

SHOCHIKU  
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SHIMA-CHIDORI TSUKI-NO SHIRANAMI

Written by Kawatake-Mokuami

to be presented by Kikugoro and Kichiemon

with their troupes at Tokyo Theatre

June, 1946

Synopsis

Shimazo, who had quitted his life of shame was keeping a wine-store in Ushigome.

Senta, Shimazo's fellow-robber, one day called on him and asked him to take part in his evil attempt. Though Shimazo had no mind to return to his old life of shame, he consented to go to the appointed rendez-vous.

When the night of the appointment came at last, Shimazo did his best to dissuade Senta from his wrong design.

Though Senta once got angry with his advice, he was at last moved by Shimazo's true friendship and the two penitents promised each other to enter into a new life.

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SCENE I.

Wine shop Akashiya, Kagurazaka, Tokyo.

(When the curtain rises, Hanta the rickshaw-man and  
Sakuzo the plasterer are drinking at the bar.  
O-Hama, the master Shimazo's sister, is serving.  
Tokuzo the clerk helps her.)

Tokuzo: What will you have sir?

Hanzo: To cups of good wine.

Tokuzo: It costs 3 sen a cup. Will it do.

O-Hama: Give him a good measure, Tokuzo.

Tokuzo: All right, Miss O-Hama (pours)

Sakuzo: Though your shop is quite new, it's very flourishing  
because your wine is good and your measure is quite  
full.

O-Hama: As we have set to work lately, we sell good wine as cheaply as we can.

Hanta: You can't success as a merchant nowadays unless you sell good things at low prices.

Sakuzo: But it's impossible to sell things at a price cheaper than the cost. Of course it's another question if they have been got by stealing.

(O-Hama gets frightened.)

Tokuzo (serving wine): Your cup is as full as it can be.

Hanta: Oh, thank you.

Tokuzo (to Sakuzo): What will you have?

Sakuzo: Two go of soy (something like Worcester sauce), please.

Tokuzo: There are two kinds: one is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  sen ago and the other is 3 sen.

Sakuzo: The former will be good enough for me.

Tokuzo: All right, sir.

Sakuzo: I am a plasterer, you know. I like my lanch flavoured strong so that I need much more soy than others.

Tokuzo: All right, all right. I've proured  $\frac{1}{2}$  go more

Sakuzo: Here's the <sup>h</sup>money.

Hanta: Here are my coins.

Tokuzo: Thank you very much.

(Steals a part of the <sup>h</sup>money.)

Hanta: Shall we go now?

(Both of the guests go to the stage-passage.)

Sakuzo: Well, I saw the clerk steal the money just now. It's a nuisance to have such an employee.

Hanta: He was a rikisha-man called Yashu-Toku.

How has he come to work here, I wonder?

Sakuzo: He must be so shrewd a fellow.

(Both go out of the stage.)

Tokuzo: We've had so many guests ever since this morning.

I'll go and put the charcoal in order while there's no one in the shop.

O-Nana: Please do.

Tokuzo: All right, miss.

(O-Naka, daughter of the once rich merchant

Fukushimaya, comes into the stage-passage.)

O-Naka (to herself): Though I used to live in luxury in Asakusa, I have come to live in a shabby cottage because of an unexpected misfortune. Tsune, our maid, stays with us to do house work. As she is absent to-day, I have to go shopping myself. It's so trying a fate.

(Reaches the main stage and walks to and fro before the wine-shop. Shimazo comes in.)

Shimazo (noticing O-Naka): Now, O-Nana<sup>h</sup>, the girl there has been walking to and fro for a long while. Ask her if we can do anything for her.

O-Nama: All right. (at the door) I say, miss, what are you looking for?

O-Naka (bashfully): Are you a wine-seller?

Hama: Yes, miss.

Naka: Will you bring us 2 go of soy?

Hama: Certainly, miss. What's your address?

Naka: Miyakoro-cho.

Hama: What's your name, please?

Naka: Fukushimaya.

Hama: All right, miss.

(O-Naka goes out.)

Shimazo: Now, O-Nama, she looked so elegant.

Hama: She's not a maid to come to buy soy.

Shimazo: She must once have been well-off. What's her name?

