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SHOCHIKU

Kabuki Play

" NAWA - NAGATOSHI "

Written by Rohan Koda.

Three Acts.

C.C.D. J-2039



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Act I 15, 16, 17, 18, 19  
Act II 2, 4, 5, 15, 16, 18, 11  
Act III 2, 5

To be presented by Koshiro,  
Kichieemon and Ennosuke Joint Troupe  
at the Tokyo Theater, from Oct. \_\_\_\_\_  
to Oct. \_\_\_\_\_, 1947:



## NAWA NAGATOSHI

### Synopsis:

"Nawa Nagatoshi" is a play based upon one of the masterpieces written by Rohan Koda, one of the world-famous men of letters in the Japanese literary world, who died last July. This play deals with Nawa Nagatoshi and his family saving Emperor Godaigo who had escaped from the City for fear that he might fall a victim to the clutches of his wicked retainers. Diagonally opposed to what is called "Bushido" (Japanese Chivalry), the spirit expressed in this play is that of righteousness by which Nagatoshi saved the Emperor from the trouble.

Koshiro Matsumoto, one of the famous actors Japan has ever produced has long enjoyed his popularity in the theatrical world owing to his good character and benevolence. If he could be given an opportunity of performance for the repose of the soul of the late Mr. Rohan Koda, old as he is, he would take the rôle of Nawa Nagatoshi to his heart's content. With the assistance of the other top-notch actors, there is no room for doubt that this play, one of the best Kabuki plays, would be presented satisfactorily.

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S C E N E S :

- (1) Scene of Osaka Port, Hoki Province.
- (2) Scene of Nawa's Mansion.
- (3) Again Scene of Osaka Port, Hoki Province.

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DRAMATIS PERSONAL :

Narita Kosaburo Kyudo Gyoshinsai;  
Lord Tadaaki, Major-general Rokujo;  
Helmsman;  
Boatmen;  
Boss of Fishermen;  
Young man;  
Four Women Picking Seaweeds.



-----First Act-----

Scene of Osaka Port, Hoki Province.

The Stage is a flat stage all over. In front is the beach; at a suitable place there are shapely pine-trees on the beach in a row; and on the right there is a rock. Only the prow of a flat-bottomed ship, somewhat larger than a fishing-boat, is seen. A distant view of the Island of Oki with the edge of a promontory on the left develops. Everything represents the scenery of Osaka Port, Hoki Province.

When the curtain rises, it seems to be early at dawn --- the electric lights are made gloomy. With the sound of the waves, boatmen's song at the back of the stage comes within hearing.

Song: "Poor boatmen dreaming of rowing a boat with oars awake from their sleep when its sail is broken in their dream."  
(During the song, by the mechanism of a kaleidoscope it seems to dawn gradually.)

Boatmen: "Boatmen's room is a thousand-mat room  
----- the sea. They need not pay for the  
moonlight.

Wonderful are boatmen! They eat soup  
made of bean paste and the stars as well."  
(Four boatmen go away to the right. Just  
then from the right four women picking  
seaweeds come out with baskets for sea-  
weeds on their backs and small bamboo  
spatulas and knives in their hand  
singing in imitation of a vendor in  
seaweeds from Unshu Province.)

All: (Sing) "I was born at the promontory  
of Unshu Province. I'm a dealer in  
seaweeds. Okatsu-san, thank you very  
much. Seaweeds taste good. (Stand at  
a proper place of the stage.)

Woman I: We've all become good at imitating the  
voice of the dealer in seaweeds, haven't  
we?

All: (Sing) I was born at the promontory of  
Unshu Province; I'm a dealer in seaweeds.  
(They go away speaking very fast. Follow-  
ing them, a boss of fishermen comes out



with a young man; they carry an oar or a large net in their hand and seem to be cold.)

Boss of Fishermen: Now that the sluice is open, let's hurry up.

Young man: By the way, Boss, there is seen a flat-bottomed ship moored to such an unsuitable place.

Boss: Hm, because of last night's west wind, a fishing-boat must have been blown up here; they may have come here to take water. What we should pay attention to is our livelihood.

(After saying parting words, both of them leave for the left. With the sound of footsteps, a voice is heard from behind the rock on the right.)

Helmsman: Let me go, let me go!

(With a noise, both an old helmsman and a boatman having a water barrel of the ship come out from behind the rock ----- from the ship. Narita Kosaburo Nyudo Gyoshinsai struggle with them so as to detain them and is pulled by them when he seizes them by the sleeves and comes out.)

Gyoshinsai has long untrimmed hair ----- seven to eight inches long. Although he does not look indecent, he doesn't look strong; he is a member of the Narita family of Shimofusa Province and a doctor who has been in the service of the Emperor in Kyoto, but now he engages in diverse affairs as he is a man of sincerity. As to his clothes, he wears elegant clothes suitable for a secular priest.)

Helmsman: I say, let me go, let me go!

Boatman: No use holding us tightly; you'd better let us go.

Gyo: Well, I could let you go. However, judging from your manners, you will dare to leave the Emperor's ship and run away, I guess. That's why I want to reason with you.

Helmsman: Oh, you're very doubtful. How could we run off?

Boatman: Oh, you're obstinate. You see, we're going to take water.

Gyo: Well, one man is enough to take water; two men are too many. If the young man goes, you helmsman should remain here.

Helmsman: As for me, I'm going to take food.



Without food, we can't get along. That's why both of us will go. This morning's food for you and us has already -----

Gyo: I know. That's why I want you to go by turns.

Helms: We've no time to lose, you see. Before we do so by turns, we might have a horrible experience. We've had enough of terrible experiences.

Gyo: Oh, you've a mind to run off, I should say. I ask you to stay a little longer.

Boat: Let me go anyway, please.

Helms: Let me also go for a while. You're very importunate, I'm afraid. We'll surely come back, I can assure you.

