

SYNOPSIS:

Chijimiya Shinsuke, pedlar, bumped against Akama Genzaemon at a festival of the Machiman Shrine, Fukagawa, Yedo, so Akama picked a quarrel with Shinsuke. Thereupon O-Miyo, geisha-girl, who chanced to be there, mediated the quarrel. Although O-Miyo had a lover named Hozumi Shinzaburo, Akama made advances to her and happened to see a Chinese character "Shin" tattooed upon her arm, so reproached her for it when Shinsuke called her his sweetie and managed to persuade Akama of it.

Unsophisticated as Shinsuke was, he also fell in love with O-Miyo. Taking advantage of Shinsuke's love, therefore, O-Miyo asked Shinsuke to investigate the missing censer which she needed for the sake of her lover. At the request of O-Miyo, Shinsuke made a good round sum of money, but O-Miyo, who had been suspected of her relation to Shinsuke by her lover, turned down the money to Shinsuke out of mortification. As a result, Shinsuke lost his reason and killed not only O-Miyo but also several others owing to the cursed sword "Muramasa". Knowing at length that O-Miyo was his younger sister from whom he had parted since his childhood, Shinsuke was arrested with resistance by the police.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE: ----

Shigo-no-Shinsuke, Pedlar of Cotton Crêpe; Akama-
Genzaemon; Hozumi-Shinzaburo; Mirukui-no-Latsu; Baggage-Man
Sakusuke; Yankage-Heima; Rishichi, Dealer, in Second-Hand
Articles; Horikiri Choji, Boatman; Akama's Followers, Kumazo,
Toramatsu, Ushisuke, Butahachi; Kimpachi, Festival Sponsor;
O-Miyo, Geisha-Girl; O-Tsuyu, Wife of Obanaya; Sasaba-O-Suzu;
Four Girls of Obanaya; Three Geisha-Girls; Three Young Men;
Two Boatmen.

ACT I

Scene of Obanaya, Nakamachi

The stage represents the store of Obanaya, Nakamachi.

On the flat stage both Heima dressed as a warrior and Rishichi dressed as a dealer in second-hand articles are about to stand up. On the double platform there are four girls. With an orchestra, the curtain rises.

Heima: By the way, hasn't Akama Genzaemon come here yet today?

A: I'm sure he'll be here today. Although he has an agreement with you, he hasn't yet come.

B: He ought to be here now.

Rishichi: He'll never fail to come here today. I've also a business engagement with him, though. He told me to wait for him here at Obanaya. Anyhow, I'll wait for him here till he comes.

Heima: Hey, Rishichi, what do you want with Akama?

Rishichi: Well, I'll tell you.

He expressed his wish to dispose of his sword "Muramasa" if anybody would care for it and left the matter to me. I know of some man who wants to get it and the article is a genuine one, as well, so have wanted to take upon myself the task and brought the money for it today.

Heima: Then, you've a lot of money today, I guess.
You'd better make merry a bit.

Rishichi: Well, I'm sorry to say I'll have to hand the money
to him soon after just glancing at it.
Ha, ha, ha -----.

Heima: Both Akama and I came up here to Yedo and we frequented
the red-light district at Tatsumi.

Although he was enamored of that new geisha-girl
O-Miyo who is said to resemble the deceased O-Tomi
and visited there frequently, he made fruitless
efforts, I should say.

She pledged her eternal love with a guy named
Hozumi-Shinzaburo in the same clan as mine, so
I tried to dissuade him from making useless
efforts, but he wouldn't listen to me.

Anyway, he still thinks dearly of her and
must have determined to dispose of his
precious sword "Muramasa," so I understand he
has a mind to win O-Miyo's heart at any cost.

Rishichi: Ha, ha! Then, you're a bit jealous of him about the
girl, aren't you?

Heima: Don't talk nonsense!

As for me, I'm in a position to be enticed by a
woman. Ha, ha, ha -----

(Just then, at the drop curtain of the stage passage a number of people's thundering voices are heard, "Go ahead, go ahead" In less than no time Akana Genzaemon wearing a sword comes out. Following him, Mirukui-no-Matsu comes out dragging Shinsuke dressed as a vendor of cotton crepe, followed by Akana's followers, Kuzazo, Toramatsu, Ushisuke and Butakachi dragging the baggage-man Sakusuke with a baggage of cotton-crepe on his back. Choji dressed as a boatman comes out.)

Miru: Hey, you farmer, why did you thread your way through the crowd with such a thing on your back and bump against our boss?

Shinsuke: My attendant is quite a stranger here, so he made such a blunder.

Please forgive us, please forgive us.

(Apologizes to Genzaemon repeatedly.)

Genzaemon thoughtfully says.)

Genza: Hey, hey, hey, don't do such a thing on the street for decency's sake.

Drag them over there.

Followers: Now, now, go ahead, go ahead.

(All of them come into the main stage.)

The girls all look at them.)

- A: Akama-san and Mirukui are also among them.
- All: Welcome, Gentlemen!
- Heima: Ah, Mr. Akama, I've been waiting for you for some time.
- Rishichi: Hello, Genzaemon-sama!
- It has taken you too much time, I'm afraid. I've long been waiting for you.
- Genshichi: I was coming here together with my followers so as to see today's festival.
- On our way here, however, the vendor of cotton crepe rubbed against me with the tip of the pole, but he didn't apologize to me properly, so quick-tempered as Mirukui is, he got angry and dragged the guy here.
- Miru: Even one with an empty hand is apt to jostle with another in the bustle.
- This guy carrying such a large baggage on his back rubbed against our boss, so -----.
- Followers: That's why we can't forgive him.
- Choji: It was cheeky of them to have come up to Yedo.
- What do you say, Sir?
- Heima: What a hateful tradesman he is!
- Although he's a bumpkin of Echigo Province, he made a fool of a Yedoite, so such a guy ought to be chastised.
- Shinsuke: Excuse me, Sir, but it's this baggage that rubbed against him in the crowd,

but this guy has come up to Yedo for the first time this year, so I'll apologize to him for this guy's carelessness.

Please apologize to him together with me.

Miru: Hey, hey, hey, although you say the guy is quite a stranger to Yedo, why did you let such a guy carry the baggage on his back in the throng?

Shinsuke: Well, I'll tell you.

This neighborhood is a market for my goods, so I undertook to make liveries for the landlords in time for today's festival.

However, tailoring was put off and they pressed me for the goods.

After all tailoring was completed, so I wished they could have the goods in time for the festival and lost no time in hurrying to the very place together with my attendant. Although we were in a hurry, there was such a crowd that we shouted ourselves hoarse and managed to pass through the place for the festival.

We were so much excited that we made such a blunder. Please forgive us.

If you forgive us, we shall be very much pleased.

(Gesticulates like a bumpkin.)

Sakusuke: Well, Sir, you needn't apologize to them so much. We didn't run into them intentionally, but tried to avoid them in the din and bustle when they bumped against us and talked to the top of their bent what they liked. You apologize to them so much that they take advantage of it, I should say. It's silly of you to apologize to them.

First Follower: None of your cheek!

You should apologize to us.

Second " : What an obstinate rustic you are!

Third Followers: Knock down such a guy.

Fourth Guy: That's right, that's right. Let's knock him down.

(All the followers slap Sakusuke in the face.

Sakusuke gets irritated.)

Sakusuke: Although I didn't resist you, you slapped me in the face. Sounds interesting. Do you think I'm a mere baggage-man? In my native province, I'm a man of good birth. In the whole village I, Sakusuke, am counted on the fingers of one hand.

Now hit me, now, hit me, now hit me as hard as you can.

(Says obstinately) ~~XXXXXX!~~

Shinsuke: Here, here, here, what's the matter?

Don't say such a cheeky thing to them.

Sakusuke: Never mind. Now, hit me, hit me.
I'm also a man. I'll fight with them.
Well, Sir, don't meddle in the matter, please.

Shinsuke: Tut, tut! Won't you obey me?
(Shinsuke calms down Sakusuke.)

Shinsuke: I'm afraid you're very much offended, but please forgive us.

Genza: Hey, hey, hey, even if you say such a pathetic thing, we won't feel pity for you, as we're wandering from one place to another.

Okay. Mirukui, strike them down.

Miru: You two rascals!

All: Be prepared! (Are about to rise to their feet.
Over there ----)

Miyo: Just a minute, Akana-san.
(With a ditty to the accompaniment of a musical instrument, out of the stage passage does O-Miyo dressed as a dancer for the festival come. Following her, a number of young men wearing towels of the same design around their necks and having in hand big fans with the characters "Miyo" written in red ink on them come out. The girls on the stage look at them.)