Hama: Fukushimaya, she said.

Shimazo (surprized): Fukushimaya? Oh, isn't it that she lived in Asakusa?

Hama: You mean the family you've been in search for?

Shimazo: I suspect it.

Hama: I'll have Tokuzo take the soy and report their standing to us.

Shimazo: That's a good idea. (Calling) Tokuzo, Tokuzo.

Tokuzo (coming in): What do you want me for?

Shimazo: Well, Tokuzo, will you take this soy to a Fukushimaya in Miyakoro-cho and report their conditions to me?

Tokuzo: All right, sir. Are you anxious about their payment?

Shimazo: Certainly not. I'd like to have you learn how old the master is, where ~~did~~ he lived before.

Tokuzo: All right. I'll be back soon.

Shimazo: How glad I should be if I could find out Fukushima!  
(Isoemon, Shimazo's father, comes into stage, equipped for a journey.)

Isoemon: It was well that my son wrote his full address in his last letter. And, nowadays, all the streets have numbers so that it's much easier to find houses. (Looking at the name-plate) Oh, this is it.

Whimazo: Why, the voice is -----.

O-Hama: Why, rather.

Isoemon: Are you well, O-Hama?

Shimazo: Welcome, father.

(Iwamatsu, Shimazo's son, comes running in.)

Iwamatsu: Hallo, grandpa.

Iso: Why, Iwamatsu, are you well?

Hama: Please step in, father.

Iso: I am an old fisherman as you know; but I prefer walking to sailing. Now that I've seen you three quite safe and hearty, all my fatigue has gone out.

Shimazo: I should have been to Shinagawa to see you if you had told me of your arrival. Why didn't you let me know?

Iso: I am an unlettered, as you know. It's annoying to ask others to write a letter.

Whimazo: We are very glad -----.

Hama: To see you ----.

Shimazo: )

Hama: ) Hail and hearty.

Iwamatsu )

Hama: Well, father, you must be very much tired. Come into the inner rooms.

Iwa: I'll massage your feet, grandpa.

Iso: Much obliged.

(O-Hama and Iwazatsu go out.)

Well, Shimazo, I'm so glad you've given up your bad habit.

Shimazo: Well, father, my son Iwazatsu got wounded at the same time of the same day. I've come to know how immediate Heaven's retribution is.

Iso: Well, well, you wrote in your letter that you had stopped robbing. It was rather difficult for me to believe it so that I've come to see your life with my own eyes. Now I'm quite convinced.

(A church-bell tells the sunset.)

Shimazo: Autumn days are short. The dusk has come already. Light the lamps, O-Hama.

Hama: All right. Wait a minute, please.

(O-Hama lights the lamp. Senta, Shimazo's fellow-robber, comes in.)

Senta: The wine-shop Akashiya on the left side of the slope Kagurazaka ----. Oh, there it is.

Senta (peeping in): Good-evening.

(O-Hama goes to the door.)

Hama: What can I do for you, sir?

Senta: Well, I've not come for shopping. Is this shop Shimazo-Akashiya's?

Hama: Certainly it is.

Senta: May I come in? (Steps into the shop.)

Senta (noticing Shimazo): Why, Shimazo.

Shimazo: Oh, Senta. Welcome to us. Come <sup>h</sup> nearer.

Senta: Thanks.

Isoemon: Who is he, my son?

Shimazo: Well, father, he is a friend of mine who is as intimate as a brother.

Isoemon: Oh, your friend?

Shimazo: Yes, father.

Senta: Who's that, Shimazo?

Shimazo: He's my father who has come all the way from Banshu.

Senta: Your dad?

Shimazo: Stop that, Senta.

Senta: I wish da ----- I wish I were dressed properly. I didn't know you had a guest. (to Isoemon) Excuse me for my improper attire, sire.

Iso: How do you do, sir? I'm Isoemon, Shimazo's father.

Iso: May I have your name, please?

Senta: Well, my name -----.

Shimazo: His name is Matsushima-Sen'emon, father.

Iso: Mr. Sen'emon?

Senta: Certainly.

Iso: If you're intimate with my son, -----.

Hama: Remember us kindly -----.

Iso )

Hama ) All three together, please.

