

YONI HIBIKU TAIKO NO ISA OSHI

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Blamer

Yonihibiku Taiko No Isaoshi



: S H O C H I K U :

KABUKI PLAY

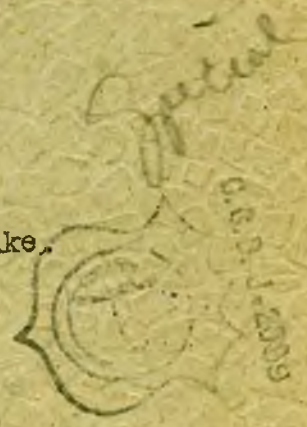
" SAKAI'S DRUM "

(~~SAKAI NO TAIKO~~)

YONIHIBIKU TAIKO NO ISAOSHI

One Act.

Written by Mokuami Kawatake.



To be presented by Ebizo, Shoroku and

Baiko Joint Troupe At the Tokyo Theater

From Jan. 2nd to Jan. , '48:-

" SAKAI'S DRUM "

Synopsis:

Takeda of Koshu Province and Ieyasu Tokugawa of Suruga Province were at war. The tide turned against Tokugawa's troops and the Hamamatsu Castle was in danger of being attacked by the enemy in full force.

Resourceful as Ieyasu was, he asserted that he would have the castle-gate opened, camp-fires kindled and meet the enemy, Saemon Sakai agreed to the idea and drank rice-wine till he got helplessly drunk. After a while Sakai leapt to his feet and beat the drum announcing the time with might and main himself.

Saburobe Baba, general of the attacking force, wondered why the castle-gate was kept open, the camp-fires were all ablaze and the sound of the drum reverberated sonorously. After much consideration, he conjectured that they must have some profound stratagem. Thereupon Takeda's force which had closed in upon the Castle in great force turned back. Meanwhile, in the castle they drank in celebration of the success of the stratagem and the day before the official beginning of spring.

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Scenes:

----- Scene of Inside of Hamamatsu
Castle.

----- Scene of Outside of Hamamatsu
Castle.

The stage represents Ieyasu's headquarters on the mountain. In the middle Ieyasu wearing the armour and ceremonial robe is seated on the cushion; beside him a page sits down holding up his sword; on the right his lady dressed in a long over-dress and five waiting maids are seated in a row; on the left are seated Shibata and Hiraiwa.

Lady: I'm glad you've returned to this
castle in good health, darling.

Umegae: Not only your lady but also I,

Umegae, as chief waiting maid -----.

The First Maid: Mere waiting maids as we are, -----.

The Second Maid: We feel as if we were the revived
withered flowers.

The Third Maid: Nothing is so happy -----.

The Fourth Maid: And congratulatory as this.

All: Congratulations!

Ieyasu: Since Baba and Yamagata ^{led} ~~took~~ the van
with their men out of Takeda's big
force, we were no match for them
and I was already prepared for death
in action on Sambogahara Field, but
thanks to Honda and the other faith-
ful heroes' magnificent defence against
the enemy I had a hairbreadth escape
and could return to this castle
with a whole skin.

Lady: I understand you must have been hard
pressed since you were ready to die
fighting. Whenever I heard of an
intermittent report on our force's
defeat since this morning, I wished
you would return to this castle safely.

Ume: I'm glad you narrowly escaped death by the protection of Gods to whom we had prayed for their help.

Hira (Wata): This is due to your clever stratagem, my lord.

Shiba: Besides, it's owing to your good fortune as people say that you're the incarnation of the twelve gods.

Ie: Anyway I haven't eaten enough since this morning, so I'm awfully hungry. Make ready for hot water and rice, anyone.

The First Maid: Certainly. (Enters the interior.)

Ie: Now I'm back in this castle, but Sakai whom I told to look after the castle in my absence to-day hasn't yet come here. How about Saemon?

Ume: Well, as for Saemon-dono who are in charge of looking after this castle in your absence -----.

Ie: Has he gone anywhere?

Ume: Oh, no, he hasn't.

Ie: Why do you hesitate to tell me about him?

Ume: Well -----.

Lady: Well, I'll tell you, darling. The reason why Umegae hesitated to tell you of Saemon is this:

Although he has been in charge of this castle in your absence to-day, on the pretext of celebration of repulsion of the disaster he drank too much rice-wine, got helplessly drunk and lay full length on the mat. Thereupon the waiting maid tried to rout him out, but in vain as he seemed to be fast asleep.

Ume: I wanted to tell him of your return immediately, but I overheard him snoring loudly, so I hesitated to tell you of him, my lord.
Please forgive me for my hesitation.

Ie: Well, then, you mean to say that Saemon drank too much and had a good sleep in celebration of to-day's repulsion of the disaster?

