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S H O C H I K U

"MEIKUN GYOJYCKI"

(The Judgment of the Wise Ruler)

Written by Mayama Seika

To be performed at the Tokyo Theatre

By Kichiemon and Ennosuke Troupe

In October, 1946

(3 act Kabuki Play)

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## SYNOPSIS

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Ikeda Shintaro Mitsumasa was reported to be a wise ruler who reigned the people with justice and moral principles and administer fair policies among his vassals. One of his vassals, Aoji Zenzaemon has been brought up by him since his childhood. He respected the lord as his teacher and benefactor. But he could not agree to his policy to rescue the people out of trouble even if he strained the law. It happened one day that Zenzaemon shot the birds in the prohibited royal garden. Just at the moment Zenzaemon thought of the plan to fathom the true heart of his master. But he was no equal to him in culture. At last he gave in when he came to know that his master was wise enough to think people more important than law.



CHARACTERS:

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Aoji Zenzaemon

Daigoro, his brother

Yamanouchi Zenzaemon

Isomura Jindayu

Nui: his wife

Rinsuke: his retainer

Tsutsui San-nojo

Ikeda Shintaro Mitsumasa

AGE:

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The early years of Kan-ei, when the lord, Shintaro Mitsumasa devoted himself in the reformation of educational system.

PATT I

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In the house of Aoji Zenzaemon in the castle-town of Okayama. Zenzaemon occupies the post of deliverer. He has a respectable family as a clansman. When the curtain rises, the uncle of Zenzaemon, Isomura Jindayu is railing at ~~xxxx~~ Zenzaemon and his family. He is a stubborn bigoted old man. The wife of Zen-emon, Onui and his younger brother, Daigoro are perplexed as Isomura is crying in a loud voice.

Isomura: Now, Onui, that's why I say you are lazy.

Nui: Yes, sir.

Isomura: Daigoro, you are not a boy to play with a top. I wonder why Zenzaemon did not confue himself because of his offence against the lord. He showed no sign of penitence, did he?

Daigoro: He does not seem<sup>m</sup> to feel any penitence.

Iso: What!

Dai: It was on the very day only that he seemed a little depressed. From the following day, he had his own way drinking.

Iso: Perhaps he might be driven to despair as he is going to be punished to death. That is a sort of condemned man's humming of<sup>a</sup> tune on his way to the gallows.

Nui: I don't think so, sir.



Iso: I can't let these things pass. Not to speak of the misfortune of this family, he disgraced the authority of the lord. Rumours are spreading hereabouts that he has a grudge against the lord or he has treasonous intent, which I can't-bear to hear.

Dai: Yes, these rumours are spreading in even this very town.

Iso: It can't be helped that he has ravaged the royal garden or killed a young attendant at Shimami, as he is a young man in full Vigour. But why would he dare to be so defiant to the lord? Why wouldn't he wait for his order of punishment humbly by confining himself in the house? Far from it, he offered a direct petition to him and asked for his direct trial. Is it because he took advantage of his favour or because he was afraid of punishment? Now, Onui, not only do I grieve over the extinction of your family, but I hate his defiant mind. Nowadays people call these lords of Mito Mitsukuni, Hoshino of Aizu, the lord of Kubo and Major general. Shintaro Mitsumasa the four great sovereigns. They all respect them.

Dai: Though it's only my own view, I think he has something to express directly to our lord, Mitsumasa.

Iso: Express? What to express?

Dai: Late last night, Mr. Tsutsui came to see him and talked with him about things in general. He tried to feel out what my brother was thinking. He appeared to me to be a messenger of our lord and supposing from his words which



I heard while serving tea to him, I concluded that our lord had no intention to punish him, but he wished to settle the matter by giving only scolding if my brother could only apologize him for what he had done.

Iso: Then what did Zenza say to Mr. Tsutsui? I wonder he would accept the generosity of our lord?

Dai: The more generous our lord was, the more obstinate he became. He said, "Is the order false that one who ravages the royal garden shall die? I did shoot at the birds in the royal garden. I did kill the official. If our lord should not punish such a criminal like me, the order would not be set up in the society. It depends on the mind of our lord which is important, the life of his retainer or the law of the country. I'm waiting for his decision, regardless of my own life. I don't like to be treated particularly better than the others." Thus he expressed his view in tears.

Iso: Did you hear, Onui? That's his real intention.

Nui: Yes, sir, I did.