A: Oh, you're O-Miyo-san.

B: Come over here ----

All: Please.

(O-Miyo seems to be in thought.)

Miyo: Excuse me, Akana-san and everybody.

Genza: Hello, O-Miyo! Why have you come here without knowing the circumstances?

Followers: She has come out to mend the quarrel.

Miyo: Well, I don't know the circumstances, though.

If they were gamblers or warriors,
you wouldn't be able to save your face.

However, as you see, they're vendors.

It wouldn't look well for you to take advantage of
their weakness and chastise them.

As the proverb goes, "A kindness is never lost."

I'm afraid I've pushed myself a bit forward, but
please forgive them for my intermediation.

First Geisha: We'll also apologize to you together with her.

Second Geisha: ~~~~~~~~~ You may be angry with them, but since O-Miyo-san
has mediated, -----

Third Geisha: Forgive them ----

Three: Please.

(Genzaemon seems to be in thought.)

Genza: Hm. If any other person-even any big shot-would mediate, I wouldn't forgive them.

However, since the noted geisha-girl
Shinwara-no-Miyo of Nakamachi has offered mediation,
I'll forgive them.

A tender feeling always finds a ready response,
you know.

Miyo: Well, then, have you esteemed^m my words?

Genza: I'll leave the matter to you, but would
like to ask a favor of you.

Miru: But, Boss, if you leave the matter to her ----

Genza: I've something up my sleeve.

Miru: Then, Boss, Okay?

Genza: I said, "Okay". Leave the matter to me.

(Just then, the two girls who have been in the
interior come out.)

A: Excuse me, Akana-san, but dinner is ready now.

B: Please come to the inner room.

Genza: Okay. What do you say to having a drink in
the inner room for diversion?

Heina: Then, I'll also accompany you.

Mishichi: Then, I'll have the talk at leisure with you at
the inner room.

Genza: Now, O-Miyo, come with me.

(Holds O-Miyo's hand.)

Miyo: I'll go there later on.

Genza: Then, I'll wait for you at the inner room.

(With Genzaemon at the head, all of them go into the interior.

Afterwards Shinsuke, Sakusuke, Miyokichi and the *keisha*-girls remain.

Shinsuke comes forward thoughtfully.)

Shinsuke: O-Miyo-sama, you came here in good time, so thanks to your help we escaped from the distress.

Sakusuke: I feared what might become of us and inwardly bade farewell to my father in the native place.

Shinsuke: We could escape alive.

Thank you very much for your kindness.

(Both of them express their thanks to O-Miyo.

Out of the interior does O-Tsuyu, wife of Obanaya, dressed as mistress of the restaurant, come out.)

Tsuyu: O-Miyo-san, I've overheard you about your intermeditation. I'm glad you interceded with him for Shinsuke-san. I felt uneasy indeed.

Thanks to your intermeditation, Shinsuke-san escaped from the disaster.

Miyo: I was unable to remain a mere spectator, so offered an apology though I was afraid he'd have an ambition against me.

Shinsuke: Madam, I'm sorry we've disturbed you.

Please forgive us.

Tsuyu: Never mind. I've just wanted to pay you the bill and today is the festival, so I hope you'll have a drink before you leave here.

Sakusuke: Excuse me, Sir, but since she has offered to ⁺treat us to a delightful dinner, it would be rude of you to refuse it.

Shinsuke: Don't make such an uncalled-for remark.

Tsuyu: Don't worry about the thing. You shall have it in the inner small room.

Shinsuke: Well, then, we'll partake of the feast for the festival. (With O-Tsuyu at the head, Shinsuke, Sakusuke and all the geisha-girls go into the interior. O-Miyo remains and seems to be in thought.)

Miyo: Life is full of vexations. The very man of my heart hasn't yet come.

Instead, that disagreeable guy Akana has come.

I wonder what my dear Shinzaburo-san is doing.

He promised me to come here surely today though.

(Just then, in the interior the voice of O-Suzu, one of the girls, is heard.)

Suzu: How nasty you are, Juraku-san! I'll remember.

(Comes out hurriedly saying so.)

O-Miyo looks at O-Suzu.)

Miyo: O-Suzu-san, you're always lively.

Why did you speak so loudly?

Suzu: O-Miyo-san, hasn't Shin-san come yet?

Miyo: He said he'd surely come here today, but I wonder why he's so tardy in coming I feel very much impatient, you know.

Suzu: Don't worry. He's a man of his word, so I'm sure he'll be here.

Miyo: I'm afraid I can't depend upon his word so much now; he has become very cross recently. That's why I feel much more nervous.

(O-Suzu pumps O-Miyo thoughtfully.)

Suzu: Oh, my goodness! Really!

No wonder the other day he was talking with a geisha-girl of Amemote at Yagurashita.

(Tries to let O-Miyo feel uneasy in various ways.

In the meantime, Shinzaburo dressed as a detached warrior comes out of the interior and overhears their talk.

Both of them become unaware of his coming.

O-Miyo gradually gets close to O-Suzu.)

Miyo: Indeed a man is flirtatious. Besides, Shin-san is kind to women, so they're apt to love him.

(Shinzaburo comes forward.)

Shin: O-Miyo, aren't you goin' to speak ill of me any more?

(Thereupon O-Miyo gets startled and looks at Shinzaburo.)

Miyo: Oh, Shin-san, when did you come here?

Suzu: I got startled and my heart throbbbed violently.

Shin: I've been here for some time.

Miyo: Don't tell a lie.

Shin: Oh, no, it isn't a lie.

She has become very cross recently, so I can't take my eyes off her.

Suzu: Gracious me! Then, did you hear the talk -----?

Shin: Well, I might have overheard it.

A woman is flirtatious, you know.

Besides, O-Miyo is especially kind to me, so any man is apt to be attracted by her and -----.

Miyo: Huh?

Suzu: Oh, how unkind of you, Shin-san.

I'm afraid you've heard all that we said.

What shall we do?

Miyo: O-Suzu-san, I'll remember.

After all you've deceived me.

Suzu: Forgive me, O-Miyo-san.

(O-Suzu goes into the interior in a flurry.)

Afterwards both of them seem to be in thought.)

Miyo: Well, Shinzaburo-san!

Shin: What do you want with me?

Why do you stand on ceremony?

Well, O-Miyo, although you're always good-looking, at least in my eyes you've especially improved in your looks, as you've worn such a dress.

Miyo: You've let me feel uneasy. Don't make game of me so much.

Shin: How could I make game of you?

I'm a detached warrior, so if I'd neglect you, I'd become a cursed fellow, I'm afraid.

Miyo: When I went to the meeting-place for the festival today, every girl praised you up to the skies in my presence, so I felt uneasy.

Shin: I feel more uneasy than you.

Miyo: Why?

Shin: Of course I can keep on loving you alone.

You trade on chastity, so even if you aren't a prostitute, you're a geisha-girl and do practically the same thing. That's why I feel uneasy, I should say.

Miyo: As if you didn't know my mind.

How vexing!

(O-Miyo gets sore. Just then O-Suzu comes out again.)

Suzu: O-Miyo-san, I got ready for drinking at the inner room just now, so go there together with Shinza-san.

Miyo: Oh, thank you. Then, Shin-san, have a drink at the inner room, won't you?

Shin: If you go there, I'll accompany you.

Suzu: Go there right away.

Miyo: O-Suzu-san, I'll leave the matter to you.

(Both Shinzaburo and O-Miyo thoughtfully go into the house on the right.

O-Suzu goes into the interior.

Just then, with Mirukui-no-Matsu at the head, Heina, ~~Choji~~ Choji and the girls come out.)

Miru: Now, I've been told our boss has some talk with the curio-dealer Rishichi.

I don't want to have a serious look among them, you know. What do you say to drinking while enjoying the festival entertainment?

Choji: That's a good idea. Now, now, rice-wine, rice-wine! Bring here a lot of rice-wine and eatables right away.

Girl: Very well. Just a minute, please.

(Claps her hands when two girls come out with some rice-wine ^{and} eatables.)

Girl: Now, now, everybody, here's rice-wine.

Heina: It's a great pleasure to hold a banquet
enjoying the dance here.

How interesting, how interesting!

Choji: If I'm loved by a girl, as well, I'll be quite satisfied.

First Girl: My goodness!

Any girl loves you, I can assure you.

Choji: I've had no experience of that kind up to now, so I
can't depend upon your words so much.