Lady: A warrior as he is, it's shameful of him that he drank too much rice-wine

and fell asleep helplessly in spite of this battle.

Wata: As your lady said -----.

Shiba: Saemon-dono fell asleep in spite of this battle.

Wata: We -----.

All: Must not excuse him.

Ie: Oh, never mind. Only such a hero as he could fall asleep in spite of this battle.

Four: Huh?

Ie: Never mind. Let him remain asleep.

Lady: Gracious! I thought you would scold him, though.

Ume: On the contrary, you seem to have pleased with him at his behavior, my lord.

Ie: Oh, isn't rice with hot water ready yet? Bring it here right away.

Waiting maid: Certainly.

(With music, the four waiting maids come out with a table, a bowl and a boiled-rice tub and offer the things to Ieyasu. Just then from the left comes out Hikoemon.)

Hiko: Well, I, Hikoemon Torii, have only just returned from the camp.

Ie: Oh, have you come back, Hikoemon?

Hiko: Yes.

Shiba: You seem to be severely wounded.

Hira (Wata): Aren't you mortally wounded?

Hiko: I'm only slightly wounded, so please don't worry about me.

(Just then from the left comes out Kaede in a long-sleeved dress.)

Kaede: Oh, elder brother, have you come back?

Hiko: Oh, sister Kaede, why don't you escort the lady?

Kaede: Just now I was seeing a long distance with a telescope together with Sakai-sama's elder sister Ofuseya from the threefold turret so as to know whether the enemy might advance on this castle.

Hiko: You shouldn't have gone up to the turret unlike a woman for fear that you might hurt yourself.

Lady: Well, Hikoemon-dono, it is I that

told her to see a long distance at the turret.

Kaede: Oh, speaking of a hurt, the cloth tied on your foot is blood-stained, so I'm afraid you're severely wounded.

Hiko: When I brought up the rear a while ago, the well-known hero named Yamagata of the Takeda Camp thrust my left thigh with his spear. It isn't a rare thing, however, that we warriors receive such a wound in battle.

Kaede: You'd better apply an ointment to the wound right now.

Hiko: I need no ointment. (Meanwhile, Ieyasu is eating cold boiled-rice with hot water.)

Ie: When I returned to this castle a while ago, the enemy force was in the long distance, but how far have they marched on the castle now?

Hiko: They took advantage of their victory since this morning, carried everything before them, raised a shout of

victory and more than thirty thousand
cavalrymen advanced on the avenue
outside of this castle.

(Hira) Wata: Well, then, you mean to say that the
enemy force has already marched on
the avenue outside of this castle?

(All of them seem to be ill at
ease. However, Ieyasu keeps on
eating the cold boiled-rice with
hot water in spite of their anxiety.)

Kaede: Brother, please be ready for fighting
in defence.

Hiko: Oh, of course we must be ready for
fighting in defence.
Now that there is only a small force
in this castle, if they force
their way into here all at once, this
castle will take no time in falling,
as we haven't got enough men to fight
in defence against them. What do you
say, my lord?

So far as I, Hikoemon, think it over,
I'm of opinion that we should have
the front bridge cut off and the
castle-gate closed tightly lest the
enemy should break into this castle.

Ie: Oh, no, the castle-gate should remain open and at night camp-fires be burnt so that the enemy force could see it clearly.

Hiko: Excuse me for interrupting you, my lord, but as I told you just now, if more than thirty thousand cavalrymen should break into this castle, how could you keep off the enemy?

Ie: I'll admit your remonstrance is reasonable.
However, Shingen won't engage in a reckless fight and especially Nobufusa Baba who is full of wisdom and valour will ~~lead~~^{lead} the van, so even if the castle-gate should remain open, they wouldn't make a raid on this castle so easily.

Hiko: Excuse me for disturbing you, but as people say, false security is a great foe.

We can't tell what kind of step the enemy will take in such a case, so I hope you'll adopt my stratagem and

be ready for fighting in defence.

Ie: Well, I've got something up my sleeve,
so do as I've told you. Say, wait
on me.

Waiting maid: Very well.

(Waits on Ieyasu.)

Lady: Excuse me for pushing myself forward,
but it seems there is a grain of
truth in what Hikoemon said just
now, so you'd better adopt his
stratagem, I think.

Ie: No wonder you may think so as well
as my wife, but in such a case we
should be unable to keep off the
enemy unless we would rather outwit
them than fight with them bravely.

Hiko: However, even if we would try to
outwit the enemy, the general of
the troops sent against us would
attack furiously such a simpleton
as me first of all. What would
you do in such a case, my lord?

