to San's house

(Just then Okoh, a white-haired old woman and Yohei's stepmother comes out of the dressing-room, carrying some offerings on a tray.)

Okoh: Oh, it's too early for you to peel the potatoes, for we shall have the full moon tomorrow evening.

Chaya: Don't say such a silly thing, mother. The earlier the better, I should think. Ha, ha, ha!

Okoh: Behave yourself better, Chaya. Remember that you are no more a courtesan but my son Yohei's wife. As you know, my deceased husband was a man of wealth, however, since his death Yohei has led a dissipated life and squandered all the estate left by his father till he has been discharged from his office as a local magistrate. I'm glad to say, however, that Yohei has been called by the Lord today, so he might be employed again, I should think.

Chaya: Don't worry about him! I'm sure he'll soon rise in the world..

(Just at the moment Nuregami Chohgoroh, who is a fugitive from justice and covers his cheeks with a towel across his head, comes out at a distance looking around and soon goes to the main stage.)

Chohgoroh: Mother, are you there? (opens the door and comes in)

Chohgoroh.

in!

Chohgoroh: Thank you, I will. (comes in the room. Meanwhile, Chaya happens to exchange glances with Chohgoroh.)

Chaya: Oh, Chohgoroh San.

Chohgoroh: Oh, Miyako (Chaya's former name) Sama, it's an age since I saw you last.

Chaya: I'm very glad to see you again. Won't you have a smoke?

Chohgoroh: No, thank you.

Okoh: I'm glad to see you in good health.

Chohgoroh: The same to you, mother. By the way, Miyako Dono, have you married Yohei Dono?

Chaya: Yes, I'll tell you. Konkuroh who had carried me off was charged with using counterfeit coins and put in prison after all. The killed buffoon proved to be the thief's pal, you know. Now I've changed my name to Chaya and I'm leading a happy life ~~xxx~~ with him.

Chohgoroh: That's good. Murderers are not always charged with felony, I should think.

Okoh: Eh?

Chohgoroh: Nothing.

Okoh (seems to be deep in thought): Here, here, Chaya, you seem to have known him well. Where did you make acquaintance with him?

Chaya: At the red-light district.

Okoh: ... too?

Chohgoroh: ... by does Chohgoroh Sama of

... the

he is my stepson, you know. As a matter of fact, last year I happened to meet Chohgoroh at Osaka and knew that his foster-mother and father had already passed away and he himself became a wrestler. Up until now I've not told Yohei of him. But when Yohei comes back, I'll let him introduce to Chohgoroh and make them brothers. If so, I shall be the mother of two sons and one daughter-in law. How happy!

Chohgoroh (keeps back his tears): Say, mother. When Yohei Sama comes back, I hope you will never tell him of me.

Okoh: Why?

Chohgoroh: Because a wrestler is quarrelsome and might kill others by mistake, you know.

Okoh: Really?

Chohgoroh: Of course I'm determined not to do such a thing, but I don't know whether or not I might make any mistake and cause trouble to you, so I hope you will not regard me as your son so long as I'm a wrestler. I can hardly tell you what will happen to me. Say, Chaya Ono, please tell Yohei Ono to look after mother. I shall go down to Nagasaki and take part in the prize wrestling matches there, so I'm afraid I shan't be able to see you for the time being. good-bye  
and say good-bye to you. (looks dejected)

Chohgoroh. I hope you will quit doing

and stay here with

I'm sure

Ohaya: Yes, I do. I believe my husband will be very glad to see him. Shall I give him rice and tea?

Okoh: Oh, no, I shall make "namasu" (Japanese fish salad) for him. (To Chohgoroh) You care for an octopus, don't you? Better go upstairs and have a drink overlooking the River Yodo while I'm cooking. What's the matter? Use no ceremony and go upstairs right away. Well, I'll set about cooking. (rises to her feet happily and starts chopping a radish and fish.)

