

S H O C H I K U

検

Kabuki Play

"KARUKAYA DOSHIN" (PRIEST KARUKAYA)

----- Scen of Mt. Koya -----

C.C.D. J-2039



One Act

-----



TO BE PRESENTED BY SOJURO & SUMIZO JOINT TROUPE

AT THE MITSUKOSHI THEATER FROM JULY 4th

TO JULY , '47



KARUKAYA DOSHIN

--- Scene of Mt. Koya -----

SYNOPSIS:

Kato-Saemon-Shigeuji had become sick of the hardness of the world, so he climbed Mt. Koya and entered the priesthood there.

On the other hand, his son Ishidomaru who had parted from his father at the age of two longed for his father so much that he came all the way up to Mt. Koya and met his father who had changed his name to Karukaya Doshin.

However, due to the rules of the sect, Karukaya could not introduce himself to his son, but advised the latter to take good care of himself and parted from him.

The main stage represents Mt. Koya with ivies, vines and large pine-trees here and there. On the upper part there is a stand for the Takemoto troupe.

With a signal, a "joruri" (a ballad-drama) is recited.

"Mt. Koya looms large in the clouds. The  $\chi$  clouds hang over the summit of the mountain with a range of mountains on its three sides.

Thousands of the mountain streams originated from one source all flow to the east. The bishop is said to have taken lessons from two dogs and started his religion in this sacred place. The priests lodging in the temples at the foot of the mountain go from one temple to another on an errand respectively. Since all of them have shaved-heads, they keep company with one another with no thought of worldly affairs."

(During the time, religious meditation is quietly observed.

Anshinbo and Kietsubo, both priests, carrying bundles of Japanese yams and boxes of bean-curd in their hands come out of the peak of the mountain, cross the bridge and come to the main stage.)

Anshin: Well, Kietsubo, what on earth was the quake for?

Kietsu: Since this mountain shook strongly, I'm afraid an impurehearted person might have made the ascent of this mountain.

A: Although Mt. Koya is a good place, we're often annoyed with the shock, I should say.



K: We are often startled by the shock, so I must have another navel made.

A: Don't say such a silly thing. There cannot be such a substitute in any country.

K: Yes, there is, I can assure you.

A: Where on earth?

K: I mean the kitchenware dealer's at the foot of the mountain.

A: Don't talk nonsense.

It's a navel-shaped earthenware, you know.

~~Both~~

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

"While they are splitting their sides with laughter, two priests of the Jisonin Temple cross the mountain, and come out easily, as they are accustomed to walking along the mountain path; they are Soetsu and Gienbo and take notice of the priests".

(During the time, religious meditation is quietly observed. From the stage passage come out Soetsubo and Gienbo wearing clerical robes; they come down to the slope made about in the middle of the stage passage and come out to the left of the stage.)

Soetsu: If it isn't Anshinbo.

Gien: Aren't you Kietsubo?

Anshin: Oh, Gienbo.

Ki: Soetsubo, I haven't seen you for a few days.

S: We are all fine.

Four: Bravo, bravo!

A: By the way, we had a violent shock a while ago, hadn't we?

S: Nonsense! Whenever a wicked-minded person climbs the mountain, it's natural that it rages violently.

G: Now I remember. I wonder if you took secret wives up here when you had descended from the mountain.

A: Don't say such a silly thing. We know women have been prohibited from climbing this mountain since the days of the bishop.

What do you say, everybody?

K: Right you are. Not only women but also impure men are prohibited from making the ascent of this mountain.

G: Anyway the mountain itself is the cause of my trouble.

S: Since you've such a base mind, you cannot learn even a prayer.

That's why you're always a bonze whose only duty is to strain "miso" (bean paste).

G: Well, I often feel like using the miso strainer.

A: Don't talk nonsense.

K: You're a good-for-nothing guy among priests.

S: Such a bonze ought to be ejected from this mountain.

A: I'm glad to hear it.

I should like to leave the mountain and eat a bonito and eggs to my hearts' content and have long hair.

(Is about to stand up when all of them detain him.)

K: Let's slap him in the cheeks.



A: Okay, Gienbo, you're talkative, but you mustn't do so much talking against your will.

G: I'm sorry; I'll try not to do so much talking.

K: By the way, let's take a rest here and go on.

