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: S H O C H I K U :

"KEYAMURA ROKUSUKE"

The scene of Rokusuke's house out of
the Kabuki play

"HIKOSAN-GONGEN CHIKAI NO SUKEDACHI"

Written by Chikamatsu Yaguzo

to be presented by Ebizo & Hirotaro troupe
at Mitsukoshi Theatre Oct. 4 --25, 1947

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C.O.D. J-2039



Revised
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2/10/47

SYNOPSIS :

Yoshioka Ichimisai was assassinated from ambush by Kyogoku Takumi. ~~Yosh~~ Yoshioka had two daughters O-Sono & O-Yuki. O-Sono was engaged to Rokusuke, while O-Yuki was married & had a child. Soon O-Yuki also was killed by wicked men.

Kyogoku, under the assumed name Mijin Danjo, came to Rokura & forced Rokusuke cede victory in a bout.

O-Sono, while strolling as a flute player, happened to find O-Yuki's child, whome Rokusuke had picked on the road.

So the engaged couple came to join each other & all became clear. Rokusuke, becoming aware of the fact that Danjo was no one but Takumi himself, made up his mind to help O-Sono to avenge her father.

The Scene is the Dwelling of
Rokusuke Hayamura, as prescribed
in the settings-book.

Gumpachi: The stronger of the two is now decided.
Well done! Well done!
Takumi-dono! You have one the match.
Soheita, don't you think his art of fencing
is distinguished?

Soheita: Surely! Takumi-dono, your art is excellent as
Gumpachi says. Now, Rokusuke,
will you say that if a man wins a match
against you, you shall be his servant?

Rokusuke: I have been beaten, sir. During my leisure time
not engaged in my work as a woodcutter, I
have played fencing in my own way with the people
here. And it has been rumoured that I am
good at fencing and distinguished in strategy.
But now I am embarrassed at the rumour.
I cannot beat a person who has been trained
in the real art of fencing. I am really
afraid of him.

Gumpachi: It is a matter of course. Our Lord had some placards ~~placed~~ placed here and there on which were written "Anyone who beats Hokusuke in a match shall be employed at the payment of 500 Koku." And it was because he hated your scarrilous languages.

Soheita: Yes, yes! And there appeared an exhort fencer of the Wijin School stronger than the long-nosed goblin at Kuramayama. Our Lord wanted to let him play a match with you in his presence, but Chamberlain Todoroki did not agree. So our Lord ordered him to have a match at your home, and told us two to inspect the match, saying that he would employ him if he won the game. We expected a desperate match, and we are surprised to see him strike you as easily as he strikes an old mat on the thorough cleaning day. Ha, ha!

Takumi-dono! Please change your clothes.
Be quick, please.

(Joruri: -----

Saying thus, he takes out a fine suit
of clothes ϕ cut out after the Kira Style.
When he has put on the new clothes, Takumi
seems to have changed his character.
He says insolently.)

Takumi: Though you were beaten, you need not be
discouraged. You had better train yourself,
and you will be improved.

Gumpachi: Takumi-dono! Please don't be worried
about him. (To Rokusuke)
As you live in the territory of our merchiful
Lord, you may not be punished. But you
ought to know better hereafter.
Servants! Bring here the Kago.
(basket palanquin) Please ride on it, sir.

Takumi: Oh, never mind. I'll go walking.

Soheita: Now you are the instructor to
our Lord, and at the same time our teacher.
Please take the Kago.

Takumi: Then I'll ride on it.

(Joruri: --- Thus saying he rides on the kago. The carriers lift the kago on their shoulders and begin to walk. Soheita and Gumpachi gladly follow their new teacher six or seven feet after the kago. Standing at the entrance to see them off, Rokusuke talks to himself when they are gone.)

Rokusuke: All persons ought to be dutiful to their parents. Though he has been a stranger he asked me what he did not like to as a [samurai] only because he wanted to be dutiful to his parents. I appreciated his faithfulness and was beaten as I had promised him to. You need not thank me. It was because of your parents. Be filial to your parents while you are able to do so. When your parents are dead as mine are, you cannot be dutiful to them. Be kind to them.
(Joruri: ----

As he speaks these words, some woodcutters come running through the country road which he has been looking at.)