Iso: What nasty fellow! He does not repent. On the contrary, he gets more and more presumptuous. So he thought to himself, "well, our lord is a wise ruler. He won't execute only for the sake of a minor offence. After all, the punishment to me is either reprimand or confinement." It is, as it were, a disgrace and trespass on the authority of our lord. I, as his uncle, cannot forgive such an outrage.



Nui: But as I guess from his daily life, he is not such a man to avail himself of his favour. I think he behaves in such a way because he has some deep resolution of man. Don't you think so?

Iso: Resolution? what resolution has he? He will only give trouble to our master. It's five days since the event has happened, and he is not yet called out. That's because our lord has been embarrassed as to how to punish him. As he is a wise master, he may think it will affect his reputation if it is reported that he punished his retainer only because the latter killed a bird. I think he is anxious to carry out the law and at the same time to forgive him.

Nui: My husband said to himself. He said, "Our lord is narrow-minded. So he may be unable to sleep at night worrying himself how to do with me." When he said so, he seemed to have tears in his eyes.

Iso: If he thinks so, why will he defy the lord?

Dai: Benkei, our dog, is barking, sir.

Iso: Then Zenza may be walking out of the gate. Now Daigoro, fetch him here.

Dai: Well?

Iso: The matter is concerning all of us. Fetch him, shut the gate and nail it up! Now Onui, according to circumstances, you may get into a room of confinement, too. It's not the time of weeping. Be brave. It is on such occasion that man's real value can be estimated.  
(Zenzaemon followed by a few xxx servants, appears.)



Zenzaemon: Yes, I know it. I know it. I will go back into the house if it worry you. But by whose direction did you bind up Rinsuke? He is my servant. It's unreasonable to bind up a servant without any permission of his master.

Yoshie: It was directed by the chief.

Zenza: Zenzaemon? I have no business with him. What direction? It was I who killed the guard in the royal field, not my servant. What offence did he commit? This is none of your business.

Kizaki: That's because we are anxious about you.

Zenza: I don't like such kindness. I want the punishment of my master. I won't escape from it by laying the blame on my innocent servant. If you bind him again, I will not forgive you. It is I only that should be punished. This is an affair between our lord and me.

Iso: Here am I, Zenza.

Zen: When did you come, sir?

Iso: Just now.

Zen: Then you might hear the news?

Iso: What news?

Zen: People talk much about the matter, but it is not so ~~xxxx~~ serious a matter as they think. Well, sit down there.

Iso: Zenzaemon!

Zen: Well?

Iso: Are you going to challenge our master?

Zen: No, not so.



Iso: You may not be able to forget the deep love of our master to you, who has brought you up since you were eight years old.

Zen: Of course not. Nonsense!

Iso: Then, why will you give trouble to him?

Zen: Trouble? When did I ~~was~~ annoy him?

Iso: It seems to me as if you were forcing him the punishment which he can't dare to.

Zen: A country has its own law. If the ruler perform the trial according to the law, there's no one to resist him.

Iso: If you were tried, you should be sentenced to death.

Zen: Of course I don't want to escape it. I have already died that night.

Iso: Then will you force him to carry out the punishment even though it spoils the fame of our wise ruler.

Zen: I don't like the words "wise ruler."

Iso: What?

Zen: I hate the words "wise ruler." I'm tired of them.

Iso: Are you serious? Among all rulers in the country, he has no equal to stand with him, in knowledge, politics, and benevolence. He is irreproachable in everything.

Zen: You keep the same opinion all the time.

Iso: How do you think of his virtues? The paper-doors of his sitting-room are patched here and there. The mats are so worn out that one may be caught by them.



He has had the same purple dress for many years.

The lord who is entitled to receive 300,000 koku of rice, wears the same old hakama. Why are you discontented with such a great master and resist him? You are one of those who attended the lecture of Kumazawa Banzan. I came up to Yedo, giving up everything, in order to settle the matter. Tell me your intention.

Zen: It's not the thing to tell the others. You can't understand me.

Iso: Stay, Zenza!

Zen: My servant is crying out there?

(The servant Rinsuke, quite upset, is running to Zenzaemon the servant looks at him resentfully.)

Rinsuke: Is it you who ordered them to unfasten the rope on me?

Zen: Are you quite settled?

Rin: Bind me, sir. Do bind me as before, hand and foot.

Zen: Be settled. You have no offence.

Rin: Yes, I have. I can sleep at ease so long as I'm bound.