Ie: Well, then, we should be obliged to
resign ourselves to fate and die
nobly.

Hiko: Then, I shall be obliged to disobey your order and have the castle-gate closed, my lord. (Rises to his feet leaning against his spear.)

Kaede: Wait a moment, brother. You shouldn't disobey the lord's order as his retainer.

Hiko: I know I shouldn't do so in time of peace.

Kaede: But -----.

Hiko: Oh, don't detain me.
(Is about to go when Kaede detains him. Just then in the interior Saemon's voice is heard.)

Saemon: Hallo, Mr. Torii. Wait a moment.

Hiko: What?
(Just then the "joruri" reciters on the floor start reciting a joruri or a ballad-drama:)

"In less than no time from a room comes out totteringly Tadatsugu in charge of the castle in the lord's absence with a bottle of rice-wine and cups,"

Just then from the interior comes out Saemon wearing a hemp-made ceremonial dress and a sword with some cups on a wooden stand and a bottle of rice-wine in his hand; he seems to be slightly intoxicated.)

Sa: I've overheard the particulars in the room. Please wait a moment, Hikoemon-dono.

Hiko: But it's an urgent matter of defense, so -----.

Sa: Well, I know, but please wait a moment.

"He is obliged to sit down.

Tadatsugu lifts his head slowly."

(Hikoemon sits down on the left.

Sakai looks at the right.)

Sa: Oh, my lord, have you only just returned to this castle?

Ie: Thank you for the trouble you have taken all day long to-day in charge of this castle in my absence.

(Puts aside the table.)

Sa: After you went to the front, I, Tadatsugu, took no interest in talking

with my elder sister and became tedious, so I wanted to know how the battle was going on and saw a long distance from the threefold turret with a telescope when I knew the tide was turning against our force, so I feared there was practically no hope of our victory. Moreover, I heard of only ill news, so was afraid that I should be obliged to kill myself to follow you to the other world.

(Seems to be still slightly intoxicated.)

However, I'm glad to see you well, my lord. (Bows to Ieyasu in earnest.)

Ie: Although I was prepared for death in action a while ago, I could successfully cut my way through the battle-field and return to this castle again, so it seems the fate of our arms is not yet on the wane.

Ōa: The fate of your arms will never be on the wane, but your house will prosper forever, I can assure you.

(Seems to be still intoxicated.)

Ie: Tadatsugu, did you drink rice-wine?
You seem to be heavily drunk.

Sa: Oh, please excuse me. To-day is the day before the official beginning of spring and it is snowing hard, so I felt very cold and had a drink, but on the pretext of poor pouring or new drinking I drank several cups of rice-wine till I fell asleep under the influence of liquor.

Ie: Indeed to-day is the day before the beginning of the official spring season. You've had a twig of the holly-tree and a dried sardine hung on the gate according to our family practice, haven't you?

~~I~~ Sa: As to the salted sardine, we've had some for our provisions, so I could have it used for the purpose immediately, but since there was no holly-tree in this castle, I was quite at a loss what to do, but now is at the midst of battle and I've no time to have it

looked for, so I've had the twig of the star-anise on the family altar hung on the gate instead of the twig of the holly-tree.

(Hearing his words, the lady gets angry.)

Lady: It's absurd that you should have the star-anise for Buddha hung on it on the day before the official beginning of spring in celebration of the coming New Year.

Sa: But there is no holly-tree here.

Lady: If there is no holly-tree here, why didn't you have a twig of the pine-tree or the bamboo-grass hung on it? It's unlucky to have the star-anise hung on it on the unusual day before the official beginning of spring.

Ume: As lady said, the star-anise is inauspicious to be used on the auspicious day before the beginning of the official spring season.

Lady: Waiting maids, throw it away.

Waiting Maids: Certainly.

(Start rising to their feet.)

- Ie: Oh, you needn't throw it away, but
let it as it is.
- Lady: Excuse me for interrupting you, but
the star-anise is an inauspicious
thing to be used before the family
altar, you know.
- Ie: I don't think it's an inauspicious
thing. As to the star-anise, it
never changes its color in the
four seasons and is an evergreen
like a pine-tree and a kind of
a mandarine orange.
Like a wise man that Tadatsugu is,
I'm glad he had the star-anise used,
instead.
- Shiba: Well, then, lord, you'll have ---.
- Hira (Wata): The star-anise used as it is ---.
- Both: Really?

Ie: Oh, yes, from today on we shall have it used as our family custom.

Both: Certainly.

"Hearing the details, Mototada feels ill at ease."

Hiko: Well, Mr. Sakai, since the enemy force is close at hand, I asserted that we should have the castle-gate closed, the bridge cut off and keep off the enemy. Although lord didn't agree to my idea, I felt uneasy and was running to ward off the enemy when you stopped me. What's your intention in connection with this?

