

SHOCHIKU

KABUKI PLAY "TENICHIBOH TO (AND) IGANOSUKE"

TWO ACTS

WRITTEN BY ROPPUKU NUKADA

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TO BE PRESENTED BY ENNOSUKE TROUPE AT THE DAIICHI

THEATER FROM FEB. 3rd to FEB. '47

SYNOPSIS:

Hohtaku, chief priest of the Kanohin Temple in Hirano Village, Kishu Province, was a son of a pilgrim who had left him with an old woman named Osan, who had brought him up and made him a disciple of the late predecessor of the temple.

Although Hohtaku had something noble about him, he devoted all his wit to wrongdoings and continued to lead a profligate life. After much consideration, therefore, Osan showed Hohtaku a dagger with the family crest of a hollyhock on it and an autograph of the eighth Shogun, saying that the Shogun's love-child was none other than Hohtaku. By doing so, she asked him to mend his ways and become a fine bishop. Thereupon Hohtaku became beside himself with joy and, apologizing her for his past dissipated life, assured her that he would repay her for her kindness.

In due course, Hohtaku happened to know that the real illegitimate son of the Shogun had already died at dawn immediately after his birth, but Osan had told him a lie so as to correct his profligacy by taking out the dagger and autograph to which she had been entrusted. As a consequence of it, Hohtaku got surprised, disappointed and angry at it, but being egged on by Iganosuke Takeuchi who had dropped in at the temple for water, he determined to go up to Yedo and take a gambler's chance with the then Shogun by utilizing those two articles.

CHARACTERS :

Kanohin's Disciple Hohtaku (Later Tenichiboh);
Iganosuke Takeuchi; Daizen Akagawa; Osan, an old woman; Osan's
Niece Omitsu; Pack-horse Driver Tohroku (Later Tenichiboh's
Follower Tohroku Mizoo); Dealer in Old ~~Kn~~ Clothes Shichiemon
, (Later Tenichiboh's Follower Shichiemon Yamazaki); Field
Watchman Shohzoh (Later Tenichiboh's Follower Shohzoh Hirano);
Sangoroh Hori, an officer of law of the magistrate's office;
Ippei Kataoka; an officer of law of the magistrate's office;
Jingoroh, son of a village headman; and numbers of Tenichiboh's
followers.

TIME: The End of Kyoho

PLACES: Hirano Village, Nagusa County, Kishu
Province and Tenichiboh's Place of Abode
in the Western Temple, Sanjoh, Kyoto.

----- THE FIRST ACT -----

The Kanohin Temple in Hirano Village, Kishu
Province

The stage represents a thatched house (temple) in the fashion of a hermitage with low floors of about two "ken" (about twelve feet). In front of the room on the right is displayed a Buddhist altar. Before the altar there are a few old Buddhist altar fittings. On the left is a wall. At a suitable place there is the entrance to the inner room. Everything seems to be out of order:

Not only the thatched roof but also mats and fittings are dilapidated as if there were no inmates in the temple. Before the hermitage there is a narrow yard. On the right of the yard there are stone lanterns beyond a hedge; on the left there is a low hedge; and in the center there is a wicket. Weeds and fallen leaves are scattered here and there.

It is early in autumn. With the notes of shrikes, the curtain rises.

At the hedge on the left Hohtaku, Kanohin's disciple, and Old Woman Osan's Niece Omitsu are talking with each other with gesticulation. In the hermitage Pack-horse Driver Tohroku, Dealer in Old Clothes Shichiemon, and Field Watchman Shohzoh are drinking rice-wine at an old desk for making prayers instead of a table. Beside

them there is a portable cooking stove over which there is a pan with chicken being steamed in it.

Hohtaku, about twenty years of age, with hair cropped to about three inches, wears a dirty clothes made of white cotton and a black skirt. At first glance he looks very miserable, but despite of that he is nice-looking and seems somewhat noble.

Omitsu, aged seventeen, wears plain clothes suitable for a village girl and she is dumb, but she looks pretty like a daisy blooming in the hedge.

In the meantime, the three men in the hermitage are all before or after thirty years of age and they look like villains.

Omitsu gesticulates to mean that her aunt is very busy with helping childbirth here and there lately.

Hohtaku in reply gesticulates to mean that, "If so, we shall also be able to be given something by her. In such a case I'll get some clothes for you."

Omitsu with a naive air sidles up to Hohtaku gladly. Just then Tohroku who has been looking at them in silence accosts Hohtaku.

Tohroku: Here, here, don't flirt with her so much. You see we aren't blind.

Shichimon: Although you are treating us, I'm afraid we can't drink cheerfully.

Hohtaku: You needn't complain of it, but you'd better look at us over there.

Now I'm thinking of letting you drink better rice wine.

Shohzoh: Are you going to tease the old woman for pocket-money again?

I hear a few childbirths at wealthy families took place at the adjoining village.

Hohtaku: Oh, you're quick of hearing.

I've only just heard of it. However, we shall be able to get more money than such a small amount of money.

Tohroku: (Imitates to hit his head with the fist) Do you mean the matter?

Hohtaku: Yes, as I've told you now. (Welcomes Jingoroh.)

Hohtaku: Thank you very much for your trouble, young master. I'm glad you've come here very early.

Jingoroh: (With a haughty air) I don't know why this girl has pulled me so much, though. What on earth do you want with me?

Hohtaku: You needn't worry about it. Step right in, please.

(Shows Jingoroh to the room. Jingoroh with an annoyed look is obliged to step in the room.

Omitsu is looking up at the sky while sitting on the verandah of the left.)

Jingo: (Sitting) And what on earth do you want with me?

Hohtaku: (Politely) I should like to beg you for something.

Jingo: (Looks stern) Beg for something? Do you mean money?

Hohtaku: Yes; I'm ashamed to say so,

~~Jingo:~~

Jingo: (Thinking) Recently you seem to be unpopular with people. How much do you want?

Hohtaku: I want you to lend me fifty "ryoh".

Jingo: Fifty ryoh? (Gets startled.)

Hohtaku: (Guts him short) You needn't be so much astonished.
As you see, the roofs as well as the mats are dilapidated.
To mend them, I should think at least so much money is
necessary.

Jingo: (Feels somewhat relieved) Oh, do you want me to lend
you the money so as to repair this hermitage?