I can't sleep because of fear when I'm unfasten.

(He cries.)

Zen: (Laughing) Fool! That's your own body, not their's.

Rin: No, no! I can't think freely whether to live or to die.

Bind me, sir.

Zen: Rinsuke! You get quite excited. It's I who ravaged the royal field, not you. You have nothing to fear go to drink and make merry.



- Rin: What audacity! I'm afraid to be hated by our lord because I broke the order.
- Zen: You have not given any favour by him.
- Rin: But all the farmers in Bizen respect and honor him as their god.
- Zen: God? May be he is the ghost of learnings. Go to sleep.
- Rin: No! no! Bind me, and I can't see the terrible face of our lord.
- Zen: Fool! Then I'll kill you!  
(Rinsuke runs away.)
- Iso: Zenzaemon!
- Zen: Are you still there?
- Iso: I can't ignore your words "the ghost of learnings."
- Zen: I truly think him so. Sometimes I pity him.
- Iso: Do you mean a man who studies useless things by the word "ghost"?
- Zen: No, it doesn't mean so. He is too impatient to be eminent among the rulers. His nature can't be helped.
- Iso: His teachers are Professor Hujimura and Professor Banzan. He has no equal in learning among all the lords. It's too audacious for you to criticize his ability.
- Zen: You can't understand me. I am not defying only because I hate him. If the word "ghost" is not proper, I shall replace it with a spirit". In any way, the more he devotes himself in learning, the further he get from the original character. Do you know how the lord Itakura advised him?

- him  
Iso: He advised that the administration of the country is,  
as it were, to put bean-mash into a square box and  
take out the bean-mash with a round spoon.
- Zen: What do you think he meant?
- Iso: I think he meant that our lord should not be too  
particular about administration of the country.
- Zen: I don't think so. Perhaps you can't understand me.  
But Mr. Itakura were disdainful because our lord devoted  
himself too much to administration. He is not old,  
yet he cares too much to be a wise ruler night and  
day. He has tried to be a wise ruler from childhood and  
his nature being far from natural, he became a puppet  
of learning. I disgust with him as well as I hate him.
- Iso: Absurd!
- Zen: Now it's getting dark. I will go to sleep and think over the  
matter.
- Iso: Stay, Zenza. Stay.
- Zen: You can't understand.

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PART TWO

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(At the sitting-room of Zenza. He is lying  
His wife, Onui, puts some clothes over him.  
Zenza wakes up.)

Zen: What are you doing?

Nui: It's I, sir.

Zen: I'm drunken. I don't like twilight. I'm depressed  
then, though I don't know why. What's the matter?

Nui: Nothing, but ----.

Zen: I'm perplexed at the obstinacy of our uncle. I am sorry  
you are in distress, because of me, aren't you?

Nui: If only you could tell him your true heart!

Zen: What!

Nui: I know it.

Zen: What do you mean by it?

Nui: You have no intention to defy our lord.

Zen: Of course not. That's because I'm waiting for his punishment.

Nui: Can't you believe in me? Am I such a distrustful  
person? I am sorry I'm a foolish woman.

Zen: Did you give wine to Hinsuke? He was crying all the night,  
so I could not sleep. After all, he did not commit  
any offence. If you serve him wine yourself, he will  
drink. Make him drink, then I can sleep tonight.  
(Tsutsui Sannojo, Zenzaemon's intimate friend,  
comes to see him.)

Tsutsui: Why are you sighing.

Zen: Who are you?

Tsutsui: It's I. I have come to see you again, unable to give up my hope of persuading you.

Zen: Is it not your turn of night-watch?

Tsutsui: I left it to one of my comerade. Haven't you any good idea to settle the matter?

Zen: Have you come to say it?

Tsutsui: Don't be angry with me.

Zen: Now, San-nojo, you are very kind. But I want to go my own way. Though you are my friend, don't trespass too rudely into my own mind. Each man has his own way of thinking.

Tsutsui: Here is wine.

Zen: Take it by yourself, if you please.

Tsutsui: You said the other day that you had not been in Ise. Won't you go there?

Zen: You say an abrupt thing.

Tsutsui: No, not so abrupt. I have made some preparation for it.

Zen: Money?

Tsutsui: Yes, about two hundred ryo will be enough for it.

Zen: Where did you prepare it?

Tsutsui: I sold my precious sword, Nobukuni, to a certain lord. It is worth of 2 hundred ryo, but I sold it at one hundred and fifty ryo.