Iwa )

Senta: I ask you the same thing.

Iso: And what's your trade?

Senta: My trade? My trade is stea -----.

Iso: Stea ---- what?

Shimazo: He means stock-jobber, you know. They deal with steel coins.

Senta: Certainly. I am a stock-jobber.

Iso: Then you must be in control of a large sum of money.

Senta: We sometimes take home hundreds of yen when we are lucky.

Iso: What do you mean, please?

Senta: Well, it is -----.

Shimazo (interrupting): He means that their income is often very large when the market is wild but that it is just small when the changes hold within narrow limits.

Iso: It sounds very like the rice-market.

Shimazo: Just the same thing, father.

Senta: The merit of our trade is that we needn't any funds.

Hama: Needn't any funds?

Shimazo: He means that they needn't do spot trading. In a word, it's a dealing in future.

Senta: We can get money for nothing, you know.

Isoemon: For nothing?

Hama: What do you mean?

(Tokuzo comes running in, followed by the men A, B and C.)

A )  
B ) : A thief, a thief.

C ) (Tokuzo runs away. Senta is on the point of flying, when Shimazo checks him.)

Shimazo: Why on earth are you so frightened? It must be a pick-pocket stealing a hair-pin or something like that.

Senta: My conscience made me startle.

Shimazo: Well, Sen'emon, what do you want of me?

Senta: I've something secret to tell you.

Shimazo: I see. Well, O-Hama, will you take father and Iwamatsu to the Bishamon temple at Kagurazaka?

Hama: I make it my rule to go there on festival days. I'll take them with me.

Isoemon: Am I to go, too?

Iwamatsu: Flowers and trees are sold <sup>at</sup> the market, grandpa. Let's go together.

Isoemon: All right, I'll go.

Hama: Well, let's go. (to Senta) Please be at your ease, sir.

Senta: See you again.

Iwamatsu: Let's go, grandpa.

Iso: All right.

(The three go out of the house. Isoemon and O-Hama look at each other in the stage-passage and then hide themselves in the left-hand stage.)

Shimazo: Now, Senta, it was very careless of you to have spoken so much of our old life, when I had asked you not to do so.

Senta: Well, I was so much embarrassed to find your father here, you know.

Shimazo: Haven't you washed your hands of stealing?

Senta: I can't wash my hands of it so long as I am fond of women and of wine.

Shimazo: You'd better follow my example as early as possible.

Senta: And have you quite resigned?

Shimazo: Certainly I have.

Senta: Why on earth have you done so?

Shimazo: I've had many reasons. I've made up my mind to get my living through a small trade.

Senta: I've come to ask for your help, knowing nothing of your decision.

Shimazo: I'd do anything for you if only it were right. I can't take part in an ~~any~~ civil plan.

Senta: I'm going to violate into the house of an ex-samurai, so that I've had to look for a ~~an~~ courageous partner. Will you just accompany me to-night?

Shimazo: I can't comply with your request for I've sworn the Buddhist <sup>deity</sup> ~~deputy~~ Kōmpira never to repeat my old conduct. (Isoemon, O-Hana and Iwanatsu come into stage and peep at the door.)

Senta: I understand your standing, but, even if you become decent now, your old crimes will destine you to prison all the same. Now, Shimazo, come with me.

Shimazo: I've something to talk with you about it. These quarters are so much crowded that the neighbours will hear us if we talk loudly. It was in last April that we parted with each other having promised to rejoin in September. This is our first meeting ever since. I have no heart to refuse your request. I have no heart to refuse your request. I'll go with you certainly, but I cannot go at once. I'll go to the shrine gate when my father and sister come back.

Senta: Much obliged. I feel much stranger if you take part in my plan. We'll carry it out past midnight, so let's join before the shrine gate a little after ten o'clock. I'll be waiting for you there. Don't fail to come, please.

Shimazo: I'll go when the Hachiman clock strikes ten.  
(The three at the door hide themselves, when Tokuzo comes in.)

Tokuzo: Well, I've stolen this purse meaning to get a little money. The contents are so little that they're almost nothing at all. (Going into the house) I'm sorry I'm late in coming back.

Shimazo: Oh, Tokuzo.

