

Being Revised

S H O C H I K U
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KABUKI PLAY

"IZAYOI-SEISHIN"

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Revised

One Act

Written by Mokuami Kawatake

To be Presented by Kikugoroh and Fohshiro

Joint Troupe at the Tokyo Theatre from

Sept. 5th to Sept. , '46.

Synopsis:

Izayoi, a courtesan, ran away from a house of ill fame so as to meet her lover Seishin, a priest, on the day when he was expected to be banished from Yedo on a charge of having intercourse with Izayoi. Both Izayoi and Seishin met with each other, but they thought that they had no other ways left but shorten their lives and jumped into the river together.

However, Izayoi was saved from drowning and after all made up her mind to live out, giving up such a cowardly idea as shortening her life from a sense of duty. In the meantime, Seishin also failed in being drowned, for he was a good swimmer and swam to the riverside. After much consideration, he knew that it would be far better for him to live out as long as possible than to kill himself. Thereupon a temple page named Motome Koizuka came up and suddenly had a fit of spasm.

Feeling pity for Motome, Seishin nursed him back to health. However, Seishin knew that Motome had a lot of money with him and got tempted to rob him of it. Both of them struggled

for the money when Motome by mistake ^ebumped against a post and unhappily died. Seeing that Motome was dead, Sishin lost his head, but soon came to himself and determined to live out happily.

It is recalled in this connection that in the feudal times love affairs between priests and courtesans were not approved by people. The whole story of this play is written against feudalism through and through, though only a part of the story is to be put on the stage. Although the lovers in this play at first took such a feudalistic step as dying together, both of them thought better of it and determined to live out as long as possible.

THE FIRST SCENE

The stage represents a place named Hyapponkui on the bank of the River Sumida in Yedo (now Tokyo) and its vicinity. On the right there are to be seen a breakwater and part of a wayside shrine while on the left there are a palisade and pine-trees.

With ringing of a bell and orchestra the curtain rises. Just then Izayoi, a courtesan, tying a towel around her head, rushes out and gesticulates at the stage passage. After that she comes to the main stage; she seems to be lost in thought.

Izayoi: Well, I'm glad to ^{running after me.} say that nobody is ^I ~~will~~ be expelled from Yedo today, so I've run away from the red-light district to see him once and for all. Father and I are greatly indebted to him. Now it's very dark and I hope I'll be able to see him. (is about to go after thinking a little when one of the thongs of her sandal breaks off, so she throws the sandal into the stream and is about to go on the right. Just at the moment ^e Seishin wearing a black coat and a hood of the same colour comes out. After a while both of them exchange glances with each other.

Seishin: Hello, Izayoi.

Izayoi: Hello, ^e Seishin Sama.
^

- Seichin: Ah, I'm sorry to have met you here. (is about to go when Izayoi seizes him by the sleeve and clings to him)
- Seishin: where are you going alone at this time of night, escaping from the red light district?
- Izayoi: Oh, you should know. Yesterday I heard from father that you will be expelled from Yedo today, so I'm afraid you will not call on me so often at the red-light district. That's why I've run off from the house of ill fame and come to see you.
- Seishin: (Thinking) As a matter of fact, I haven't expected to see you any more. What a coincidence to meet you here! I appreciate your kindness for sending me this coat. Now I'm going to my acquaintance's.
- Izayoi: To your acquaintance's? And where on earth are you going?
- Seishin: Since I've been expelled from Yedo, I shall have to leave here for Kyoto and stay in my acquaintance's there.
- Izayoi: Then take me with you there, please.
- Seishin: I understand your mind, for I've pledged to marry you. However, I am to be expelled from Yedo charged with associating with you and troubled the bishop who has been kind to me to my great regret. Therefore I've made up my mind to give up my love with you and to become a great priest after training myself at Kyoto. You'd better go back to the gay quarter and find out a good man as your husband. First of all, you ought to be dutiful to your parent.

Izayoi: How unkind you are to say such a thing! I've fallen in love ~~in~~ with you not from caprice, but from the bottom of my heart. I'm quite willing to go anywhere with you. (clings to Seishin and weeps. Meanwhile, Seishin seems to be in deep thought.)