Gyo: Ah, I'm sorry I understand everything from your eyes. I, Kosaburo Gyoshinsai, will get you rewarded for your labor some day, so I hope you'll be persuaded of it.

Helms: Oh, no, I prefer rice-cake in my presence to a reward in the future. Oh, let my hand go.

Gyo: No, I won't. Although you're men of humble birth, you look very stern.



Boatman: I'll admit I'm a boatman of servile spirit.

Loyalty and a reward would attract my attention after I have had enough food.

Boss, you needn't listen to him.

(Just then the boatman forcibly tears himself free from Gyoshin and runs into the left.)

Helms: Wait, Iwamatsu! Hey, I'll also go.

(Strives hard to thrust Gyoshin away.)

Gyo: Oh, no, I won't let you go by all means.

Helms: Darn it! (Disengages himself from Gyoshin's grasp and after a scuffle for a while knocks down Gyoshin, who falls on the sand with a thud.) I'm sorry, but I care for my life. (Makes an excuse rapidly.)

Iwamatsu, Iwamatsu! (Runs off hurriedly.)

Gyoshin rises to his feet.)

Gyô: Confound it! I'm sorry he knocked me down.

(Turns to the left and gives himself

airs. Just then behind the rock Lord Tadaaki, Major-general Rokujo, calls Gyoshin and is one the left in deep thought.

With a musical accompaniment, Lord Tadaaki who has got off the ship comes out calmly

wearing a discolored ceremonial dress and no coronet; although he lacks dignity, he is noble-looking just the same.

Major-general: Gyoshin, don't run after them. No use running after them.

Gyo: However, I'm afraid they might inform against us. ~~Ma~~

Major: Don't worry! They aren't so ill-natured as you would suppose, but they are ordinary men. I'm sure they will understand what loyalty is if they eat to their heart's content. That's why we've let them accompany us. However, since we left the island, we've had lots of hardships and privations. They could not put up with hardships and terror any more. It can't be helped. Let them do as they like.

Gyo: Very well. However, I'm awfully sorry they have deserted the Emperor as the people of this country though he is in an awkward predicament. (Weeps.)

Major-G: No wonder your heart is full. However, there are such wicked people as Hangan and his brother of Oki who rebelled against the Emperor, you see. (Laments more deeply



and indignantly.

Gyoshin also bears the wicked people an ill will. Just then it becomes morning ----- the electric lights become light and the mimic sound of plovers and waves is heard. (The Major-general braces himself and is thoughtful.)

Gyo: Ah, there is no use crying over spilt milk, though. Since the Emperor left the island of Oki, six days have already passed without dropping in at any other island. Being afraid of the sworn enemy's attention, we've been thrown in such a miserable condition after a great many hardships and privations. If I, Gyoshin, had enough strength for a man, I would work as hard as possible, though. Sorry to say, I'm old and infirm and helpless. Both Fujina-dono and Kingo-dono were taken prisoner at Izumo. To make matters worse, even the boatman and helmsman deserted us.

Ma-G: You and I -----.

Gyo: Only two.

Major-G: How shall we protect the Emperor?

Gyo: We've been driven to the last extremity, I should say.

Major: Even if we wish to die, we can't die now.

Gyo: It's very hard for us to live.

Both: ~~Hum~~, hm, hm, um!

(Both of them are at a loss what ~~to~~ to do and exchange glances with each other. With the mimic sound of a crow, the sky gets light.)

Major: Now, Kosaburo Gyoshin. (Cries commandingly.)

Gyo: (Yes, yes, yes! (Replies helplessly.)

Major: As the Emperor always wishes, there is no other way but to persuade Matataro Nagatoshi, lord of the manor of Nawa, into meeting the Emperor.

Gyo: That's right. If Nawa-No-Matataro is persuaded, into doing so, I shall be very much pleased.

Major: Kosaburo Gyoshin. (Again <sup>e</sup>cries commandingly.)

Gyo: Yes, yes! (Again replies helplessly.)

Major: You go -----!

Gyo: Very well. Where shall I go?

Major: <sup>m</sup>To the manor of Nawa as a messenger. (Says sternly. Gyoshin gets astonished to hear his words.)

Gyo: How could such a man as I go there?

Major: You needn't depreciate yourself; you ought to accept it.



Gyo: Even if you say so ----- M

Major: What?

Gyo: An important mission. (Trembles.) How could I fulfil such an important mission? Should I fail in it, it would be a serious matter. How horrible, how horrible! Even at the thought of it, I shudder with fear. Please excuse me from this task.

Major: It's for the sake of the Emperor in an awkward predicament.

Even if it's a difficult and important mission, Gyoshin, it's cowardly of you to refuse the mission.

Gyo: Even if you call me a coward, I shan't be able to do so. I'll admit I'm a cowardly and spiritless man.

(Trembles and gets confused.)

Major: It's unlike you to say such a thing.

What's the reason for your refusal?

Gyo: Well, it's an important mission beyond my ability. If I should fail in it, a serious matter would surely take place. If I tell Matataro of the mission and he accepts it, it'll be alright.

However, as is customarily done in these troubled times, a horse pays attention to fodder while a warrior gives heed to the amount of his stipend.

If he has a close tie with the people of Rokuhara and Kamakura, he <sup>will heed</sup> ~~will heed~~ me ---- Gyoshin and immediately march on here with scores of armoured cavalymen so as to take the Emperor to say nothing of refusing the request. How could I ----- Gyoshin be loyal to the Emperor, then? A dyke will break from its lower place while an important matter will end in bubble owing to a helpless man's act.

I believe I, Gyoshin, am loyal to the Emperor, but I haven't enough strength and I have no wit. Moreover, I'm an old man with no title and rank. Sorry to say, I have no dignity enabling me to persuade Nawa-No-Matataro into taking sides with us, as I'm in a low position. Senility breeds only contempt. You see, I've been disdained by even that helmsman, so how could I take such an important task upon myself? (Tries to say something more when the major-general cuts him short.)



