

S H O C H I K U

HAGOROMO (The Robe of Feathers) One of the Ten  
Neo-Classical Dancing Plays

Written by Shinshichi KAWATAKE III

Music by

Tokiwazu Musicians

Nagauta Musical Accompanists

To be presented by Kabuki Joint Troupe at THE  
TOKYO THEATER from Nov. 4th to Nov. ,

1948

## HAGOROMO (The Robe of Feathers)

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The main stage is a flat stage all over. With Mt. Fuji and silvery waves for scenery there is a pine-grove on the stage. In the middle of the stage there is a huge pine-tree. On the right side there is seen the shrine-entrance and shrine of the Miho-Myohjin Shrine in the distance. One ~~one~~ of the branches of the pine-tree hangs a robe of feathers. On the right hand there is a tier stand for Nagauta musical accompanists while on the left hand there is a Joruri (a ballad drama) stand for Tokiwazu musicians. The above represents the beach and pine-grove of Miho, Sunshu Province.

With the roar of the sea, the curtain rises. After arrangement of a prelude, a Nagauta song or a long epic song starts.

"The fine scenery of the ocean in the spring is beyond description.

The snow which has lain on the lofty peak of Fuji is superior to the cherry-blossoms of Yoshino in beauty. With the interesting mixture of the music and the roar of the sea, over there Hakuryoh, a fisherman, wearing working clothes and a small pleated skirt comes out with a fishing rod in his hand. Following him, Isomatsu and Namihachi, fishermen, wearing narrow-sleeved working clothes, straw raincoats and gaiters come out with oars in their hands and stop at the stage passage.

"Basking in the morning sun, the women of Nemoto Village make their toilet.

Many a fishing-boat ploughs through the heavy seas off the coast of Suruga and returns to Miho Bay."

The three men dance and come into the stage.

Hakuryoh: Well, the instant I came on shore, I smelt something fragrant in this direction, so I came here casually, though. Did you both happen to see anything?

Isomatsu: You scented it ahead of us and lured us to come here, didn't you?

Namihachi: We've only followed you, so can't understand the state of affairs at all.

Hakuryoh: The nearer we've come here, the more fragrant the thing has become.

(Isomatsu and Namihachi sniff in all directions.)

Isomatsu: What a sweet odour indeed!

Namihachi: Where on earth is the wind from?

(In the meanwhile, Hakuryoh finds out the robe of feathers on the branch of the pine-tree.)

Hakuryoh: Oh, boy! I've found it out, I've found it out. The beautiful thing hung on that pine-tree must be the fragrant thing.

(Both of them look up at it, too.)

Isomatsu: Right you are, right you are!

It's an unfamiliar thing, but what ~~is~~ in the world is that?

Namihachi: Even the daughter of the village headman can't have such pretty clothes.

Hakuryoh: Well, in my opinion it can't be a Japanese-made article.

Ischachi: Can't it be a Japanese-made article, eh?

Both: Eh?

Hakuryoh: I suppose some Chinese people met with a storm somewhere at sea and their ship was driven out of her course by a high wind, so they landed here after all and gladly drank wine in celebration of their good fortune.

"At the height of the Chinese people's banquet some of them became dead drunk and upset the wine-bottles under the influence of liquor when one of the Chinese women was soaked to the skin with the wine, so she took off her dress and dried it in the sun, but she saw our figures at a distance, so must have been startled and have hidden herself."

Ischachi: Right you are.

Namihachi: However, if we leave it here, the children of the beach will make a plaything of it, I'm afraid.

Hakuryoh: Anyhow, we've discovered it, so let's carry it home and show it to the village headman and villagers, shall we?

Both: That's a good idea, that's a good idea.

"The pine-tree reminds us of the past, as well."

(The three men come near the pine-tree and try to take the robe of feathers.

Just then, in the interior of the right -- ---)

Angel: Here, here, just a moment, please.

Three: What?

(With a signal, the Tokiwazu troupe starts reciting.

Tokiwazu: "All of a sudden a beautiful angel, owner of the sweet voice, appears in the presence of the fishermen."

Just then an angel wearing a long-sleeved dress comes out of the interior of the right.

The three men get astonished to see her, but dangle after her and come to the left.)

Angel: The garment is called "a robe of feathers" and does not belong to any person on earth, so don't handle it carelessly, please.

(Tokiwazu: "They beckon to the angel."

The angel is about to go the pine-tree when Hakuryoh stands in her way.)

Hakuryoh & Isomatsu: Why did you leave the valuable robe of feathers on this much frequented beach?

Angel: Well, I can't tell you of the reason.

(Tokiwazu: "As an angel in Heaven is righteous, so the surge is regular."

Nagauta Song: "She seems to be confused. The fishermen look complacent."

The angel is about to go beside the robe of feathers when the three men keep her from doing so in dancings

The angel seems to be perplexed. The three men exchange glances with one another.)

Hakuryoh: Well, I've seen an angel's picture on the balustrade of the parish temple, but a living angel is exceedingly beautiful.

Isomatsu & Namihachi: Let's detain the angel on this beach without giving her back this robe of feathers. Fortunately, we're all unmarried.

Hakuryoh: Won't you marry one of us three if you'd like to?

Angel: Oh, what a filthy talk! Joking apart, give me back the robe of feathers.

Hakuryoh: The robe of feathers, eh?