Seishin: It's very kind of you to love me so much, but as you know I'm a poor priest while you are the most beautiful girl in Ohiso, so if I take you with me, I'm afraid I shall be sniggered at by others. As the proverb goes, "An ill-matched couple seldom prospers."

Izayoi: Although I'm engaged in a gay calling, I'm entirely different from other fickle women. I'm determined not to love any other man but you throughout my life. You've been kind to my father as well as me. I would rather die with you than live alone. So please don't say such a thing, but take me with you anywhere.

Seishin: However, it's better for you to go back to the red-light district and work there, I should think.

Izayoi: (Thinking) Now there is no help for it. Save me, merciful Buddha! (is about to throw herself into the river when Seishin clings to her and detains her from doing so)

Seishin: Wait a moment!

Izayoi: Let me alone and kill myself!

Seishin: Don't be silly! If you kill yourself here, I'm afraid your father and younger brother will bear grudge against me. How shall I be able to let you kill yourself?

Izayoi: When I think of the future, I shan't be able to live on, I'm afraid.

Seishin: What do you mean by saying so?

Izayoi: I'm ashamed to say that I'm now in the family way, so I shan't be able to ~~work~~ work any more, I'm afraid.

Seishin: Ah? (seems to be in deep thought)
Have you not been with my child?

Izayoi: Yes, I've already been in the second month of pregnancy.
(seems to be bashful)

Seishin: Really? (seems to be confused)

Izayoi: Yes, I shan't be able to go back to the red-light district so as to work there, so I'll throw myself into this river. If you feel pity for me, I hope you'll make a prayer for the repose of my soul after my death.
(Thereupon Seishin seems to be nonplussed.)

Seishin: If I part from you now, I'm afraid my child will be an illegal one, but if I take you with me, I'm sorry to say I shall have to be arrested again. What shall I do?
Well, I shall have to share the same fate with you.

Izayoi: Do you mean to say that you'll die with me?

Seishin: There is no help for it, I'm afraid.

(Both of them are ready to die together and exchanging glances nestle closer to each other.)

Izayoi: We are doomed not to be able to marry in this world, so we are ready to die now.

Seishin: Before we are caught by people from the red-light district, ---.

Izayoi: Let's throw ourselves into this river together.

Seishin: We shall die together happily.

Izayoi: Tomorrow we shall be laughed at by others, I'm afraid.

Seishin: If our death is made known, ---.

Izayoi: Alas! I'm afraid my father will grieve over my death.

Seishin: But we've been doomed to die together, I think.

Izayoi: Father, excuse me to die ahead of you.

Seishin: Pardon me.

Both: Save us, merciful Buddha!

(Both of them determinedly throw themselves into the river when splashes are heard.)

----- Dark Change -----

THE SECOND SCENE

The stage represents the western bank of the River Inase. In front there are two flood-gates. On both sides of the stage there are stone-walls on which are grass and standing pine-trees.

In the middle of the river there is a fishing-boat with Boatman Sanji and Poet Byakuren (in reality Shohbeh Chdera) on board. Byakuren wears a striped hood and a sword; he is smoking tobacco. Sanji carries a pole in his hand and is mooring the boat to the bank. Sounds of waves are heard.

Sanji: Hey, sir, I'm glad to say that it has cleared up though I was afraid it would rain heavily.

Byakuren: But the clouds seem to be gathering, so I'm afraid we may be caught by a shower. Now let's stop fishing after casting a net. The more fish I get the more I get interested in fishing.

Sanji: If you get a few more big fish, you'd better stop fishing, as it's getting on for ten o'clock.

Byakuren: Oh, I've never thought it's so late. Indeed it's very ~~xxx~~ dark. Then let's go to Funaji (the name of a restaurant) before it's closed and dine there.

Sanji: Very kind of you, sir. I'm sorry you don't drink much. As for me, I should like to drink rice wine with large broiled eels.

Byakuren: But eels are too heavy for a drinker like you, I should think.

Sanji: Well, I prefer heavy food to light one. The same thing can be said about girls. I like passionate girls best.

Byakuren: Is your sweetheart a passionate girl, then?

Sanji: Yes, you're right. Though she is on the plain side, she is very passionate.

Byakuren: Oh, you ought to treat me if you praise your girl so much.