Sa: Excuse me for my rudeness under the influence of liquor, but you needn't make preparations for keeping off the enemy as lord said.

Hiko: Well, then, do you mean to say that you agree with lord?

Sa: They're mere troops from \emptyset Koshu, so you needn't make preparations for it.

Should they force their way into here, I would glare at them with my large eyes and send them away.

Don't worry about it.

Hiko: Well, you're intoxicated, so have made light of them, but nowadays Shingen Takéda is in the ascendant and well-known for his valour.

Under his command there are only brave heroes as well as the twenty-eight generals, so it is not too much to say that there is no hope of our victory. Thereupon I urged lord to make preparations for a defensive war, but he didn't adopt my plan. Now there is no help for it. If the enemy force come, I would die fighting at the castle-gate and hand down the fair name of Torii to posterity.

"Knowing his firm determination, Tadatsugu claps his hands."

Sa: Well said!

You're a pattern of the warrior.

How admirable you are!

(Offers the bottle of rice-wine to Hikoemon.)

By the way, won't you have a drink?

Hiko: I dislike rice-wine.

Sa: Oh, don't say such a thing, but drink.

Hiko: I say, I dislike it.

Sa: It's silly of you that you dislike rice-wine which is said to be Heaven's gift.

(Takes up the cup.)

Well, if you don't drink I'll drink with this cup, instead.

Ie: Oh, bring the cup here.

Sa: Well, then, lord -----

Ie: We've had a desperate battle since this morning, so I should like to be relieved of the fatigue and have a drink here.

Sa: Very well.

"He takes up the wooden stand and offers it to Ieyasu".

(Sakai offers the wooden stand with the cups on it to Ieyasu.)

Lady: I'll fill your cup.

"The lady fills the general's cup and the general drains the cup filled with rice-wine."

(Ieyasu drinks it up.)

Ie: Come nearer to me, Tadatsugu.

Sa: Certainly.

Ie: Here is how!

Sa: Thank you, I'll take your cup and drink with it.

"If the enemy force should make a raid on the castle now, they, lord and retainer, would have exchanged farewell cups."

(Watanabe fills Tadatsugu's cup, so Tadatsugu is about to drink when he exchanges glances with Ieyasu. The lady takes notice of it and seems to understand their ~~xxx~~ mind.

Sakai drains the cup, wipes it with a sheet of waste paper and offers it to Ieyasu. Ieyasu drinks.

Both of them seem to be lost in thought.)

Sa: Well, we can't drink rice-wine to our satisfaction. With the attacking force as a relish, let's drink ourselves to death tonight.

(Thereupon Ieyasu seems to be intoxicated.)

Ie: By golly! I can't drink any more. I've been tired since this morning and am very sleepy now.

I'll go to the inner room and take a snooze.

Lady: Well, then, darling, are you going to sleep in the inner room now?

Ie: Oh, I'm so sleepy that I can't put up with it.

Lady: Excuse me, but there is now the enemy big force in the castle-town.

They might make a raid on this castle at any moment.

It's too audacious of you to go to sleep in such an atmosphere.

Ie: Oh, don't worry.

It's good for my health to go to sleep and take a rest for a while till the enemy force comes here.

Shiba: Well, then -----

Both: Lord.

Ke: I'll take a snooze in the inner room, so you should have the castle-gate wide open and be ready for the camp-fires.

Both: Certainly.

Ie: Then, Tadatsugu.

Sa: Lord.

Ie: I'll see you later on.

"Thinking nothing of the big enemy force, he is courageous enough to enter the inner room with his lady."

(Ieyasu goes ahead of his lady and the waiting-maids and enters the inner room.)

Wata: Let's go to the front-gate right now.

Shiba: And we'll tell our men to guard the gate and make ready for the camp-fires.

Sa: Oh, you mustn't be off your guard. Hurry up, hurry up! (Urges them to go with his fan.)

Both: Then, good-bye.

"After saying good-bye to him, both of them hasten to the castle-gate."

(Both of them go into the stage passage.)

Sa: Now that lord is asleep, I also feel sleepy as I've been drunk.

Well, I'll also go to sleep.

"Saemon lays his head on his own elbow and lies down. Meanwhile, Hikoemon feels ill at ease."

(Just then Saemon lies down, covers his face with the fan and falls asleep.)

Meanwhile, Hikoemon is in thought.)