Major: Don't be modest, Kosaburo! I'll admit you're an eloquent speaker and a man of discretion. You're the only man suitable for this mission.

Gyo: Oh, no, it's beyond my ability, I should say.

Major: Of course this mission is very important, so no wonder you'll refuse it on the pretext of lack of your ability. However, this is an urgent business. If you don't go, I'll go, instead. If I go, will you surely protect the Emperor and set his mind at rest during my absence?

Gyo: Huh? It's far more beyond my power.

Major: Well, then, will you go to Nawa on the mission?

Gyo: It's an important mission, too.

Major: Will you look after the Emperor, then?

Gyo: Well -----.

Major: Will you go to Nawa?

Gyo: Well -----.

Major: Now, now, now. (Repeats himself.)  
What do you say, Gyo-shin?

(Gyoshin is in a fix and sheds tears of sorrow.)

Gyo:

I'm sorry I'm a poor-spirited man.

Although I was born [as a warrior] in the Narita family of Shimofusa Province, I'm weak by nature; I've aspired no ambition nor have I competed with others for lack of my ability and strength, but I've spent my days in an easy-going manner. Now I'm close upon 60 years. For the first time in my life to-day I've felt sorry for lack of my ability.

Ah, I'm sorry I shall be helpless whether I'll go to Nawa or protect the Emperor.

(Is lost in thought. Just then some sound probably made by a board in the direction of the ship is heard. The major-general pays attention to the sound, rises to his feet and looks stern.)

Major:

The land isn't the only place to do an important task. Gyoshin, I don't want to listen to your useless excuse any more.



This is the Imperial order. Go to Nawa. (Encourages him in a scolding voice.)

Gyo: Hum, hm.

(Gyoshin is at a loss how to answer and changes color.)

Certainly, I will. (Accepts the mission when the sun by electricity starts shining.)

Major: Oh, you've accepted it to my satisfaction. Go right away.

Gyo: Very well. (Rises to his feet and takes a few steps quickly and again walks slowly; he still looks uneasy.)

As for the man named Nawa-No-Matataro, his younger brother Yasunaga takes sides with the Emperor, but his eldest son Yoshitaka sides with Rokuhara; I can't sound his mind, though. (Says so in a small voice and looks aside.)

If I couldn't persuade him into agreeing to it, I would disembowel this wrinkled belly. (Poses to disembowel himself.)

[Then I would throw my entrails at him and let him agree to it.] (Makes up his mind and tries to run away suddenly when he stumbles against the water-barrel which the boatman has left and falls with a thud. Just then he exchanges glances with the major-general.)

Major:

Step on it!

Gyo:

Very well. (Suddenly runs off. Just at the moment a sea-song comes within hearing. "We've left the port in spite of the storm. Let's catch the fish which the others can't get.")

(The major-general sees him off.

The stage-settings revolve.)

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



----- SECOND ACT -----

Scene of Nawa's Mansion

Dramatis Personae:

Nawa Matataro Nagatoshi;  
Nagatoshi's Younger Brother Onigoro Suketaka;  
Nagatoshi's Second Son Magosaburo Motonaga;  
Rokuro Dairo Yoshiuji;  
Jiro Saburo Saneyuki;  
Toriya Muneshichiro Muneie;  
Bitchunokami Yoshitada;  
Hinesaburo Yoshiyuki;  
Yoshiyuki's Son Matasaburo Yoshiyasu;  
Steward Uchikawara Hikosaburo Yoshisane;  
Nagatoshi's Youngest Son Itsudomaru;  
Narita Kosaburo Gyoshin;  
Young Subordinate Retainer Tozaburo Chikakiyo;  
Two Young Subordinate Retainers; Young Warrior.

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The main stage has a high and wide veranda.  
In front stands a paper screen; on the left is a standing  
plum-tree; next to it is a wicket; and near it is Nawa  
Matataro's mansion. Just then the stage-settings stop.

Here are seated Nagatoshi's younger brother Onigero Suketaka, Nagatoshi's second son Magosaburo Motonaga, Rokuro Dairo Yoshiumji, Jiro Saburo Saneyuki, Toriya Hikoshichiro Muneie, Bitchunokami Yoshinao, Hinosaburo Yoshiyuki, Yoshiyuki's Son Matasaburo Yoshiyasu, Steward Utsumi Hikosaburo Yoshisane -- all in the same clan; they have only just finished a competition for shooting. Near them are arranged a great many bows and arrows.

Second Son Motonaga: Today's competition for shooting is now over. Indeed I've had a jolly good time.

Hikoshichi Muneie: Yoshinao-dono, I'll admit you've displayed your skill wonderfully well today.

Yoshinao: Well, although I'm a poor hand at archery, I sometimes have a good luck.

Today I've hit the mark unexpectedly, so I'm rather ashamed of your praise.

Yoshiyuki: Now I'm an old man, so I'm apt to take an aim at the mark at random and no match for young men; I'm ashamed of myself.

Yoshisane: Well, Hino-dono, even if you take an aim at random, at the time of a battle I'm sure the enemy will be terrified only by the twang. I'm ashamed I'm a poor hand at archery.

Yoshiyasu: Thanks to Utsumi-dono's kind words, my old father has kept his pride to some extent, I should think.



Yoshiyuki: Ha, ha, ha! Speaking of the sound of an arrow, only such men as the late Tametomo and the old lord of this mansion, capital hands at archery, could make it splendidly.

I'm by no means such a capital hand at archery.

Suketaka: Don't be modest. Except my elder brother nobody in our clan can compete with you in archery.

Motonaga: Sorry to say, we middle-aged men are still far inferior to you in the skill.

I'm sure you practised archery a great deal in your younger days.

Yoshiyuki: From the skill you displayed just now in our presence, I understand so.

Yoshiyuki: Oh, speaking of the practice, Yoshiyuki-dono, I can't help admiring your successive hits.