Follower: That's quite true. Ha, ha, ha, ha -----

Third Follower: Why did our boss come all the way here to
talk with the curio-dealer?

Fourth Follower: We can't understand it well, but it ^s seems they're
talking about a sword.

Miru: They're having a confidential talk.
About a very complicated matter, I suppose.

Choji: In my opinion, tomorrow will be the
15th of August, so perhaps they're talking about the
noon-viewing feast, aren't they?

Heina: If he wants to talk about the noon-viewing feast,
he needn't have a confidential talk with only the
curio-dealer.

Choji: That's because our boss is good at jokes.

Miru: What on earth -----

Four Followers: Do you mean?

Choji: Well, "doguya" (the curio-dealer) looks up at
O-Tsuki - sama (the moon)
and jumps.

Heina: Is it pun, eh?

All: Ha, ha, ha -----

(In the meantime, Genzaemon comes out of the interior when all of them look at him.)

First Follower: Boss, how about the business?

All: Are you through with it now?

Genza: O-Miyo hasn't yet come. I don't feel swell in drinking with men only.

Call O-Miyo right now.

Girls: Certainly. She'll be here in a minute.

(Fidget.)

Genza: Oh, don't fidget about. Call her, call her right now.

All: O-Miyo, O-Miyo!

(Call her continually. In the house on the right is heard O-Miyo's voice.)

Miyo: How busy I am! I'll be there in a minute.

(O-Miyo comes out and sits in the middle nonchalantly. Genzaemon who seems to be in thought offers a cup to O-Miyo.)

Gen: Well, O-Miyo, where have you been hiding yourself? Without you a chill would fall over the company, I'm afraid. Anyhow, keep calm and have a drink.

Miyo: Thank you, but I've made a vow and given up drinking. Please forgive me.

Miru: Hey, O-Miyo, our boss has been waiting for your coming. Don't say such a silly thing. Today is a festival, you know.

All: Here's how.

Miyo: Be quiet, please.
I feel dizzy, I'm afraid.

Gen: Well, O-Miyo, even if you try to reject me, I'll never
give up my hope whether it's right or wrong.
I hear you have a lover. What's the guy?
I'd like to hear his name.
(O-Miyo seems to be at a loss.)

Miyo: Yeah, I've a lover ---- the very man of my heart.

Gen: What ----?

Miyo: Well, I've a man with whom I pledged my eternal love,
so I'm sorry for you, but I shan't be able to obey you.
You see, there're a great many geisha-girls in this spacious
Nakanishi, so call any other geisha-girl,
please. (Smokes tobacco.)

Heina: By the way, who's the guy?
Well, what's the guy?

Miyo: Well, the man is ----.

Heina: What's the name of the guy?
(O-Miyo fidgets. Just then, Mirukui-no-Matsu comes
straight forward and rolls up O-Miyo's sleeve
and shows her left arm.)

Miru: I kept an eye on your lover.
Now bring the guy here.
(Forcibly shows her arm. O-Miyo holds the arm.)

Miyo: No, you mustn't ----.

Miru: Oh, it's of no use to hide it.
This Chinese character "Shin" tattooed upon your
arm is the initial of the guy's name, isn't it?

- Choji: You had the initial of your lover's name tattooed upon your name. You're an ultra-modern woman, I should say.
- Miyo: Now that you've recognized it, there's no help for it. Well, this is the initial of the very man of my heart to whom I pledged my eternal love.
(Seems to be in thought.)
- Gen: Now that you've confessed it, who's the guy who has made a dupe of me?
- Heina: Well, Akana, wait a moment.
(Turns to O-Miyo)
This initial Shin is that of Hezumi Shizaburo, one of my companions, who has become a detached warrior, isn't it?
(O-Miyo keeps silent.)
Alright. If the guy is Shizaburo, I'll find the case very interesting.
Although he's in duty bound to investigate the missing censor, he has neglected his duty, been enamored of the geisha-girl and treated our lord's directive lightly.
Shall I arrest the rash guy Shizaburo and take him to the mansion? (Rises to his feet.)
- Miyo: Well, I don't want to ----.

- Gen: Is your lover Shinzaburo?
- Miyo: Well, I don't want to -----
- Miru: Otherwise, do you mean to say that the guy
is another man?
- Miyo: Well.
- Four: Well.
- All: Well, well, well, well.
- Gen: What's your answer, you cheeky woman?
(O-Miyo is at a loss for a reply.)
Just then Shinsuke, who has wanted to come out, comes out.)
- Shinsuke: Well, I'm the very guy that exchanged vows of love
with her.
(Thereupon Miyo seems nonplussed.
All the others get startled and look at Shinsuke.)
- Gen: You're the dealer in cotton crêpe,
aren't you? Sounds interesting. If you want to,
I may think you her lover, though.
- Miru: Do you have any strong ----
- Four Followers: Proof?
- Shinsuke: Hmm. As a proof of it, I've this account-book.
- Gen: The account-book, eh?
- All: As a proof of it?
- Shinsuke: On the back of this account-book is written
"Shinsuke, Dealer in Cotton Crêpe,
Takada, Echigo Province."

This initial Shin is surely a proof of it.
No wonder I'm her lover because of the
initial "Shin".

Kadan, is that enough?

(Straightens himself when O-Tsu pulls O-Miyo by
the sleeve and lets her understand it.
Shinsuke, Genzaemon and Mirukui seem to be
at a loss.)

Miyo: Yes. Although I've kept it secret up to now,
as this tattoo represents, my lover is
Shinsuke-san.

That's why, Akama-san, when you were about to beat
him, I couldn't stand it and checked you.
That's a strong proof for it, I should say.

Gen: Well, then, is O-Miyo's lover that dealer in cotton *crêpe*
of Echigo Province? Indeed tastes differ.

Miru: No wonder he looks like her lover.
He's very much stylishly dressed from top to toe.

Heina: Such a style seems to be in fashion among lovers
at Echigo Province.

First Follower: In nine cases out of ten, I suppose that
woman borrowed some cotton crêpe from him.

Second Follower: No wonder she covered at the sight of him
like cotton crêpe.

Third Follower: That guy is indeed the incarnation of Echigo
bleached cotton.

Miru: He's a ghost of bleached cotton, I should say.

All: Hnn. Ha, ha, ha -----

(Hearing their laughter, Shinsuke gets offended, but
O-Miyo masters her anger and draws Shinsuke close to
her.)

Miyo: Well, I admit I'm capricious. If only a handsome man
should be entitled to become a lover as in a
play, the wide world would seem to diminish.
You see, I shan't be able to remain a geisha-girl
throughout my life, so shall have to settle down
in good time.

Since you're reliable and kind, I've
fallen in love with you.

(Says % so thoughtfully. Wiping the perspiration
off his forehead, Shinsuke seems to be at
a loss. Genzaemon seems to be in thought.)

Gen: Never mind. Even if she wriggles, when I ransom
her, as she's a geisha-girl, she'll be mine.
Well, Choji, call Rishichi.

Choji: Hey, curio-dealer Rishichi-san, curio-dealer
Rishichi-san, right away, right away.

- Rishichi: Very well. (Comes out.)
Here's the money for it according to promise.
- Gen: Alright. Well, O-Tsuyu, I'll pay the ransom for O-Miyo. Give this money to your boss and negotiate with him.
- Tsuyu: Sorry to say, as to the ransom of O-Miyo-san, we've a previous engagement with another man.
- Gen: By the way, who's the very man that has a previous engagement with you about the matter?
- All: Who's the guy?
(Shinsuke comes forward)
- Shinsuke: Well, it's not just the same.
- Gen: Hmm, alright. If you've a previous engagement, I'd like to ask a favor of you.
- Shinsuke: What is it? (Fidgets.)
- Gen: Well, you see, at Kisarazu of Kazusa Province I'm rather noted and go by the name of Akana or Akauma. I've never asked for another's favor up to now, though. Not only you but also I'd like to show off. Please give O-Miyo to me.
I, Genzaemon, have ransomed her.
Shinsuke-don, think so, please.
(Shinsuke seems to be in thought.)
- Shinsuke: You've politely asked for my favor, so I'd like to say that I'll give her to you and yield to you.

However, I'm afraid I can't give her to you.

All: Why can't you give her to him?

Tsuyu: Well, Shinsuke-san, now that you have to let Akana-san comprehend the matter, you'd better tell him your relation to that girl. Hum, you're a man, so it'd sound rather strange if you'd talk about your love affair. A woman would be more suitable for doing so. (Seems to be in thought.)