Chohgoroh: Ah, Mother. Don't take so much trouble for me. I shall be quite satisfied if you treat me to a bowl of rice, for I'm in a hurry.

(In the meantime, Ohaya opens the paper sliding-door on the second floor so as to show Chohgoroh into the upstairs room. Chohgoroh goes upstairs, carrying the tobacco-tray with him. After a while, Okoh with the chopping-board in her hands and Ohaya with a "samboh" (a wooden stand for placing an offering on) enter the inner room.

(At a distance Tanbeh Muraoka and Denzoh Mihara, both wearing ceremonious clothes and swords, come out.

Following them, Yohei Minami attired in the same style comes out to the stage passage.)

please. The house over there is mine, you

ouse?

lease.



I hope you'll wait for me at my mother's retreat there for a while until I call you.

Tanbeh: Very good. Indeed we're entrusted with a secret mission.

Denzoh: Until you call us.

Tanbeh: We shall wait for you there for a while.

Yohei: Please do so. (goes to the door. Meanwhile, both Tanbeh and Denzoh enter the retreat at the back.)

Yohei (opens the door): Mother and Chaya, now I'm back.

(says ceremoniously. Thereupon Chaya comes out.)

Chaya: Oh, my dear, you're back now. Mother, mother!

(calls. Hearing her voice, Okoh comes out of the inner room.)

Okoh: What? Oh, Yohei, you're back now. What a fine coat you are wearing!

Chaya: Indeed you've become a fine samurai.

(Yohei takes a seat in the middle.)

Okoh: Very glad you've come back in such a fine appearance. You've gotten a position, I suppose.

Yohei: Sure. Chaya, you'd better share with me in joy.

Chaya: I'm only too glad to see you in such a fine appearance. What do you say, mother?

Okoh: Oh, it's no wonder that you should be so joyful.

(To Yohei) But tell me why you've suddenly risen to

son.

listen to me, please.

easy at first

you're the son of the former local magistrate Jujibeh minamikata. I'm also told you've lost your position since your father died. Since you're a man of good family, however, from today on I'll appoint you to the local magistrate of the seven villages as before, so I hope you'll do your work successfully."

Hearing his kind words, I expressed thanks to him and accepted his request when he kindly ordered his pages to give me these fine clothes and swords. Indeed I was beside myself with joy, you know. Thinking what I'm today owes you a great deal, mother, I shed tears of joy, you see.

Okoh: Congratulations! Now your fine appearance reminds me of your father.

Ohaya: Say, mother, I don't know what sort of a man his father was, but did he resemble my husband?

Okoh: Yes, he looked exactly like your husband.

Ohaya: Then he must have been a handsome man like my husband, I suppose.

Okoh: Ha, ha, ha! Okaya, you may well be proud of your husband, but his success also owes to the tutelary god, you know. Yohei, you'd better express your thanks to the god, too.

[The three of them turn back and pray before  
placing their hands together.  
very important thing  
league

shall leave here. Say, Chaya, you're now a samurai's wife, so you must try to be modest, you see.

Chaya: Certainly. Now I'm a samurai's wife, so when I accompany you to the shrine, I'll go on horseback while you go by palanquin.

Okoh: Even if you're a samurai's wife, you mustn't do such a reckless thing as getting on a horse.

You must try to be womanly.

Chaya: Oh, I'm sorry. Ha, ha, ha!

Okoh: Let's go to the inner room.

Chaya: Okay. Then see you later, my dear.

(Both of them seem to be very happy. Okoh enters the inner room while Chaya goes to the dressing-room. In the meantime, Yohei goes out of the door and goes to the semi-detached house.)

Yohei: Sorry to have kept you waiting.

(Thereupon the two samurai come out of the semi-detached house.)

Denbeh: Is everything O.K. now?

Yohei: Yes, please come this way.

(Thereupon the two samurai take seats on the right while Yohei sits down on the left.)