Zen: You are too meddlesome by guessing my intention unnecessarily.



Tsutsui: How can you call me meddlesome!

Zen: As I told you last night, I am waiting for the punishment here. I have no intention to leave my country and become a social outcast without any reason.

Tsutsui: Then you shall be sentenced to death.

Zen: It's a repeated talk. I have a headache.  
Please go away.

Tsutsui: No, I won't go. I do want to know your true intention, or else I'm not a man.

Zen: Have you sold your precious sword? Perhaps the lord bade you to say so. It might took about half a day for the lord to think of the order. If he asks me to go to Ise because he cannot judge me, I will agree to him. But I don't like his keeping up appearances like a wise man. And how could you come as his messenger!

Tsutsui: It's true that I sold my sword.

Zen: Then you must have sold it to our lord, Ikeda Mitsumasa. I don't want the money.  
Go away with it.

Tsutsui: Do you abuse him so much?

Zen: Because he has such a sort of character.

Tsutsui: Indeed I was ordered by him to come here.  
As I'm his messenger I will go back.  
But hereafter I don't think you as my relative.

Zen: I do want it, too. Listen to me, Sannojo. The other day, Yamada Michietsu asked my lord, "why won't you take this vegetable?" He answered, "It was at the field of this vegetable that one of my ancestors, Ikeda Nobuteru died in battle. So I don't eat it." Then Nichietsu laughed at him scornfully and said, "Then" if your ancestors had died in the rice-fields, you ~~was~~ could not have eaten rice."

Tsutsui: What does it concern to him?

Zen: Michietsu well said so. He must have advised him not to attach too much to fame. He is absorbed in Chinese classics and sages. I pity him. If you have courage enough, go and tell him what I have said just now.

Tsutsui: Wait. Though I entreat you, you won't obey to the gracious intention of our lord, will you?

Zen: I do want to fathom his true heart even though I give up my own life. It's not the thing to say to the others.

Tsutsui: Do as you like. I'll never see you again.

Dai: Brother, Rinsuke hung himself.

Zen: Oh!

Dai: He spent the evening drinking and singing. And a few hours later, he has died by the rope hung on a beam. I'm going to inform his suicide to the police.



Nui: I am sorry for my carelessness.

Zen: No, it's nobody's fault. He might have wanted to die with the rope. He is leaning his face over it. Oh, the moon is shedding it's light. Serve me wine my ~~ix~~ wife, On the eventful day, I was quite out of sorts as I could scarcely success in shooting. I was walking home, quite tiredout, when I found a group of wild geese against the clear sky of winter. The distance is proper and the objects are clear, so I asked Rinkuke to hand me a gun and shot them. I shot down two of them. After that, I came to myself and found it was the royal garden, and I scolded Rinsuke, "why did you hand me the gun in this royal garden?" Of course he did not know it was the royal garden. So he was surprised at my words and got pale. Both of us stood quite astonished, when some guards drew near and rebuked us by demanding me to give the gun to them as a proof of my offence. At the end they did us such violence that, unable to bear with their uisult, I killed one of them and went back straight to my town.

Nui: Rinsuke told me all about it. But it's an superficial fact. I know you had some resolution to do at that time. I guessed it from your look. You appeared to have some deep resolution. I do want to know what it is.

- Zen: It was on the impulse of the moment that I shot the wild geese. I was quite confused, but at that moment, the face of my lord appeared to me. This settled my mind, for I felt at that time as if the blue sky peeped at me through the clouds. I was aware of the fact that I had doubted my lord for some time. The more he became wise, the farther he became from me. When I shot the birds, I was suddenly aware of my feeling to him. I thought it was now that I could know how sincere he was. I wanted to know how he would judge me. Immediately after I killed the guard, I went straight to the residence of Yananouchi Gonzaburo and said that I wanted to receive the punishment of my lord. He won't sentence me to death. He will try to save my life with more or less reason. But I can't see why he wants so much to be called a wise lord? Since I was eight years old, I have served him. I have never seen him get angry. Oh, how I want to see his real mind!
- Dai: Some official has come with an order to call you.
- Nui: What is it for?
- Zen: Daigoro, give him the sign that I got received the order.



THE STAGE CHANGES

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The castle of Okayama. In the sitting-room of Ikeda Mitsunasa. He is about fifty-six or seven.