- Hiko: I'm quite disgusted at this scene.
Not only lord but also Saemon-dono wearing a peaceful
hemp-made ceremonial robe is lying full length
on the mat despite the approaching big enemy
force of more than thirty thousand cavalrymen.
I'm disgusted with them.
Now there is no help for it.
There is no other way for me but to die fighting.
- Kaede: Well, then, are you going to die fighting
before tonight?
- Hiko: Oh, yes, I would rather die than become a coward
with hesitation.
- Kaede: No wonder you've made up your mind to do so,
but I think they have some profound reason for it,
so please wait a moment.
- Hiko: They can't have any profound reason for it.
There is no time to lose.
- Kaede: But please wait till Mr. Honda and Mr. Okubo
come back.
- Hiko: Oh, don't stop me.
- Kaede: Oh, please wait a moment.
"She clings to Mototada and detains him when he
nods."
- Hiko: Indeed there is a grain of truth in your words.
Both Honda-dono and Okubo-dono are still missing,
so I'll agree with you.

Kaede: Well, then, will you wait? Now you'd better have your wound treated till both of them return.

Hiko: Oh, I needn't have such a slight wound by the spear treated.

Kaede: But you'd better apply an ointment to it.

Hiko: Well, it's no use to do so, as I'll die very soon.

"He braces himself up and rises to his feet, but can't walk owing to the pain on his foot, so he leans against the spear and manages to go away with his younger sister."

(As the words of the joruri recited, they go to the left. The bell announcing the time sounds.)

"After they are gone, silence prevails. Saemon can't hear the bell ringing, but snores loudly.

Saemon's elder sister Fuseya who has been overhearing them in a room comes out stealthily and gets near him."

(From the interior comes out Fuseya wearing a long over-dress; she seems to be rather old.)

Fuseya: Here, here, Tadatsugu, Tadatsugu!

"She routs him out of bed when he blinks his eyes."

(Saemon lifts his head and looks at Fuseya.)

Sa: Oh, elder sister, what's the matter?

Fuse: I've some business with you, so wake up.

Sa: I don't know what business you have with me, but I feel very sleepy, so please excuse me for a while. (Again lies down when she routs him out.)

Fuse: I say, wake up, wake up.

Sa: Certainly, I'm getting up.

"He places his hands together on the mat when she looks at him."

Fuse: Well, Tadatsugu, I can't understand your mind. You see, in this battle the enemy general is the famous Shingen Takeda of Kai and with Baba and Yamagata in the van there are more than thirsty thousand cavalrymen under his command, so even if the force of the House of Oda takes sides with us there will be almost no hope of our victory with the small force. Our lord has never had such a hard battle before, so Ii, Honda, Okubo-dono and the other Chief retainers are cudgeling their brains how to win the battle and have practically no time to take three meals a day. Especially today our force has been defeated by them, so they might raid here at any moment and not only lady but also I, Fuseya, am in mortal fear. Despite that, you're helplessly drunk though today is the auspicious day before the

official beginning of spring. What a contemptible fellow you are!

"Although I'm a woman, I, Fuseya, am in charge of the inner palace. Sorry to say, my expostulation falls on your deaf ears."

(Fuseya draws close to him and says so.)

Sa: Now I understand your business with me.

Even if Takeda's big force should break into this castle, I, Tadatsugu, would keep them off by a stratagem. (Hits his chest and shows ~~that~~ that he is still intoxicated.)

You needn't worry about it.

Fuse: Oh, I can't understand you. Even Shokatsu Garyu would be unable to keep off the big enemy force only by his ruse.

Even if the famous Choryo and Kusunoki counsel together at home and in China to say nothing of Shokatsu Garyu, they would be no match for me so far as a stratagem is concerned.

Please wait and see.

"Just then the toll of the shell bell is heard violently when his elder sister Fuseya gets astonished.

Over there at the drop-curtain the sound of a bamboo-trumpet is heard."

Fuse: Gracious!

The shell-bell and drum are sounded near here; the enemy must have advanced on the outside of this castle.

"She gets astonished at the sound, stretches herself up and looks at the direction.

Meanwhile, he again rests his head on his own elbow."

(Just then Tadatsugu again lies down. Fuseya looks at him.)

Fuse: Here, here, Tadatsugu, I'm sure th enemy has advanced near this castle.

Listen! Can't you hear the sound of the shell-bell? Can't you hear the noise?

"She seizes him by the neck and lifts him up."

Sa: Oh, you needn't get so much excited.

Even if I'm intoxicated with liquor, I care for my life as well as my name just the same.

As I told you just now, I've many a stratagem at hand, so you needn't worry about it.

Fuse: If you've such a stratagem really, tell me of it and set~~x~~ my mind at rest.

Sa: Oh, no, I can't tell you off it.

Fuse: Well, then, have you told me a lie?

Sa: How could I tell you a lie?

Fuse: Why don't you confess it to me then?