Yoshiyuki: Oh, I'm only accustomed to doing so. I don't deserve your praise, so I, Saneyuki, feel bashful.

(During their comment and chat, behind the stage still the sound of arrows and bowstrings is heard.)

Motonaga: In celebration of today's competition for shooting, to Hino-dono and the other gentlemen my father will make presents of arrows made of eagles' feathers from Michinoku Province with the heads made by well-known smiths of Kamakura and Kyoto and with the ends made by good workers.

Father will be here in a minute and tell each of you of it. Well, my men, bring the presents here.

Many Young Warriors: Very well.

(Gradually bring the presents.)

Yoshiyuki: He always encourages us kindly.

All: A thousand thanks.

Saneyuki: Since he encourages us in this way, they say that Nawa's clansmen can draw a bow for three men, so we feel proud.

Yoshiyasu: Especially the old lord of this mansion never fails to bend the large bow every day, so even the <sup>everyone</sup> [aborigines] recognize the sound and speak of his skill, I hear.

(Just then the sound of an arrow is heard loudly behind the stage.)

Well, speaking of a bow, somebody still remains in the shooting-place and seems to be practising archery. Listen! There goes that sound of the arrow again.

Motonaga: Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

My youngest brother Itsudomaru is ashamed of his inferiority in archery at today's competition for shooting, so I guess he still hangs about the shooting-place.



Yoshiyuki: Although he's still a child, he bends a strong bow and devotes himself to practice in archery. I'm sure he'll become a top-notch archer when he grows up.

Muneie: We've been influenced a great deal by the old lord, ~~xxxxxxx~~ I should say.

Yoshie: All of us are very much interested in archery martial arts.

Yoshinao: We are all Nawa's clansmen.

Motonaga: Should an emergency occur, -----.

Yoshiyasu: We're in confused times.

Suketaka: We would have my elder brother as our head.

Yoshiyuki: Old as I am, I, Saburo Yoshiyuki, will whip my horse.

Saneyuki: And will drive the horse in the battle-field and be high in saddle and armours.

Yoshiyuki: I feel like running amuck a bit.

Saneyuki: Ha, ha, ha, ha!

All: Ha, ha, ha, ha!

Steward Yoshisane: Hino ~~ya~~<sup>done</sup>, you pretend to be young as usual.

Muneie: If the old lord should hear him, -----.

Yoshiyuki: The lord would knit his brows.

All: Ha, ha, ha, ha!

(Just then, with the sound of footsteps, a sound near the shooting-place outside of the wicket is heard.)

Many Shadows: Hey, wait! What are you?

Stop, stop! (Make a noise. All of them on the double stand look stern.)

Motonaga: What's that noise?

All: What happened?

(Listen to the noise. Still outside of the wicket the noise is heard.)

Gyoshin: Let me see Nawa-No-Matataro.

() ((): What a suspicious guy! Wait, wait!

Gyoshin: Let me see Nawa Matataro.

(): Get away!

(They again scoff at him and make a noise.)

Muneie: What's the matter?

All: Very noisy, indeed! ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Steward Yoshisane: Anyway the guy calls the lord only by his first name. What a hateful guy!

Let's arrest the suspicious guy and investigate him.

(Glares at the distance and tries to stand up when Itsudomaru comes in from the wicket with bow and arrows.)

Itsudomaru: I've had the suspicious guy arrested.

Hikosaburo, look after the affairs.

Yoshisane: Very well. (Is about to get down from the verandah when Gyoshin cries again.)

Gyoshin: Isn't Nawa Matataro in? Nawa Matataro!

(Again cries. Just then the paper screen in front is thrown open.)



Nagatoshi: Who are you that are calling my name?

(Nagatoshi makes his appearance calmly and takes his seat when all of them greet him. Nagatoshi looks at Itsudomaru.)

Nagatoshi: What sort of guy is the man who has called my name?

Itsu: Father, he is a thin old man who is no match for you. Because of the twang, he mistook me, Itsudo, for you and called your name and ran up to me. However, he noticed the mistake and tried to run into the wicket when he was checked by young subordinate retainers and hit his head crazily.

Nagatoshi: Hum.

Yoshisane: He is either a vagrant loony or a beggar.

Let's drive him away from the gate, shall we?

Nagatoshi: Well, everybody, you might think it dull, but since he called my name, it's cowardly of me not to see him.

I, Nagatoshi, will see him. Bring the guy here.

Yoshisane: Certainly.

(Both Itsudo and Yoshisane leave together.)

After a while Yoshisane comes out with Narita Kosaburo Gyoshin whose neck is seized by Young Subordinate Retainer Tosaburo and whose hands are pulled by two young subordinate retainers.

As for Itsudo, he does not come back, but again starts practising archery.

Tosaburo Chikakiyo tries to let Gyoshi sit down on the verandah. However, Gyoshin struggles with him and does not yield to him, but looks over the stand and looks at Nagatoshi while rising to his feet.)

Gyoshin: Are you Nawa Matataro-dono?

Nagatoshi: Oh, I am Matataro Nagatoshi.

Gyoshin: Oh, boy! Ah, I feel at ease now. (Seems exhausted.)

Nagatoshi: Why have you broken into this mansion recklessly?  
What on earth are you?

Gyoshin: Hm. (Hesitates and looks around at a great many men on the stand and then turns his eyes to the plum-tree on the left.)

Looking for the plum-tree, I've forgotten to commit a crime and after all I've forced my way into another's garden. (Says as if reciting a poem.)  
Don't blame me so much. I've longed for your name and come here. I've an urgent request to ask of you, so I've done a rude thing unconsciously. Please forgive me. I'm a doctor in the City.

Naga: Hm, are you a doctor in the City?

Chikakiyo: He doesn't seem to be a crazy man, I think.

(Lets Gyoshin's neck go with the young subordinate retainers (( )) ( ).)

Yoshisane: And what's your urgent request?