Mitsunasa: Now Yamanouchi Gonzaburo, haven't you any idea to settle the matter? I am resentful to be overcome by such a young fellow.

Yama: I'm quite at a loss.

Mitsu: It was unwise to show him money. That's why he grew more impudent.

Tsutsui: That's my own fault. Give me the permission to retire from the castle.

Mitsu: Let's leave such a matter till later on.

Tsutsui: I can't hear with his insult. Give me the permission to leave, my lord. It was more than I, as your messenger, could hear.

Mitsu: He is an abominable fellow. Is there no way to put an end to his insult. I don't like to be reported that I am at a loss with this matter.

Yama: Since this matter was widely talked about, there is no way but to judge him officially according to the law. There is a term of death penalty in the law. We should try to save his life ~~and~~ without straining the law.

Mitsu: It's impossible. I am consulting over the matter with you because it is so difficult. Perhaps he did not know it was the royal field. It was an accident. He killed a guard. He can't escape from death. He must have resigned to his fate. But he must have thought it better to submit to the punishment according the law than to commit suicide. He is always thinking of me. He has an upright nature.

Yama: Then why is he so obstinate, insisting on his will regardless of your kindness?

Mitsu: That's because he would die. The reason why he insisted on the direct trial of my own is that he wanted to show to the public how important the law is, making me show at the same time my fair judgment.

Yama: You are seeking your own advantage.

Mitsu: I have brought up Zenza from his childhood. I know him very well. If I should order him to commit harakiri, that's what he wished. But I don't want to kill him. I do want to conquer him mentally by saving his life.

Tsutsui: Please let me leave my service.

Mitsu: Wait! Where are you going?

Tsutsui: Now that I was abused by him so much, I can't stay. I want to retire from my service.



Mitsu: Then, are you going to slay Zenza as a vengeance?  
Are you going to lift my trouble by slaying him,  
as I am at a loss about him? That is no place for  
you to interfere. I want to conquer him with the  
law of nature, not with power and violence.  
Don't meddle with us.

Though I am an old man, I need not be directed  
by you. Fool! Tell me your wisdom when I ask  
you. Now Gonzaemon, Zenza was accompanied by  
a servant that day, wasn't he?

Yama: Will you impute the offence to the servant?

Mitsu: Since Zenza shot the birds, he is blamable, not  
the servant. But -----.

Yama: Well?

Tsutsui: The servant has already died.

Yama: What! Has he died?

Tsutsui: When I left the house of Zenza, they were all in  
confusion. The servant was bound up strictly since  
that day, but Zenza ordered to unfasten him and to  
serve him wine. Being a timid man, he hung himself  
when they were off their guard.

Mitsu: Are you sure?

Tsutsui: Yes, I saw his dead body.

Mitsu: Oh, did he die? You had better inform the event to  
me at once. I am going to begin the trial. Go quickly  
to tell the judges to come and summon Zenza.

Tsutsui: That's all right, sir.

P A R T    I I I :  
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At that midnight. At the Court.

Mitsu: Are you all present? Now, Zenzaemon. At your request, I'm going to try you myself. Whatever I ask you, answer clearly and frankly.

Zen.: I thank for your kindness.

Mitsu: Don't speak anything unnecessary.

Zen.: No, I won't, my lord.

Mitsu: You are one of daimyo in hereditary vassalage. Don't be afraid of me, but speak frankly what you are thinking.

Zen.: I have one thing to ask for you.

Mitsu: What is it?

Zen.: I want to raise my face and speak to you looking at your face.

~~Zen.:---~~

Mitsu: You are a daring fellow. I allow you. Raise your face. You are charged with the offence that you shot the birds in the prohibited royal garden and killed a guard there. Have you anything to say against the accusation?

Zen.: Nothing. I want to be punished according to the law.

Mitsu: Don't direct me as to the punishment. Now do you want to express your thought, or have you resentful feel to me concerning my actions to you?

Zen.: Nothing, my lord.

Mitsu: Have you ever thought me wicked and unfair as to your pay or reward?

Zen.: I have never thought of such a thing.



Mitsu: Yes, I am wrong. Now that day you were accompanied by a servant with<sup>2</sup>/gun over his shoulder. What is his name?

Zen.: He is called Rinsuke.

Mitsu: The point is whether the servant used to take the match-cord in his hand, or hung it over his shoulder attached to the gun.

Zen.: Nine out of ten will hung it over his shoulder attached to the gun.