Yohei: Well, today the Lord told me to ask you of the secret mission in detail. Please tell me of it.

I must tell you our names. I'm

a Denzoh mihara. As

aska our

Denbeh: Happily today we heard that he dropped in his relative's of this village, so we informed the fact to the police and were allowed to arrest him.

Tanbeh: But when it gets dark, we shall have a great trouble, for we're strangers to this place. That's why you were ordered to arrest the criminal and hand him over to us.

Denzoh: I hope you'll help us.

Both: Please do so.

(Okoh overhears their talk in the inner room.

Meanwhile, Chaya has a presentiment.)

Yohei: As the proverb goes, "Walls have ears." So I've made my mother and wife leave this room.

Now tell me the names of the killed men, please.

Tanbeh: One of them was my younger brother Gohemon.

Denzoh: The other was my elder brother Ariemon.

Yoichi: Were they Mr. Gohemon Hiracka and Mr. Ariemon Mihara?

Two: Yes.

Yohei: Hum! (seems to be lost in thought)

Two: Did you know them?

~~Two:~~ Yohei: → Well, I'm not sure, but maybe. And by whom were they killed?

Tanbeh: The assassinator is the champion wrestler.

Denzoh: Nuregami.

Okoh takes out Gohgorh's photo

Tanbeh, who receives it

Okoh

tray and on her way back she drops the tray.

Yohei gets surprised at the sound.)

Yohei: Behave yourself better. (scolds Chaya, who sits behind Yohei.) And where do you think is he hidden?

Tanbeh: Well, I should like to look for him at every house in this neighbourhood.

Yohei: That's nice. And what do you say, Denzoh Dono?

Denbeh: In my opinion, it's better for us to paste his pictures on every tree in this village and to arrest him by taking advantage of his unguarded moment.

Yohei: It's a good idea, too. But it's very unlikely that he is hidden in a private house, for he is a giant. First of all, you'd better look for him at every likely place. When it becomes dark, I'll take your place and as soon as I find him out I'll arrest him and hand him over to you however strong he may be, so don't worry about it.

Denzoh: Very kind of you to say so. Hey, Tanbeh Dono, let's go out and look for him, shall we?

Tanbeh: All right, we must look for him during the daytime though we shall have to ask Yohei Dono to take our place in the night. Then let's go away.

Denzoh: Okay.

Yohei: I'll be on at the office.

in.

e. Chaya seems to be uneasy

re really go'

Yohei: Why do you ask me such a funny question? I must arrest him by order of the Lord though I've no relation with the two samurai nor do I bear any grudge against Chohgoroh. Since I'm familiar with this place and good at "jujitsu" (a Japanese art of self-defence, I'll arrest him by all means and if so, it will be a credit to me and my family, I believe. I'm sure mother will also be glad if I succeed in arresting him.

Ohaya: I don't think she will.

Yohei: Why not?

Ohaya: It's proverbially said that "A little learning is a dangerous thing." Up to now you've been a commoner of this village, haven't you? If you should happen to be injured by him, your mother would lament it.

Yohei: Don't be silly! Are you going to keep me from performing a meritorious deed?

Ohaya: I've said so, for I'm worried about you.

Yohei: Don't say such a silly thing. If I find out Chohgoroh and arrest him, I'm sure mother will praise me for my distinguished service.

Ohaya: I don't think so. If you arrest Chohgoroh, you'll be undutiful to mother.

Yohei: Why shall I become undutiful to mother if I nab

would grieve it. So you'd better quit doing so before you get injured.

Yohei: Why do you urge me to give up arresting Chohgoroh?  
Is he your relative?

Ohaya: No, by no means.

Yohei: If not, I shall have to nab him and distinguish myself. If you interrupt me, you'll smart for it.  
(gets angry and puts his hand on the hilt of the longer sword. Just then Okoh comes in.)

Okoh (comes forward): Wait a minute!