Gyoshin: I can't tell it to such people as you.

Chikakiyo: What? (Again takes Gyoshin by the neck tightly.)

Gyoshin braces himself.)



Gyoshin: As you see, I'm a thin old man.

Nagatoshi-dono, are you afraid of me?

It's too absurd that you should let your men protect you.

Nagatoshi: What?

Gyoshin: I hope you'll let the people leave here and listen to my important story.

Nagatoshi: Do you mean to tell me that you want me to let the others leave here and listen to you?

Gyoshin: A faded cloth-wrapper sometimes contains a jewel. Even a man of humble birth sometimes says a noble thing. What I am going to say now is by no means a mean thing which I must say on the ground. Allow me to step in.

Yoshisane: None of your cheek!

Chikakiyo: Behave yourself!

(They detain Gyoshin when Nagatoshi checks them.)

Nagatoshi: Judging from his appearance and words, he can't be a man of humble birth. Anyway I'll listen to his story. Yoshisane, take him here.

(With their master's sign, Young Subordinate Retainer Chikakiyo and the young subordinate retainers (( ))

( ) leave.)

Gyoshin: Ah, are you going to listen to me? I'm glad to hear it. (Walks totteringly and tries to step in from the verandah, but loses courage and manages to step in.)

Yoshisane: Come this way.

(Although Gyoshin is allowed to take a seat, he gets overwhelmed by the people present and feels uneasy.)

The people also suspect Gyoshin and exchange nods looking at him with no word.)

Nagatoshi: Now, ~~Doctor~~ Doctor of the City, tell me the story, please. I'm an inelegant country warrior by the name of Nawa Matataro; anyway let me know the reason why you've come here.

(Gyoshin becomes more and more timid and shudders with fright.)

Gyoshin: Thank you very much. However, I've got an important request to ask of you, so please let them go first of all.

Nagatoshi: Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

You needn't ask me to let them go. All of them are my clansmen and kinsmen. Although I, Matataro, am not a man of virtue, I am not so cold-hearted a man as lets them leave.

Although my clansmen have different minds, they aren't so cold-hearted as they will leave me in the lurch.

Both they and I are one in body and spirit.

We act according to this custom of Nawa.

(All of them become glad to hear his words and smile.)



You ought to think that only you and I, Matataro, are here and tell me the story. Since you've said it's an important matter, especially I'll listen to you together with my clansmen.

Gyoshin: Hm, hm, hm! (Is at a loss how to answer and can't sound Matataro's mind.)

Nagatoshi: When one unsheathes one's sword, one should fight till the sword gets broken and when one opens one's mouth, one should speak till one clears oneself of one's dishonor, they say. You seem to have a firm determination, so I've wanted to hear from you of the important matter. However, it's unlike such a man of wit as you to ask me to let my clansmen go. Ha, ha, ha!  
Even if the branch of a plum-tree divides the south from the north, the spring breeze will blow making no difference between the east and west. It's too shallow-minded of you to let me only hear you and not to let the others hear you.

Gyoshin: Huh?

Nagatoshi: If it's a secret and confidential matter, I, Matataro, won't listen to you, either. You're an old man who takes interest in disturbing others, I should say. Stand up and get out of here right away. (During the words, Gyoshin bites his lips tremblingly and tries to say something determinedly.)

Gyoshin: Why could I have come here out of breath only for telling you of a secret and confidential matter in the teeth of difficulties? I don't mean to talk with you secretly only for my sake.

Since I am not bold enough, I've only wanted to keep the matter secret for its success.

Now that I've heard you and they're one in body and spirit, anyway I'll speak to you and them. You see, I'm old and feeble, so I'm no match for you.

Even if I say too much, I hope you'll forgive me and hear me out. (Drops his voice lower and lower and again suddenly braces himself.)

I don't mind I'll be charged with my bad words and if my words hurt your feelings and you want to take my life, I hope you'll do so after I finish talking. (Takes off his swords, looks up turning pale and trembling, and gives himself airs.)

Nawa-No-Matataro-dono, first I'll put a question to you.

Nagatoshi: What?

(Music starts.)

Gyoshin: I hear your family are descendents of Murakami Genji. I say with awe and trepidation, you're the scion of Prince Tomohira, the sixth son of Emperor Murakami, aren't you?



Nagatoshi: Hm, you know well about my lineage.

The grandson of Tajima Zenji Yukimori, the eleventh scion of Prince Tomohira, is me ---- Matataro Nagatoshi.  
(Gyoshin braces himself more and more.)

Gyoshin: Well, then, your grandfather Yukimori took sides with the then Emperor in the old days of Shokyu and fought with Kamakura troops; he was a son of Futakata Jiro Yukiaki, wasn't he?

Nagatoshi: Why, you know about him in detail.

Right you are!

Gyoshin: Futakata Jiro fought with Hojo's troops and was defeated after all. As a result, he had his seventeen mansions confiscated, but he didn't regret what he did, as he was a bold man. Matataro-dono, you're his descendent, but according to the current of the times you're looking at the flowers drawn on the paper screen and your wife and children and enjoying your time peacefully without thinking of justice, aren't you?  
(Says so rapidly. Nagatoshi and the other people feel angry. However, Nagatoshi <sup>masters</sup> ~~controls~~ his anger and keeps silent.

Yoshiyuki loses his temper.)

Yoshiyuki: None of your cheek! Such a guy as you can't understand Nagatoshi-dono's personality.

Muncie: I won't try to speak well of him.

However, he is by no means inferior to Futakata-dono.

Yoshinao: On a windy day, although a bamboo droops, it won't lose its straightness.

Saneyuki: All of his clansmen know his mind.

If you talk nonsense, -----

All: You'll get beat up.

(Gyoshin gets glad to hear the words.)

Gyoshin: Whatever you may say, he let his eldest son Yoshitaka go up to Kyoto according to Rokuhara's directive and fight with the Expeditionary Forces at Chihaya, didn't he?