Sa: Speaking of a stratagem, it is better to be kept secret.

Fuse: But-----

Sa: Oh, how obstinate!

Please forgive me.

"He again lies down and snores. She feels like crying but keeps back her tears."

(He again lies down and snores.

Fuseya keeps back her tears.)

Fuse: You must have been possessed by an evil spirit. Since you first went to the front at the age of fifteen you've never failed to take the field at several battles up to now and come to be called one of the four Devos of the House of Tokugawa. It has been not only the credit to our house, but also your honor.

Up to now I've felt proud in charge of the inner palace, but just now I felt mortified to overhear the maids in their room say, "Mr. Sakai is a coward, so he was ordered by lord to look after this castle in his absence today and couldn't accompany him."

I wanted to tell them,"

Oh, no, my younger brother isn't such a coward," but you were helplessly drunk, so I was obliged to pass it over.

You see how vexatious I felt, don't you?
If you aren't influenced by liquor, render a meritorious deed with might and main so that you, Tadatsugu Sakai, will go down in history as the bravest hero.

Although I'm a woman, I'm resolved to perform a distinguished service superior to men and be worthy of Sakai's elder sister.

Can't you hear my admonition?

You're snoring loudly as if my advice fell on your deaf ears.

What a despicable mind you have!

I won't regard you as my younger brother any more, so you yourself mustn't call me your elder sister.

"The sound of the shell-bell is again heard."

Fuse:

It seems the enemy force is getting nearer and nearer.

They might break into here at any moment, so I'll urge lady to be prepared for death so that she might not die ignobly.

"Like the hero's daughter that she is, she calmly goes to the inner palace in a manly manner without shedding tears."

(Fuseya is about to draw near Sakai. Just then on the left Hikoemon comes out and exchanges glances with Fuseya, who pretends ignorance and enters the interior.)

"Overhearing the whole story, Hikoemon comes out on tiptoe."

(With the sound of the bell announcing the time, from the left comes out stealthily Hikoemon with the spear.)

Hiko: Although his real elder sister gave him advice, her advice fell on his deaf ears and he is now snoring loudly.

Has he feigned to be asleep for some reason or is he really fast asleep?

Hm, I'll make it sure.

"He works the spear through his hand dragging himself along and shouts."

(He works the spear through his hand, goes up to the double stand limping along and holds himself ready to fight with the spear.)

Hiko: Oh, how cowardly you are, Tadatsugu Saemon. If you're of no service to lord, ~~you'll be of no service to lord~~, you'll live out in vain, so I'll take your life.

"Hearing his words, Saemon lifts his head."

(Saemon lifts his head while lying down.)

Sa: Oh, Mr. Torii, what are you going to do with me?

Hiko: You're helplessly drunk at such an important moment, Saemon.

Should the enemy force force their way into this castle and thrust at you like this, what would you do?

"Hikoemon thrusts at Saemon's chest when Saemon pushes aside the spear, so Hikoemon falls on his buttocks, but he is also a hero and again thrusts at Saemon.

Tadatsugu rises to his feet, makes a swift parry, takes the spear and thrusts him away.

Hikoemon feels a pain on his foot and totters. Saemon folds his hands and stretches himself up. The lame man and drunkard have an interesting rough-tumble with each other.

Sakai stands upright, holds himself ready to fight with the fan and yet seems to be drunk. Hikoemon tries to thrust at him, but notices that he is on the alert and seems to be struck with admiration. Again they struggle with each other and Sakai knocks down the spear with the fan. Hikoemon tries to pick up the spear when Sakai hits his hand, so Hikoemon's hand gets benumbed. Sakai takes up the spear and tries to thrust Hikoemon with it totteringly under the influence of liquor.

Hikoemon finds it difficult to ward it off.

After all Sakai trips up Hikoemon with the tip of the wooden part of the ^Spear.

Hikoemon falls and seems to be out of breath.

Sa: Say, anyone, give me a glass of water.

(Claps his hands.)

Donami: Very well.

"In reply, a waiter comes with a silver cup full of water."

(From the interior comes out Donami,
a waiter, ~~a waiter~~, with a silvery cup on
a black tray and puts it before Sakai,
who takes it and drinks the water.)

Sa: Water to take off the fumes of rice-wine
is very nice indeed.

(Meanwhile, Hikoemon seems to be still out
of breath. Sakai notices it,
strokes the edge of the cup with his finger
and offers it to Hikoemon, who takes it
and drinks the water.)

"Just then the clock strikes six."

Don: Oh, the clock has already struck six
in the evening. Well, I shall have to
beat the drum.

"So saying, he goes up the turret, but
gets astonished to see the enemy."