Hohtaku: I'm ashamed to say so, but my predecessor Kanohin
died suddenly, probably because of my young age and
lack of training worshippers have ceased to come here
although I've wanted to take his place. At last this
temple has become like a den of foxes, and then-----.

Jingo: (Continues to say) I know, but if so, you'd better
consult with my father or the five old men and ask them
to contribute some money per head without consulting
with me.

Hohtaku: I know that.

After all I'll collect contributions and return the
money to you, so I hope you'll lend me the money for
the time being. I should say you're better off.

Jingo: Don't talk nonse!

Although I'm the village headman, I cannot have such
a large amount of ~~money~~ money as fifty "ryoh"; for
this village is a poor hamlet.

Hohtaku: Well, then, shan't I be able to borrow the money from
some man at your recommendation? (Quickens his tone)
However, I don't mean to borrow the money for nothing,
but I think I shall be able to place some article in
pledge for the loan.

Jingo: (Gets nonplussed) Have you got any treasure, then?

Hohtaku: Treasure? (Grins) Well, it's something like that.
(Takes out a small crape wrapper from his pocket.)
Shall I just ask you to judge it?
(Opens it)

Jingo: (Glares at it and gets astonished)
Eek! (Is about to take it up.)

Hohtaku: (Interrupts Jingo) Oh, you mustn't handle such an important article so carelessly. (Politely, but sharply)
Is it not reasonable to give this as security for fifty "ryoh?"

Jingo: (Turns red and then pale) Well, well, it will serve as security.

Hohtaku: (Raises his voice) Will it? Thank you very much; much obliged. Well, then, about when will you please take up the matter and settle it?

Jingo: Well, I cannot say the exact time for certain, but I'm sure I'll give you a satisfactory answer within several days. (Tries to take up the wrapper.)

Hohtaku: (Loses no time in thrusting it into his pocket.) You mustn't, you mustn't. I'll exchange it for fifty "ryoh".

Jingo: (Gives up the idea of taking it), Well, then, I hope you won't tell of it to anybody.

Hohtaku: (Nods) If I would tell of it to others, I shouldn't have asked you to come here. Then I'll leave the matter to you. Since the road is out of order because of the flood, you ought to be careful and go out.

(Jingoroh goes away to the left with no word and with heavy steps. Hohtaku expresses his thanks to Jingoroh and is about to go to the room with a satisfied look when he happens to notice Omitsu)

Hohtaku: Ah, have you been here all this while? You must have been lonesome.

(Omitsu keeps silent) Pshaw! I cannot help it.

(Pushes Omitsu's eyebrow and suggests her to step in. Thereupon Omitsu smiles, steps in and sidles up to Hohtaku) As Shozoh often says, indeed you're a dilly though you've got a defect (Gazes at her profile. Just then from the inner room the three show their necks.)

Tohroku: Brother.

Hohtaku: (Gets startled) Have you still been there?

Tohroku: Sure, there still remains more than half of the wine.

Hohtaku: Indeed you're greedy.

Tohroku: Hum. (Points to Omitsu with his chin) I wonder which of us are more greedy.

Hohtaku: (Blushes and takes Omitsu by the hand.)

Shichie: (Overlooking it) But I hardly understand your negotiation. Is it all right?

Hohtaku: Sure enough!

Didn't he say that he would surely bring here fifty "ryoh"?

Shichie: I've already heard of it, but what's the treasure?

Hohtaku: Unless you purify yourself with water, I'm afraid you'll become blind if you see it. (Throws the wrapper before Shohzoh)

Shohzoh: Don't scare me (Opens it tremblingly.)

Oh, this is a purse, isn't it?

Tohroku: It's a purse. (Takes it up and after a while taps his knees) Indeed you've detected a good scene.

She must be some man's wife.

Who's the woman?

Hohtaku: She is Sagohei's wife at Gotanda, you know.

Shichie: Hum, she has only recently married him, hasn't she?

Shohzoh: Well, it reminds me that she has had some secret love affairs in the past.

Hohtaku: You'd better leave such an investigation to talkative women at the well. If it was a faint moonlit night, I might have made a mistake, but it was a full moonlit night when the breast hair of a female deer on the peak of the mountain three miles away could be clearly seen.

Indeed it was foolish of them to do such a thing. If they had been detected by others, they would be charged with adultery.

Fifty "ryoh" is a good bargain, you see.

Shohzoh: Indeed it sounds reasonable.

Shichie: That's why he went away without asking for any reason of it, I suppose.

Hohtaku: Well, although I threatened him for fifty "ryoh", I've never seen such a large sum of money.

Shichie: Neither have I.

Shohzoh: I've not seen it, either.

Tohroku: Don't be proud of such a trifling matter. Ha, ha, ha!

- Hohtaku: However, because of the monetary matter, I feel exceedingly happy. What do you say to having a drink with the remaining wine?
- Tohroku: I'm very glad to hear it.
Let's ask Omitsu-boh to serve us with wine. She is a girl all the same. (Asks Omitsu to wait on them with gesticulation.
Omitsu nods with a pretty smile and is about to go to the inner room when she happens to see the left hand side and gets startled. All of a sudden she seizes Tohroku and Shichienon by the arm and is about to take them to the right.)
- Tohroku: Ouch, ouch! What are you going to do with me? I'm afraid my arm will be broken.
- Shichie: My sleeve will be cut off, I'm afraid.
What on earth do you mean?
- Omitsu: (Points to the left and tells them to run off quickly with gesticulation.)
- Tohroku: I hardly understand. Hohtaku, I ask you to act as interpreter for me.
- Hohtaku: Ah, hum! (Looks at the left and gets astonished.)
Ah, the old woman is coming.
- Tohroku: Is the old woman coming? (Looks at the same direction and nods.) It's a good chance. Then, shall I start?
- Hohtaku: Do it well.
- Tohroku: Okay (Suddenly tucks up his clothes and sits down)
Hey, Hohtaku, how will you will you settle the matter? Answer me.

Tohroku: Okay. (Suddenly tucks up his clothes and sits down)
Hey, Hohtaku, how will you settle the matter?
Answer me.

Hohtaku: Don't talk nonsense.
Even if I borrow one hundred thousand "ryoh" from you
at the gambling-place, such a debt needn't be paid
at any other place as admitted in the rule.