Sanji: Okay, I'll treat you to broiled eels at Funaji.

Byakuren: That's nice.

Sanji: I think you frequent houses of ill fame.

Izayoi San of Ohgiya (the name of the house of ill fame) is a charming girl. But what do you think of her?

Byakuren: I admit she is charming, but she is too blunt, I'm afraid.

Sanji: Then you don't like such type of a girl like her, I suppose. Hey, sir, it's high time, you know.

Byakuren: Oh, I've forgotten it, as I've been too much interested in your talk. (rises to his feet and tries to haul in the net) Oh, something seems to be caught in the net. It's too heavy for me to haul in the net, I'm afraid.

Sanji: It may be some garbage. Let me take your place, sir. (tries to haul in the net) Indeed it's very heavy. (hauls in the net with might and main when he finds Izayoi in the net) Good heavens! There is something large caught in the net.

Byakuren: (Looking at Izayoi) Hum, this is a woman.

Sanji: A drowned body, eh?

Byakuren: Oh, no, she seems to be still alive. I should like to help her by all means. Sorry to trouble you, but I ask you to put her on the boat.

Sanji: I cannot help it.

(Both Sanji and Byakuren put Izayoi on the boat and nurse her) Well, she has only just thrown herself into this river.

Byakuren: Indeed still she has rosy cheeks.

(looks closely at Izayoi) Oh, this is Izayoi of Ohgiya.)

Sanji: Izayoi San, eh? Indeed she must be Izayoi San.

(Byakuren takes out a restorative from his purse and puts it in Izayoi's mouth. Meanwhile, Sanji dips water from the river and pours the water in Izayoi's mouth. Byakuren helps Izayoi to her feet and strokes her chest.)

Byakuren: Say, Izayoi, take courage!

Sanji: Izayoi San, Izayoi San.

(Izayoi comes to her senses.) Oh, I'm glad to say she has revived.

Byakuren: Oh, you've come to yourself. Cheer up, cheer up.

(Izayoi recovers her consciousness.)

Izayoi: Thanks to you, I've recovered my consciousness, but I shall have to die. Please let me kill myself.

Byakuren: Say, Izayoi, why must you die?

(Thereupon Izayoi gets surprised at Byakuren.)

Izayoi: Ah, you're Byakuren San. Have I been saved by you, then?

Byakuren: Since you've been saved by this net, God still wants you to live in this world. Tell me why you have to kill yourself.

Izayoi: Well.

Byakuren: Since I'm an adherent of Buddhism, I don't want to leave anyone in the lurch. Therefore I must help you by all means. Unexpectedly you've been caught in my net; it must be God or Buddha's directive. If you die, I'm afraid you'll be undutiful to your parents. Better give up doing such a desperate thing.

Izayoi: Thank you very much for your kind advice, but anyway I must die.

Sanji: Say, Izayoi San, you'd better give up such a bad idea. Since you insist on killing yourself, you must have some reason for it.

Izayoi: Oh, no, I've no particular reason for shortening my life.

Sanji: If not, you'd better come with us by this boat.

Izayoi: It's very kind of you to say so. When I shall live until I'm relieved of my burden. If so, my father will be very glad.

Byakuren: If you make up your mind to do so, I'll send Sanji to the house of ill fame so as to pay your debt within tonight.

Izayoi: But I don't want you to pay so much money for me.

Byakuren: Well, I don't think your ransome money is so much. Anyway you're wet to the skin, so you must be very cold. Now we shall take you to Wakatake (the name of a restaurant) at Yanagibashi and borrow a dress from Ogin for you before you go home.

Sanji: Oh, her clothes will suit Izayoi San to a nicety, I think.

Dyakuren: Then bring this boat to the shore.

Sanji: Very well. (unties the rope attached to the riverbank.
The sounds of waves are heard. Izayoi looks down
into the river and seems to be lost in thought.)

Sanji: Are you ready? (thrusts the pole into the river when the
boat moves)

Izayoi: Oh, my! (totters and leans against Dyakuren, who holds her
by the hand)

Dyakuren: Now I'm very happy.

(Sanji looks at them.)

Sanji: Be ready! (says aloud. The sounds of waves are heard.)