Tokuzo (noticing Senta): Why, Senta.

Senta (frightened): You're Tokuzo!

Tokuzo: What brought you here?

Shimazo: This is our newly-employed clerk. Do you know him?

Senta: Certainly I do. He used to pull my rickshaw when I was in ~~Ikki~~ Shirakawa. He was called Yashu-Toku and was famous as a rascal.

Shimazo: Has he also a previous offence, then?

Senta: He was with me at Tsukuda working under penal servitude. Afterwards he utilized his knowledge of my old sins and squeezed and betrayed me.

Tokuzo: Well, I was so hard up at that time, you know. I was long ill after that and am now quite repentant. I am now working here as a keg-collector. Deal with me as you please.

Senta: Had I met you elsewhere, I would certainly punish you. As this house is Shimazo's, I'll pardon you unconditionally

to please the host.

Tokuzo: Thank you so much sir. I'm so grateful to you. (Goes out.)

Shinazo: My father and sister will be back soon, I'm afraid.

Will you go before they come?

Senta: All right. I'd like to save the trouble of seeing them.

Well, to-night again.

Torizo: All right.

Senta (at the door): I think I'd have a drink on my way home.

(Goes out.)

(Isoemon, O-Hama and Iwamatsu go into the house.)

Shimazo (surprised): Oh, are you back now? It's so early.

Isoemon: No wonder. We've not been to the Bishamon temple.

Shimazo: Where have you been, then?

Isoemon: Nowhere but at your door.

Hama: We've been listening -----.

Iwamatsu: All the while.

Shimazo: Why! (frightened) Listening to my talk with Senta?

Iso (sitting down before his son): Haven't you reformed yet,  
Shimazo?

Shimazo: What do you mean?

Iso: You must have meant to steal to have promised Senta to  
join him before the temple gate.

Shimazo: Oh, don't talk so loudly, please.

Iso: You must have meant to commit burglary to have taken  
out the sword.

Shimazo: He can't be easily dissuaded from his evil plan. He's  
so navish, you know. I meant to give him a good talking  
in some quiet place.

Iso: What you say is a mere pretext. You must have been  
stealing all the while.

Shimazo: Now, father, these quarters are so crowded with houses.  
Don't talk so loudly, please. If someone overhear your  
voice, I'll be arrested and condemned to lifelong penal  
service, when I am determined to pay back the money I  
stole and then to surrender myself to justice.

Iso: You are to blame, you know.

Hama: It's so unfilial of you to discourage your father when he has come all the way from Akashi.

Iwa: Father, will you just stay home to please grandpa?

Iso: Oh, let him go if he wants to. I've come all the way dreaming of the day when I go home and tell them that my son has quite reformed. But now I'll just hang myself, for, how can I tell the folks at home that he is stealing all the same?

Hama: ~~Father~~ should hang himself, I'd have to kill myself, too.

I'm not at all sorry for myself, but I'm so sorry when I think that this deformed Iwamatsu will be left all alone.

Iwa: I've become lame, my father's sin being visited on me.

Shimazo: He's quite right in saying so. When fathers eat sour grapes, their children's teeth will be set on edge. And it's because of the same reason that I have reformed.

It's quite a mishap that Senta should have visited me. I was afraid of being overheard by our neighbours and so I consented to go to the shrine temple, intending to give him a good talking there and to make him reform, too.

It's because of my old bad conduct that you can't believe what I say. It would be quite an easy task for me to kill myself to prove my innocence to you. But, I'd rather not do so because I intend to pay back the money to Fukushimaya, to surrender myself to justice, and then to show myself dutiful to you after fulfilling my penal servitude.

Now, father, please believe me and let me go.

Iso: All right, I'll let you go. But, should you prove to be untrue, remember that I'd never see you again for I'll drown myself in a river.

Shimazo: I'll never be untrue.

(Santa, the errand boy, comes running in.)

Santa: I've enjoyed myself to my heart's content for Miss O-Hama told me to go to Bishamon festival.

Hama: Hallo, Santa.

Santa: I met Tokuzo just now hurrying away with a parcel on his back.

Shimazo: What? Oh, he has made off with our things, I'm afraid.

