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S H O C H I K U

(Kabuki Dance Play.)

" F U T A R I T O M O M O R I "

C.G.D. J-2036



(" TWO TOMOMORIS ")

One Act.

Written by Tomiko Kinura.

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To be performed by Ennosuke Troupe at
the Tokyo Theatre from Jan. to Jan. , 1947:-

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Music By : Musical Accompanists of the
Nagauta Orchestra and the Takemoto Band.

S Y N O P S I S :

Taking a hint from Tomomori in a play entitled "Funa Benkei" (Benkei On Board the Ship), Miss Tomiko Kimura, a dance-writer, has written this dance-play so as to let noted Kabuki actors, Ennosuke Ichikawa and his son Danshiroh Ichikawa play the parts of the spirits of two Tomomoris because of their resemblance and dance in the waves, aiming at an effect on the stage. In addition to the form of a Noh play, "Takemoto" music played by musical accompanists of the Bunrakuza Troupe with their three-stringed Japanese guitars makes this mysterious dance-play gorgeous.

It is traditionally said that sea-weeds at the bottom of the sea was mown by a man charged with the work on a certain day every year when the tide ebbed by dint of the Dragon King who held sway over the sea. Taking advantage of the low-tide, once a man charged with the duty tried to mow sea-weeds at the bottom of the sea when the spirit of Tomomori in the House of Heike appeared and mowed the sea-weeds together with the man by the order of the Dragon King. After all, the man on duty became exhausted. However, the ghost danced bravely.

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----- Part One -----

In front of the stage there are a flight of stone-steps and a stone fence. There are also paper lanterns at a proper place. At the farther end of the right there is seen the torii (shrine-entrance) of the Hayatomo-Myohjin Shrine. On the right of the flat stage there are musical accompanists of the Nagauta Orchestra who are behind the black curtain, waiting for a signal for their performance. Somewhat in the centre there is an old pine-tree. Toward the left there are spread nets for drying up in the sun on the beach.

The stage represents the front of the Hayatomo-Myohjin Shrine and its vicinity with the beach for a scenery. It is a winter evening.

With the sounds of musical instruments to the accompaniment of dancing, the curtain rises. In the centre of the stage men in costumes in celebration of a big catch and women in their country best clothes are dancing to the time of an orchestra for a gala day, numbering twelve to thirteen. A few children join them in dancing, too. At the foot of the pine-tree, Tohroku, a servant of the shrine, stands looking at them dancing; he seems to have only just finished sweeping. After dancing, they take rests.

Toroku: Thank you for the trouble you have taken, everybody. Now practically every preparation has been made for the festival.

Man A: Today is a festival for mowing sea-weeds once in a year; it is fine and there is not

a breath of wind. I'm glad the God of the Myohjin Shrine is in a good humour.

Man B: That's right. I'm sure, therefore, we shall be able to get lots of sea-products and those of the mountain next year.

Man C: By the way, how will you perform the ceremony of mowing sea-weeds tonight?

Tohroku: Hum, since you've quite recently come to this village, there is no room for doubt that you don't know of the ceremony and other things concerned with it. Well, then, I'll give you an outline of it. (Adjusts his clothes. The others also/adjust their clothes. Tohroku starts telling.)

As everybody knows, we can see only twenty stone-steps on the sea before this Myohjin Shrine, but cannot see any farther because of the high tide. However, at four o'clock tomorrow morning every year the tide goes out to both sides by the power of the Dragon King and all the stone-steps can clearly be seen like so many screens, changing the sea to a sandy plain.

Man D: What a mysterious thing it is!

Tohroku: Moreover, before and after the hour violent sounds can be heard from the sea and the sea itself becomes rougher than usual.

Woman A: Indeed it's a horrible thing that even the lights in the Myohjin Shrine should be drenched.

- Woman B: Not only the lights of the houses but also those of ships far out at sea are out and it becomes pitch-dark.
- (All of them nod tremblingly.)
- Tohroku: Well, in the darkness, a young man on duty carries a treasured scythe, goes down to the bottom of the sea along the stone-steps where he mows a bunch of sea-weeds with the scythe and offers them to the God of the Myojin Shrine ----- that is the ceremony of mowing sea-weeds.
- Man D: I see. From what I've heard from Tohroku-dono, I understand the origin of it. But I should think he ought to mow more sea-weeds to say nothing of a bunch of them.
- Man F: Don't be silly! It's traditionally said that if he mows two bunches of sea-weeds by mistake, he'll have to drown himself by the tide owing to the Dragon King's wrath.
- Man E: How terrible! (Ducks his head.)
- Tohroku: How horrible God's punishment is! Anyway I hope Minemaro-dono who is charged with mowing sea-weeds early tomorrow morning ~~is~~ ^{will} soon come back. (Looks over there and is in deep thought.)
- Man G: Well, I cannot see Minemaro-dono. I wonder if he has gone to take offerings?
- Tohroku: No; the halberds which are to be displayed before God every year are said to have been used ~~God every year are said to have been~~

by some warriors in the Heike Clan in the past, though one of the halberds has been sent to a repair-shop and he has gone to take it.

