

... play
during the war
by the Government

Shochiku
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SASAKI-TAKATSUNA.

J.J.
Approved
of Rec
LT Emory

Kabuki play

Takatsuna: It's fine today. Spring is here on the earth though there's snow on the summit of Mt. Hira. Birds are singing merrily.

TITLE SASAKI TAKATSUNA

Yoichi: Nature seems to welcome the first visit of Kamakura-dono to Kyoto.

Rokuro: The vanguard has already reached Atsuta, Eishu, I hear.

Takatsuna: You're very diligent, Menosuke.

Menosuke: Ha.

Takatsuna: As you feed it well,.... Look! once thinned horse has put on flesh and looks fine.

Menosuke: This is a good horse.

Yoichi: That should be. This is the famous Ikezuki of which Kamakura-dono is very proud.

You know that this charger outran Burusumi at the time of the Uzigawa battle. It was thanks to this horse that our lord attacked the enemy first.

Rokuro: It was a thrilling sight. The River Uzi was full of snow-melted water and on the other bank some 500 odds were waiting.

Yoichi: They drove many stakes in the river-bed to prevent horses from crossing. Nobody seemed to challenge the angry stream. But unexpectedly two chargers plunged into the river from the Eyodoin side.

Takatsuna: Stop that old state news. I say Ikezuki, you have gone through many battles with me, but they are now things past. There is no more any chance of distinguishing ourselves. Today's the second, the monthly return of the death of your father.

C.C.D. J-2039



Purify yourself Nenosuke and pray for the peace of the dead.

Nenosuke: Yes, sir.

Takatsuna: Take it is to the stable and tie it.

Nenosuke: Yes, sir. Why don't you move?

Yoichi: What's the matter?

Rokuro: Be off.

Takatsuna: Why? Are you also offended? I sometimes think I'm almost crazy. But what's the use of being mad? Be quiet!

Yoichi: You idle creature! By the persuasion of your lord you become suddenly obedient.

Nureginu: Are you here father?

Takatsuna: As it's fine I came out to see my horse being washed.

Nureginu: On my way home from Ishiyam-dera, I met a priest so I brought him to my house.

Koman: He looked like a sage so we implored him just to drop in.

Takatsuna: This is the very day. You remembered well. But where is he now?

Nureginu: Bring him here, will you?

Koman: Yes, Madam.

Takatsuna: You go to fetch him.

Rokuro: Yes, sir.

Takatsuna: Nureginu and Yoich, you go to the room to prepare for the service.

Nureginu: Yes, father.

Takatsuna: You are very kind to drop in inspite of your busyness. The second of every month is the date to hold a memorial service, so I make it a rule to call in a priest and ask him pray.

Chizan: Your daughter told me about it. You're Sasaki-Shiro-Takatsuna?

Takatsuna: How do you do Reverend Chizan?

Chizan: How do you do? I'm Chizan of Mt. Koya. I'm now on my way back to the mountain after a long pilgrimage.

Takatsuna: Did you come by way of Tokaido.

Chizan: Yes, as the Shogun was on his way to Kyoto I wa a nuisance everywhere. Ha-ha-ha ha-----

Takatsuna: It must have been very annoying. Fetch a stool.

Takatsuna: Where did you meet Kamakura-dono and his suite?

Chizan: Near Atsuta. They were staying there 2 or 3 days so I came ahead of them. It was a grand procession consisting of about 5000 horses.

Chizan: Where was Shogun, I didn't know. Hojo, Kajiwara, Miura, Hatakeyama were leading the procession. Partly to show their prestige and partly to be on guard against the remaining Heike clan they made indeed a magnificent procession. I have never seen the like before.

Yoritomo must have been born under a lucky star.

Takatsuna: All due to Takatsuna himself, O ungrateful....

Chizan: Ungrateful?

Takatsuna: No use telling that, but listen to my confession. Today's memorial service is neither for my relative nor friend nor enemy but for a groom Kinosuke who died unknown.

Takatsuna: It was 10 years ago when I heard the rumour that Yoritomo was going to start a campaign. So I wanted to be the first to help him but unfortunately I had no horse of my own. When I reached the dry river-bed of Yasu on August 2nd on foot I met a groom in the morning haze. I borrowed the horse of the groom and crossed the river to the opposite bank. But as Demon would have possessed me, I resolved to rob him of his horse as walking was too tedious. When I began galloping off he should after me. A robber! A robber! A robber of a horse. I, knowing no other alternative, resolved to....

Chizan: Kill that innocent groom?

Takatsuna: Yes, Pretending to return the horse, I stabbed him to death. Thus I dashed to Izu where Yoritomo had quartered and on 17th of the same month defeated the enemy camp at Yamaki, paving the way for the prosperity of the Genji clan of which you must be well aware. It's a pity that I killed the groom whose name was Kinosuke. So I looked in vain for him every nook and corner of the province. Recently, however, I knew that there was a lad by the name of Menosuke in Kurita village. As I found out that he was the son whose father I cruelly killed I invited him to my house and wanted to employ him at high wage. He, however, having no wish but to be a groom as a groom's son, I employed him as he liked. But how could I cancel my cruel act by such an easy-going way? This is why I hold a memorial service on 2nd of every month.