Iso: Follow him at once, Shimazo ----.

Hama: And catch him, please.

Shimazo: I won't.

Hama: Why on earth?

Shimazo: Well, if I follow and sue him, he's sure to inform against me. Well, then, I'll be condemned to jail all my life. (A chapel bell sounds.)

Why, that's the Hachiman bell telling ten o'clock.

Iso: You're to meet -----.

Iwa: Your friend Senta-----.

Hama: At the temple gate.

Hama: Well, brother, ----.

Iwa: You have to hurry, I'm afraid.

Shimazo: Take care of the house during my absence.

(Goes out of the stage with the sound of wook-clappers.  
Curtain.)

Scene II

Before the Shrine Gate.

(A gate of a shrine, upstage right. When the curtain rises, the men A and B are eating soba (backwheat) while talking with the backwheat-peddler.)

A: Another bowl, please.

Peddler: Certainly, sir.

B: For me, too.

Peddler: All right, sir.

A: We can't find so many soba peddlers as we used to.

Peddler: Certainly not in these quarters. They are flourishing in the suburbs, it seems.

B: We've got many udon (macaroni) peddlers in stead.

Peddler (serving): Here's another bowl for you, and here's another for you.

A: I'm so fond of soba.

B: And yours is so good to taste.

Peddler: There're so little soba peddlers hereabouts that many people are kindly waiting for me to come. I am particular in the choice of materials and I do my best in cooking so that my soba sells very well.

A: No wonder. It tastes so good.

Peddler: Much obliged, sir. You're both in gaiters. Have you been on a trip?

B: We've been to Morinouchi (where a famous Buddhist temple is).

A: We've been walking by easy steps and so we're rather late in coming back, you know.

Peddler: You must be very tired, then.

B: Here's the money.

Peddler: Thank you, sir.

A: Let's go in a hurry.

B: What time is it?

Peddler: It has struck ten just now.

A: It's very common on stage to ask the time to a  
backwheat peddler.

Peddler: Rather a mannerism, it seems.

B: Well, let's hurry.

Peddler: I'll go another round, I think.

A: Well, bye-bye.

Peddler: Good-bye, sir. (They go out, the peddler into the  
right, A and B into the left.)

Joruri Reciting: The wind blows hard in the sky and the clouds  
go fleeting high up in the air. As it is usual in  
autumn evenings. There comes Matsushima-Senta  
stealthily along the street.

Senta: It has struck ten and Shimazo has not come yet. He  
hasn't eaten his words, I hope. Well, it's so cool,  
rather cold here. I wish he'll come soon.

Joruei Reciting: He looks round himself. And finding a stove near  
by, sits down on it. And there comes Shimazo. Hurrying  
under the starry sky.

(Shimazo comes into the stage passage.)

Shimazo (to himself): There stands a man beside the gate. It  
must be Matsushima-Senta. He must have been long  
waiting for me for I started home after it had struck ten.  
(Coming to the main-stage) Is it Senta sitting there?

Senta: Welcome, Shimazo.

Shimazo: I'm half an hour late for my time, I'm afraid. Have you been long waiting?

Senta: Not so long. Well, sit down here.

Shimazo: Hum, a good stone.

(A shinnai music sounds behind the stage.)

Senta: Can a shinnai reciter have good business here in these quarters?

Shimazo: Sure, sure. Well, Senta, where do you want to take me tonight?

Senta: It's the house of a calligraphist at Kagurazaka.

He was a warrior before the restoration, I hear. He was on the point of losing his post for some sin or crime when the government pardoned him at the occasion of some celebration. He is now famous as Mochizuki-Akira the usurer. I'm going to violate into his house, kill his wife and himself, and then levant to the west with all his fortune.

Shimazo: Oh, I happen to know him. He's rich, sure enough. You'd better just blackmail him. Why are you going to kill them?

Senta: I've got reasons for that.

Shimazo: And what are your reason?

Senta: Well, the woman he has taken to wife was a geisha famous as O-Teru the Benten at Shirakawa. I fell in love with her and stayed there for ten days. I wooed-wooed her during my stay, but, a pick-pocket as she was, she was too proud to yield to me. I was just going to violate her when catch-poles came in search of me.