----- Dark Change -----

THE THIRD SCENE

Same as the First Scene.

Seishin clings to one of the posts on the riverbank; he is soaked to the skin.

Seishin: -las! However I want to die, I'm afraid I can't, for I was brought up on a coast town and learned swimming. Ah, I'm sorry I've not been able to die with her. (picks up pebbles and puts them in his sleeves so as to drown himself. Just then there is seen a house-boat on the right. In the boat people seem to be making merry. Seishin looks at the boat and thinks) Now I'm ready to die, but noises of musical instruments keep me from doing so. How noisy! (leans against the post and still looks at the ship. From the stage passage comes out Motome, a temple page, who wears a long-sleeved dress, a sword, and wooden clogs and carries an umbrella with him.)

Motome: I've only just heard the bell of midnight striking. I was caught by a shower and got an umbrellor, so I'm afraid it took me a lot of time unexpectedly.

Seishin (seems to be troubled by the noises): They seem to be very happy in the pleasure-boat. Though I'm ready to die, I'm bothered by them.

Motome: Yesterday I heard that my father was in great need of money, so I wanted to accomodate him with money, but I'm a poor page.

Seishin: It seems some people are destined to be rich while others are doomed to be poor.

Motome: Therefore I was obliged to ask Susui Sama of the Ohye family to lend me some money so as to let my father's benefactor attend a surgeon for his injury.

Seishin: Ah, they are making merry with geisha girls and professional jestors. How envious!

Motome: Now I must go hurriedly and give this money to father so as to please him.

Seishin: Among men there are beggars who can hardly eke out their living and lead an unhappy life.

Motome: I'm in a hurry, but sorry to say I've been caught by a shower and beside I've had a fit of spasm.

Seishin: As for me, I'm going to shorten my life by throwing myself into this river.

Motome: There is no tree to take shelter near here, so I'm troubled with spasm more and more.

Seishin: Because of worldly passions, it's hard for me to die now.

Motome: I'm in a hurry, but I'm afraid I can't walk any more.

Seishin: What shall I do?

Motome: What shall I do?

(Seishin leans against the post and listens to people's voices in the pleasure-boat. Meanwhile, Motome manages to come to the stage after all; he seems to be in agony.)

Motome: Hey, hey! (pats Seishin on the shoulder, so Seishin gets astonished)

Seishin: Who are you?

Motome: It's me.

Seishin: Who on earth are you?

Motome: I'm a passer-by.

Seishin: Oh, you're a mere boy. What's the matter with you?

Motome: I've had a fit of spasm, so I cannot ^awalk even a step farther. If you have any good medicine, please give it to me.

Seishin: I'm sorry I've no medicine with me. To make matters worse, the druggist's shop is two miles away from here. Well, let me see.

Motome: Ouch, ouch!

Seishin: Oh, you seem to be in great pain. But I've no medicine with me. Well, I'll stroke your chest instead.

Motome: Very kind of you.

Seishin: In which side do you have a pain?

(puts his hands in Motome's chest when he touches a purse)

Hey, young man, what's this?

Motome: It's money.

Seishin: It's a lot of money, I suppose.

Motome: Yes, there are fifty ^tgold coins in the purse.

Seishin: Eh? (gets surprised and lets his hands go when Motome throws back his head and falls) Ah, I'm sorry.

Take courage! (nurses Motome)

Young man, young man, keep up your nerve!

(Thereupon Motome comes to his senses.)

- Motome: Now I'm all right.
- Seishin: Are you getting better?
- Motome: Yes, thank you for your kind nursing.
- Seishin: You've got such a large sum of money, and where are you going at this time of night?
- Motome: Well, this is a very important money to save my father's benefactor from his plight, and especially it's necessary within ~~taxi~~ tonight. Therefore I've walked as far as here along the dark road, but because of my chronic disease I'm sorry to say I've taken too much time against my will.
- Seishin: Oh, I see. But it's unsafe for you to walk along the dark road^d with such a large sum of money. Therefore if you walk two blocks, you will find a palanquin-shop around the corner, so you'd better go on by palanquin from there.
- Motome: I appreciate your kindness. (bows to Seishin and stands up. Seishin seems to be absorbed in thought.)
- Seishin: I've never expected to exchange words with you.
- Motome: Neither have I.
- Seishin: Meeting is the beginning of parting.
- Motome: Exactly so. ~~Seishin~~
- Seishin: I don't know your name.
- Motome: Anyway I want to see more of you.
- Seishin: The same to you.
- Motome: Good-bye. (is about to go)

Seishin: Wait a minute! (pulls Motome by the sleeve)

Motome: What?