A: That's a good idea.

All: Let's do so.

(All of them take a rest.)

Utai: "One hundred years' prosperity is just like a light before the wind blows it ~~out~~.

If I become enlightened, I'm also a buddha."

"Kato-Saemon-Shigeuji-Nyudo changes his name to Karukaya Doshin and goes up the mountain slope for learning Buddhism with heavy steps."

(During the time, music starts. From the stage passage Karukaya Doshin clad in black wearing a hood and a surplice and carrying a pail of flowers in his hand comes out counting beads.)

All: Oh, if it isn't Karukaya Gobo.

Karu: Hallo, everybody, I haven't seen you for a few days.

All: Please come this way.

Karu: Thank you very much.

"They let him join them."

(During the time, he comes down the slope on the stage passage and comes to the main stage.)

S: Karukaya Gobo, you're carrying the chips and pail of flowers in your hands, but where are you going?

Karu: Well, these <sup>S</sup>chips will be used by me to make a copy of Buddhist scriptures for one hundred days. As to these flowers, I'll offer them to the wayside shrines.

K: Well, you're an admirable man.

G: Ah, as for me, I hate to observe religious meditation once a day, but I wonder why you're so pious.

Karu: You always say such a funny thing. And where are you going?

K: By the order of our chief priest, we're going to the main temple.

S: However, we've been caught in the storm, so wanted to take a rest for a while.

Karu: Indeed it was a terrible quake. What happened, I wonder?

S: We've been talking of it. Hasn't <sup>Your</sup> ~~you~~ wife or child longed for you and climbed this mountain?

Karu: Don't talk nonsense. Even if my wife longs for me, she cannot clim<sup>b</sup> this mountain.

All: Maybe not.

G: Indeed I hate the bishop, as he is too strict. By the way, however the mountain may rage, if your wife and child come to see you from your native place, you want to see them, I suppose.



Karu: Here, here, you mustn't say such a thing even in joke. When any priest leaves his native place, he'll make a vow to Buddha not to see his wife and children again in his life.

Why could I change my vow?

If I hadn't made up my mind to leave this world, I shouldn't have made the ascent of this mountain.

"Although he says so determinedly, he keeps back his eyes welling up in his eyes out of his affections."

(He seems to be in sorrow, but he goes up the mountain with them and offers the flowers to the statue to Divination Buddha. All of them are offering prayers in religious mediation.)

"Poor Ishidomaru trudges along the perilous pass with only the name of his father as a guide though he cannot recognize his father by sight. He wets his sleeves with the tears. Now he crosses the mountain stream of Mt. Koya and passes the steep Fudo Slope and then manages to pass the log set over a stream.

Owing to the storm, the leaves of trees have fallen wistfully.

Along the lonesome path, he goes up and down leaning against a cane and looks for his destination.

Behind the pine-tree on the rocky mountain, Ishido and his father will happen to meet each other.

He happens to drop in at the place."



(During the joruri recitation, Ishidomaru carrying a sedge-hat and a cane in his hands gesticulates in various ways on the stage passage, comes down the slope to the stage and comes in the middle of the place where all of them are.)

Ishido: Excuse me, Honorable Priests, but I should like to ask you a question.

(Thereupon all of them turn to the front and look at Ishidomaru.)

Kietsu: Oh, what a cute boy he is! He seems to be a son of a good family.

Anshin: And what is it that you want to ask us?

Ishi: Could you tell me if there is the new priest on this mountain?

"He asks them of the new priest."

Ki: Oh, it's a difficult question, I'm afraid; I don't know whom you mean by the new priest, you little boy. You can't be alone. Are you with your parent or elder brother?

Ishi: I'm quite alone.

Please let me see the new priest.

(Meanwhile, Karukaya comes down to the flat stage.)

Karu: Young as you are, you are innocent. Every day new men enter the priesthood at each of the nine hundred ninety temples. He who had his head shayed is also a new priest.

"He who had his head the day before yesterday is a new priest as well.

If you ask us of the priest in such a way, we can hardly ever understand you. Do you know of the priest's face?"

Ishi: Although I'm looking for my father, I parted from him when I was only two years old, so I don't know him by sight.

Go: Don't you know him by sight?

So: And where do you come from?

Ishi: Well, I come from Matsuura, Tsukushi, Kyushu.