I had a narrow escape and have wandered all through the country ever since. I happened to know that she was in Tokyo and went to blackmail them yesterday. Akira was a rovin once and is much stronger than I. He gave me back the hundred yen I gave her in Shirakawa and told me to return home with it if life was dear to me.

I refused to take the movey and returned home without it. I have to go there tonight and revenge myself. I'll give half of the money to you and go to the west with the rest.

Well, this is my request. Won't you take sides with me?

Shimazo: I can't comply with your request, though I'm so sorry for it.

Senta: Why on earth is it?

Shimazo: I've reformed and have become decent is. I've told you before.

Senta: It's very wordy of me to repeat it, but remember that you'd be arrested and condemned to lifelong jail as soon as I'm caught.

Shimazo: I know it well. It's because I have some special desire that I'm leading this kind of life. There's also some cause that made me mend my way. Now, listen to me.

Joruri reciting: He looks round himself

when there's no one to pass by

but the insects chirping among

the grass.

Shimazo: Well, after parting from you at Asakusa, I made to Akashi my home. I found my parents and brothers quite well and sound. But, my son I had left in my father's care had become lame and deformed.

Well, I was so surprised to hear the cause of his deformation. The knife my father had sharpened and put on the shelf dropped from it when my cat followed a rat to wound the leg of my son. Well, the wonder is that it was at midnight of April 25, the same night that I violated into Fukushima's. And my son's wounded leg was the left ---- the same leg as I cut Fukushima's.

Joruri Reciting: There's a proverb saying

That if fathers eat sour grapes

The children's teeth are set to edge.

I had to reap the fruit of my action.

Shimazo: Well, I've come to know that generally speaking, those who steal won't live long. I've made up my mind never to repeat my old conduct. As I had 400 yen at hand, I determined to earn another hundred and to pay back 500 to Fukushima, and then to surrender myself to justice. Thus I came back to Tokyo and started a wine-shop at Kagurazaka. I'm now known as Akashiya-Shimazo the wine-seller so that I can't listen to your words.

Senta: You mean to say that you've become coward and timid only because your son got wounded on the same night that you cut the leg of Fukushima?

Shimazo: Oh, yes; I mean that I've come to think like this because I've come to know the reason of justice.

I'm now very sorry for Fukushimaya, for he became bankrupt because of our stealing his money. He was obliged to sell his land and to wander about. I sought and sought for him and at last, this afternoon, I came to know that he and his daughter live in a shabby cottage at Miyakorocho. They were at their loss for the money of a hundred yen. I gave them 100 yen without telling my name. Though I wished very much to surrender to justice after paying back the left 400, I could not do so at once because my father had come from Akashi.

Just then you came and asked me for aid. I didn't like to continue our talk fearing that my father and sister would hear us. Moreover, our neighbours might hear us, too. So I consented to come here, though I had no mind to comply with your request. Pardon me, please.

Senta: I've long known you to be heartless. How have you come to be afraid of divine punishment? <sup>If</sup> you were punished for your sin, why is it that I've not been punished for mine? If you really believe in such punishments, well, then, Fukushimaya has been punished for his, and that's all. It's quite absurd of you to return his money. It's because we're not so sinful that we now live quite safe and sound. Now, Shimazo, just brace up yourself and come with me tonight.

Shimazo: I can't do so however hard you may ask. If you can't go alone, well, then, just give up going yourself.

Senta (indignant): Have you forgotten that we sworn fraternity in Tsukuda?

Shimazo: Certainly not. And that is why I interfere with your doing violence.

Senta: What do you mean?

Shimazo: Though I don't know your reasons in detail, you'll be soon found out if you kill them tonight, for you went and threatened them yesterday. You'll surely be arrested sooner than in three days and will be condemned to death. Even if you steal 1000 tonight, you can't possibly have spent over 100 in three days' time. It's absurd to risk your life for such a small sum of money.

If you take my advice and become decent, I'll take care of you all my life for our old fraternity's sake. Now, Senta, if its impossible for you to make shift of 500 yen, do your best to earn a part of the sum to pay back to Fukushimaya. Let's surrender ourselves to justice after that.