Mitsu: It's natural. But what I am asking you is whether he bound it simply around the gun or he set it carefully in the gun.

Zen.: Let me see.

Mitsu: If he had bound it simply around the gun, the gun might have never caught fire.

Zen.: No, my lord.

Mitsu: Or he might have set it in the gun. I'm asking you if the match-cord had been already set or not.

Zen.: I have forgotten.

Mitsu: Forgotten? Think of it again.

Zen.: I have forgotten.

Mitsu: Each man has his habit. Usually did he hand the gun to you with the match-cord open or do you usually open it while you are aiming at the game?

Zen.: I have forgotten.

Mitsu: Do you despise me? Do tell me.

Zen.: If I say that the match-cord had been open before I took it from him, the servant may be charged and if I say it had not been open, you will say where was my

hand while I was aiming at the game. That is an important question. I can't answer you carelessly. I can't help saying that I have forgotten. A little before, the servant -----

Mitsu: Don't speak unnecessary things. I won't listen to you.

Zen.: Whether the match-cord had been open or not, it was I who shot the birds.

Mitsu: I shall ask you about the match-cord later. (Reading the detailed account) The detailed account reads as follows: "I killed the guard because he held my sword demanding me to give up the gun as a proof." Is it true?

Zen.: Yes, it is.

Mitsu: He was an official guard why didn't you hand it to him?

Zen.: I resolved to return the castle and give myself up to the police.

Mitsu: May be. No one likes his sword to be held by a man like a low-class private. After that, you tried to commit suicide, didn't you? Why did you stop it?

Zen.: Well?

Mitsu: Was it at the moment that you began to plan to see so called "my true nature"? At the moment?

Zen.: Yes, my lord.

Mitsu: You are cruel. What you wanted to do is not to see my true nature, but to annoy me. Hand me the gun. Now, Zenzaemon, let's talk more quietly. Draw nearer. (To the attendants.)



Fire the match-cord. Now, let's talk about the situation of the day. It was a cold day, though fine. What course did you take after you left home?

Zen.: I intended to go to Matsushima is Bizen. I looked for the games along the bay from Shinden to Shiohama, but all in vain. Quite worn out, I walked home along the river-bank in the evening.

Mitsu: The bank was a cold place. When there is no game, and one is hungry, the bank seems so long that one becomes quite irritated. All right. Then, what did you do?

Zen.: When I passed by the royal field near Imamura, it was about seven. But it was still light and I found a group of wild geese coming down upon the rice-fields against the bright sky.

Mitsu: Yes, one can't overlook them. And how about the bow-shot?

Zen.: Well, it was a little higher than my eyes.

Mitsu: It's an adequate direction. How many birds were there?

Zen.: About sixteen including mother birds.

Mitsu: And you forgot it was a prohibited garden and asked the servant to hand you the gun, was it so?

Zen.: Yes.

Mitsu: I remember when I was in Yedo, I went for a row in Katsushika. There was no games that day and I walked back through Senjū quite irritated, when a white swan was flying over the royal garden. Before I knew what I was doing, I took a gun and aimed

It's natural. One can't help aiming. It's all the same with you. Isn't it?

Zen.: Yes. I was like one dazed when I asked for the gun.

Mitsu: Yes, one may be dazed at such a moment. I did shoot the bird at that time. I shot in the royal field I was surprised at the burst of the gun and it was too late. The guards came to me surprised at the explosion. Fortunately I could not shoot down the bird and the bird had flown away. Though the guards consulted the matter over. There was no bird as a proof of my offence. So I explained away the officials. You were beside me at that time, Zenzaemon.

Zen.: Now it's very late. Have you finished the investigation?

Mitsu: Oh yes! Now let us investigate the matter. First take up this gun. Tell me what you aimed at the moment. Do as you did the other day. Don't hesitate. As you are a defiant fellow, why do you hesitate?

Zen.: I aimed in this way.

Mitsu: Aim at me as a wild goose.

Zen.: What!

Mitsu: I am a wild goose. Aim at my eyes. Don't be afraid. Haven't you any courage? You who are brave enough to die?

A tongue-herol Have you no courage?

Zen.: Yes, I am aiming at your eyes.

Mitsu: Why don't you draw the trigger. Draw it you. Are you trembling, aren't you?



Fool! How about your bravado?

Zen.: Yes, I am drawing the trigger.

Mitsu: Aim at my eyes.

Zen.: Yes, I did.