Miyo: I don't mean to talk boastfully, though. At the time of last year's mountain festival he came here to Obanaya for company's sake for the first time. On that day he made advances to me. Since then we came to become intimate with each other and to make a sign with the eye.

Shinsuke: The more did I become intimate with her, the more did I spend my days in flower-viewing and snow-viewing. The snow reminded me of my native place, so I thought I'd determinedly go back to my native place wearing my clothes made of Nara bleached cotton and live together with her in matrimonial harmony there to the end of my days. We have been resolved to work together in gray clothes with splashed patterns and wear in ~~the same way~~ like dyed goods for two years.

- Miyo: If I don't meet him even for one day, I'll be anxious about him, straighten my back, and call him. Our love affair has given rise to scandals, but I'm looking forward to keeping house with him.
- Shinsuke: Both of us love each other~~r~~ so much.
- Miyo: Shinsuke-san, I've fallen in love with you. Come nearer to me.
- Shinsuke: It's a hot day, everybody, isn't it?
- Miru: Boss, what shall we do?
- Gen: They're merely a free-love couple. She might be possessed by a horse instead of by a fox.
- Miru: But. (Is about to rise to his feet.)
- Tsuyu: Well, no wonder you're angry with them, but, as the proverb goes, "Love is blind," you know. Especially today is the festival day of this place. Akama-sama, leave the matter to me, please. I'll do my utmost so as to save your face.
- Gen: You're wife of this house and said to be good ~~judgment~~^{pd} judgment at Nakamachi, so I'll be willing to leave the matter to you.
- Tsuyu: You see, I'm known as Tsuyu of Obanaya, so understand it well.
- Gen: I'll surely leave the matter to you. I met cotton crêpe dealer Shinsuke for the first time today, so when I meet him again on my way hereafter, I shan't be able to recognize him unless he has some characteristic.

I'll put a mark on him so that I can recognize him.

(Grasps the pipe with the tip downward and cracks Shinsuke's forehead. Shinsuke groans.

Genzaemon grins. O-Miyo seems to be vexatious.

All the girls seem to be in thought.)

Miyo: Oh, Shinsuke-san ----- (Is about to rise to her feet when Shinsuke checks her. Genzaemon kicks down Shinsuke. Shinsuke seems to be vexatious.)

Gen: The guy pushed himself forward and the split bowl of the pipe does not correspond with his ungainly forehead like borrowed wisdom.

The more closely do we look at him -----.

All: The more miserable does he seem.

Gen: Hum ---- ha ---, well, let's go now, shall we?

(Leads the way.

All of them go to the stage passage.

Shinsuke lies prone. Both O-Tsu and O-Miyo look after him.)

Tsuyu: Well, Shinsuke-san, you must be very mortified. Please forgive me.

I asked you such a difficult task and I'm sorry you had a hard time of it.

Miyo: You must have a pain, I'm afraid.

I don't know how to express my thanks in words.

Madam, what shall I do?

Shinsuke: Excuse me, but if you say such a thing, I'll be at a loss indeed. I don't mind such a trifling thing at all.

Sakusuke: Well, Sir, I'm afraid you feel an acute pain. Whenever I saw and heard you in the adjoining room a while ago, I felt mortified and tried to run out, but all of them kept me from doing so and I couldn't get out of there, so felt vexatious and bit the sleeve.

Shinsuke: I received only a slight cut, so you needn't worry about it.

However, although I became a lover for the first time in my life, I had a hard time of it indeed.

(Shinzaburo comes out of the interior, bows to everybody and turns to Shinsuke.

Just then O-Miyo says to Shinzaburo.)

Miyo: Shinzo-san, I want you to appreciate his kindness. When you were about to be in trouble, Shinsuke-san took upon himself the task for your sake.

Tsuyu: You'd better thank him very much.

Shinzo: How do you do? Shinzo-dono, I suppose? I'm sorry I let you suffer hardships unexpectedly.

Shinza: How do you do? Shinsuke-dono, I suppose?

I am Rozumi Shinzaburo.

You kindly helped me in trouble I can't express my thanks in words. I appreciate it.

Shinsuke: How do you do? Although I'm a man, I'm struck by your handsome countenance.

Indeed you deserve to be her lover.

Sakusuke: Sir, I wish I could have been born a handsome man.

Shinsuke: You ought to have a grudge against your parents.

Miyo: I'm afraid my head has been turned by the trouble and I've had a fit of spasm.

Tsuyu: Tomorrow will be an important day for you, you know.

Then, you'd better take a rest at the small room for a while.

Shinza: A woman is apt to have an attack of her chronic disease whether she is both in joy and in sorrow.

Tsuyu: Excuse me, Shinza-san, but her spasm ought to ----

Shinza: You mean I ought to look after her?

Tsu: Nothing is so good for Miyokichi-san's health as that.
(With a romantic ditty, Shinzaburo goes into the house on the right.)

Tsuyu: By the way, Shinsuke-san, have you brought here today the dry goods which I asked you the other day?

Shinsuke: I don't know whether you like it or not, but I'll just show it to you. Sakusuke, take it out, please.
(Sakusuke understands it and takes cotton crêpe out of the clothes-box. C-Tsuyu looks at the dry-goods. Out of the interior does a girl come.)

Girl A: Excuse me, Madam, but the guest at the
semi-detached room is calling you.
Come right away, please. (Takes Tsuyu by the
hand forcibly. Tsuyu rises to her feet.)

Tsuyu: Well, how busy I am! I'll be there in a minute.
(Taken by the girl, O-Tsuyu goes into the interior.
Afterwards a ditty starts:
"I'm so much pressed for time that I fret away my days.
Even when I meet him in the night now and then,
I feel impatient."
(In the meantime, Shinsuke puts away the dry-goods.
In the room on the right Miyo's voice is heard.)

Miyo: If you feel hot, you'd better take off your
Japanese coat.
("The bell of dawn comes within hearing.
Entering in the book, Shinsuke turns to the right
thoughtfully Sakusuke puts aside the baggage.)

Saku: Well, Shinsuke-san.
(Pats Shinsuke on the back when Shinsuke gets startled.)

Shin: Huh? (Falls on his buttocks.
Just then the sound of the wooden clappers is heard.)

Shin: I'm very much astonished.
(With the orchestra, the sound of the wooden
clappers is heard.)

----- Scene of Breakwater at River Okawa-----

The main stage has a light blue curtain all over behind. Two boatmen wearing a livery for the festival, tucking up their clothes behind, carrying a long lantern in hand, having some tattooed pattern upon their back, wearing a belly-band and tying a towel around their head respectively are about to rise to their feet.

With the roar of the sea, the curtain rises.

Young Man: Well, have many of them been saved from drowning?

Boatman A: You see, such a crowd of people dropped at the same time, so we were short-handed.

Young Man: Although it was a rare thing in recent years that the streets were so much crowded with people, there was no other passage ~~and~~ ^{and} the bridge was black with people.

Boatman A: Although there were several boats, most of the boatmen had gone out for pleasure, so we were short-handed and couldn't be there in time for their rescue, but were obliged to let them die before our very eyes.

Young Man: However, there seem to be a great many people drenched to the skin at the bridge watchman's lodge.

Boatman A: Well, they're those who were at the foot of the bridge.

Young Man: I'm afraid the people who had been in the center of the bridge couldn't budge even an inch.

Just then another boatman dressed in the same clothes comes out of the left.

Boatman B: Hey, Hatsu, come over here right away and work again.

Boatman A: Okay.

I'm sorry I've killed so much time.

Young Man: I'll also go round the river-bank.

Boatman B: Now, come on, come on right away.

All of them leave.

The curtain drops.

Just then Shinsuke comes out looking after O-Miyo dressed in a festival dance costume.

Shinsuke: Well, O-Miyo-san, cheer up, cheer up!

Miyo: I wonder what on earth happened to me.

Shinsuke: Well, today on my way back from Nakamachi there were jammed with people, so I wanted to take a boat, but was told all the boatmen took a day off for the festival.

After all I asked that old boatmen with whom I'm familiar to let me take this fishing-boat.

However, I heard a fighting took place there, so thought it dangerous and passed under the bridge hurriedly.

At that moment, together with the broken piece of the rail a person fell down from above, so I kept the person back and looked at the face when to my great astonishment I knew it was you, so rowed through the spot and nursed you back to health.

I'm glad you haven't hurt yourself at all.

Miyo: Yesterday I was saved from the final distress by you and today I was miraculously saved from death by you again. I owe you my life, Shinsuke-san.

I don't know how to express my thanks to you in words.