Senta: You're quite spoilt when you're not yet forty. As for me, I'll do my best to escape the law. If I deliver myself up to the police, I'll be condemned for ten years' jail at least. You call me absurd. Well, I call you the same.

Shimazo: You're so narrow-minded to mind the ten years of penal servitude. If you have returned the money before going

to the police office, the government is sure to allow for it and shorten 10 years to 5 or 7.

And while you're in prison, just try to be a model prisoner. And should there be a young prisoner intending to do more evil after discharge, just dissuade them from their evil plans telling them of the punishment I received.

If ever you succeed in it and the officials come to know of it, your time of penalty will be more shortened. And when you come out of jail, forget all your sinful past and do your best to earn your living.

Joruri Reciting: If the heaven has punished me for my sin

He will surely reward you for your reformation.

Shimazo: In old days of Tokugawa, men used to be condemned to death for stealing 10 yen. Now that the laws has been reformed, it's absurd to risk your life by killing others. Make more of your dear body and become decent.

Joruri reciting: Though Shimazo reasoned and reasoned him.

Senta would not listen to him

For he was so stubborn a man.

Senta: Differing from you, I have no father, no sister nor son to care for and to please.

I'll just go on stealing and enjoy myself to my heart's content.

Shimazo: It's so silly of you to think that way. Even if your parents are dead, they must be so anxious about you under the soil. Just reform and stop stealing to please their spirits.

Senta: I needn't do so for they ~~had~~ fore me at their own will.  
It serves them right to have to worry about me.

Joruri Reciting: Shimazo, sick of his violent talk -----,

Shimazo: I diin't know you were such a stubborn dunce. I'll have nothing to do with you on and after tomorrow. Do what you would.

Senta: Of course I shall. We promised to share our fortunes with each other. Now that you have refused to partake of my plan, I'll cut the bond of fraternity. After killing Mochizuki and his wife tonight, I'll go for you to fight. Get ready and wait for me.

Shimazo: Can you never listen to me then?

Senta: Now that we've cut the bond of fraternity, there's no need of taking your advice.

Shimazo: I see. Then I'll go and give myself up at the police station. You'll surely be arrested as my accomplice. Mind and don't try to escape.

Senta: I won't. Come for me at any time. As I'm going to kill the Mochizukis, I'm quite ready for death. I have just one life to lose to compensate either for two, or three. Now, Shimazo, prepare to meet your God.

Joruri Reciting: Thus saying,

He takes a doggar.

Out of his pocket.

Shimazo, casting a glance at it,

Scoffs and jeers at his companion.

Shimazo: It's no use saying that to me. You can't have forgotten that it was no one but I that taught you how to threaten others. It was when I suffered from a fever disease and you nursed me that we swore our fraternity. The famous burglar Nezumi-Kozo is said to have been able to see through the dark. You are so short-sighted and silly. Hum, you mean to threaten me with your dagger? All right. Just give me a cut, if you can. My head's harder than a stone, you know.

Joruri Reciting: He says and pushes himself onward so boldly  
that Senta could not help saying

Senta: Of course I shall.

Joruri Reciting: This saying,

He gives Shimazo a swift cut.

Shimazo, on the other hand,

Jumps and escapes so freely

As if he were a bird.

(After a violent fighting, Shimazo knocks Senta on his arm. Senta drops his dagger at last Shimazo pins Senta to the ground and points the dagger at him.)

Shimazo: Now Senta, I have your life quite in my hand. Can't you reform even for your life?

Senta: Never. Kill me quick if you would. You'll be a murderer then, and so I'll not be alone to die.

Shimazo: I know quite well that I, too, shall have to die if I kill a man, no matter how knavish he may be.

Senta: All right. Then, kill me, kill me, kill me quick.

Joruri Reciting: Shimazo, unable to put up any more -----.

Shimazo: All right. I'll kill you as you want me to.

Joruri Reciting: Just on the point of stabbing

He felt pity for Senta,

For they had been long intimate

With each other.

Shimazo: Now, Senta, harsh word for harsh word has led us to this against ourselves. If you insist in being killed, I shall certainly kill you on this spot. But nothing is farther than that from my wish; for we've been long brothers, you know.