Yoshiyuki: Hm.

Gyoshin: Well, if he knows what justice is, how could he live at peace in these times when the Emperor has hidden himself in a lonely island and the rear-vassal wields his power in all Japan?

Yoshiyuki: Hm.

Gyoshin: Do you still insist that he isn't inferior to Futakata Saburo in spite of the fact?

Yoshiyuki: Ha, ha, ha, ha!

Gyoshin: Can he take pride in the fact that he is descended from the Murakami Genji family and the scion of Prince Tomohira?

Yoshiyuki: Hm.

Yoshiyasu: Don't say such a silly thing.

Muncie: Don't make a noise. Shut up!

Yoshinao: If you don't hold your tongue, you rude guy, -----.



Yoshiie: Your cheeks will be.

All: Smashed by us.

(All of them straighten themselves. Gyoshin seems more and more desperate.)

Gyoshin: I can't reason with reckless people. Now, beat me up, Nawa's clansmen.

What do you say, Matataro-dono?

(Draws close to Nagatoshi, who still keeps silent resolutely.)

What do you say? (Again crawls up to Nagatoshi, who still keeps silent.)

All his clansmen make a noise.)

Nagatoshi: Hush! (Checks them and still keeps silent.)

Gyoshin: What do you say?

(Again crawls closer to Nagatoshi, who still keeps silent.)

You come of a good family and are a man of ability.

Indeed you seem to be a reliable man.

However, your mind in confusion, so you keep silent, I suppose.

(Becomes thoughtful and drops his voice suddenly.)

As for me, I'm a common man and have no ability to speak of. However, I give heed to the present world and think of the Emperor who spends his days in tears as the keeper of the Island of Oki against his will, but all of his attendants are helpless and as written in the old poem, "Fish in an awkward predicament keep the pond but a great many birds flock to



the blooming cherry-tree", so is the present situation of the world. Sorry to say, people cringe to the powerful and nobody takes sides with the Emperor. (Sheds tears.)

Although I, Gyoshin, have no power to tie even a chicken, I will give up even my life for the sake of the Emperor. I'm awfully sorry you don't look back upon Futakata Jiro-dono's days. (Heavens a sigh. Nagatoshi seems to have become enlightened.)

Nagatoshi: Hm, what do you want me, Matataro, to do since you've said such a thing to me? If it's only your idea, I, Nagatoshi, won't reply to you.

From where have you come here?

You've said it's your request for convenience sake, haven't you? I guess the Emperor in Oki -----.

Gyoshin: Huh? (Gets astonished.)

Nagatoshi: Are you persuading me, Nagatoshi, into agreeing with you for the sake of the Emperor?

Gyoshin: Huh?

Nagatoshi: It can't be your own idea.

From your words such as Urgent and Important, the tone of your voice, eyes and behavior it must be a serious matter.

By whom have you been sent here? Tell me frankly.

Gyoshin: What a man of insight you are! (Loses his spirits.)



As a matter of fact, ----- (Wants to go on saying, but starts trembling for the importance of the matter.)

As a matter of fact, ----- (Loses his presence of mind.)

Hm. (Resolutely holds out his hand and takes up the small sword before him; he determines to disembowel himself if the matter ends in bubble.)

I, Narita Kosaburo, have come here by order of the Emperor through Lord Tadaaki, Major-general Rokujo. This is the order of the Emperor in Oki.

Nagatoshi and the Others: Very well.

(Get astonished, leave their seats and prostrate themselves.)

Gyoshin: Nawa-No-Matataro and the others, listen to the order carefully. (Keeps his dignity when music starts.)

The Emperor escaped from the Island of Oki, <sup>m</sup>  
~~X~~Managed to tide over the clutches of the rebels after experiencing hardships and privations on land and sea and got to Osaka, Hoki Province aboard a ship. I'm sorry to say with awe and trepidation, but he is in an awkward predicament.

The Emperor has already heard from Nawa Akushiro Yasunaga of his elder brother Matataro Nagatoshi and says <sup>that</sup> he knows well Nagatoshi's personality, so he believes that Matataro will surely accept the request.



Anyway he orders Nagatoshi to meet him.

Nagatoshi: Very well. (Is absorbed in thought. All his clansmen keep a sharp lookout and hold their breath.)

Gyoshin: "Should you be unable to accept the request you ought to take me and get a reward at Kamakura, as I wouldn't fall in the hands of the magistrate of Oki," says the Emperor. (Finishes saying in a tearful voice.)

Now, Nawa-No-Matataro-Nagatoshi, what do you say? (Draws the sword and points the blade at his abdomen. Nagatoshi draws back a little, adjusts his sleeves and says in a tearful voice.)

Nagatoshi: Now that I've heard the Emperor's graceful order from you, how could I refuse the order [as a warrior?]

Even if my bleeding neck should be exposed to the air and my bones be buried in wilderness, I would accept it willingly for the sake of justice and the Emperor.

Please take it easy.

Gyoshin: Nagatoshi-dono, do you mean to tell me that you'll accept it resolutely?

Nagatoshi: I, Nagatoshi, will accept the Emperor's order respectfully.

Gyoshin: Oh, boy!

I'm glad to say that fortune will smile on the Emperor.



(Loses his spirits and seems to be paralyzed with fear.)

Nagatoshi: Now, Magosaburo Motonaga, Onigoro Suketaka, Hino-dono, and all my clansmen, I, Nagatoshi, have made up my mind. I don't think little of people's opinions.

If you've any objection to it, you may do as you like. As for me, I'll accompany the Emperor, fight with the enemy at the stronghold of Mt. Senjo and give up my life for the sake of the Emperor.

Suke: We are your brothers and clansmen, so we'll die together with you when necessary.

Yoshiyuki: We are all your clansmen of the same lineage.

Saneyuki: Nobody will object to you, I can assure you.

Yoshinao: It'll be an honor to our clan.