Hearing her words, Shinsuke says thoughtfully.

Shinsuke: Well, if you want to thank me, I have a favor to ask of you. Won't you please grant my request?

Miyo: Since I owe you my life, Shinsuke-san, I'll do anything if I can.

Shinsuke: Well, it would depend upon your will whether you could grant my request or not.

Miyo: And what's the request?

Shinsuke: Well, the request is---- (Is unable to say and meditates.)

I'm afraid it's hard for me to say the very thing.

Miyo: What's the matter?

I know you're a reliable man, Shinsuke-san.

That's why yesterday in presence of Akama-san I said you were my lover so as to hoodwink him.

That was because both O-Tsuyu-san and I knew your mind.
I'm relieved, you know.

Your request isn't a disagreeable one, I guess.
Will you please tell me frankly what it is?

Shinsuke seems to be at a loss.

Shinsuke: Now, you see, it's on the tip of my tongue, though.

Miyo: What's the reason why you can't say it?

Shinsuke: Well.

Miyo: Come on!

Shinsuke: Shall I venture to say it?

Miyo: Now say it right away, please.

Shinsuke: Well, please.

Miyo: Please.

Shinsuke: Please become my sweetie. (Says so and hides his face.)

Miyo: Huh? (Gets astonished and seems to be nonplussed.)

Shinsuke: Well, no wonder you're astonished to hear it, though.

I, Shinsuke, love you dearly, O-Miyo-sama.

Hear me out, please. Besides, yesterday at Obanaya
you pretended to love me so as to escape from the
trouble.

Although I knew you pretended to do so, I became
enamored of you and wished it had been your true love.
Since then I was stuck on you. Although I returned
to the inn, I felt madly in love with you and even
a love-story of my fellow-dealer in cotton crepe reminded
me of you.

I was over head and ears in love with you, so my heart throbbed fast even at the thought of you. However, I knew you had the man of your heart to whom you pledged your eternal love and had his initial tattooed upon your arm, so I mastered my emotion and put up with my sorrow.

Again, today when you were falling off the bridge, I kept you back for fear that you might hurt yourself and nursed you back to health, as you had swooned. When you came to yourself, however, I became crazy about you again and unfortunately couldn't give up my love.

Now that I've confessed my love to you though I know you have your lover, will you please understand my heart and grant my request, O-Miyo-sama?

Shinsuke says so thoughtfully. During the time, O-Miyo, who has dropped her head, thoughtfully chants the Buddhist scriptures.)

Miyo: Save us, merciful Buddha!

(Tries to throw herself into the river when Shinsuke holds her back.)

Shinsuke: Ah, look out!

Wait, wait a moment!

Miyo: Please let me go.

Shinsuke: No, I won't let you go. Although I kindly saved you from death, why are you going to kill yourself again?

Miyo: Well, I owe you my life, so I can't refuse your request from a sense of obligation, though. I'm afraid I can't give you a satisfactory answer because of this tattoo as a symbol of my eternal love to Shinzaburo-sama.

Once a big shot, but now a poop-out is Shinzaburo-sama, as he's a helpless "ronin", you know. If I'd abandon him in such a condition, it'd reflect upon my honor as a geisha-girl of Nakamachi. If he should obtain the censor even tomorrow, he'd be able to return to his native province. Then, I'd tell him of the reason, separate from him and become your legal wife.

Now you understand the reason for it, Shinsuke-san, don't you? So I'll do anything but this.

Shinsuke: Hmm, I see. You're right, I should say. I understand Shinzaburo-dono is now a poop-out, so you can't give the cold shoulder to him out of sincerity. Hearing your words, I've become stuck on you more and more.

Well, then, I'll wait till he obtains the censor.

Miyo: Then, will you kindly wait?

Shinsuke: Even if it takes one or two years, I'll wait. I'm also a man, you know.

Miyo: Then, I feel at ease. Now that I've unbosomed myself, will you please look for the censer together with us?

Shinsuke: Oh, owing to the appearance of the censer I should have my request granted, I suppose.

Then, I'll look for it even at the risk of my life.

Miyo: You know, Shinza-san has long been out of job.

Shinsuke: If he needs money, at any time-----

Miyo: You mean you'll supply him with his living expenses?

Shinsuke: I'll take upon myself to do so.

Miyo: Oh, I'm glad to hear it.

Shinsuke: In return, when he can successfully obtain the censer-----

Miyo: You mean your request?

Shinsuke: Will you grant it?

Miyo: Yeah. (Gesticulates.)

Shinsuke: It's a golden opportunity, though. (Gets struck by O-Miyo's beautiful countenance, but thoughtfully gives up the idea.)

Now I'll have to stand it.

Over there is heard a voice.

Voice: Ship ahoy!

(Both of them get startled when the sound of the wooden clappers is heard.

With the roar of the sea, the curtain drops.

----- Act Drop -----

A C T I I

The Scene at the brothel Obanaya.

A flat stage representing the big hall of the brothel Obanaya.

Two girls are lighting lamps, when the curtain rises with a ballad sung behind stage.

Soon Choji, the boatman, comes into stage.)

Cho: Good evening.

 O-Suzu, an elderly woman, comes into stage and addresses Choji.

Suzu: Hello, Choji. I was just going to you.

Cho: Any urgency?

Suzu: I've heard something awful and I feel nervous.

Cho: It's not like you to feel nervous.

Suzu: It's about you and me. The busibodies are talking much about us. And what I want to ask you is what you've done with the 3 ryo of money I lent to you before yesterday.

Cho: Well, I spent it at the Ahiru, because you said you were to stay here for the night and I was desperate about it.

Suzu: What for did you make such a big merry at the Ahiru?

Cho: I've just told you. You were to stay here all the night and so-- --

Suzu: You untrustworthy rascal. Come on with me.

Takes him by the hand.

Cho: But I've got things to do-----

About to go

Suzu: Don't mind. Come on with me.

Drugs him out of stage. O-Miyo, the courtesan, comes in. One of the former girls comes in and addresses him.

Girl:1: Here you are, Madame O-Miyo.

Miyo: I've just come.

Girl: I was bustling so much, I didn't notice when you came. You're so early.

Miyo: Shinsuke, the crepe-dealer is to come here. We've got some secret talk. Please get a quiet room ready.

Girl: Certainly

Goes out.

Miyo: As the proverb says, it's irritating to be waiting for others. I'm waiting for Shinsuke to bring me the money to give to Shiza --- for he needs it badly for the search of the incense-burner. How I wish Shinsuke would come soon.

Sinks into thought. Meantime Shinzaburo comes into the stage passage.

Shin: I am now about to get possession of the looked for treasure through the kindness of my old friend Mr. Katsushika.

Well, by the way, O-Kishi my betrothed, has gone to the nunnery so that it'll be my duty to Seisaku, her father, to sever from O-Nigo I'll have to reason with her or to forsake her in spite of myself.

Well, it's the house Obanaya already.

He comes into the main stage and peeps into the house.

Oh, there she is all alone.

Opens the door.

Miyo: Who's that?

Shinzaburo steps in, with his back turned to her.

Miyo: Who on earth is that?

Shin: No one but me.

Miyo: Oh, Shinza, I've been waiting for you.

Clings to him. Shinza, undecided what to do, pushes her off.)

Shin: Waiting for me? Waiting for someone else, you mean.

Miyo: Someone else?

Shin: I'm not a man to be waited for, by O-Miyo, the best geisha in Nakanachi.

Miyo: How heartless of me to say such harsh a thing.

Just sit down.

O-Miyo clings to Shinzaburo. He pushes her off.

Shin: I'm quite free either to stand or to sit.

Miyo (after a pause): It's not like you to talk like this.

Are you drunken? Sit down, I say.

It isn't as if we've become intimate with each other lately. We have been in this kind of relationship for three years now and do not have any secret from each other, so that I feel as if we were really a man and wife. Why do you act so harshly to me?

You may have told me so, if I have offended you somehow.

Shin: I'll have done so, if I were in love with you. But now that I've fallen out of it-----

Miyo: You've fallen out of love with me----

Shin: I'm disgusted with you.

Miyo: Oh-----

Shin: So I'm going to sever from you.

Miyo: Why ----- (surprised) What have I done? What do you take as the reason?

Shin: You know what it is. The proof is here-----the letter Shin tattooed on your arm. It's the pledge you'll stay faithful to Shinzo, the crepe dealer.

Shinza takes O-Miyo by the hand.

Miyo: Oh, no. This letter Shin means Shinzaburo, your name.