~~Shichie:~~
Shichie: Then, do you mean to say that you won't pay me back
the back the money by any means?

Shohzoh: Sure. If you want, you'd better pull out my legs or
neck.

Tohroku: Don't be silly, watch-dog.

Hohtaku: You horse thief!

(The four are divided into two sets and grapple
with one another. Onitsu becomes confused. From the
left Old Woman Osan comes hurriedly; she is about
sixty years of age and stout-hearted. Looking at the
scene, Osan gets startled and brings a broom out
of the inner room and hits them at random with it.)

Tohroku: Ouch! What are you going to do with me?

Hohtaku: Don't ask me!

(They still struggle. After a while Tohroku holds down
Hohtaku while Shichie holds down Shohzoh.)

Tohroku: Now, can you ~~move~~?

Shichie: Will you return exactly fifty "ryoh" to me right now?

Hohtaku: Hang it! Even if I've got one million "ryoh", I won't
pay you back even a red "mon".

Shohzoh: Now kill me, kill me. (Calls out Osan who has been looking at them for a while suddenly pulls Omitsu's hand.)

Osan: You look out. (Runs off to the left with Omitsu. After a while Hohtaku speaks to them with a changed tone.)

Hohtaku: Hey, has the hag gone already?

Tohroku: (With a changed tone as well) Yeah, she is running in the field like a crazy dog, Hohtaku: Then, let me go (Rises to his feet.)

Thank you for your trouble. I'll treat you a lot in return for your service,

Shichie: Since you asked me to grapple with you in presence of the hag, I did so as requested. However, I couldn't pick a sham quarrel very well, I'm afraid.

Hohtaku: Oh, you did wonderfully well like a real one.

Tohroku: All of us are good at it, I should think.

Hohtaku: Don't make me laugh. But I'm sorry we were heavily struck by the hag.

Tohroku: Though she is old, she is exceedingly strong. Look at this! (Rolls up his sleeves and shows his arm.) But can you really expect to get money by doing such a thing?

Hohtaku: Sure! As I told you before, she often gives me a gold coin though I don't know where she hides such coins. I'm sure she earned a lot of dough while young and has hidden the money somewhere --- the money must be more than thirty or forty.

Three: Hum!

Hohtaku: Therefore I should like to ~~w~~needle her out of all the remaining money by some means or other. However, she is on the alert recently, and I've tried to tease her for money, but in vain, so I've thought of a new method, you see.

Shichie: But I wonder if she'll bring the money as you've plotted?

Hohtaku: Don't worry. The hag cares for me, so I'm sure she'll bring the money, as she must have thought that the money has a great deal with my life, ~~taking~~ the sham quarrel and grapple in her presence for a real one.

Shichie: Really! Well, then, what shall we do? It won't be good for us to stay here till she comes back, I should say.

Hohtaku: Hum! (Thinks) Then, I ask you to go home right now.

Tohroku: Then let's do so. But are you sure you'll keep your promise?

Hohtaku: Yes, I'm positive. Come here again in the evening.
(The three are about to go to the left.) Wait a moment!
If you go that way, I'm afraid you might meet her on your way, so I hope you'll go away from the different direction.

Shichie: I see. Then let's go through the graveyard. (Looking in the graveyard)

They are all dirty graves. Excuse me, everybody.

(The three break the hedge on the right and leave.)

Hohtaku: (Sees them off and yawns)

Well, I myself get ready for it. (Goes to the inner room while muttering.

During the time the note of a shrike is heard. Over there Iganojoh Takeuchi, a detached warrior of the House of Kujoh, comes out; he is nearly forty; he has the front part of the head shaved with a crafty look, he wears a discoloured wadded silk garment of black colour and a pair of swords the lacquered sheaths of which have faded.

Avoiding the setting-sun with his broken fan, he comes out somewhat ~~g~~ intoxicated while reciting an utai (a Japanese lyrical drama).

Iga:

"Now that the flowers are out, the messenger of the mountain village has come tall in saddle as he promised me".

Well, now I'm tired of reciting the Kurama Tengu (The Goblin from Mt. Kurama) popular among detached warriors.

Since I got sick of serving in the court noble's mansion and left the House of Kujoy, several years have already passed and I've travelled nearly half of Japan.

However, the world is dull against my expectation. Even a swift horse would be no better than a pack-horse without meeting a good equestrian. Well, I'm awfully thirsty now; I should like to quench my thirst with water anyway. (Comes to the main stage and calls to the hermitage) Excuse me, excuse me. (There is no answer) My word!

There seems to be no one in it, but there must be a well near-by (Goes round to the rear and leaves. Just then Hohtaku comes out of the inner room; he is limping with his limbs bandaged with white cloth as if he were seriously injured.)

Hohtaku: (Looks around) Well, let me see. Although I thought there was some one here, I might have misheard it. (Looking around) Ah, she is coming (Lies down on the verandah and starts groaning as if he were in pain. From the left Osan comes out with ~~xxx~~ quick steps, holding a cloth-wrapper of about one foot in length carefully under her arm.

Hohtaku is still groaning.)

Osan: (Looks at Hohtaku for a while, standing and then says composedly) Hohtaku-san, now I understand the circumstances, so you ought to stand up.

Hohtaku: (Gets shocked) Eh?

Osan: I know your injury will be cured the instant I leave here.

Hohtaku: (Rises in half) Have you known of it, then?

Osan: I know you've never told the truth to me for the past three years.

Hohtaku: But you've alway wept, haven't you?

Osan: I've never been deceived by your lies, but I've wept over your shameful mind. But today I cannot indulge you too much any more. Up to now I've never talked of my only treasure to any villager, but I'll show it to you, so after you look at it, I hope you'll think over it.

(Opens the wrapper and takes out an autograph of the eighth Shogun and a dagger with the family crest of a hollyhock on it.)

Hohtaku: (Seems pleased and unintentionally takes up the dagger and gets startled)

Gracious me! This is the family crest of the hollyhock.

Osan: You can read letters, so you'd better read the autograph.

Hohtaku: Hum! (Reads it in a moderate tone)

October, 2nd year of Hehei

To Lady Sawanoi

I hear you've been pregnant, so I admit the child to be born is mine.