(The waiter goes up the turret, takes up the
drum-stick and gets startled to see over there,
so he goes down hurriedly and trembles.)

Don: Mr. Sakai, it's a serious matter.

Sa: Hey, Donami, what's the matter?

Don: Just now I looked down upon a mountain of Mr.
Takeda's force, so when they lay siege to this
castle, I'm afraid they will take my life.
(Trembles.)

Sa: Oh, what a backboneless fellow you are!
It's a warrior's wish to die on the
battle-field. Such a spiritless guy
as you won't be able to beat the drum.
I'll beat it for you.

(Saemon takes the waiter's drum-stick and
starts rising to his feet.)

Don: How could you beat the drum as you're heavily
drunk?

Sa: I'm alright however much I may drink.

Don: Oh, no, you're tottering.

Sa: Let me go!

"Donami detains Saemon, but he thrusts Donami
away and goes up the turret totteringly."

(Meanwhile, the stage revolves when the castle-
turret with the drum on it comes to the
center. Just then Saemon rises to his feet
totteringly. Meanwhile, Hikoemon is
looking at him. From the left comes out Kaede
with the box filled with beans on the
wooden stand.)

Kaede: Elder brother, you're in charge of
today's bean-throwing.
As it has struck six, will you please throw
the beans? (Offers the wooden stand to him.)

Hiko: Okay.

"Meanwhile, Saemon opens his eyes wide under the
influence of liquor and glares at
the troops of Koshu having marched near the
outside of the castle."

(He leans against the pillar staggeringly
and looks stern with his eyes wide open.)

"He beats the drum with the drum-stick
with might and main when the sound of the drum
reverberates."

(He beats the drum when with this sound the
snow on the eaves scatters.

The waiter gets astonished.

Hikoemon is in thought.)

Hiko: Oh, the ear-splitting sound of the drum!
(Saemon seems to be still intoxicated.)

Sa: ~~Kaaa~~ Have you understood my true mind?

Hiko: Oh, yes, I'm ashamed of myself.

Sa: Hm! (Again beats the drum.)

Kaede: Elder brother, you also do your work.

(Offers the wooden stand to Hikoemon,
who takes it.)

Hiko: Alright. (Throws the beans.)

Devils out, devils out!

(With the sound of the drum, the stage-
settings revolve.)

The stage represents the outside of the
Hamamatsu Castle. Here is seated Baba Minonokami
on the stool wearing an armor, gauntlets,
a large sword and a surcoat and
commands his army; beside him one of his
retainers holds Minonokami's helmet and
a number of his soldiers sit in a row.
With the sound of the drum, the stage-settings
are placed suitably.

"Across the moat Nobufusa Baba, general
of the van, takes up a position and gets ~~astonished~~
astonished to hear the sound of the drum
from the enemy's castle thinking it
a stratagem."

Baba: Well, I can't understand the ear-piercing sound
of the drum. That's because the enemy camp
is full of valor.

Although they have been put to rout in the battle since this morning leaving the dead bodies of many soldiers, in spite of the existence of our big force of thirty-five thousand men outside of the castle, they seem not to be afraid of us. The enemy general is courageous and witty, so he must have some stratagem. The First follower: Excuse us for interrupting you, but ---.

~~The Second Follower~~

The Second Follower: They have opened the castle-gate and are making camp-fires.

The Third Follower: They seem to have made no preparations for it.

The Fourth Follower: Is it a stratagem just the same?

All: Is it?

Ba: Even the man who beats the drum announcing the time seems to be very courageous, so we shan't be able to force our way into the castle so easily.

"Baba can't understand the situation of the enemy camp and watches it.

Just then Yamagata comes running triumphantly."

(Over there Yamagata comes out.)

Yamagata: Hello, Mr. Baba.

Ba: Hello, Mr. Yamagata.

Yama: I must tell you, Nobufusa-dono.

There seems to be only a handful of men in the castle, so we're going to attack it right away. What do you think of it?

Ba: Since this morning our force has won the battle, so we've wanted to attack the enemy by taking advantage of our victory, but you heard the sound of the drum from the enemy camp just now, didn't you?

Yama: Yes, I did.

Ba: What do you think of the sound of the drum?

Yama: I think the drum sounded well.

"Hearing his words, Nobufusa nods."

Ba: Excuse me for pushing myself forward, but whenever our lord Shingen speaks of military affairs, he says that the sound of the drum in the enemy camp has a great deal with victory or defeat and when the enemy has a small force naturally the sound of the drum becomes low and the camp-fires ^{do} ~~does~~ not burn well.

Since this morning they have lost the battle and we've advanced against them near the castle, so they're in peril, but they haven't cut off the front-bridge, have opened the castle-gate, made a blazing camp-fire at several places and don't seem to be afraid of us. No wonder they have a stratagem.