Shin: Oh, shut up. It's the general reputation that you really mean faithfulness to Shinsuke, though you try to pretend to be loyal to me.

Miyo: Oh, don't be so unreasonable.
You know quite well how it is between Shinsuke and me.

Shin: No, no. I know nothing about it.

Meantime O-Tsuyu, the mistress of the house, comes in accompanied by O-Suzu and other four girls.

Tsuyu: Now, Mr. Shinza. I've heard you speak over there.
Wait a minute, I pray you.

Girls: Wait a minute.

Shin: Oh, Madame and girls.

Tsuyu: I don't know well what the matter is today, but I've been involved in her relationship with Shinsuke.
It was on the evening of the Hachiman festival that we asked him to pretend to be her lover just for a shift. He has become a customer of O-Miyo, but no girl will forsake you for Shinsuke here in Naka-no-machi.

Suzu: I don't know who has told you such a nonsense, but it's not like you to believe the sayings of busybodies.

Girl 1: If you have some other reason to be angry with her----

Girl 2: You had better tell her so.

Girls: Do so, please.

Shin (after thinking for a time): I'm not angry at all, but I'm disgusted of her heartlessness. The writer Namiki Gohei has written that it is the custom of the gay quarters to be moved by the power of money.

I'm disgusted of it. (Feeling sorry for her)
Now, O-Miyo, Madame O-Tsuyu and girls, I thank you
all for having been so very kind to me for a long
time ----- I mean, I'm disgusted of your heartlessness.
----- for having given a mitten to me because I am
detached and poor --- and for having taken advantage
of Shinsuke's kind silliness. I've come to take leave
of you.

O-Tsuyu, after thinking for a while, says:

Tsuyu: I've observed both of you for a time and I feel there
must be something about it. Now, why don't you tell
her what has offended you?

O-Miyo has become the talk of the town for her affair
with you and she cannot stay here after all this.
You're not new here, either, so you must know how it
usually is.

Shinsaburo tries to say harsh things but cannot do so.

Suzu: Please, Shinza, don't you understand it when Madame
O-Tsuyu talks so kindly to you? Now, make peace.
Dishes and cups, girls.

Girls: Certainly.

The girls bring wine-bottles and cups from the
next room.

Tsuyu: I pray you, Shinza, to take this cup of peace-making.

Hands a cup to Shinzaburo, who is embarrassed.

Shin: I'm very grateful, but -----

Pretends to be heartless.

I don't drink with people I'm disgusted of.

(Drops the cup O-Tsuyu has handed him
Heartlessness is catching. I think I'll go away
before it does.

Stands up.

Miyo: Then you're-----

Shin: I'm giving you back this amulet-case which you
gave me as the token of your love.

Throws the amulet-case at O-Miyo

Miyo: I won't take it.

Tsuyu: You mean this case for a note of taking-leave.. I'll
keep it for you.

Puts it into her pocket.

Shin: This amulet proves that we're separate now. (Aside)
I hope she'll read my letter later. Well, it's all
over now.

He stands up reluctantly, goes into the stage-
passage, joins his hands by way of apology and then
runs out of stage.

O-Suzu opens the gate and follows him with her eyes.

O-Miyo has burst into tears.

Tsuyu (approaching O-Miyo): You must feel so remorseful. But as
you have nothing shameful with Shinsuke, Shinsaburo
will understand you in time and apologize you for it.
Don't take it to heart.

Miyo: Oh, thank you so much ma'am.

Takes up the cup.

Miyo: Pour for me, please.

Suzu: You've sworn off drinking, haven't you?

Miyo: I've given up drinking for my invocation to the deity Kompira, to unite me with Shinzaburo. But there's no reason I should keep it now.

A banquet begins. Meantime Shinsuke comes into the stage-passage, accompanied by his fellow crepe-dealers Shichirobei and Kurosuke.

Shichirobei: Well, Shinsuke, we're not to pay by share, for we two are only to serve as a foil to you.

Kuro: Oh, yes, you're to stand all the price, for you've got the lovely O-Miyo for you.

Shin: Oh, no, both of you are far bigger merchants than I, so you're to stand. But as this is in the gay quarters where every man is treated equally, I'll pay my share.

Shichi: Then you'll pay the boat fair at least.

Kuro: Will you?

Shin: I'll dispute it to the last if it's concerned with the trade, but as it is only about pleasures, I'll do as you want.

Shichi: This is how he has invited O-Miyo to fall in love with him.

Kuro: How envious a Lomeo is.

Pats Shinsuke on the back.

Shin: Don't flatter me.

The three reach the door.

Kuro)
Shichi) Hello, good day.

Tsuyu: Oh, you're Shichirobei and Kurosuke.

Suzu: You've never been here -----

Girls : Since the last festival.

Shichi: We've been so busy in business.

Shin: Hello, everybody.

Tsuyu: You're Shinsuke. It's rather untimely----

Shin: What do you ~~say~~ say?

Tsuyu: Oh, nothing. You're welcome.

Shin: I'm so hot for I've hurried all the way thinking
of my promise with O-Miyo.

Suzu: She's been waiting for you.

Shichi: Hurray.

Kuro: How I envy him.

Shin: I've brought the promised thing for Miyokichi. Call
her here, please.

Suzu: It's not necessary. She's here in this room.

(Points to O-Miyo)

Shin: Oh, there you are. How I wanted to see you.

Approaches O-Miyo.

Here's the promised thing.

O-Miyo looks resentfully at Shinsuke, feeling that
he has caused Shinsaburo to misunderstand her.

Miyo: You needn't have come.
O-Miyo speaks coldly Shinsuke looks mystified.

Shin: I needn't have come ----?

Shichi: She's peevish because you've been late
Shichirobei and Kurosuke drink, ad-libbing
Choji, the boatman, comes in.

Cho: Are you come for pleasure, crepe dealers?

Shichi: Oh, you're Choji of the Wakatake boat-house.
Thanks for your usual kindness to us.

Kuro: Will you have some drink with us?

Cho: I think I shall
After a pause.

Shin: Why do you stay silent, O-Miyo?

Miyo: I'm not born fair-spoken.

Shin: Why are you so harsh today, O-Miyo?
What's the matter with her, ma'am?

Tsuyu: I've got a worry and feel unwell.

Shin: It's hysterics. I've got a good medicine.
Takes it out of his pocket.
This is the famous pill Hangontan of Toyama. It's
very efficacious. Take it, will you?

Miyo: I'm not ill. I don't want to take any pill.
Pushes aside the case. The pills fall.

Shin: You may have said that you didn't need them.
What a waste.
Picks up the scattered pills.

Shichi: How hysteric she is. She must feel bashful to talk intimately with Shinsuke.

Miyo: How vexacious all this is.

O-Miyo is about to go out, when Shinsuke catches hold of her sleeves.

Shin: Wait, O-Miyo

Miyo: What's that?

Shin: I've brought the 50 ryo of money you asked me for.

Gives his purse to her.

Miyo: I don't need it now. (Turns away from him.)

Shin (offended): I own I am late, but it's not so proper for you to ask people things and then get angry.

Miyo: You're not to blame, but it's my nature to get angry easily

Shin: It's narrow minded of you. You'd better take this money.

Tries to hand the money.

Miyo: I don't need it.

Pushes him off.

Shichi: What a plight of things.

Kuro: Shinsuke told us he was her fancy-man ~~but~~ he's nothing but her usual customer.

Cho: How silly he is. (Sniffs at Shinsuke)

Shin: Now Miyokichi ---- I mean O-Miyo why did you ask me for it, if you didn't need it? I don't know what you think of me, but as I have been wanting to take you to wife, I have brought it by doing everything I could. How is it? Tell me just how it is.

Miyo: Do you want to know? I'll tell you if you want to know.

Please pour for me, will you, O-Sen?

Produces her cup.

Tsuyu: Now, O-Miyo, you had better talk to Shinsuke tomorrow. Just go to your own room and have a good sleep.

Miyo: I'm now forced to tell how it is. Now, Shinsuke, this is how it is. I asked for the money because my dearly-loved lover Shinza needed it badly. But came here just now and accused me for having forsaken him for his poverty and for clinging you for your money. He has even left the amulet-case I gave him as the token of love. I don't need the money now that I have no way to give it to him.

Shin: You say that he has severed from you because of your relationship with me? That's good. Now that you're a stranger with Shinza, you can comply with your promise with me.

Miyo: My promise?

Shin: Of course you remember it. You promised me on the boat that you'd give yourself to me when you get free from Shinza.

Miyo: It was all a lie.