In case a boy is born, I'll recognize the boy as my own when he grows up.

If a girl is born, however, you may bring her up as you please.

As an evidence in the future, I'll add my treasured sword to this document.

From Tokutaroh-Nobufusa.

(Repeats) Tokutaroh-Nobufusa. Hum!

(crosses his arms and is in deep thought and then seems to be relieved.) What do you mean, then?

Osan: (Gets closer to him.) It takes a long time to tell you of the story, though.

When I lived in the village of Hirazawa before, a girl was born between my husband. Heiemon and me.

Since she was our only daughter and was praised by our neighbours because of her beauty unlike us, we brought her up with a bright prospect. In due course of time,

however, my husband died while my daughter became of marriageable age, so I was afraid that she might keep bad company.

Happily through some person's good office I sent her as a waiting maid in the mansion of Mr. Shohgen Kanoh in the castle of Wakayama.

Hohtaku: Hum!

Osan: She changed her name to Sawanoi and I wished that she would rise in the world.

However, suddenly she returned home saying that she would be unable to serve in the mansion any more and in fact she conceived.

Thereupon I looked at her abdomen when at first sight I knew that she had already been in the fifth month of pregnancy, for I'm also a woman.

Hohtaku: (As if saying to himself) Hum, I think I was also born in the second year of Kanei.

Osan: (Nods) Therefore I thought that she might have given herself up to a footman or a menial and I asked her of the circumstances with astonishment. But to my great joy her lover proved to be a senior councillor of state's first son named Tokutaroh Nobufusa-sama who had happened to stay in Shohgen-sam's mansion for some reason. And the Nobufusa-sama has now gone up to Yedo and become the eighth Shogun, I hear.

Hohtaku: (Feels fidgety) I know, I know. Well, what had become of the unborn child?

Osan: (Gets pleased) Glad to say that she gave birth to the child without difficulty.

Hohtaku: Was it a boy or a girl?

Osan: I politely assisted her at the childbirth and it was a pretty boy.

Hohtaku: Was it a boy? (Monotonously) And then.

Osan: (Suddenly sheds tears) Sorry to say that Sawanoi died in that night because of puerperal fever.

Hohtaku: Ah, that's too bad. And what happened to the child?

Osan: Do you mean the boy?

Hohtaku: Yes.

Osan: Well (Hesitates to say for a while and then says resolutely) The boy is none other than you.

Hohtaku: Eek!

Osan: You're the very boy.

Hohtaku: Me? (Stares and suddenly bursts out laughing) Ha, ha, ha! Don't be silly.

Because of your good method of talking, I've been involved in your conversation.

You're very unkind, Old woman.

Osan: (Seriously) Well, then, do you mean to say that even those two articles are false ones?

Hohtaku: But didn't you often say that I was an abandoned child by a pilgrim at the Sengaji Temple of Shinshu Province?

Whenever you said so, I felt lonesome, you know.

Osan: No wonder you bore a grudge against me, but I've got some profound reasons for it.

Because of the creed, as soon as the mourning was over, I took you to Mt. Takano so as to lay her ashes to rest and at the charnel-house we happened to meet a bishop, who looked in your face and stopped with surprise,

saying that there appeared danger of perishing by the sword in your look.

Hohtaku: Danger of perishing by the sword, eh?

Osan: But the bishop went on to say that you were noble-looking, so if you enter the priesthood, you would enjoy longevity and rise in the world on the condition that you would leave the present house; so he said clearly. Thereupon as soon as we returned to the village, we left the village and moved to this village. After that I made you the late Kanohin-sama's disciple.

Hohtaku: Hum.

Osan: But I was afraid that you might become an object of jealousy to people, so I asked a pilgrim with whom I got acquainted on the way to abandon you and I picked you up again. However, I couldn't mend your ways by any means, so I've resolutely revealed the secret to you. (Keenly) Since you've been thrown into such a condition, you cannot become the former warrior. However, you could sit next to prince Seigoin in social standing. I ask you to mend your ways and try to become a fine bishop; I beg you to do so, by joining hands together like this.

Hohtaku: (Feels at ease) Hum, I was born in the same year. A While ago Tehroku said that I was a nobleman's love-child; I wonder if he said so not merely in compliments.

Osan: It cannot be a compliment.

Naturally you showed your noble birth.

Otherwise I shouldn't have the dagger with the family crest on it and the autograph with me.

Hohtaku: Hum (Gradually comes to believe her words.)

Osan: Now that I've confessed everything to you, I'll give these two articles and the remaining fifty "ryoh", so you've got to keep them carefully as your father's keepsakes.

Hohtaku: Then will you give me these two articles? What I've thought has now come true. (Suddenly comes to his senses and places his hands on the mat, stepping back.) Excuse me, but I've never known that I'm of noble birth, so please pardon me for my waywardness I've shown to you up to today. Now I'll work hard as you've requested me and repay your kindness by becoming a fine bishop. I beg your pardon like this.

Osan: (Gets pleased) Oh, then will you understand my words and mend your life?

Hohtaku: Yes, up until now I've thought that I'm an orphan as good as a stray dog, so I've found no pleasure in anything. However, now I've heard of my noble birth, so I've been encouraged a great deal. Well, I needn't meet my father to be recognized by him; I shall be happy if I live here all my life. I'm very glad to hear it; very glad to hear it. (Gets moved to tears. Osan also cries of joy. Just then from the inner room on the left comes out Iganojoh and prostrates himself on the spot, throwing away his pair of swords.

Thereupon Osan gets surprised and rises to her feet.)

Osan: What are you?.

Iga: Well, I was once an immediate vassal of Chief Minister Kujoh at Kyoto and my name is Iganosuke Takeuchi; I should like to see the noble, so please let me see him.

Osan: What do you mean by the noble?

Igano: Well, I know something about astronomy and the science of divination. For some reason I left the service of the House of Kujoh and made a pilgrimage to the sixty provinces of Japan so as to be employed by a good master. Last night I happened to make an astronomical observation beside the River Kinokawa when I observed that in the southern sky a stream of white atmosphere trailed and the stars shone more brightly all of a sudden -- that is, the white atmosphere is the sign of a king and the sudden increase of the brightness in the stars indicates that the future Shogun must be living in this neighbourhood. Therefore, without waiting for the coming of dawn, I came to this village and looked for the very noble in every likely house when I happened to look at the physiognomy of the master of this hermitage and I knew that his eyes are as clear as crystal; his eyebrows resemble young willows and he looks dignified, but not fierce, so I judged that he will be able to occupy one of the three high positions. Therefore it would be not only my great honour but also that of my descendants if

I could become one of his followers and faithful to him.