Three: We won't give it back to you.

Angel: Oh, how unkind of you! Unless I've the robe of feathers again I'll have no other way to go back to Heaven.

Tokiwazu: "Now the angel looks like a wingless bird."

Nagauta Song: "She'd like to go up to Heaven, but has no wings."

To: "Will she be obliged to live on the earth, then?"

N-S: "She looks back at the branch of the shapely pine-tree with its young needles."

- To: "She is in a pitiable condition just like a bird wet in the rain while the wild geese are flying up in the sky."
- N-S: "A great many plovers in a group are flopping their wings while the waves are running high."
- To: "The waves are at the mercy of the spring breeze."
- N-S: "Ah, how I envy their free movements!"
- To: In contrast to them, I'm in sorry plight and can't go up to Heaven."  
(Just then the angel finishes dancing sorrowfully. The three men have pity on her.)
- H: Well, don't you both feel pity for her?
- I: No wonder we have been moved to tears by her own story.
- N: Everybody yearns for his or her old home.
- H: Let's give this robe of feathers back to the angel, shall we?
- Angel: Oh, will you give me back the robe of feathers?
- H: In return, will you kindly display a heavenly dance, of which we've heard, here?
- I: So that we might be able to pass what we have seen along to posterity.
- Angel: It is as easy as A B C. Well, then, I'll put on the robe of feathers and display a dance.
- H: Then put on the robe of feathers right away, please.

Isomatsu: Slip it on and display an angelic dance, please.

N: Now, now, here.

Three: Let us see it.

Angel: I'll get myself ready for it quickly at the shrine over there.

N-S: "She goes there so as to get herself ready for dancing, followed by them all."

(Then the angel receives the robe of feathers from them and leaves for the interior of the right, followed by the three men.)

N-S: "The village children living on the beach of Miho are always sun-browned.

In contrast to the snow on Mt. Fuji, they are compared to black ink."

To: "The snowy heron finds loaches in the green rice-field. There are some fishes in the shoal water on the beach while there are ear-shells in the deep water."

N-S: "The ripples surge on the rock and goes back repeatedly.

They walk on the sandy beach."

To: "They come on foot looking round in wonder."

(Over there, Tatsumatsu, Irimatsu, Santaroh and Isakichi, four village children, carrying a basket of shells come out without Japanese pleated skirts, dance on the stage passage and come into the stage. At the same time, from the right Hakuryoh, Isomatsu



and Namihachi come out.)

Hakiryoh: Hallo, Tatsumatsu, Irimatsu, Santaroh and Isakichi.

Isomatsu: You've picked up big shells.

Namihachi: What are in the basket.

Tatsumatsu: It has been a fine day today, so -----

Isomatsu: We've picked up so many shells.

N-S: "There is a variety of shells."

To: "There are such shells as those of fresh-water  
mussels, clams, corbiculas -----."

N-S: "One of the shells is said to rebound."

(They beat time with the hands.)

To: "They have picked up various kinds of shells."

(The four children finish dancing.)

Hakuryoh: Isn't there a couple shell among them?

Santa: Nope, there isn't such a shell.

Isomatsu: I've a couple shell here. (Takes a shell out of  
his pocket.)

Namihachi: I've also one of the same kind.

If any one of you wants it, -----?

Isomatsu: If you can take it from me, I'll give it to you.

Both: If you can take them from us, we'll give them  
to you.

(With a piece of rapid music, the four children  
go round the stage so as to catch up with the two  
men and after all Tatsumatsu and Isomatsu take  
the shells from them.)

"The children hurriedly leave the beach."

(The four children go into the right with the shells in the large basket.

Hakuryoh seems to be in deep thought.)

Hakuryoh: She has been very long in making preparations for it, but must be ready now. (Turns to the right.)  
If you're ready now?

Three: Will you please display an angelic dance?  
(Just then in the interior of the right -----)

Angel: Certainly.

N-S: "The elegant Oriental dance will become the first performance on the stage."

To: "The angel is about to dance putting on the robe."  
(Just then the angel puts on the robe of feathers, adjusts her toilet and comes out.)

N-S: "A spring haze arises.  
The moon is at its full tonight."  
(The angel dances.)

N-S: "How interesting!"

To: "The pine-grove of Miho in the moonlight looks as exquisite as Heaven.  
(She poses.)

To: "Now, I'll go back. Good-bye. So saying, the angel keeps on dancing behind the evergreen pine-tree."

N-S: "The fishermen are absorbed in looking at the angel's dance and the gay sleeves of the robe of feathers and want to detain her for a while, but in vain."

(In the meantime, the angel goes round the pine-tree and goes up in the air.

The three men climb to the middle of the pine-tree so as to detain her.

Looking up at the angel in the air, they go to the left and disappear.

Thereupon the pine-tree and the shrine and entrance of the Miho Shrine disappear from the stage. Only the top of the pine-tree remains and a mist, viz., a dark curtain, lies over the stage including the tier-stand for the Nagauta musical accompanists and the Joruri stand for the Tokiwazu Troupe.)

To: "The angel goes up in the air like a bird."

N-S: The top of Mt. Fuji in the evening is covered with snow and hazy.

To: It looks as if a bouquet of flowers would fall from the sky.

N-S: The pine-tree will remind us -----

N-S: Of her name.

(The angel executes a mid-air acrobatic performance on the awning and dances to the tune of the music)