Shin: You say it was all a lie?

Miyo: It was in a boat far from the shore. I was afraid you'd do violence if I refused it. I said it to soothe you. It's only usual tricks and artifices of the gay quarters. I have always known it would drug me into trouble, but I have come to give rise to scandal. I have given up all clothes and hair-

dressings for his support, but I have never asked him for money. It's the Yoshiwara custom with treating fancy-men.

Now, this is the last time for me to see you. It's against man's pride to stay when you're not wanted. It's the usual shift of these quarters to wear spring clothes in March.

Shin: Now, Madame O-Tsuyu, is it really all right to tell lies in the gay quarters?

Tsuyu: It's not exactly proper, but it is just as you crepe-dealers praise a badly-patterned cloth by way of recommending it. It's only a trade.

Shinsuke sinks into thought. Meantime his companions have been drinking.

Shichi: Now, Shinsuke --- I mean Shin ---- you have boasted so much on your prospect of having the most beautiful wife in our circle of crepe-dealers.

How about it now, hey?

Kuro: What did I tell you? The best geisha in Nakamachi cannot have fallen in ~~love~~ love with him.

Cho: Well, you boys frequent Edo and are proud of attracting those girls to you.

Shichi: I'm not used to be patted by woman but I'm not refused so flatly as Shinsuke is.

Kuro: He is the disgrace of our circle.

Shichi: He's silly in such matters, but he's so clever in trading. Many of my customers have become his, and it's some consolation to see him put to shame before us all. I didn't suspect all this and have sent home an information of his good luck. It's been a waste of postage after all.

Kuro: Well, crepe-dealers are from Mikawa as well as the Kakubei-dancers, and are said to be as silly as the latters. It's been our common regret, and I thought Shinsuke's affair would recover our credit. So I have proclaimed it from the house-top to my customers that a geisha is much attached to one of our circle. I've been to take it all back.

Cho: Why, is it such a talk of the city?
It won't do to say you've been refused, Shinsuke.
But you'll have to be reconciled to it.

Suzu: O-Miyo is one of the most famous geisha girls in all Yoshiwara. It's so audacious of Shinsuke to have pronounced himself to be her fancy-man.

Shichi)
Kuro) How silly he looks. Ha-ha-ha.

Shin: Oh, I haven't proclaimed anything to the world. I know I do look unrefined and that no one will believe that O-Miyo can fall in love with me. It is true, though, that she told me she would marry me as soon as Shinza finds out the treasure incense-burner and is admitted to his clan again. I didn't know

it was a lie. I was too honest to suspect it. I have been praying the deities ever since to accomplish our desire. And the fact is, I have been put to shame before these friends of mine. Why didn't you tell me so before, O-Miyo, when I was all alone? You say it is nothing unusual in those gay quarters to tell lies, but it's so heartless of you to have done all this to me. Oh, Gods and Buddhas, why didn't you all let me know it?

He wipes his tears and clings to O-Tsuyu. Now, Madame O-Tsuyu, it is my fault to have believed her falsehood, but I am in a pretty plight, for I didn't know how things were in here, have spent all of my collected proceeds, have borrowed things from my friends and put them into pawn. It was all to get chances of seeing her----- and the fact is as you see. I've been put to shame before my friends----- and before all my folks through them. I can't stay here, nor can go home. It can't be helped now, but I'm left without any means of living, as well as the residence.

Tsuyu: It's reasonable you should feel that way. But O-Miyo has got other reasons to be peevish. I'll talk to her afterwards. Go home for today, I ask you.

Girl 2: You'd better leave it all to Madame and have a good drink.

Girls: Do so, please.

Shin: It's very kind of you to say so but I can't go home after being put to shame.

Shichi: Now, Shinsuke it won't do for you to proclaim her to be your girl, when she refuses to be.

Kyu: It's no use to be complaining for your being cheated. You're silly.

Suzu: Blame no one but yourself.

Cho: Go home at once.

Chosuke urges on Shinsuke.

Shin: (pushing off Shinsuke) You, too, have cheated me out of money, O-Suzu.

Suzu: I extort money not only from you. It's natural for us waitresses to get money from customers.

Miyo: If you grudge the money you gave, I'll pay you back. Just go home, will you?

Shin: I don't grudge the money, but I resent for having been cheated.

He is about to stand up furiously, when O-Tsuyu checks him.

Tsuyu: Please, Shinsuke it's natural you feel angry, but O-Miyo is a woman in the service of her master. You'll be involved into trouble if you hurt her. Keep quiet, I pray you.

Shichi: Now, Shinsuke, you're the disgrace of us crepe-dealers.
Why are you so boorish?

Kuro: Even we are ashamed of being of your company.

Kuro)
Shichi) You fool.

Shichi: It won't do to stay here longer.

Kuro: Let's go home before it becomes dark.

The two friends drag Shinsuke to the doorway.

Shin: I'm going. Don't pull me. All this is because of
you, O-Miyo, to be treated like this.

Tsuyu: Leave it all to me, Mr. Shinsuke.

Shin: Oh, thank you, Madame.

Suzu: Here's your haori (throws it at him.)

Cho: Aren't you going?

Shinsuke gets offended. O-Tsuyu tries to soothe
him.

Shin: Sorry to have disturbed you.

He puts on his haori, goes into the stage-passage,
looks back remorsefully. He looks at each other
with O-Tsuyu, wipes his tears and goes out.

Cho: Shall we have a good drink now that the hinderance is
out?

Shichi: I'd rather go upstairs.

Kuro: That'll be better.

Suzu: I'll show you upstairs, then.

Girls: Come on, sir.

All go out but O-Miyo and O-Tsuyu.

O-Miyo has fits of hysterics. She drinks.

Tsuyu: Now, O-Miyo, it's natural you should be excited about Shinza. But it won't do to act so harshly toward Shinsuke.

Miyo: I'm afraid I was wrong about it, but it was because of Shinsuke that Shinza has severed from me. I got all mixed up and lost my patience and presence. What a shame that Shinza has even returned me the pledge of my love. How vacacious.

Tsuyu: Oh, it reminds me of his mementos of leave which I keep in my pocket for you.

Takes out the amulet case.

There's a letter in it.

Produces a letter out of it.

Miyo: A letter?

Tsuyu: To O-Miyo ----- Shinzaburo. Why ----- there must be written the cause.

Miyo: Read aloud will you? Quick.

O-Tsuyu tries to soothe her.

Tsuyu: Don't be so hasty.

She pulls the lantern near herself.

A sound of wooden clappers.

I'll read at once.

O-Tsuyu opens the letter. O-Miyo draws near her.

The curtain falls with the sound of wooden clappers.)

ACT III

The scene at the Inn Chijimiya, near Bakurocho.

The entrance of the inn Chijimiya in the centre. It is the regular hotel in Edo for the crepe-dealers from the Mikawa province. A signboard over the doorway. A bench, a willow-tree and a rain-water barrel. Four crepe dealers talk with each other some standing, some sitting on the bench. Wild geese cry in the sky.

Crepe dealer 1: It's autumn already; the wild geese cry.

We're to go home in several days.

Dealer 2: How I wish to go home and see my wife.

Dealer 3: No doubt; you're newly married.

Dealer 4: Sure.

Dealers: (laugh)

Sakusuke comes out of the house with his bag on his back.

Saku: Hello, folks. When did you come back?

Dealer 1: Did you stay in all the day?

Saku: I was putting things in order upstairs.

Dealer 2: Oh, were *g* you? And how about Shinsuke?

Saku: He went out bell-collecting just after noon. He may be to Yoshiwara again.

Dealer 3: Maybe so.

Dealer 1: It's too early to go home. Shall we go to the newly-built wande ville and listen to the story-teller?

Dealer 2: Will you go, Sakusuke?

Saku: I'm anxious about Shinsuke. I'll go and see where he is.

Dealer 3: Thanks for your trouble.

Sakusuke goes into the house for a lantern.
Let's start at once.

Dealer 1: I'd like to listen as much as possible

Dealer 2: All right, let's go.

Dealers: Let's go.

The four go out. Sakusuke comes out of the house with his lantern in his hand and is about to start, when Shinsuke comes into the stage passage, looking dejected.

Saku: Oh, master-----

Shin: Why, Sakusuke. Where are you going?

Saku: I was going to meet you.

Shin: Oh, thanks.

They come along to the main stage.

Saku: You've been late today.

Shin: Well, I visited a few customers and had a fit of hysterics on my way home.

Saka (Who has been staring at his master anxiously): Didn't you happen to have a quarrel with somebody?

