

SHOCHIKU

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ONE ACT KABUKI PLAY

"HADESUGATA ONNA MAIGINU"

SCENE OF WAKANEYA SAKAYA

TO BE PERFORMED AT THE TOKYO THEATRE IN NOVEMBER,
1946 by KIKUGORO AND BAIGYOKU TROUPE.



Oct 29 '46

Handwritten notes and a circular stamp at the bottom left. The notes include the characters '49' and '110' inside a circle, along with other illegible markings.

SYNOPSIS :

Hanshichi had fallen in love with Sankatsu before he got married to Osono and there was a child between them. He happened to kill Zenemon in Yukaku, a gay quarter. But his father, Hambei took the guilt upon himself and was tied up in the tribunal.

On the other hand, the father of Osono took his daughter away from the house of Hambei, father of Hanshichi, thinking Hanshichi was not worthy of his daughter. But he was touched with Hambei's paternal love to his son and was ashamed of his harsh dealing. He brought her back again to Hambei.

Sankatsu and Hanshichi came to leave their child to the care of Hambei and Sayo, who found out the child and a written will attached to her. Hanshichi was going to deliver himself to justice because he killed Zenemon, but later it was made clear that Zenemon had stolen the official money. So the offence of Hanshichi as a murderer was forgiven Osono made up her mind to bring up the child as her own.

CHARACTERS:

Hambei

Sogan

Hanshichi

Sayo, wife of Hambei

Sankatsu

Otsu

Osono

Jyoruri (Ballad drama)

When the evening bell is tolling, there comes Sogan leading his daughter, Osono, who, young wife as she is, is separated from her husband.

(Sogan and Osono call on the house of Hambei Osayo appears with a lantern.)

Sayo: Oh, this is Sogan. How do you do?

Isn't she Osono, our daughter-in-law?

Osono: Mother! How do you do?

Jyoruri (She greets in an abstract way, for she cannot dare to enter the house. But her father speaks without reserve.)

Sogan: Is Hambei at home?

(Hambei appears.)

Hanbei: Why did you come? I think you have no business with us, for you took away your daughter from us.

Sayo: My husband is an eccentric old man, you see, who cannot speak in a tender way. Don't be displeased, please. I thank you as our daughter-in-law, Osono, has been in your house for a while.

Sogan: Never mind. It's probable that Hanbei was angry with us. Your son, Hanshichi, has stayed from home. He is absorbed in a certain woman named Sankatsu and he does not love his wife, Osono. It's my fault that I took her away, thinking she might be unfortunate in future. I have been thinking about the matter and at last I came to understand that it was unreasonable to take her away from your house, since she married into your house. I thought this was my great mistake. As for Osono, she kept on weeping night and day and would not eat much. We were quite uneasy lest she should fall ill. So I came to apologize to you for my unreasonable dealing. Forgive me and receive again your daughter-in-law.

Osono: As my father was very obstinate, I was forced to go home. But once I got married to Hanshichi.

Jyoruri (Soliloquy of Osono)

It's my fault that he did not love me.

As I'm not a clever woman I must be careful to please him. Please call me as your daughter, Father and Mother.

Sayo: If you think so, we are always mother and daughter. Isn't she, my husband?

Hambei: No, she is not there is an example in China. The wife of Taikobo bade farewell to her husband and afterward she came to apologize to him for her bad action. Her husband said to her, "Pour down the water of the bowl in the ground and put it into the bowl again. If you could do it, I'll marry you again". This is the same case. You took her away regardless of our intention and now you have come to demand us to call her our daughter. Well, go back quickly with her.

Sogan: It's probable you get angry with us.
Please excuse me and receive your daughter, I pray you.

Hambei: No, I won't. We need no daughter-in-law since we disinherited my son.

Sogan: But disinheritance will be temporary.

Hambei: No, it's not temporary, but permanent.

Sogan: But, why were you tied up in place of your son whom you disinherited forever?

If you are not his father, why were you bound at the tribunal today?

(Hambei put off his upper clothes, and they are surprised to see him bound)

Jyoruri (Sayo and Osano are surprised at his unexpected words. They undress him and find him bound under the upper clothes. They lament over him, saying why he was tied up.)

Sogan: There is more surprising news. Hanshichi is accused of murder.

Sayo)
Osono)

Dear me!

Osono: Why?

Sayo: Tell me the reason

Sogan: I can't explain how much I was surprised to hear that the man who killed Zenemon was Hanshichi of ~~Ø~~ Akaneya. He is an undutiful son, indeed. You disinherited him in a proper time. I, as an un-related person thought it rather fortunate that he would not cause trouble to his parents as he was disinherited. But I was wrong, for you accepted the offence of your son's crime to yourself and was tied up in the hope to prolong his life even a day. The more I know your deep love to him, the more I regretted that I took away my daughter from you. If you disinherit him and I take away my daughter, there will no trouble on us and the people will say we are clever. But it's by the deep intention of Fate that we became relatives. Since he was accused, it's better for the parents to be laughed at than to be praised for our dealing. Thinking in this way, I brought my daughter again at once. You may order her to go to a convent, as Hanshichi does not love her, or you may let her take charge of the affairs after your death. If you don't forgive her, she may lose her reason thinking she was separated from her husband. She is a motherless child and I love her all the more. You love your son all the more after he was accused. Though you disinherited your son, you can't put an end to the

love of parents. I love my daughter. Please grant my request, sir.