Woodcutter: Oh, dear Rokusuke!

Our pride has been humbled!

Our pride has been humbled!

Rokusuke: Oh, how noisy you are!

What's the matter with you?

Woodcutter: What's the matter with you?

They took off the Lord's placards notifying that any-
one who wins a match with Rokusuke shall
be employed by our Lord.

So our pride has been humbled.

Rokusuke: They can take them off, if they like.

Woodcutter: Oh, no. Besides they said,

"As Rokusuke was badly struck on his cheek-bone,
it must have been broken.

Now he will be looking for the broken piece of his
head" And were you really strnck?

Rokusuke: No, it isn't true.

A man came and wanted to have a match with me,
and I offered to have a match in our Lord's
presence, as it will be more spectacular.

I said I would go whenever I was sent
for from Akura where our Lord lives.
I suppose he got angry at my answer and
spoke ill of me.

Woodcutter: I see, but how about the wound on your
forehead?

Rokusuke: This --- this wound ----
it --- as I was going to the drying-place,
I stumbled at a stone at the entrance
and was injured with the bamboo fence.

(Joruri: ----

He told a lie. But blood came out even when
he touched his forehead.

Disappointedly Kuriemon says.)

Kuriemon: I will give you all a conundrum to guess.
What are "the words Teacher Rokusuke has just
utterd"?

Woodcutters: What are they?

Kuriemon: They are lots of dried sardines in the
basket.

Woodcutters: And why?

Kuriemon: Beaten.

(or cut down the price. In Japanese the same
word.)

(Joruri: Thus they went back making a sour face.)

Rokusuke: They speak in such a way only because they
love me as their instructor.

I don't mind being despised by my acquaintances,
if it brings good to another man.

But I feel helpless thinking that I was beaten,
though I had consented to.

Now I feel hungry. Oh, I got some cakes
from the chief of hamlet yesterday.

They must be as they were if rats haven't taken ~~them~~
them off. I'll have them with the kid.

(Joruri/: Thus saying, he went out and
looked around.)

Rokusuke: Come back, my boy!

Take care not to fall down a precipice.

Where are you playing? My boy!

My boy! ---- Oh, no!

It's no use if there are no cakes when he comes
back. First I'll go and see if they are or not.

(Joruri:

He naturally dared not tell a lie even to a
little boy. By the gate of his house
were planted a big plum-tree and a camellia-
tree. Lacquer flowers were also blooming

in double flowers on the double-thatched roof, and ivies were creeping on the walls. An old woman was seen standing by the gate-door made of grass. She saw a goy's gown being dried out in the garden.)

O-Ko:

Oh, it's strange.

(Joruri: She looks into the house, and there found a gun, a sword and a bow hung on the wall. She thought that the master of the house might be a burglar, but she knocked at the door.

O-Ko:

I am an old woman visiting alone ~~xxxxxxx~~
~~another~~ shrines of all the country one after another. I have now a sore foot. May I come in to rest for a while?

(Joruri:

Hearing this Rokusuke came out of the room to see her.)

Rokusuke:

You look to be tired, old lady.

Please rest here as long as you like though I can not let you put up.

O-Ko: It is very kind of you. Then ---
(Joruri: ----- She goes to the fire-place.
Rokusuke adds a lot of fuels to the fire
and treats her well. The old woman being
gratified.)

O-Ko: Now, my host. Do you live here alone, or
have you parents?

Rokusuke: No, I had a mother,
but she died recently. So I live alone now.

O-Ko: It must be inconvenient to you.
I have an idea. Let me be your mother.
I think we match/ as mother and son.
(Joruri: As she says these words she looks
jocular.)

Rokusuke: Ha, ha, ha! It's a good joke.
You may amuse yourself saying such a joke,
your travel would be too tedious.

O-Ko: I'm in no joke. I'll really be your mother.