Yoshiuki: Through fire and water.

All: We'll accompany you.

Nagatoshi: Oh, I'm glad you've consented to it and taken an oath. Now, Motonaga and Suketaka, get ready for meeting the Emperor right away.

Hino-dono and Saneyuki-dono, collect the clansmen. Muneie and Yoshisane, make arrangements for pack-horses. Take care, everybody; it's an urgent matter.

Take the initiative and co-operate among yourselves and then perform meritorious services in defence.

I, Nagatoshi, will be ready for it, so excuse me for a while. Narita-dono, you seem to be hungry. Tell Yoshisane and Tozaburo to give you tea and rice.

Excuse me. (Enters the inner room.

All the others also enter the inner room after greeting Gyoshin. Gyoshin puts on the sword, strokes his chest and seems to be relieved.

~~Gyoshin puts on the sword, strokes his chest and seems to be relieved.~~

Meanwhile, Tozaburo Chikakiyo comes out with a page, who offers Gyoshin tea and rice.)

Chikakiyo: Now, Narita-dono, help yourself, please.

Gyoshin: Thank you very much, but I'm afraid my heart is still full.

Chikakiyo: Don't say such a thing.

Gyoshin: Well, then, I'll have it. (Does not feel like eating, but he takes up the bowl of rice.

With the sound of the wooden clappers, behind the stage the sound of a horse's hoofs is heard. The neigh of the riding horse is also heard.

----- ACT DROP -----



LAST ACT

Scene of Osaka Fort Again

Dramatis Personae:

Nawa Matataro Nagatoshi: Lord Tadaaki, Major-general Rokujo;

Semba Hachiro;

Onigoro Suke-taka;

Magosaburo Motonaga;

Itsudomaru;

Jiro Saburo Saneyuki;

Toriya Hikoshichi Muneie;

Bitchunokami Yoshinao;

Hino Saburo Oshiyuki;

Fisherman Fukashichi;

woman Diver Onami;

" Oiwa;

The Others: Warriors,

Common Soldiers, Fishermen & Woman Divers





Fisherman Fukashichi O: Well, we must be careful about what we say, though.

"                   △: Although we called out to him, he didn't reply.

"                   □: He is a suspicious-looking guy, I should say.

Hachiro: Do you mean to tell us that you've such a man in mind?

Fukashichi:               Well, we haven't yet made sure of it, though.

Woman Diver Oiwa: Well, we haven't seen a court noble before, though.

"                   Oiso: We met a handsome man behind the pine-tree a while ago.

"                   Ohara: He was of light complexion and noble-looking.

"                   Oiwa: Onami-san said that she fell in love with him, but -----.

(Starts speaking of the noble-looking man when Onami interrupts her.)

Onami: Ah, don't say such a silly thing. Oiwa-san, I feel bashful. Be careful about what you say. If your words give him some trouble, I'll be sorry.

Oiwa: Ha, ha! You seem to be stuck on him.

I'll speak of him. (Smiles. Only Onami becomes dejected.)

Warrior 1: Say, say, Women, have you seen a man looking like a court noble?

Onami: Oh, never.

Warrior 2: If you've really seen such a man, you must tell the truth

(Says sternly. Just then a great many plovers flock together and sing. Major-general Rokujo makes his appearance behind the pine-tree on the left.)

Oiwa: Speaking of the devil, he's sure to come.

Look! He is over there.

Onami: Tut, tut, be careful about what you say.

(Oiwa points to the major-general when Onami checks her in a flurry. In a twinkling Hachiro notices the major-general.)

Hachiro: Oh, his clothes and personality are above comprehension.

Now, investigate him.

Common Soldier: Certainly.

(Under Hachiro's direction, the common soldiers stand up immediately.)

All: What are you? What's your name? (Take the major-general and come forward. The major-general shakes himself free from them and hits on a good idea.)

Major-general: Oh, it's unreasonable for you to take me.

I'm a musician of the city and by no means a suspicious man.

Hachiro: Hm, if you're a musician of the city; what have you come to this beach for?



Major-general: I was on my way to the Izumo Shrine for my earnest prayer when, sorry to say, my boat went adrift in the teeth of the wind.

Hachi: Oh, be careful not to be hoodwinked by him. I'm sure he's Major-general Rokujo. Arrest him, everybody. He deserves no consideration.

Major-general: Don't do violence, Country Warriors. Although I'm a musician, I've got my office and rank. I won't be arrested by you.

Hachi: We must do so according to the directions of the magistrate of Oki by order of Rokuhara. Don't let him complain of it. Be ready!

(In a twinkling the common soldiers start rising to their feet. The fishermen and woman divers get astonished. Only Onami braces herself.)

Onami: Don't do violence to him by numbers. (Threads her way ~~XX~~ through them and supports him.)

Common Soldier: Don't disturb us, silly woman!  
(Hits her.)

Onami: Oh, you've hit me; I won't excuse you. You've insulted me -- Yasaku-No-Onami. (Leaps on the common soldier while looking at the fisherman Fukashichi.) Say, say, Fukashichi-san, you're familiar with me.

Don't leave me in the lurch, but help me.

Fukashichi: I won't help you, for I'm afraid I shall smart for it, I'll run off. (Runs off.)

All: We mustn't be involved in the trouble. Let's run off.  
(They all run off.)

Onami: Well, then, I'll also run away. Fukashichi-san,  
wait, wait!

(Also runs off. Meanwhile, the major-general has a rough-tumble with the common soldiers.)

Hachi: Darn it! You may kill him.

If possible, catch him alive by hurting his side-locks  
or shin. All common soldiers:

Certainly.

(All the common soldiers unsheathe their swords;  
Hachiro takes up the halberd. The major-general  
also draws his sword and straightens himself.