Why are you quarreling? Ohaya, you'd better keep silent. Yohei, I've been listening what you've said. Do you know of Nuregami No Chohgoroh?

Yohei: Yes, I saw him once at a wrestling ring of Horie and next time I met him at the red-light district. He has a long forelock and also a mole on his right cheek, I assure you.

Okoh: Really?

Yohei: Here is his picture. Just look at it.  
(takes out the picture from his pocket)

Okoh: Thanks, I will. (looks at the picture. Meanwhile, ~~Chohgoroh~~ Chohgoroh opens the paper sliding-door in the upstairs room and listens to their conversation.

His reflection is reflected in the water of the wash-hand

and he gets surprised and look

pulls the cord of

close

Yohei: What are you going to do, Ohaya?

Ohaya: It's getting dark and besides it looks like rain, so I'll light a fire.

Yohei: When it gets dark, I'll do my work and arrest the fugitive from justice who has stolen into this house. Now I'll arrest him right away.

(Ohaya withholds him.)

Ohaya: Wait a minute, please! It's still early. (opens the skylight.)

Okoh: Say, Yohei, I've something to ask of you. Do me a favour, will you?

Yohei: What is it?

Okoh: Will you grant my request?

Yohei: Tell it to me, please.

Okoh: Wait a moment! (enters the dressing-room and brings a hand-chest and takes a purse out of it and then takes out a paper packet of money from the purse.) To be frank with you, I've wanted to give this money to priests for reciting the Buddhist scripture so that we might lead a happy life in the other world. But I'll give the money to you, so do you mind selling the picture to me?

Yohei: Do you want to get this picture?

do you keep

from me? J'



Yohei: I know you've saved the money by the sweat of your brow.  
Do you really want to buy this picture?

Okoh: Yes, I don't mind, I might go to hell after my death.

Yohei: Oh, you want it so much. Hum! (seems to be absorbed in thought and throws out his swords) If I wear these swords, I shall become a samurai, but if not, I shall still be a merchant of Yawata. If you want it so much, I'll give it to you, for it's my merchandise.

Okoh: Do you mean you'll sell it to me? But I'm afraid you'll be unable to do your duty.

Yohei: Take it easy! I'm off duty before it gets dark.

Okoh: I appreciate your kindness. (takes up the picture and places her hands together)

Chaya: Say, Yohei Dono. I've kept the matter from you together with mother. But don't take it amiss, for I shall never conceal anything from you from now on.

(Just then the moon appears over the roof. Chaya takes out a paper-framed night-light from the inner room.)

Yohei: When night falls, I shall be on duty and investigate closely every house in this village. (seems to be deep in thought) Say, Mother, I don't think the criminal is roaming about here, but I'm sure he has gone somewhere else already.

(opens the door) Say, Chaya, I shall go out now.

Chaya: (calls out) Yohei, so you mean

Okoh: "here are you going?

Chohgoroh: Well, I've wanted to be arrested by him, but I was afraid you might lament it if I were arrested in this house. Now Yohei Dono has gone out, so I'll keep up with him and be arrested by him. Please allow me to do so.

Okoh: Wait a minute! Don't you understand our mind? The reason why I asked Yohei to sell me your picture is this. I wanted to know whether he would allow you to escape or not. When he sold it to me, I was beside myself with joy. Besides he was kind enough to suggest the by-path to Kawachi, you know. I remember you asked me to give you a bowl of rice as soon as you came here, so I understand you're determined to be put in prison. However, I cannot stand looking at you being arrested. I hope you'll run away as much as possible and live as long as you can. I'm sorry you've become such a criminal. (bursts out crying)

Chaya: Oh, it's not time for you to cry, mother. When it dawns, I'm afraid a number of people will come out. So I think we'd better let him disguise himself as another man and run off.

Okoh: That's exactly what I've thought of. I'll shave his conspicuous forelock so as to let him look like another man. Chaya, hand me the razor.