Seishin: (Thinking) Be careful!

(Motome leaves for the left, thinking. Seishin determinedly runs after Motome. Motome comes out a running while Seishin comes out running after Motome. After all Seishin catches Motome and pulls out the purse from the latter's waistcoat pocket. Thereupon Motome clings to Seishin's hands.)

Motome: Gracious me! Are you going to rob me of this money?

Seishin: No wonder that you should get surprised at my attitude. Since I touched your purse while you were suffering from spasm, I've not been able to control my worldly passions. I ask you to lend me this money.

Motome: Oh, have you plotted to rob me of this money under pretext of nursing me?

Seishin: No, I haven't had such a plot in mind. I only sympathized with you, so I nursed you from the motive of kindness. However, unfortunately you've a lot of money with you. But for this money I shouldn't be tempted. But I've felt envious of wealthy people in the pleasure-boat. I should like to give up such an evil intention, but sorry to say I can't. I don't mind even if I go to hell after my death, but I should like to live a luxurious life while I'm living. Therefor I have to borrow the money from you by fair means or foul.

~~Motome.~~
Motome: Since you've such a bad intention, I'll never give this money to you. (draws his sword and takes no time in striking at Seishin, who parries the blow with his umbrella. During the time merry songs are heard from the pleasure-boat. Seishin runs off to the right.

~~Seishin~~ Motome tries to stab Seishin when he cuts a post diagonally. Seishin knocks Motome's sword from his hand. Thereupon Motome totters and bumps against the post when his throat gets seriously injured and he becomes stained with blood.)

Motome: Help me, help me! (suffers a great deal and falls with a thud suddenly)

Seishin: Hey, young man, young man. Heavens! He is dead already. Gracious me! (gets surprised) As a matter of fact, I've wanted to borrow this money from you and give it to Izayoi's father, for she has died an unnatural death. But sorry to say you are no more. How shall I be able to let her soul rest at peace with this money? Well, I cannot drown myself, so Izayoi may have suggested me to kill myself with this sword. Hey, young man, I'm sorry you've died, but I'll kill myself with your sword and go to another world with you and drowned Izayoi so as to atone for my sins.

(A ditty starts. Seishin is about to disembowel himself with the ~~xx~~ sword. Just then the moon shines. Thereupon Seishin changes his mind.) Well, let me see.

Nobody knows but the moon and myself that Izayoi has drowned and this young man has died and then I've taken his money from his waistcoat pocket. Fifty years are man's life. Therefore I can live only ten to twenty years from now even if I live long. If I continue to live, I think I shall be able to make merry. It's far better for me to live on instead of killing myself, I think. (changes his mind and throws the sword and Motome's body into the river.) Ah, it has started raining again.

(The bell announcing the time rings. From the right Byakuren and Izayoi come out in clogs; they share an umbrella with each other and carry paper lanterns in their hands. They run into Seishin when the lighted lanterns go out. The bell announcing the time rings again. Seishin gets astonished and drops the purse.

Byakuren: What's the sound?

Seishin: Eh?

(Both Seishin and Byakuren grope about for the purse. Just then Boatman Sanji comes out and joins them in looking for the purse till he finds out the purse under his feet and picking it up looks into its contents.)

Sanji: My goodness! These are not copper coins.

(Hearing the words, Seishin seizes Sanji and snatches the purse from his hand.

whereupon Sanji gets closer to Seihin to get back the purse when Seishin stuns Sanji with his elbow by striking a vital spot. Meanwhile, Byakuren holding Izayoi's hand goes to the stage passage. Seishin puts the purse in his mouth and rolls Sanji. Simultaneously Byakuren puts the umbrella in the other hand. Seishin lifts up the purse and smiles. Both Byakuren and Izayoi go to the stage passage. The sounds of waves are heard.)

----- Curtain -----