Man A: It'll soon get dark; so I'll run there.

Tohroku: Oh, you needn't do so. I'm also busy with something or other. When he comes back, please tell him to see the Shinton Priest Fumihiko-sama right away, who is waiting for his return.

Woman B: Well, we shall wait for him here and when he comes back -----.

All: We'll let you know his return.

Tohroku: Please do so. (Goes away to the end of the right. / Meanwhile, the other people put away the nets and do other things. With a signal, the musical accompanists of the long songs make their appearance and soon start singing: "The festival of mowing sea-weeds will be celebrated tonight. With the halberd on his shoulder, he walks along the beach totteringly and after all comes behind the tree.")

Over there Minemaro with the halberd, put in a cover made out of brocade, on his shoulder comes out to the stage passage; he seems to be tired.

(After a while he comes to the stage.)

Minemaro: Ah, I'm dog tired.

Man A: Hello, Minemaro-dono. Fumihiko-sama is waiting for your return.

Woman D: Hurry up!

Man A: Indeed this is a fine halberd.

Woman E: Although every year it's displayed before God,
this is the first time that I've seen it right
before me.

Woman F: Would you mind ~~by~~ taking off the cover of bro-
cade and letting us see the halberd?

Minemaro: All right! You may see it, everybody! (Is
about to take off the cover, but stops doing
so.) Oh, no, this is a very important article,
so if I show it to you, I'm afraid you might
defile it. I'll stop doing so.

Woman G: Didn't you say once that you would show it
to us? It's unkind of you not to let us see it.

Mine.: What^cever you say, I cannot let you see it.

Man A: If you don't, you'll smart for it.

All: Let us see it by all means.

 "All of them make a fuss about it."
(They struggle with Minemaro for the halberd.
Just then at a distance a sea-song comes within
hearing when they feel like dancing.
"Trala, la, la, la! If you cut sea-weeds,
use a small scythe. Nobody knows how I feel.
La, la, la."
"All of a sudden the clouds appear in the sky
and it blows hard as if blowing off the beach.
The sea becomes rough. It also thunders.
People get confused and run off in all direc-
tions."

As the words in the song, the people run off. There remains only Minemaro, who is afraid of the thunder and hides himself behind the tree and cowers.

"Isn't it a vision or a shadow? There loom large a ceremonious dress and a ceremonial head-gear."

Just at the moment an elegantly-dressed nobleman makes his appearance from behind the pine-tree. (Minemaro comes to himself.)

Minemaro: Oh, I've never seen such a nobleman as you in this neighbourhood.

Ghost: I'm a man of the City and tonight I have the opportunity of watching you mowing sea-weeds. Well, I have something to ask the Shintoh Priest through you.

Mine.: It's very kind of you to speak to such a humble man as me. And what is it that you want with him?

Ghost: Well, as a matter of fact, there lives a high-ranking nobleman in this vicinity and he often looks up at the moon.

"At the bottom of the sea there grow sea-weeds which keep him from looking up at the moon clearly, so he has ordered me to mow sea-weeds at tonight's festival, but I'm a man in the other world."

Ghost: That's why it's hard for me to mow living sea-weeds.

"The evil clouds prevent the moonlight from shining brightly on the water."

Ghost: I ask you to do so together with me, you living man.

"Around a sword which has been set up, all sea-weeds should be mown by his order."

Mine.: Hum, since sea-weeds at the bottom of the sea prevent him from enjoying the moon-light, he wants you to mow the sea-weeds. How strange it is that he should view the moon at the bottom of the sea! (Feels suspicious and is absorbed in thought.)

And what is your name, please?

Ghost: Now I needn't tell you my name.

"Just like the floating clouds in the evening wind he disappears."

(The nobleman disappears. Meanwhile, Minemaro swoons.)

"The Shintosh Priest takes notice of him."

Fumihiko comes out and takes notice of Minemaro.)

Fumihiko: Oh, you're Minemaro. What's the matter?

Cheer up, cheer up!

Hey, Minemaro!

Mine.: Are you the nobleman who has asked me a favour?
(Looks around and feels suspicious.) Well, I've something to tell you right away.

Fumi.: What is it that you want to tell me right away?

Mine.: Just now I met a strange nobleman here, who asked me to cut all the sea-weeds around a sword set up as a sign at the bottom of the

sea at tonight's festival of mowing seaweeds.

Fumi.: How strange it is that he should have set up a sword as a sign in this Hayatome Sea where even woman divers of Kazuki hesitate to approach! Who on earth is he that has asked you to do so?

Mine.: He didn't reveal his name, but said that it was a certain high-ranking nobleman's order.

Fumi.: Ha, ha, ha! (Splits his sides with laughter.)
What a goof you are!