Osan: (Rather absent-mindedly) Well, then, do you wish to become this Hohtaku's follower?

Iga: Sure! I hope you'll recommend me to him, Old Lady.
(Osan gets nonplussed Iganosuke comes forward.)
Excuse me, but please give your immediate words to me.

Hohtaku: (Remains vacant for a while due to the sudden change of the event and after a while comes to himself and utters in somewhat trembling voice.) Oh, Iganosuke, I'll allow you to come nearer to me.

Iga: Much obliged.

Hohtaku: Come nearer.

Iga: Thank you.
(Iganosuke bends his knees and comes forward. From the left Omitsu comes running and gets aghast at the unexpected scene.)

----- ACT DROP -----

THE SECOND ACT

The stage represents the saloon of Tenichiboh's place of abode located in the Western Temple, Sanjoh Street, Kyoto; the stage is flat. Tenichiboh is the changed name of Hohtaku. The saloon is Tenichiboh's reception-room with doors, in the center and on the right, of three "ken" (about eighteen feet) wide: The room is usually covered with bamboo blinds. At the right turning there is a golden screen; at the left there is another one. All pieces of furniture are made magnificent as magnificent could be.

About half a year later the previous act. It is a spring afternoon.

When the curtain rises, Tohroku and the other two men who have appeared in the previous act are gossiping among them, sitting cross-legged and wearing ceremonial clothes unnaturally. They have suddenly become Hohtaku, now Tenichiboh's followers; but they cannot behave properly as warriors and are apt to act comically.

Shohzoh: Go ahead!

Tohroku: I couldn't feel comfortably and later on I asked Daizen of it and was told that it was what is called "Tea ceremony." None of us have ever had such an experience before, you know. With a dignified air a man offered me bubbled tea in a dirty tea-cup, so I couldn't know whether I must lick it or bite it.

Shichie: Besides you must have felt more angry at the guy's service.

Tohroku: Sure enough!

(They chuckle. Just then the screen in front is

thrown open when Daizen Akagawa comes out;
he is a fine warrior, aged 33-4.)

Daizen: Mr. Mizoo, Mr. Mizoo.

(Looking at the three) Here, here, why are you
behaving so badly again?
Behave like warriors.

All: Sorry. (Get astonished and sit formally.)

Daizen: Mr. Mizoo, how about your way of wearing the pleated
skirt? Stand up, as I'll tie it again for you.

Tohroku: (Gets depressed.) Please do so. However I try to
tie it properly, it slips out all the same.

Daizen: Slips out? Is it the language for a warrior? (Tying)
Needless to say, in spite of his past career, now
Tenichiboh-sama is the Shogun-sama's heir and is to enter
the Western palace soon. You're Tenichiboh-sama's
immediate vassals, aren't you? How could you behave
so badly?

All: Sorry.

Daizen: Now, Mr. Mizoo, go to the inner room right away.
Don't hesitate.

Tohroku: Very well. (Goes away to the right dispiritedly and
forgets his swords.)

Daizen: (Seeing him off) Although I've ordered servants
to show guests into the inner room from outside of
the screen for fear of the occurrence of such an event,
after all you ought to train ~~xxxx~~ yourselves more.
(goes away to the right, saying so. Thereupon the two
again reel at ease and cross their legs as before.)

Shichie: ~~xxxx~~ Indeed he is a scolding guy.

Shohzoh: Well, I cannot blame ^{him} him for that. I feel somewhat homesick

It's by no means easy for us to rise in the world,
I should think.

Shichie: But Mohtaku, no, Tenichiboh-sama is indeed a big
shot. Recently he looks as if he were re-born.
It's nice of him to have employed us as his followers
and let us rise in the world due to his old friendship
to us.

Shohzoh: Owing to his noble birth, he is kind-hearted, I should
think. I'm told that he also sent messengers to Kishu
Province so as to call for Osan, Omitsu-boh and even
the ~~xx~~ young village headman, so I'm sure they will
be given some prizes by him.

Shichie: Anyway he is the Shogun's illegitimate child.
Indeed it's like a dream.

Shohzoh: It's also like a dream that we've become warriors.
(They exchange glances with each other. On the left
outside the screen some man's calling voice is heard,
so both of them get startled and sit properly.)

Shichie: (Like a warrior) Who are there? Step right in.

Warrior A: Excuse me. (Opens the screen and comes out, holding
a table for offerings up to his eyes.)

Warrior A: I have to tell you that Ohmiya-Denemon, a rice dealer of
Gojoh, Higashi-No-Dohin has offered five hundred
"ryoh" in cash and a screen.

Shichie: I see. When our lord enters the Western Castle, he will
be especially awarded some prize. Tell him so.

Warrior A: Certainly. (Leaves.)

Shichie: (In a low voice) I'm good at this kind of negotiation, am I not? I've often made negotiations of this kind at Osaka, you know.

Shozoh: Well, I remember lots of merchants visited us at Osaka.

Shichie: Tenmánya, Hachimánya and all the other wealthy merchants, to say nothing of the noted Kohnnoike, came to see us for the purpose and what they presented amounted to fifty to sixty thousand "ryoh" in all, I should think. So far as monetary affairs are concerned, Osaka people are the most shrewd, I should say.

(From the left again a man's voice is heard.)

Warrior B: Excuse me.

Shohzoh: Again some man has come. Step right in.

Warrior B: (Comes in) Just now officers of law came here from the magistrate's office and expressed their wish to see Tenichiboh-sama's chief retainer.

Shichie: Did the officers of law come here from the magistrate's office, eh? (Gets confused.)

Anyway I'll tell the chief retainer of it. Show them into this room, please.

Warrior B: Very well. (Leaves.)

Shohzoh: (With an uneasy look) Is it okay to let the officers come here without permission?

Shichie: Ah, hum; we're asked to tell anything difficult to the chief retainer. Well, then, I'll tell him of it. You also come with me.