Rokusuke: Oh, really? And why?

O-Ko: Because I think you are a good man.
I haven't come without taking anything.
Look here! I have got here forty or fifty
ryo (or yen). I will give you this as my
souvenir. Besides I have something to talk

with you to get a large sum of money.

Let us be mother and son and talk to each other without reserve. How do you think?

(Joruri: ----

The old woman tries to work herself into his favour with her money.)

Hokusuke: I might talk with you or I might call you my mother afterwards. But anyhow please rest and wait in the next room until I am determined.

O-Ko: Then I'll go and rest exhecting your filial piety.

(Joruri: ---- Thus saying, she opens the broken paper-screen and goes out into the next room, not knowing that they are relatives. ~~At~~ Hokusuke remains by the fireside/ thinking in many ways about the strange woman. The spring breeze is fragrant with plum-blossoms. And the nightingale tells that it is already dark singing "hokeyo" (a word of prayer.)

Rokusuke: Even the bird comes back to its nest
at the right time not to fail to
say its prayer singing "hokeyo."
I am ashamed + rarely say my prayer to the
Buddha as + have been so busy. Mother,
I'm so sorry.

(Joruri: He presses his hand and prays towards
her mother's mortuary tablet. He will
surely be rewarded by the Heaven for his
filial piety. As he rings the bell so
earnestly while saying his prayer,
its sound reaches the boy, who comes back.
Not knowing that her mother is dead, the boy
calls for his mother while putting
a pebble upon another which he has collected.
His tears fall like so many rain drops on the
grass. Thus he naturally offers water to his
mother without noticing it.
Looking at this Rokusuke runs to him and takes
him up in his arm.)

Rokusuke: I understand. I understand. Now I wish I could take you to your mother! I asked you where your home was, but you could not answer me. The man who left you in my charge said nothing about it. So I don't know where your home is, or whose son you are. But you have been taken to me and call me "uncle." How can I hate you? Oh, lovely thing!

Matsu: Uncle! Why doesn't ~~mama~~ mamma come?

I want mamma! I want mamma!

(He cries.)

Rokusuke: It's no use to yearn for your ~~mama~~ so much. They say that a dead child cries for its father and mother piling up pebbles at the river-bed of the Sai River. My parents are also dead, and I have no wife. So I am quite like a child. To see my parents, I would go to the river-beach of the Sai River, may, to the bottom of the Hell! You are only a child, so it is quite natural you want to see your mother. Poor boy!

(Joruri: ---- He embraces the child and sobs
But after a while he keeps back his tears and
says.)

Rokusuke: Oh, I am sorry I have enduced you to tears.
Don't cry any more. Beat the drum
I bought for you yesterday. Now I'll
beat it for you.

Matsu: No, I don't like a drum. I am sleepy.
I should like to sleep by mamma.
(Joruri: As he cries, the child soon
falls asleep.)

Rokusuke: Oh, he is asleep now. How innocent a child
is! A child is like the Buddha. Now I will
take you to bed.
(Joruri: -- He takes the child to the bed made
of grass. Just then a strolling priest
appears. In order to ask for a night's
lodging, he comes near the fence.)

Sono: Oh, I do remember this gown for a boy.
(Joruri: --- He tries to take the gown.)

Men: A thief!

(Joruri: ---- Men tries to catch him from
behind. The priest beats them on forehead,
shoulder, or back with his shakuhachi(pipe)
he carries. Men flee away for their lives.
Rokusuke stares at him out of the room
and says.)

Rokusuke: What have you done, you feigned strolling priest?

(Joruri: ---- The priest hearing this)

Sono: What? Why do you call me a feigned strolling priest?

Rokusuke: Because your clothes and speaking are not following the regulations.

Moreover you are not permitted to fight or quarrel. Even when people are unreasonable the Archbishop orders you to be laful.

Besides you pipe your shakuhachi not in the right way but in a vulgar way of recent years. On these grounds I judged you to be a feigned strolling priest.