You must have been obsessed by a fox or a badger. It must be a fox's trick. Ha, ha, ha!

Mine.: Indeed he cannot be a real man.

Ghost's voice: What! Did you say that he cannot be a real man?

"I'm sorry my request hasn't been accepted. How vexing it is that seaweeds grow at the bottom of the sea!"

(Minemaro seems to have been obsessed with something. Meanwhile, Fumihiko feels dubious and says sharply.)

Fumi.: What are you? Now tell me your name, please.

(Minemaro seems absent-minded and says no word.)

Fumi.: Don't be absurd! Are you crazy or obsessed by some one's spirit?
Who has obsessed you? Tell me your name, and I'll hear his order from you and take

a proper step about it.

Ghost's voice: I'm glad to hear it. Now I'm Taira-No-Tomomori in the Heike Clan who sank in the West Sea.

"He takes interest in the ghost's words."

Fumi.: Are you Lord Tomomori? If you're really his soul, I hope you will tell me of your last moments.

Ghost: My last moments?

"Now is high time to tell the story, for helmets, swords, and halberds are displayed before God. Tonight I am not properly dressed."

Ghost: All right, I'll tell you of the old story.

"Moves away quickly and rushes into the shrine. The Shintosh Priest becomes a speechless with amazement." (All of a sudden Minemaro with the halberd in his arm, rushes into the shrine. Fumihiko becomes speechless with amazement when Yukimaro, a servant of the shrine, runs out.)

Yukimaro: It's a serious matter.

Fumi.: What is it?

Yuki.: With a threatening look, Minemaro ----.

Fumi.: Go ahead, Yukimaro! What's the serious matter? This is before the shrine, you know.

"Before God there is a chest of clothes which also contains ceremonial head-

gears, hunting-suits and reins for a sacred steed. As if obsessed by the spirit, Minemaro swings the halberd to and fro though it is very heavy."

Yuki.: I'm afraid I cannot stop him, for he is crazy and strong.

Fumi.: Indeed it's a serious matter. The chest before God contains the attires worn by the people of the House of Heike who died in the past off Danno-Ura Bay. We shall have to stop him by all means.

"Both of them get astonished and confused and go to the inner shrine."

(Both of them go away. Thereupon the stage changes to a scene of waves. And at a proper place the musical accompanists of the Bunrakuza Troupe sit in line. From now on only Johruri (a ballad-drama) will be recited. With the sounds of musical instruments, Tomomori gets out of the drop curtain. At the same time Minemaro dressed in the same costume as that of Tomomori comes out of the right as if obsessed by the spirit.)

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----- Part Two -----

Tomomori's Lines: "Well, I remember the scene then when numbers of flags flew in the wind like so many crimson-tinted leaves."

"The sea off Danno-Ura Bay is high with a peal of thunder."

"Oh, so many are the warriors of the Genji Clan. All the noblemen of the Heike Clan with weapons in the hands utter war-cries."

(Just then Minemaro who is obsessed with the spirit dances with the spirit of Tomomori.)

"After fighting, we seem to be defeated, so all of us get on board the ships and are at the mercy of the waves like so many drowning plovers."

(Thereupon the spirit of Tomomori and Minemaro who is obsessed with the spirit nestle close to each other and dance with halberds in their hands.)

"Even reliable people are scattered and drown themselves off the bay."

"Now that all of our own troops have died, I myself weighed anchor and jumped into the sea, placing the anchor on my helmet."

"That is the end of the sad story. The moon shines brightly while the sound of the storm becomes more and more violent."

(With the fantastic sounds of the music)

gradually co

for

It starts raining, too. The tide also becomes bright.
With violent sounds, mountains of waves go out.

(Settings are changed and get on the rocks.) The sea-weeds at the bottom of the sea are now clearly seen."

Ghost: Now the tide has ebbed. Let's mow sea-weeds.

"How interesting! Between the rocks can be seen sea-weeds. Don't wet our clothes. Get away, waves!"

(They get down from the rocks. Just then the settings of waves gradually go out and the scenery of rocks is presented. With an interesting piece of music, both of them start mowing sea-weeds. After a while, Minemaro seems to be tired.)

"Get out to the field early in the spring and pick young greens for you when snow falls on my clothes. Just like snowflakes billows and ripples go away."

(The ghost has done with mowing the sea-weeds and seems to be satisfied.)

Ghost: Hallo, my friends and kinsmen, now I've mowⁿ the sea-weeds so that you can enjoy the moonlight both in the spring and in the autumn.

(Seems to be joyful and dances. However, the tide seems to rise.)

seems to

have come down from above. After a while the tide flows and the stage represents the previous scene of the waves running high.)

"The moon hides in the clouds of the sky and cannot be seen now."

(Just at the moment Minemaro faints away in the centre of the stage. Meanwhile, the ghost of Tomomori seems to be in a merry mood and goes away to the stage passage with the halbert in his hand. A gallant piece of music can be heard.)

----- Curtain -----