An: Oh, do you come from Matsuura, Tsukushi?

Ishi: Yeah.

Ki: Listen, Karukayabo!

He came here all the way from the end of Kyushu.

Gi: He <sup>has</sup> ~~make~~ the ascent of Mt. Koya in search of his father. Trala, la, la!

What a good boy! (Says like a song.)

Karu: Don't talk nonsense! As the proverb goes, there is no place like home. He must have his birthplace as well as anybody. Say, little boy, do you mean to say that you've become separated from your companion or mother, as you've said you're alone?

Ishi: Well, my mother also longed for my father and came to the inn in this neighbourhood, but she has had a fit of spasm, so she can't walk farther.

An: Well, then, are you alone?

Karu: Have you come here in search of your father?



"Hearing the story, Karukaya is anxious about the child, but he puts himself together."

Tell me the reason why you've climbed Mt. Koya all the way so as to see your father.

"He urges the child to tell him of the reason."

Ishi: Okay. Since he left the native place when I was two years old I've been brought up only by my mother.

Ki: Well, then, did your father leave you when you were two years of age?

Ishi: Since then he has been missing.

Gi: Poor thing! What a cruel father he was that should have deserted such a cute boy and left the house!

So: What a trouble your mother must have taken, as she has brought you up since you were two years old!

Ishi: That's why I've wanted to see my father so much that I've climbed this mountain.

Ki: No wonder you cannot recognize your father, as you parted from him at the age of two.

It's a visionary scheme for you to look for him, I should say.

An: What on earth are your parents' names?

Karu: Even if you say he is the new priest, nobody will understand you, I'm afraid.

You ought to tell his secular name.

"Before you ask anybody of him," says he.

Ishi: Well, I parted from my father I'm looking for, so

I cannot recognize him by sight, but his former name was Kato-Saemon-Shigemasa-sana of Matsuura, Tsukushi.

"As soon as the boy says so, Karukaya thinks he may be his child and looks closely at him and knows the boy must be his child, so he wants to introduce himself to the boy, but he hesitates to do so, as he has pledged himself before Buddha that he will give up his worldly affections and assumes a solemn look."

Karu: Hm, young as you are, <sup>(you are helpless;)</sup> you've come here all the way to see your father.

If your father should hear of your own story, he would be very glad. However, because of the rules of this mountain, even if you meet your father, he won't be able to introduce himself to you, so you'd better go back to your native place as soon as possible.

"Although he has said so, he cannot master his emotion, but he wets his black robe with his tears."

Ki: By the way, everybody, we've taken so much time for this child.. What do you say to going on now?

An: However, little boy, I'm sorry for you, for you haven't yet met your father. You better descend from this mountain before it gets dark.

So: Karukaya Gobo, will you also accompany us?

Karu: Oh, no, I'll go later on.

Ki: Well, good-bye; we'll precede you.

Gi: Little boy, we'll see you again if we can.



All: Good-bye, Karukaya Gobo.

Karu: See you again tomorrow.

"After exchanging greetings with one another, they go back to their respective temples.

Karukaya sees them off."

(During the time, a blast of wind from the mountain blows. Thereupon the four priests in deep thought go to the left. Immediately a Buddhist scripture for "Jizo" or the guardian deity of children is chanted. Karukaya looks round in deep thought.)

Karu: Here, here, little boy, come over here.

Ishi: Very well.

Karu: Since I've heard all the circumstances from you, I've shed tears in sympathy with you.

The world is hard to your father, I should say. Listen to me attentively. I'm sure your father deserted such a precious son as you and left the native place, so you oughtn't think ill of him.

Ishi: Of course I won't.

Why could I think ill of him?

I'll never think of my dear father. However, should I not meet my father, my mother might die of love for him, I'm afraid. I'll be sorry if such a thing happens.

"Poor thing! He sobs."

Karu: Oh, you are right. There is no deeper relation than that between parent and child.

However, you know neither his face nor his whereabouts, so it's of no use for you to look for

him. You'd better go back to your native place with your mother as soon as possible without making futile efforts to see him.

"He gives his son a good talking-to when the son brushes away tears from his eyes."

Ishi: Oh, no, our native place has been attacked and ruined by Ouchi and his troops.