Mitsu: ~~W~~/ Draw the trigger. The gun is not loaded. Why don't you draw the trigger?

Zen.: Oh! Oh!

Mitsu: Now, Zenzaemon! Can't such a dauntless man like you draw the trigger? Are you afraid of me? You are impertinent enough to say that you wanted to see my true nature. How can you, young fellow, fathom the bottom of my heart----- I, who has trained myself for half a century. Didn't you say you decided to die? Will you humble down before me, throwing the gun?

Zen.: No, I will draw the trigger.

Mitsu: Then do so, I command you. Why don't you?

Zen.: Oh! Oh! It's too difficult an order.

(He begins to cry.)

Mitsu: Why can't you draw the trigger of an unloaded gun?

~~Now~~ Zen.: You are going to pervert the reason with power.

It is a difficult order.

Mitsu: Then, is it not your difficult request for me to transact an impossible punishment?

Zen.: It's different.

Mitsu: How?

n.: The trial should be transacted according to the law. You intend to explain away the unreasonable decision by means of humanity. You are coward. I do want to be punished according to the law.



Mitsu: Fool! Don't lose your head. Is there any truth with no touch of humanity? If you will insist on reasoning can't you draw the trigger of an unloaded gun by aiming at me, though I am your master? I hate you. For fifty years, even I can't understand, thoroughly my own mind. How can you dare to estimate it?

Up to now, I thought my mind true and honest. I won't let you steal it from me --- my precious stone. Fool! perhaps sometimes a man doesn't want to see one side of his mind, and sometimes he should try to see the other side on purpose. He can't tell which is true and which is false. But you intently seek to judge truth from false in my mind. That is to kill the natural character. <sup>Could you that</sup> I don't/you do so because you love me, but you don't know that you are spoiling my original character by doing so. Your knowledge is superficial. You are thoughtless. Repent of your shallowness.

Zen.: Indeed I could not draw the trigger at you, but it was I who ravaged the garden and killed the official. You must punish me or the order in the country will not be set up.

Mitsu: You repeat the same thing.

Zen.: In any way I can't live. I want your punishment.

Mitsu: I have my own will. You shall not die.

Zen.: But you can't break the law.

Mitsu: The law is a vital thing. The important thing is how to apply it.



Zen.: I won't receive your favour.

Mitsu: Oh, don't receive it.

Zen.: Never! Never!

Mitsu: Then I shall give my sentence. Now the secretaries, copy carefully what I am to say. His first offence is that he shot the birds in the prohibited royal garden. He is fond of hunting by nature. Sometimes he might have gone on a hunting without any servant.

Zen.: Yes, I have. The other day I issued an order that one who wanders about the royal garden should extinguish the fire of the match-cord I think you know it.

Zen.: Yes, my lord.

Mitsu: When you wander about the royal garden, do you usually put out the fire or not?

Zen.: Let me see.

Mitsu: Answer me as a man.

Zen.: If I know it is the royal garden, I will put it out.

Mitsu: Then you must have obeyed the order. If you had wandered alone on the day, no incident would have happened. I think the servant forgot to put out the fire not/<sup>knowing</sup>it was the royal garden.

So it is the servant that is to be punished, not you.

It is an unfair judgment.

Why?

It was my fault that I did not put out the fire.

It is the duty of one who carries a gun to put out the fire.



Zen.: No, not so. It's because of my carelessness.

Mitsu: It's the servant's fault. Or else, did you ordered him not to put out the fire because it was the royal garden?

Zen.: How could I do such a thing?

Mitsu: Then it's his duty to put out the fire. But I can't judge only through your words. Summon the servant. Why do you hesitate? Summon him!

Zen.: He hang himself a little while ago.

Mitsu: Did he commit suicide? Then he must have died because of his own crime.

Zen.: My lord. It's unfair to save my life by charging my  $\frac{1}{2}$  poor servant with the crime I think you are going to avoid to judge me, just and fair, in order to conquer me.

Mitsu: Of course, I do want to protect myself from you and conquer you. Our country cannot be well ruled except by me. Why did you let him hang? If you want to be punished, why didn't you carry him here and testify clearly that the crime is your own? You are careless that you let him die. I think he died because he repented of  $\frac{1}{2}$  his crime. Have anything to say?

Zen.: I am discontented with your opinion, but I can't say it in words. I can't win over your reason-surrender to a great man.

Mitsu: I have learned for a long time is to become a man. I, as a human being, will not be despised. Then I shall judge you.