Am I not right? Though I am only a right? Though I am only a woodcutter I believe I am not mistaken.

What do you say?

Sono: I'll answer you in a minute.

(Joruri: --- Thus saying, Sono stealthily enters the house, and draws the dagger which he has ~~keep~~ kept in his spare pipe, and strikes at Rokusuke. But Rokusuke dodges nicely and catches him by the hand.

Rokusuke: H'm!

I knew you are a woman at the first sight.

So I tried and carped at you.

I can't understand why you struck at me.

Sono:

You can't understand?

How mean you are! You are the burglar who killed a samurai more than fifty years around Sugisaka and robbed him not only his purse but also his dead sister's child. I never can forgive you.

(Joruri: ---- She shook him off, and attacked him with her sharp dagger.

Rokusuke dodged here and there without a sword. Sono now became desperate, when a voice is heard from beyond the screen.)

Matsu:

Is it you, auntie?

(Joruri: ----The boy came running.

Sono was much surprised. She could not understand the circumstances, but taking up the boy into her arms, she assumed a posture of defence vigilantly.)

Matsu:

Uncle, now that my auntie has come, I'd like to beat the drum for her.

Rokusuke:

All right! All right!
Afterwards.

Matsu: Oh, no, at once, please.

Joruri: "The child is so dear.

Rokusuke, handing him his toy box ---"

Roku: Now, listen. The other day, when I
was on my way home from my mother's
grave, I happened to find a few highway-men
torturing an elderly man to death.
Though I ran to his rescue, he soon breathed his
last, reluctant to part from you,
his child. I have brought you here with me and
I have hung your clothes at my door in the
effort to find some relation for you.
I am very glad I have found your aunt.

Sono: Are you sure of that?

Roku: What for should I tell you a lie?

Sono: And what's your name, please?

Roku: Rokusake.

Sono: What?

Roku: Rokusuke, wood-man of the Keyamura village.

Sono: Are you the famous fencing master of the
Yaegaki school?

Roku: What do you say?

Joruri: "So O-Sono gazes at Rokusuke?

Roku: Won't you yet believe in me?

Sono: How glad I am. You're so handsome.
Well --- but --- I can't be glad
until I come to know whether you're
married or not.

Roku: I'm still unmarried for some reason.

Sono: Oh, are you? I'm so glad.
Look here, I am your wife.

~~ixx~~ (Joruri: So She clings to him.
And tries to help him keeping house.)

Roku: It's so strange. You're a stranger for me,
and you say you're my wife.
Who on earth are you?

Sono: Well, my father used to say that Rokusuke
of the Keyamura village was very good a fencer
and that he wanted to marry me to
him. I've been waiting for you all these
years, and am still a spinster though
I am over twenty.

Roku: Are you Esq Yoshioka's daughter?

Sono: Yes, I am Sono.

Roku: Pardon me, please, for having been so rude;
for I knew nothing ~~ix~~ of the fact, you know.
Well, I've been very anxious of your father.
How is he?

Sono (through tears): Well, it was at Yamaguchi,
in Suwa, that ----

Roku: What?

Sono: That he was assassinated.

Roku: And by whom?

Sono: By Kyogoku Takumi, a fencing master.

Roku: And what has brought you, here?

Are you sure that your enemy is here?

Sono: Oh, no. I haven't found any trace
of him, though I have made searches.

Roku: Oh, haven't you?

(Joruri: And O-Sono sheds many a bitter tear.)

Sono: I've been through so many troubles.

Just as we were on the point of starting,
my nephew became blind and we could
do nothing but leave him at home.

Moreover, my sister O-Yuki was also killed by
wicked men. My mother & I have travelled all the
way through deserts and mountains.

Oh, my dear husband, you're the only one
for me to rely upon. Never desert me, please.

(Joruri: And she clings close to him.)

Roku: It was some ten years ago that
I happened to meet an old man at the
foot of the mountain Mikosan. He taught me
the secret of fencing. And, at the end of the
mystery book, was written that it was divine
providence that I should get married
to you. I've been grateful to him for these years,
and have wished to repay his favour. It's
so regrettable that he should have died.