Hambei: Oh yes. It's true, indeed. Osono is a very good daughter who tries her best to be helpful to us. There is no such good bride like her even though we may look for one anywhere. She is a pattern of virtue. I don't mind of parting with Hanshichi, but it's hard to part with her. I didn't want her to go, nor did she. But even if she stays in my house, she will become a widow sooner or later. I pity her. So I won't excuse you. Now, Osono, don't be sorry for my dealing, thinking I'm too hard. Since my only son is an accused person, whom will you rely upon in future? I'm sorry for you all the more, because you are very kind and tender to us. I have many things to talk about. But I can't say, quite impressed, in front of you. Osono, don't think that I dislike you. Stay here while we consult with your father.

Sogan)
Hambei) Then let us go and talk together.

(The three exit. The temple bell is tolling. Osono sits alone, thinking of her un-happiness)

Osono: (Solilloquy) Where have you been, my dear?

Jyoruri: It's ~~xxxxx~~ useless to say, but if I'm dead, the parents will receive Sankatsu as his wife, for there is a child between them. Then Hanshichi will reform his conduct. Oh, how I wish I died of illness last year! Then there is no trouble among us. I knew he was not pleased with me, but I was unable to leave him. Even though it's

hopeless to be loved by him, I have endured my loneliness up to now, but that led to a bad result. I'm so sorry now that I wish I died last year. Excuse me, Hanshichi. I have never got angry with you. The more I think of you, the more I feel agony. I shall die for you, if I hear some news about you. Though you don't like me, I'll die at your hour, for it's your house.

(Osono is going to kill herself with a little sword, when a little child, Otsu, comes in. She is the daughter of Hanshichi and Sankatsu.)

Otsu: Milk, milk! I want milk!

(Drawing near, Osono looks at her.)

Osono: Aren't you Otsu? Why did you come here?

(Hambei, Sogan and Sayo appear.)

Hambei: Oh, I thank you for your sincere intention.

We have been hearing what you said and thanked you.

Sayo: What's the matter with this child? You said she was Otsu of Minoya. Then is she my son's daughter?

Osono: Yes, it's this child that was born to your son.

Sayo: Do you hear, sir?

Hambei: Yes, yes. Why did he abandon her at this house?

There must be some reason. Didn't leave any letter near here? Look for it. Quickly!

(A letter drops from an amulet case attached to the child.)

Sayo: Oh, it's a written will!

All: Oh, good heavens!

Hambei: Read it quickly with your good eyes, Osono.

Osono: Yes, sir. It reads, "I thank for your kind tendance for me, Father and Mother your love to me was so great that I appreciate it above all else. But I am sorry I can't repay your affection. I'm a disobedient son who cannot resist the yearn of human weakness. Please excuse me. Expecially Mother, I thank you for bringing me up." Oh, listen to me, it's about you, Mother!

Sayo: Yes, I'm listening.

Hambei: Go on reading the rest part.

Osono: Yes. "Your tender love is very great to me. When Father was in bad temper, you were careful enough that he might not scold me. But your affection to me came to nought, for I'm a murderer." Oh, then he killed a man!

Hambei: Yes, he killed Zenemon who was a bad fellow. I'm very resentful to think that my son was arrested because he killed such a bad man. For they ought to punish both of those who had a duel.

Sayo: Hand me the letter, as I'll read it.

Osayo: Yes, read it.

Sayo: "I can't prolong my~~x~~ life even a day, as I'm a murderer. But I have a child called Otsu. I pity her because she is a weak girl I lived up to now as I worried about her future. But I must die sooner or later. I left her to your care. Please take care of her as myself".

Hambei: Show me the letter. "Please take care of her thinking her as myself. I appreciated how your love was great when my child was born to me. The more she is loving, the more I thank for your love. Also I entreat you to cancel your disinheritance after my death. Please arrange the matter, Mother. This is my sole anxiety".

Sayo: Did he write such a thing?
Oh, what a good son he is!

Osono: (Reading the letter.)
"It's usual a wife relies upon her husband. But I never spoke you tender words, nor did I love you. But you never showed your loneliness, but you were kind enough to serve me and my parents I thank you and I appreciate your great effort. Though I was cold to you, it's not because I disliked you. I had fallen in love with Sankatsu before I got married to you and there is a girl between us. So I could not love you. But I'm sure we can be husband and wife in the future life." Oh, is it true?

Sogan: Did he write he could be her husband in the future life?

Osono: Yes, he did.

Sogan: They can be husband and wife in the future life, but I wish they are so at present. Why did he kill Zen-emon? Let me read the letter?

Osono: No, no. I'll read it.

Sogan: I will. Don't break it. "In any I'm a very disobedient child. After my death, my parents and Sogan will lament over their misfortune. Please

encourage them, Osono, and be a good daughter to them. I have lots of things to write to you, but I can't, because tears came into my eyes. Please take care of Otsu, I pray you.

(As soon as Osono finishes reading, she begins to suffer from pain.)

Sayo)
Hanbei)

Oh, Osono!

Osono: Never mind. I shall rest here a little while.

Sayo: You will get better if you warm yourself. Come here.

Osono: Don't worry about me, Mother.

Sayo: Get warm here.

Hanbei: Well, Sayo. Though we wanted to see our first grandson, we could not, afraid of the other people. But I wish I had not seen her. Look at the child. She is making gestures innocently, not knowing anything.

Sayo: Yes. Now child! Your father and mother are dead now. Let us sleep together.

Sankatsu and Hanshichi hide themselves backwards and look at them.)

Sankatsu: Oh, I wish I could suck to her! I wish I could see her. My breasts are flowing well. (They weep).

Hanshichi: (solilogy) I thank you for your deep affection, Father and Mother. Please forgive me.

Sankatsu: Forgive me. All the troubles come out because of me.

Hanshichi: We should not stay here weeping. I must deliver myself to justice to release Father from the arrest at once. Let us hurry along.

Sankatsu: Oh, I want to see my child once more. Good-by!

----- The curtain falls -----