"When my mother came up to the foot of this mountain together with me, sorry to say, she became sick due to her fatigue of the journey and before she breathes her last once for all . . . ."

She wishes to see my father. If you sympathize with me, Honorable Priest?

"If you know of him, please tell me where he is.

So saying, he sheds tears; he seems not to be able to keep back his tears.

Thereupon Karukaya wishes to introduce himself to his son, but he is afraid of disobeying the lesson of the bishop though it is hard for him to treat like a stranger his son who has come all the way to see him. He is in two minds and bursts into tears. Ishidomaru has quick eyes."

Since you are weeping bitterly, I wonder if you are my father. Please introduce yourself to me right away.



"Ishidomaru clings to him and weeps, so his mind is in confusion when from behind the rock Bishop Ajari's voice is heard."

(Just then a blast of wind from the mountain blows when from the summit of the mountain comes out Ajari wearing the red robe and hood and looks down with a stern look.)

A: Here, here, <sup>k</sup> Karukaya, don't forget your pledge of spiritual awakening.

"Being restrained by him, Karukaya rises to his feet and turns round."

(During the time, Ajari leaves. Thereupon Karukaya comes to his senses.)

Karu: Oh, I see. I've been in danger of going astray. The three states of existence are all my children; I've no child of my own except them. I'm ashamed of myself out of respect to the bishop. Say, let me go!

"Hearing his words, however, Ishidomaru clings to him."

Ishi: Excuse me, Honorable Priest, but please let me be with you.

"Ishidomaru clings to him."

Karu: As to Shigeuji Nyudo for whom you're looking, although he was in this mountain, he went on a

journey for practice of austerities and now he is missing, so you ought to go down this mountain/ and nurse your mother.

Ishi: Well, then, do you mean to say that my father has been missing since he left this mountain?

"I'm very sorry to hear it. I may put up with it, but I'm afraid my mother will die of love for him. It weighs on my mind, so I don't feel like going back. If you know of any man looking like him, let me see the man, says Ishidomaru to him.

Feeling pity for him, Karukaya wishes to introduce himself to his son, but he hesitates to do so and after all summons courage and says as follows:"

Karu: Oh, no wonder you're at a loss, but since your mother is ill, you ought to descend from this mountain right away. Well, this is an excellent remedy prepared by the Bishop by lighting a sacred fire for ten thousand departed souls.

Go down the mountain hurriedly and tend your mother (Takes a pocket of medicine from his pocket and puts it there.)

"Karukaya offers it to Ishidomaru, but the latter refuses to accept it."

Ishi: No, thank you. It is said that one who receives something from a priest's hand will be born handless five hundred times. You're so kind to me that I don't feel like leaning here. Say, Honorable Priest, please



let me be with you all the time.

You see, I place my hands together in prayer.

"He places his hands together and clings to Karukaya's sleeve of the surplice and laments.

This scene makes one think of the Children's Limbo.

Thereupon Karukaya determinedly says as follows:"

Karu: Now, go right away.

Go to the left, and you'll get to the Flower Slope like level ground. Go right away before it gets dark.

Ishi: Yeah.

Karu: Go right away, won't you?

~~Ishi:~~

Ishi: Yeah.

(Karukaya intentionally thrusts him away roughly.)

Karu: I say, you go at once.

(Seems to be overwhelmed with grief.)

Ishi: Yeah.

"Thereupon the child respectfully takes up the pocket of medicine and puts it in his pocket. They are obliged to part from each other tearfully. Being led by an invisible hand, Karukaya sees off his son stealthily."

(During the time, Karukaya helps Ishidomaru carry the sedge-hat and cane in his hands. Thereupon Ishidomaru tearfully goes to the stage passage.

The stage-settings in front are gradually pulled to the left. Karukaya advances to the rock staggering when the curtain ~~is~~ drawn with the mountain drawn on it drops and the stage represents the Bishop's shrine all over. Meanwhile, Karukaya sees off his son over there and climbs the mountain and puts his hand on the pine-tree.

Just then the door of the shrine is thrown open when the altar inside of it is shown. Meanwhile, the branch of the pine-tree on which Karukaya put his hand breaks with a snap when Karukaya falls.

The altar in front is thrown open on both sides when the statue to Bishop Kobo is pushed out.

Karukaya worships the Bishop. Isidomaru goes away.

----- CURTAIN -----