(Joruri: --- So he greets O-Sono
With tears of remorse.

Just then, a cough is heard. Behind the
sliding door.)

Ko (Behind the door): It is so admirable of you to be
so grateful to your instructor. I, Yoshioka
Ichimisai, shall appear from out of
Hades and have an interview with you.

Sono: Oh, is it mother that is speaking?

(Joruri: O-Sono, beside herself with joy,
Slides open the Door. And lo.
There stands smiling the old woman.
Hand in hand with the little child.)

Roku: Pardon me, please, for having been so rude to you. I didn't know you were my instructor's widow.

Ko: Nor I did know that you were my son-in-law. Now that we know our relation, let's live happily together. I hope you'll be on good terms with your wife, my daughter.

(Joruri: --- So she presents the wine-cup)

Roku: Oh, thank you.

(Joruri: So they exchange. Cups of pledge.)

Woodmen: Come, come. Look here.

(Joruri: So crying, there come

The wood-cutters,

Carrying the dead body on a board.)

Woodmen: Listen, Rokusuke, it was on 23 of this month that our friend Onoemon told me that his mother was missing. All of us helped her to find her out, but all in vain. Well, this morning, we at last found her below the earthen bridge. But she was found killed with all sorts of misery. We want to revenge, but we don't know how. Help us, please, Rokusuke.

Roku (Looking at the body):

Oh, is this your mother, Onoemon?

Woodman: Take courage, Onoemon, and ask Mr. Rokusuke to help you.

Onoemon (while weeping): That's quite correct,
Mr. Rokusuke. Take revenge, please.
On the very day of her death, she made
dumplings for me, and they fell out
of the dish. It was badominous.
Oh, mother, how helpless you must feel
to cross the River of Death all alone.

(Joruri:

So he sheds bitter tears of remorse.)

Roku: All right. I'll do what I can for you.
Carry the body home and say prayers for her.

Ono: Oh, thanks. She'll repose at peace now that
you say so.

(Joruri: And so the woodmen go out.

Rokusuke, left behind, Looks resentful.)

Roku: "Was it that Mijin Danjo took me in
when he said that she was his mother?
How mean of him.

Ko: Wait a minute, my son-in-law.
Is your enemy's name Mijin Danjo?

Roku: Yes, it is.

Ko: And ~~about~~ about how old is he?

Roku: Thirty-two or three. His complexion is fair.
He has a birth mark over the eyebrow
& a cut on the left arm.

Ko: Well, this is the portrait Kyogoku
Takumi, our enemy.

Sono: And he is about thirty-two or three.
He is the said Mijin Danjo, I'm sure.

Ko: How glad I am to have found our enemy.
Come, daughter.

Sono: All right.
(The two are about to go.)

Roku: Just a minute, please. He is my enemy,
too. I'll fight him with swords but you'll
first fight him with wooden swords.
Come, mother. Come, wife.
(Joruri: So they start ready to fight)

Matsu: Let me help you, uncle.

Roku: You're so clever. Come with us.

Ko: Be on your guard, son-in-law.

Sono: Do so my dear husband.

Roku: Be at ease. The other day. I was beaten on
purpose, you know. He couldn't have entered

into service but for my kindness.

Well, though we are of righteousness,
we can't kill him at once, for he
is the fencing master of the lord.
We'll have to plead, first.

(Joruri:

It seems that the late Yoshioka
Was far-sighted To have chosen Rokusuke
For the husband of his daughter
O-Sono, with a plum-blossom in her hand ---)

Sono:

Now, my husband, I hear that Kajiwara
Kagetoki adorned his quiver with
blum blossoms. I now deck yours with
these flowers to congratulate
your good fortune.

(Joruri: So saying, she is about to cling to
him, When she checks,
Diffident to her mother.)

Ko:

You'll get married to my daughter as soon
as we have revenged ourselves.

(Joruri: So the three grown-ups
Start for Kokura With little Matsu clinging
to them.)

----- Curtain -----