(Hearing his words, Yamagata laughs mockingly.)

Yama: You're troubled about it, but they can't have a stratagem. Well, even if they have a ~~stratag~~ stratagem, such a small castle with only a handful of men in it will fall in a twinkling if we make a raid on it all at once. That's why I'm of opinion that we should attack it all at once.

Ba: What you've said is reasonable, but through all ages in battle wisdom is better than valor. When the famous general Masashige Musunoki remained in seclusion in the Chihaya castle with a small force, Ashikaga's big force of more than one hundred thousand

cavalrymen attacked it, but lord Musunoki used a clever stratagem and had large trees and stones fallen or sprinkled hot water on them, so numbers of them died in action. This is a case of the big force's mistake in contempt of the small force.

Yama: I know such a thing without hearing your lecture, but they suffered such a defeat because they were timid, I should say.

Even if the enemy throw large trees or stones at us, we could occupy even the Chihaya Castle if we attack it courageously. This small castle is inferior to the castle, so whatever stratagem they may have, how could we fail to occupy it?

"He insists on his idea, but Daba smiles."

Ba: Oh, I don't think so. The lord of the castle isn't inferior even to the famous general Lord Musunoki. Especially under his command there are a great many strong warriors as well as the four Devos.

Although we are to march on the castle, they have opened the castle-gate and, made camp-fires.

Moreover, one of them shouted, "Devils out", in celebration of repulsion of the disaster and the sound of the drum reverberated. Even the footmen and young subordinate retainers seem to be in high spirits.

Although the people in the castle are small in number, they are equal to one million.

Yama: Oh, no, whatever you may say, if we are afraid of them like you and unless we take this castle by storm, it'll be a discredit to Lord Shingen who has carried everything before him in the neighboring province & other provinces. Unless we fight a battle with the enemy, we'll be laughed at by Oda and Hojo and it'll be a dishonor to our lord, so I, Yamagata, will lay siege to the castle with my men tonight.

Baba: But I, Nobufusa, have been ordered by our lord to lead the van, so if you forestall me and lead the van, you'll disobey our lord's military command.

Yama: I know it, but you're to blame for it, as you behave cowardly.

Ba: Well, we shouldn't march on the castle so easily for fear that it might be a disgrace to our lord. If you break the military command and lead the van, we won't let you pass here though you're on our side.

Yama: What?

Ba: Don't get excited, but wait till our lord orders us to do so.

Yama: But I'm sorry ----

Ba: Are you going to disobey our lord's directive?

Yama: Now I can't help it.

"He fires a rocket in readiness as a signal when his soldiers surge like a flood."

(Yamagata takes out a rocket and fires it as a signal when with the sound numbers of his common soldiers come out and stand in a row on the stage passage.

Daba notices them.)

Ba: Oh, don't get excited, but keep silent. Our lord hasn't yet given us his directions, but if you get the start of me though I, Nobuhide, am to lead the Van according to our lord's directive, you'll disobey the

military command and receive a punishment as wicked men.

All: But ----.

Ba: Well, then, are you going to disobey the military command, Yamagata's men?

All: Oh, no.

Ba: Then, withdraw from here.

All: But.

Ba: Then, withdraw from here.

All: But.

Ba: I say, you must withdraw from here.

"With his thundering voice,
the common soldiers turn back."

"Just then the sound of a shell-trumpet is heard."

(Over there the sound of a shell-trumpet
or a bamboo-trumpet is heard.)

Ba: Listen, Masakage-dono!

In the direction of the headquarters the sound
of the shell-trumpet is heard,
so the commanding general has guessed that
the enemy has some stratagem and
is ready to withdraw, I should say.

Yama: The enemy is under our eyes, though.

Ba: Anyway we shall have to act according
to our lord's instructions.

Yama: How vexatious!

Ba: Don't get so much excited.

Yama: Hum.

Ba: Withdraw!

Yama: Do as you like!

"Hearing the sound of the shell-trumpet,
Masakage Yamagata turns back against his will
in the snow."

(Yamagata goes away, followed by his soldiers.

Baba sees them off.)

"Seeing them off, Nobufusa runs his eyes over the ~~enemy~~
enemy camp."

Ba: Although they have been defeated by us since this
morning, the people in the castle seem not to
be afraid of us. Judging from the lively
sound of the drum announcing the sixth
hour, the lord of the castle must be the
greatest general of all times.

Although he is at present Oda's vassal, in the ~~future~~
future he'll take the shogunate.

Ah, wisdom united with benevolence is
~~the~~ man's treasure.

"He is struck with admiration."

(The stage-settings revolve three times.)