Shin: A quarrel? Oh, no.

Saku: But your clothes are untidy.

Shin: Oh ---- it's nothing. I happened to stumble on a stone just over the corner and stained the clothes.
(About to go.)

Saku (formally): Will you wait a minute, sir?

Shin: What's that?

Saku: I've got something to ask you to listen to.

Shin: What's that?

Sakusuke invites Shinsuke to sit on the bench

Saku: Now, sir, I always accompany you everywhere you go just as Saizo (the by-player of the strolling dancing play) follows his Manzai (the chief player). I flatter myself that I am not a bad follower. Well, during your absence today, your friend Mr. Rokubei told me of your behaviour. I opened your suit-case just to make sure and found there was none of your properties left. I'm sure you have squandered all your things on the woman of your scandal. How could you go back home in this condition? The money is not the important part. You're my only prop and stay. I pray you with all my heart to sever from the woman and never to visit Yoshiwara again. Please, sir.

Shin: I don't know how to ever thank you for your kind advice, Sakusuke. Things had come to a strange pass and I could not help ~~of~~ frequenting those quarters. But today the woman and me, we have fallen out of love with each other. I'll never go there again, sakusuke.

Be at ease about it.

Saku: Oh, are you going to give her up, then? Oh, I'm so glad, sir. Well, how is your pain?

Shin: Not quite gone, I'm afraid.

Saku: Well, then, I'll make a decoction of the herb Shinsetsuto which Mr. Rokubei gave me the other day. Let's go in and change our clothes first

Shin: All right.

The two go into the house, Sakusuke tending Shinsuke. Soon the sword-dealer Rishichi comes into the stage-passage, carrying a sword wrapped in a furoshiki.

Rishichi: I bought this sword from Boss Akama for 50 ryo, but now I feel rather unwilling to keep it, for people have told me that it invites its owners to kill others and at last themselves.

He stumbles. The light of the lantern goes out. Why, the light has gone out. I'll go and ask for a flint at the house there.

At the entrance of the inn:

Excuse me, please.

Shin: Yes-----?

Comes with a lamp in his hand.

Use it, please.

Richichi: Oh, thank you.

Lights his lamp.

Oh, you're the crepe-dealer

Shin: Oh, you're the curies-man.

Rishi: Thank you so much for lending me a light. I'm
ever so thankful.

Shin (noticing the wrapped sword): What's that you carry?

Rishi: You mean this? It's a sword.

Shin: A sword?

Rishi: Don't you have the intention of buying it for your
travel?

Shin: A minute, please.

Steps out of the house.

And how much does it cost?

Rishi: 50 ryo. Just have a look at it, will you?

Shin: Oh, it's well done. May I see the interior?

Rishi: Of course. It's a fine sword

He unsheathes the sword.

Shin: It must cut well.

Rishi: More than well. It's the make of the famous sword-
smith Senjuin-Muramasa.

Shin: I'll take it.

Rishi: Will you?

Shin: I will. Here's 50 ryo.

Hands the money.

Rishi: Let me examine it.

After examining:

Shin: Muramasa swords are said to devour human blood.

Is it the Providence that has sent me one of them?

Rishi: Mr. Shinsuke, please-----

Shin: Hush.

Shinsuke flourishes the sword by way of checking Rishichi. Rishichi falls cut. Shinsuke goes into the stage passage as if entranced. A masseur passes along him and touches his sword.

Masseur (coming into the main stage): Massage ---

The masseur falls killed on the stage Shinsuke Disappears, as the stage goes round.

A C T I V

The scene on the Bank at Susaki

The grassy bank in the centre Cherry-blossoms are
are out. The sea can be seen at the back. A wine-stall.

The curtain rises with the sound of waves.

Wine dealer: Hotch-potch, hotch-potch. Won't you have a
dish of hotch-potch? Well, it has sold very well
tonight. Only a little more than a dozen bottles are
left. I wish they'd sell soon and I could go home
early.

Hotch-potch, hotch-potch

Shinsuke comes into stage-passage with the
sword and looks toward the wine-pedlar.

Pedlar: Will you have a cup of wine?

The wine-pedlar notices the unsheathed sword and
gets frightened:

Pedlar: Murderer, murderer.

The wine-pedlar goes running out of stage. Shinsuke
drinks water.

Meantime Kurosuke, one of the crepe-dealer, appears
into stage, humming. Soon Shichirobei follows in,
happily drunken, accompanied by O-Suzu and Choji.)

Suzu: When are you coming next time, Mr. Shichirobei?

Shichi: I'll come after tomorrow, for I'll have to go collecting bills tomorrow.

Suzu: Be sure and don't fail to come. Madame O-Yama gets cross when you don't come.

Cho: She's really crazy of you.

Suzu: And Madame O-Seki is mad about you, Mr. Kurosuke. Shinsuke; meantime, has listened to them and now proceeds.

Cho: Who's that? Why, Shinsuke----

Choji gets surprised.

Suzu: Why, Mr. Shinsuke-----

(O-Suzu trembles.)

Shichi: Oh, how scaring-----

Shichirobei pushes off Kurosuke and escapes.

Shinsuke gives a fair cut at Kurosuke.

O-Suzu shelters herself into the watchman's lodge near-by. Choji grapples with Shinsuke. A fight.

Choji: For help; for help.

He runs off.

A palanquin comes in through the stage-passage.

Shinsuke flourishes his sword on the main stage.

Bearers: Murder, murder.

The palanquin bearers run off stage. Shinsuke raises the curtain of the palanquin; O-Miyo appears in it and notices Shinsuke.

Miyo: Why, you're-----

Shin: You're Miyo-kichi.

Miyo: Shinsuke-----

Shin: You devil.

Shinsuke flourishes his sword. O-Miyo shelters herself behind the palanquin. Shinsuke gives a cut at the palanquin by mistake. O-Miyo is about to ~~to~~ flee, when Shinsuke reaches her. A short fighting. After all, the woman falls ~~to~~ behind a stone pile. Shinsuke makes a living tableau on the top of the bank, with his sword flourished up.

A time-bell sounds. Sakusuke runs in through the stage-passage.

Saku: Mr. Shinsuke-----

Shin: You devil.

Flourishes his sword.

Saku: Oh, I'm Sakusuke.

Shin: Sakusuke?

Shinsuke comes suddenly to himself.

Shin: I'm sorry to have worried you for a long time, but, Shinsuke, just look what has happened to the woman who has taken me in.

Sakusuke gets frightened at noticing O-Miyo's body.

Saku: What a thing you have done, Mr. Shinsuke. This Madame Miyokichi is your sister for whom you have been in search so long.

Shin: You say Miyokichi is my sister-----?

Saku: You'll know it by this statue of the deity Fudo, which she has left you with her letter of apology.

Shows the letter and the statue to Shinsuke.

Shin: Let me see it.

Receiving them.

Shin: Really it is the Fudo statue that my father used to keep. And what is written in the letter?

Read it to me.

Sakusuke opens the letter.

Saku (reading): "As I am in a hurry, I should like only to apologize you. I have no word to apologize you for my abusing you about Mr. Shinsaburo. I didn't mean to offend you. I am really sorry about it"

"To tell the truth, I cannot take your proposal because of my obligation to Mr. Shinsaburo.

Moreover, I feel as if you were my brother--- because I have lived a helpless life ever since my parents died when I was 5 years old. I pray you to be always kind to me."

"I make you a present of my amulet Furo statue, which I have kept as the keepsake of my parents, to prove that I am really sincere in apologizing and in asking you to be my brother.

Shinsuke gets surprised.

Shin: What a shame. How silly it is of me to have fallen so deeply in love with my own sister. And I have killed her with my own hands, too. It must be by the karma of the previous life. I won't have her die by herself.

Saku: You must have been possessed by some evil spirit. You can't take it back any way.

Shin: Maybe it is by the curse of this sword which is said to devour human blood.

Saku: Or, maybe it's by karma.

Shin: How shameless-----

Shin }
Saku } Human life is.

As the two look at each other, four catch-poles come running in.

Catchpoles: Murderer. Don't budge.

They surround Shinsuke and Sakusuke.

Saku: We won't resist.

Shin: We'll surrender ourselves-----

(Wooden clappers) to the law.

(The curtain falls with the sound of the waves.)

S H O C H I K U

THE MOONLIGHT NIGHT BUSTLE
AT THE HACHIMAN FESTIVAL

(Hachiman-Matsuri-Yomiya-No-Nigiwai)

Written by Kawatake MOKUAMI

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