... feet

once for all and called on you to say good-bye. Now I'm sorry I've troubled you a great deal against my will. Hand me over to Yohei Dono, please.

Okoh: Do you insist on being arrested by him?

Chohgoroh: Yes, I'm resigned to my fate.

Okoh: Then have your own way!

(Just at the moment Ohaya brings in the razor and puts it beside Okoh, who takes it up and tries to stab her throat with it.)

Choh.: Wait a moment!

Ohaya: Say, Chohgoroh San, if you don't have your forelock shaved ~~in~~ off according to mother's advice, I'll also die with her.

Choh.: Wait ~~a~~ moment!

Okoh.: If not, I'll kill myself.

Choh.: Wait a minute!

Okoh: Do you mean you'll escape, then?

Choh.: Yes, I'll.

Ohaya: Will you have your forelock shaved off?

Choh.: Yes, I will.

Okoh: Do you mean you'll really escape?

Choh.: Yes, I'll have my forelock shaved off and escape.

Ohaya: Well, s

Ohaya: I'm

- Ohaya: Ah, you've hurt his face.
- Okoh: Oh, I'm sorry. Okoh, bring the styptic.  
(draws up the ink-case and hides his scars with India ink and compares his face with the picture.)
- Okoh: Oh, you look like another man.  
But still the mole on your high cheek is very conspicuous, I'm afraid.  
This is your father's memento as it were, so it's rather hard for me to shave it off. Ohaya, please shave it off.
- Ohaya: How shall I be able to shave it off?
- Okoh: Ah, I'm sorry I shall have to shave off his mole. (breaks down crying)
- Yohei: (outside the front door) You're under arrest, Nuregami. (throws a silver dirk at the high cheek of Chohgoroh. Ohaya and Okoh get astonished; Ohaya takes up the paper-framed night light.)
- Ohaya: Say, Nuregami San, your mole has come off.
- Choh.: Really?
- Okoh: Indeed he is very kind-hearted. (places her hands together in prayer. However, Chohgoroh resolutely takes a seat.)
- Choh.: Now, Mother, rope me and hand me over to Yohei Dono.
- Okoh: What?
- Ohaya: Say, Chohgoroh San, have you lost your head? Don't you understand my husband's mind? He also threw this paper package of money to you. On the paper there is written "Travelling Expenses," you see.
- Choh.: Of course I understand his mind as well as mother's.

To tell the truth, I've \_\_\_\_\_ mind  
at rest for a while and had \_\_\_\_\_ off.  
However, I've killed four men includ \_\_\_\_\_ two samurai  
by mistake, so I'm resigned to my fate.  
Mother, I don't want to be arrested by any other person,  
so please rope me and hand me over to Yohei Dono. If not,  
you'll be ~~ungrateful~~ to your ~~deceased~~ husband.

Okoh: Ah, I'm mistaken. Thank you for your reminding me of it,  
Chohgoroh. It must be my duty to let him perform a meri-  
torious deed, for he is my stepson. The mills of God  
~~grind~~ slowly, but they grind exceedingly small, I should  
think. Ohaya, hand me the cord.

Ohaya: You mustn't do so. If you rope him, I'm afraid my husband's  
efforts will come to naught. If he runs off now,  
I think you might see him again.

Okoh: I've once harboured him from my maternal love, but now  
I've come to my senses. If I let him escape, I'm  
afraid I shall fail in my duty toward my stepson.  
(To Chohgoroh) Are you ready?

Choh.: Yes, I am. (thrusts aside Ohaya and places his hands  
behind him. Okoh takes up the rope from the window  
and ropes Chohgoroh.)

Okoh: Now I've arrested Chohgoroh.

Jujibeh: (=Yohei's changed name), come on and take him over.  
(Just then Yohei who has been standing at the door  
comes in.)

Yohei: Bravo! I'll take him over to the police.  
Ohaya, what time is it?