(Both of them drag their benumbed legs and leave for the right. Just then two officers of law named Sanjuroh Hori and Ippai Kataoka of the magistrate's office come, shown by two warriors. From the right comes out Iganojoh Takeuchi wearing a ceremonial dress, entirely different from the clothes he has worn in the previous act.)

Iga: (glares at them) Are you the messengers from the magistrate's office?

Hori: Yes: I'm an officer of law named Sanjuroh Hori.

Kataoka: I'm Ippai Kataoka. We've come here on business. And what is your name?

Iga: I'm Iganosuke-Takeuchi and Tenichiboh-sama's adviser; I was once a vassal of the House of Kujoh and I think Magistrate Tambanokami may know of me.

Hori: (Gets overwhelmed.) Well, then, you're Iganosuke-dono.

Iga: (Nods) And what's your message?

Have you come here to fix the date of a feast to be held for Tenichiboh-sama so as to ~~sung~~ congratulate him on the arrival of the city in place of the magistrate?

Hori: (Takes courage.) No, not now, but we want to re-examine his career.

Iga: Hum.

Hori: Even if he is a man of noble birth, he ought to inform the magistrate's office of his place of abode here, but ----.

Iga: Shut up!

Hori: (Remains undaunted) No information was given to the office and moreover he used the family crest of Tokugawa on the curtain and the name of Tokugawa on his name-plate.

Iga: (Thunders) Hold your tongue!

How dare you try to examine Tenichiboh-sama's career in spite of your low positions? The lord's social standing has already been recognized due to the two keepsakes. And the magistrate also should know that he is none other than the Shogun's love-child, for the fact has already been informed to the Shogun in Yedo secretly through Saganokami Hotta, the castellan of the Osaka Castle. However, due to your petty duties, it's rude of you to insist on re-examining him. If there is anything you want to know of him, the magistrate himself ought to come here. No more talking. Get out of here right away.

Both: Certainly.

Iga: (Relaxes his tone of voice) However, if Mr. Makino knows nothing of it and both of you have wanted to do so from a sense of your duty, I'll excuse you for it.

Kataoka: Thank you very much for your kindness. Indeed both of us have made a blunder and the magistrate himself knows nothing of it, so please tell him so.

Iga: Hum.

Kataoka: (Gives up the idea) Well, then, I'll tell the magistrate of it and we'll come here again to invite him later on. Good-bye. (Is about to rise to his feet when Daizen Akagawa comes out of the inner room.)

Daizen: Wait a minute, messengers of the magistrate. The lords says he'll see you directly.

Both: Really! (Unintentionally prostrate themselves.)

Daizen: The lord's presence. (Cries. Just then the blind in front rises with no sound when Hochtaku, now Tenichiboh is seen to be sitting upright on a thick cushion with long hair and handsome features. There is not a spark of a ruffian-like look about him as seen in the previous act. On the contrary, he looks noble like a nobleman's son.)

Iga: If you kindly speak to the officers of law under the magistrate of this place, I'm sure they will be very much pleased.

Tenichiboh: (Nods composedly) Anyway thank you for your trouble. Give my kind regards to Tambanokami.

Both: Certainly.

Tenichiboh: Daizen.

(Thereupon Daizen puts two packages of money on a stand of plain wood and places it before the two, covering the stand with a small orape wrapper.)

Daizen: The lord will kindly give both of you some money so as to let you make new clothes, so you receive it.

Both: Much obliged.

Daizen: Don't hesitate, as it will be rude to the lord.

Both: Thank you very much. (Unintentionally receive the packages of money respectfully.)

Daizen: I'll tell both of you again. Tenichiboh-sama will kindly give two thousand "ryoh" for the relief of paupers at the time of the requiem mass of his deceased mother, so I hope you'll examine the approximate number of the

paupers both in Kyoto and it's environs.

Hori: How kind-hearted he is! (Admires. To Tenichiboh.)
Thank you very much, we'll examine the exact number and let you know it as soon as possible.

Tenichiboh: (Seeing them off) Iganosuke, what did they come here for?

Iga: They came here to investigate your social position, my lord.

Tenichiboh: My social position? (With a displeased look) Why do they so often inquire into it? Why is it so suspicious to them that I want to see my father as his son?

Iga: Well, I don't think they feel suspicious of you, but since it's an unexpected old event, the magistrate and others are rather inquisitive about it, I should think.

Tenichiboh: (Nods) However, since I left my birthplace together with you, I've stayed at Mino and Osaka more than five months and yet I wonder why I must stay here in Kyoto so long?

Iga: Well, as I told you last night, they have not yet made preparations for your hotel in Yedo. Anyway both Tenchu Johrakuin and Ukyo Fuji is arranging the matter, so it will soon be settled, I should think.

Tenichiboh: I don't want to trouble you so much, but I should like to see my father at an early date. When I knew that I was a man of such noble birth for the first time, I was only ~~half~~ satisfied with it. However, according to your advice, I went to Mino Province, dropped in Osaka and then came here in Kyoto, so now I've come to long for my father more and more. Well, I should say I would like to ~~go~~ go straight up to Yedo without any rites or formalities. (Keenly) My dear father, I met you last night as well

in my dream. (Says longingly. Just then Tohroku opens the screen on the left and comes out.)

Tohroku: Let me tell you.

Daizen: What is it?

Tohroku: (Curtly) From Kishu Province the young village headman, Old Osan and Omitsu-ko ----.

Daizen: Wait a moment! Do you mean to say that the invited people have arrived here from Kishu Province?

Tohroku: That's right; they have arrived.

Daizen: Hum. (To Tenichiboh) As you've heard him, how shall I tell them?

Tenichiboh: I want to see them right now. Take them here.

Tohroku: Certainly. (Goes to the right and comes with Osan, Omitsu and Jingoroh.)

Tohroku: Now, here he is.

Osan: (Cannot help holding down her longing feelings.)

Oh, Hohtaku-san.

Daizen: Hushi! Lower your head.

Osan: Very well.

(The three of them are overwhelmed.)

Tenichiboh: (Longingly) Osan, very glad you've come here.

You're my real grandmother, but a noble should disregard his maternal lineage, so allow me to use a different language and sit in such a high place.

Osan: That's all right.