If you ever reform and stop stealing, well, then, I'll take care of you all your life. Your part of the 500 yen to return to Fukushimaya, I'll manage to raise somehow or other. The government will allow for it if you surrender to justice after paying it back.

Moreover, other burglars may be moved by our conduct and my stop burgrary, for human nature is good after all.

Then you will deserve being praised and admired for your conduct. Now, ponder well over it and make up your mind whether to die sinful or to live praised.

Joruri Reciting: He indeed merits the name of the senior

For he is so patient and forbearing

That Senta, knavish as he is,

Cannot but be restored

To his good human nature.

(Meanwhile Senta bends down deeper and deeper, and is drowned in tears of regret.)

Senta (looking up at last): Excuse me, Shimazo, I have now quite reformed.

Shimazo: Why, Senta, are you in earnest?

Senta: How can I be otherwise? You have given me such a patient advice for the sake of our five years fraternity. I've been quite moved by you. I've quite reformed now. I can prove my word-----.

Joruri Reciting: And, taking up his dagger,

He is on the point of stabbing his own chest,  
When Shimazo hurries to check him.

Shimazo: Now, Senta, what are you going to do? I've given my hard advice only because I wish to get you to live. If I let you die now, all my pains will come to naught. Don't be so silly and absurd. (Takes the dagger out of Senta's hand.)

Senta: I'll be of no use even if I reformed. To kill myself, it's the best thing I can do for the world.

Shimazo: Just wait a minute, I say.

Joruri Reciting: Just when the two dispute each other,  
Tokuzo the clerk runs out of the shrub.

Tokuzo: Pardon me, master.

Shimazo: Why, Tokuzo.

Tokuzo (squatting down.): As Mr. Senta visited you this afternoon, I resigned myself that I could not stay with you any longer. I took some of your clothes out of your wardrobe, and, finding a sword there, I stole it, too. I hid the

things in this shrub and have been waiting for the dawn here. I've heard all your dialogues and have made up my mind to mend my way. Even if I sold these things, I'll have no more time than 5 or 10 days to enjoy myself and shall be sent to prison for at least one year. I have quite reformed now. Please excuse me, sir.

Joruri Reciting: He took out all the things he had stolen.

And cast himself at his master's feet.

Shimazo: It is never too late to mend. If you're ~~gxxx~~ going to mend your way, you shall surely be excused for having stolen these things.

Tokuzo: So much obliged, sir.

Senta: By the way, I have just twenty ryo of money, when I have to return five hundred to Fukushima-ya.

Shimazo: We cannot possibly raise five ryo, to say nothing of fifty and more.

Both: Well, we're quite at a loss.

(Just then Mochizuki-Akira, who has been hearing them talk for a while, steps forward.)

Akira: I'll place the sum at your disposal.

Shimazo: Who's that?

Senta: Why, Mr. Mochizuki.

Akira: Though I've never had the honour of seeing Mr. Shimazo, I happened to meet Mr. Senta yesterday. Well, to-night, when I passed by this shrine gate on my way home from Kojimachi, I heard a couple of men talking in whispers. And I've come to know all your affairs. Here are two hundred ryo at your service.

Shimazo: But we've got no reason to accept from you-----.

Senta: So much money as two hundred -----.

Akira: Oh, it's nothing but my token of thanks to Mr. Shimazo.

Shimazo: What do you mean, sir?

Akira: Had Mr. Senta violated into my residence to-night, I should have been taken by surprise and should have been killed by him. Even if I had a narrow escape, I should have been wounded seriously, had it not been ~~xxx~~ but for Mr. Shimazo. The sum of two hundred is rather to little as my reward to him.

Senta: Why, then, are you really going to give it to me?

I don't know how to thank you.

Shimazo & Senta: Thank you so much, Mr. Mochizuki.

(A cock-crow is heard from within the shrine.)

Akira: The cock-crow heard from within the shrine---- --.

Shimazo: Tells the time of morning purification.

Senta: The cock crowing and telling the dawn-----.

Tokuzo: Purifies and sanctifies everything.

Akira: The sky is so clear -----.

All Four: And there comes the incipient light of day.

(The curtain falls with the sound of wooden clappers, bells and a flute.)