Just then the sound of a horse's hoofs is heard when  
Nawa Nagatoshi wearing a brown ceremonial robe, a  
ceremonial head-gear and a coat-of-mail on horseback,  
followed by his clansmen wearing armours, ceremonial robes  
or helmets with quick steps. Motonaga places himself  
in the van of the army.)

Motonaga: Oh, you are Major-general Rokujo, aren't you?

We Nawa's Clansmen have come to meet you.



Major-general: Oh, I'm glad you've come here in good time.

I am Rokujo Tadaaki.

Hachiro: Gee! Look out, everybody!

Motonaga: None of your cheek, Semba and the others.

Be prepared for death!

Hachiro: What? (Stabs at Motonaga, who suddenly kills Hachiro.

Yoshiyuki, Muncie and Yoshinao scuffle with the common soldiers & run them down when Nagatoshi accosts them.)

Nagatoshi: You needn't run after them so long.

Let them go!

All: Very well. (Stop. Thereupon Nawa Matataro gets off the horse and kneels down on the sand when the major-general sits down on the stone.)

Nagatoshi: Lord Tadaaki, Major-general Rokujo, this is the first time I've seen you.

I am Nawa Matataro Nagatoshi and have come to meet you according to the words of the messenger.

I hope you'll tell the Emperor of it.

Major-general: Oh, boy! Nawa-No-Matataro, I'm glad you've kindly accepted the message. Although the Emperor should reign all over Japan, practically all the vassals have become his enemies. Now the Ruler pays attention to even the sound of reeds or bush-clovers.

Now that you've come here immediately to meet the Emperor, I'm sure the Emperor will be moved to tears for your heroism and loyalty.

Nagatoshi: It's very nice of you to say so.

By the way, how about the Emperor?

Major-general: Sorry to say, he is hiding himself in a dirty, small boat and in deep waters.

Nagatoshi: I'm sorry to hear it.

(Turns his eyes to the boat, but without looking closely at it drops his head and sheds tears.)

I imagine that the Emperor has become emaciated owing to his long voyage since he left the Imperial Palace. I'm so sorry for the Emperor that I, Nagatoshi, have no words to sympathize with him.

I think the Ruler must be very much tired, but it's beyond my power to protect him on the level country, so I'll accompany him to Mt. Senjo the path to which is steep, a long way from here, for the mountain serves as a point of strategic importance. Since it's an urgent matter, I've taken here my reliable clansmen though small in number.

Suketaka: I'm Nagatoshi's younger brother Onigoro Suketaka.



- Motonaga: I'm Nagatoshi's second son Magosaburo Motonaga.
- Itsudomaru: I'm Nagatoshi's third son Itsudo.
- Yoshijuji: I'm Nagatoshi's cousin Rokuro Taro Yoshijuji.
- Nobusada: I'm also Nagatoshi's cousin Motaro Nobusada.
- Muneie: I'm Nagatoshi's son-in-law Toriya Mikoshichi Muneie.
- Yoshinao: I'm also Nagatoshi's son-in-law Bitchunokami-Yoshinao.
- Tadahide: I'm also Nagatoshi's son-in-law Hokojiro Tadahide.
- Yoshiyuki: I'm an old clansman by the name of Aino Saburo Yoshiyuki.
- Yoshiyasu: I'm Yoshiyuki's eldest son Matasaburo Yoshiyasu.
- Muneshige: I'm a clansman and Tsuchiya Mikosaburo Muneshige is my name.
- Yasuchika: I'm Utsumi Shirotarō Yasuchika.
- Nagatoshi: Besides them, there are a little over twenty men here.  
Even if their bones should be broken to pieces,  
they would never separate from one another.  
We'll attend the Emperor carefully.  
The enemy Kiyotaka, magistrate of Oki, is in Konami.
- Motonaga: Another enemy Motonokami Miyoaki is in Akazaki.
- Suketaka: They have one thousand cavalymen respectively.
- Yoshiyasu: The distant enemy lives three miles away from here.
- Muneie: The nearer enemy lives two miles away from here.

Nagatoshi: Not only they keep sinister eyes on our movements, but since it's an urgent matter, we can't make ready for the Emperor's palanquin. That's why I hope the Emperor will go up to Mt. Senjo on horseback. When the Ruler gets to the stronghold, I, Nagatoshi, will set his mind at rest even if all the enemies attack me on all sides.

Well, then, I'll urge the Emperor to go up there right away.

(Just then the sound of noisy musical instruments comes within hearing.)

Yoshiyuki: Eek! What's that sound?

I wonder if the enemies have known our movements already and closed in upon us.

Motonaga: Oh, don't make a noise, everybody.

Suketaka: Fix arrows to your bows.

Muneie: If they are enemies, shoot them down.

(All of them put arrows to their bows and straighten themselves. Just at the moment Nagatoshi's younger brother Shinanobo Gensei, priest of the Taizen Temple, comes out from the direction <sup>in which</sup> ~~where~~ Gamba Hachiro ran off carrying a halbert <sup>b</sup> in his hand and wearing an armour over his clerical robe like Musashibo (Benkei)



in old days together with numbers of clerical warriors and shouts in a loud voice.)

Gensei: I'm ~~Hawa-No-Natataro-Nagatoshi's~~ younger brother Shinanobo Gensei, priest of the Taisen Temple; I've heard from my elder brother of the event. Although I've lived secluded from the world, I haven't forgotten the Emperor's grace, so I've put away the Buddhist scriptures for a while and come here with priests of the same sect so as to help you.

Major-general: I've mistaken them for the enemies and got frightened out of my wits, though.

Motonaga: I'm glad they have turned out to be our friends.

All: Let's go up to Mt. Genjo right now.

All: Let's accompany them.

Nagatoshi: Time will come when we go to the field of battle on horseback and in armours. (Draws up the bridle of the horse and exchanges glances with the major-general.)

Major-general and Nagatoshi: Ha, ha, ha!

All: Ha, ha!

(They laugh. The sound of the waves and the pine-tree is heard.)

----Curtain -----