Tenichiboh: Jingoroh, when I was in the village, I often behaved disgracefully to you, but I hope you'll think that Hohtaku has already died and forget my past acts. You know the details as written in the letter, so if you like, I'll let you accompany me to Yedo and become a warrior in the future.

Jingo: Thank you very much.

Osan: (Gets astonished) Are you going up to Yedo soon, then?

Tenichiboh: (With a pleased look) As soon as my hotel at Shinagawa is constructed, I'll leave here. Then I'll take you, there, too and be dutiful to you.

Omitsu, I'll also take you there.

Omitsu: (Looks round in silence.)

Tohroku: Say, Omitsu-boh. (Pokes at Omitsu's shoulder from behind and points to Tenichiboh by delivering her the meaning that Tenichiboh will take her. Omitsu gets pleased and is about to draw close to him, but hesitates to do so in deference to others.)

Tenichiboh: (Feels tears well up in his eyes.)

Are you happy? When I enter the Western Castle, I'll let you be waited on with care. Then I'll call all famous doctors and let them cure your defect if it is curable. Anyway you must be very tired with your long journey. Better go to the next room and take a rest, everyone.

Jingo: Thank you very much. Now let's go, Omitsu-boh and Bahsan (means an old woman-Osan)

Osan: Oh, no, I just want to speak with Hohtaku-san, so I want you to precede me.

(Jingoroh, Omitsu and Tohroku go away to the left.)

Daizen: Osan-dono, have you got anything further to say to him?

Osan: Sure! (To Tenichiboh) Are you really going down to Yedo?

Tenichiboh: Sure enough! As I told you just now, as soon as my hotel in Yedo is constructed, I'll remove there.

Osan: And then are you going to enter any temple?

Tenichiboh: Oh, no, perhaps I'll return to secular life and enter the Western Castle.

Osan: To the Western Castle, eh? Are you going to be the Shogun's heir? (Cries out with surprise.) Ah, my word! What shall I do? What shall I do? (Loses her presense of mind.)

Iga: Hush! (Checks Osan) Daizen-dono.
(Lets Daizen watch the screens on the right and left. Daizen stands up and looks around.)
Be quiet! What do you mean?

Osan: (Comes to herself) Oh, have you also been here?
(As if clinging to Iga.) I ask you to let him give up the idea of doing so.

Iga: How strange! Why mustn't he go to Yedo?

Osan: Well, if the fact is brought to light, he'll lose his life. Should he use that name, he would soon be killed, as there appears danger of perishing by the sword in his look.

Iga: Don't talk nonsense! Tenichiboh-sama must be the Shogun's illegitimate child, so, how should he hesitate or be afraid of doing so?

Osan: The Shogun's illegitimate child? Whome do you mean?

Iga: I mean Tenichiboh-sama.

Osan: Hohtaku, eh? (Looks lasely at him and cries)
It's alie.

Three: Eh?

Osan: It's a barefaced lie, I assure you. (To Tenichiboh)
You're the unknown pilgrim's abandoned child at the Sengaji Temple all the same.

Tenichiboh: Ha, ha, ha! Don't be silly. Have you become crazy with joy? The autograph you gave me must be written by the Shogun. As to the dagger, it's a family treasure hand down from generation to generation to the House of Hishu as recognized by the castellan of the Osaka Castle.

Osan: Well, those two articles must be Tokutaroh-sama's mementoes, but you are a bogus man though you have them.

Tenichiboh: (Rather impatiently) But you handed me the two articles and told me that I'm the Shogun's love-child, didn't you?

Osan: It's a lie all the same. The very child had died at dawn crying immediately after his birth and my daughter lamented over his death and died of her childbed fever.

Enichiboh: Hum. (Looks ghastly out of an intense astonishment resulting in disappointment mixed with anger and glares at Osan.)

Osan: (Fearfully) Please pardon me. I told you a lie for your sake, though. It was exactly the night of the 27th day that I found you abandoned at the door of the house. I also found a sheet of paper ^wsewed on your neck-band and knew that you had been born in the same month of the same year with the Shogun's child. Therefore I brought you up as the substitute of the Shogun's child. However, you didn't use your wits for better purposes, but you were absorbed in a dissipated life day by day, so I remembered the words of the bishop at Mt. Kohya and tried to let you become an honest man: Happily I still had the two articles and told you that you are of noble

birth so as to let you mend your ways. But
now I think I was hair-brained on that point.

Three: (Keep silent.)

Osan: (To Iganosuke) Thereupon you came and helped me
advise him, so suddenly he came to ~~mind~~^e his life to my joy.
However, very soon he went to Osaka, gathered lots of people
there and went up to Kyoto, calling himself the Shogun's
child, and then would go down to Yedo; so I'm told.
Although I thought it was a serious matter, I couldn't do
anything, as I'm an old woman. Besides it's I that am
to blame for it, so I couldn't unbosom myself to
anyone and have been worried about him. Happily there
came a palanquin sent by you to call for me,
so I've hurriedly come here with joy. (Gazing at Tenichiboh)
No wonder you're angry with me, but I hope you'll brighten
up as before without looking so serious and become a
bishop as you are, giving up the idea of going to Yedo.
(Sidles up to Tenichiboh.)

Tenichiboh: (Thrusts her ~~away~~) Shut up! Well, then,
~~Yes~~ you imposed on me; surely you played tricks on me.
(Is about to grab at Osan.)

Osan: Well, that's because I've cared for you.

Tenichiboh: Don't be silly! Although I'm of humble birth,
You pedestaled me for the Shogun's love-child and have
cheated me up to now. How could you be kind to me?
(Looks at his costume) Look! How could I show up in
the common society in such a condition?

Osan: But it would be your grave intrigue to enter the Western
Castle.

Tenichiboh: Sure enough!

If I think we're real father and son, it's human nature that I want to see him.

Osan: There is a grain of truth in your idea.

I'm the only person to blame for it. Please forgive me.

Tenichiboh: Forgive? (Cannot speak continuously out of an intense indignation.)

Don't talk nonsense. You've disturbed my mind to your ~~hazy~~ heart's content, you old cat. (Seizes Osan by the nape of the head and drags her into his living-room. Both Iganosuke and Daizen who have been looking at the scene in silence feel relieved after a while. Iganosuke makes a sign with the eye to Daizen, who nods and follows Tenichiboh. It is getting dark. A grim scene. After a while Daizen comes back with changed colour.)

Daizen: (Knits his brows.) As if a child were breaking a doll ----. (Gesticulates.)

Iga: Hum! (Seems to be lost in thought and again calls Daizen.)

Daizen: Yes. (Gets near to Iganosuke, who whispers something to him.) Then those two ----.

Iga: Secretly, you see.

Daizen: Okay. (Leaves for the front. Iganosuke remains seated straight. After a while from the inner room comes out Tenichiboh totteringly with his legs bent like the claws of a crab and comes to the middle of the room when he falls. After a pause Iganosuke glances at him and speaks to him.)

Iga: (In a low voice) Hey, what's the matter? Cheer up!

Tenichiboh: Are you Iganojoh?

Iga: ~~xxxxx~~ Don't utter a miserable voice. Be a man.

Tenichiboh: But Iganosuke, your astronomy isn't reliable,
I should say.

Iga: Astronomy? Hum, that's unreliable.

Tenichiboh: What?

Iga: (Crosses his legs) If I had understood such a thing, I shouldn't
be so poor now. Since I wanted to have a glass of
water so as to take off the fumes of rice wine, I came
round to the well where I heard the interesting
conversation between you and the hag, so I took
part in the plot, but it has been a harder undertaking
than I thought.

Tenichiboh: (Gets angry) Well, then, you also duped me, I think.
Without knowing such a thing, I cried or smiled like
a monkey.

Iga: Don't be so angry. Even a monkey-leader wouldn't
make his business unless his monkey dances well.

Tenichiboh: Anyway it's a silly matter all the same. (Looks aside.)

Iga: You're short-tempered, I should say. What are you going
to do from now on, then?

Tenichiboh: Anyway I'm a sham, you know.

Iga: But that dagger and the autograph are real ones, you see.
(Gesticulates.)

Tenichiboh: Well, then, do you mean to say that we shall go
into Yedo, pretending ignorance?

Iga: Sure! I'm sure Daizen has disposed of the other nuisances.
We were all right both in Osaka and Kyoto. Yedo is the
only place we should go. At Yedo there are the two
officials, Echizenokami Ohoka and Izunokami Matsudaira,
but I'm Iganosuke Takeuchi, the former immediate

vassal of the House of Kujoh and in nine cases out of ten I shall be able to talk them over.

Tenichiboh: But. (Shakes his head) I'm sorry, but I'll give up the idea.

Iga: Why?

Tenichiboh: But I shall be afraid of doing the last work.

Iga: Oh, you're a coward. Take courage, or you won't be able to ^{do} a manly work.

Tenichi: Say anything you like. As for me, I've had enough of the experience. I don't want to have such a bad experience again. Since I was pedestaled by the hag, I've tried to behave properly without waiting for the advice by you and Saizen, though. Now that I've turned out to be a sham, I shan't be able to put up with such formalities, as I'm afraid I shan't be able to enjoy longevity by doing so. It would be much better for me to return to Hohtaku of the Kanohin Temple as before and lead an easy life.

Iga: But it won't take so much time for you to learn the knack of it. Everything in life has a right and wrong side. I don't imagine even the Shogun could give himself airs all the year round.

Tenichiboh: Maybe not. But anyhow I shouldn't be so care-free as before. (Unintentionally stands up.) Horses flock together while cows gather in the same place. (Takes a few steps.)

Iga: Where are you going?

Tenichiboh: Don't ask me.

Iga: You fool!

Ten: Eh?

Iga: You fool!

Ten: What?

Iga: I should say you're a silly guy unlike your ^{features}. Mind you, we haven't been playing house like children. Up to now you've been lionized and do you think that people will overlook what you have done if you say ~~you~~ you've made a mistake?

Tenichiboh: Indeed you're right. I'm a grave criminal who have misused the Shogun's name, so I'm afraid I shall be hanged at best or crucified according to the law and at worst I shall be boiled like the notorious thief ^Goemon or sawed to death. (Suddenly sits upright.) Hey, you're my friend, so I hope you'll behead me without giving me much pain. ^T(Turns his back to Iganosuke.)

Iga: Hum! (Seems to be in thought.) Do you want to clear yourself of the charge here? It cannot be helped. I guess you've been doomed to be thrown into this plight. ^(has)(Draws sword and holds it out before Tenichiboh, who remains composed.) Are you ready?

Tenichiboh: Okay.

Iga: Now. (swings the sword and suddenly hits Tenichiboh with the back of the sword. Tenichiboh gets startled and unintentionally puts his hands before him. However, he shakes his head a few times with a surprised look and lifts it up with his hands.)

Tenichiboh: (Turns round as if jeering at Iga) Hum, you've used an old trick.

Iga: Oh, no; I'm sure I've cut off your head.

En: Hum! (Seems to be in thought) Well, then, I had the ~~experience~~ experience of death when I got shocked. (Looks closely up at the sky and suddenly bursts out laughing.)
Ha, ha, ha! Iganojoh, then shall I take a gambler's chance?

Iga: That's nice.

Tenichiboh: I don't expect to live a hundred years.
I don't know the die will show six or one.

Iga: It's a gambling with the Shogun.

Tenichiboh: I shan't lose anything even if I fail in the plot.
(Both of them exchange glances with each other.
All of a sudden there is a knock at the screen on the left.)

Warrior's Voice: Excuse me, excuse me.

Iga: (Gets shocked) What?

Warrior's Voice: Tambanokami-dono has come in person
from the magistrate's office so as to invite the lord to dinner.

Iga: Has Tambanokami come here in person?
(Makes a sign to Tenichiboh with the eye.
Tenichiboh goes up to the upper stand.)
The lord is ready, so tell attendants to get themselves ready.

Warrior's Voice: Very well.

Daizen: (Comes in from the right) Iganosuke-dono, everything is all right.

Iga: Humm (Nods and turns to the left)

The lord will go out.

(Hearing Iga's voice, the screens on both sides are thrown open. Under the dazzling candle lights numbers of warriors prostrate themselves.)

Iga: After you, my lord.

Tenichiboh: Hum! (Takes a few steps to the left composedly.)

-----Curtain -----