Chizan: When did Nenosuke come to be employed by you?

Takatsuna: About three months ago.

Chizan: Has he no grudge upon you?

Takatsuna: O no and he's very diligent.

Chizan: That's good. Buddah told us that there's neither
love nor hate separately.

Takatsuna: Is that so? Shall I become such a man if I
believe in God?

Chizan: Even if you don't believe in God you can attain that
stage. You can see that in that boy. You just told me
that he had no grudge upon you.

Takatsuna: He seems to have been moved by my sincere repentant
attitude. They say that sincerity moves heaven. If
I'm not sincere in my repentance he'll hate me. If all
people be sincere. I have no cause to complain of.

Chizan: Even a brave warrior as you are dissatisfied with this
world?

Takatsuna: As I'm brave I can stand the agonies of this
world. If I were weak I would have gone mad and died.
Why do you think are the just persecuted and do the
wicked prosper sometimes?

Chizan: Man's degraded. We've been trying to save him and to
restore the original pure mind.

Yoichi: Everything is ready, sir.

Takatsuna: We'll go then.

Yoichi: Please come this way.

Chizan: Thank you.

Takatsuna: Wheres' Nenosuke? Nenosuke!

Takatsuna: The priest has gone into the prayer-room you'd better go and join them.

Nenosuke: Yes, sir.

Sadashige: Hallo! groom, is my uncle in?

Nenosuke: He ushered the priest from Koya to the prayer-room.

Sadashige: Did he? Tell me I came to see him,

Nenosuke: Yes, I will.

Sadashige: I can't understand what my uncle is doing nowadays. Kamakura-dono and his suite are already at Mino and he doesn't prepare himself for the reception. The prayer seems to have begun.

Usuginu: Are you here Kotaro-dono?

Sadashige: Good day Usuginu-dono: Uncles in the prayer-room?

Usuginu: That's right. Please step in.

Sadashige: I'm busy today. I'll wait here.

Usuginu: Then please take a seat.

Sadashige: How is my uncle disposed nowadays?

Usuginu: Nothing particular but hot tempered and sometimes irritable, which makes us anxious about him.

Sadashige: Is he ill?

Usuginu: Not particularly.

Sadashige: Let me see.

Takatsuna: Are you there Kotaro?

Sadashige: Yes, uncle I hear that the Shogun and his suite have already reached Mino. They are sure to be here shortly and what's your preparation, uncle? Tell me

that please. My father already started last night. He told me that I might accompany you.

Takatsuna: Did he say so?

Sadashige: Yes.

Takatsuna: If you want to go, go with your father. I won't Takatsuna won't.

Usuginu: I've urging you these several days. Why don't you go to meet them, father? I'm told that it's a custom with warriors. Don't you think so Kotaro-dono?

Sadashige: This is Shogun Yoritomo's first visit to Kyoto and every lord, large or small is taking part in the suite. Why won't you, uncle?

Takatsuna: I won't. What is it in Shogun Yoritomo. He is a great liar and imposter.

Usuginu: Don't say such things carelessly.

Sadashige: Others may hear you.

Takatsuna: Are you afraid of Shogun? A liar is a liar.

Listen to me. At the time of the Ishibashiyama battle he was utterly defeated and had a narrow escape. He was then like a defeated dog. The rain was falling and more than once he measured full length upon the muddy ground.

Ha-ha-ha-ha- But as he is my lord I did my best to help him and finally. I advised him to escape as I would do the rest. He, upon hearing my word bowed to me saying that I was the most loyal of the loyalists. Besides he said that if he would become the ruler of Japan he would give me half the land. And that he declared before the public.

Sadashige: I've often heard you say so. If you didn't let him escape, what would have become of Yoritomo?

Takatsuna: I called myself Yoritomo-how ridiculous it was --- and defended the enemy while Yoritomo escaped into the forest. I was also able to escape. Then that first crossing of the Uji. These two might well deserve two or three provinces. Now he became the ruler of Japan and what did he repay me who, as you know, saved him at the risk of my own life. Did he give me half or a quarter? Farm from it. And now he calls himself, the ruler of Japan. How wicked he is!

Sadashige: You're right in a sense.

Takatsuna: I didn't keep silent I claimed him the land asking him more than once the fulfilment of Ishibashiyama promise. Somehow or other he explained away my claim. Moreover Doi, Adachi, and Miura advised me not to claim too much. Your father, Sadashige, is one of them. Damn the flatterers! This is the world of liars and imposters.

Sadashige: I take liberty to advise you, but this world is not of the just only. However you are right, it would be foolish to say anything against the ruler, so dissatisfied you maybe I ask you to go to the boundary to meet him and his suite. It's for the sake of your family.

Takatsuna: If you want, go you!

Sadashige: Think of the fate of your family.

Takatsuna: O you boring fellow! What if I abandoned the family!

Usuginu: How could you?

Takatsuna: What's the use of living in such a world of deceptions?

Sadashige: Then you would never.-

Takatsuna: It's enough. You'd unstand me by this time.

Usuginu: You're straightforward. What you said can't be unsaid.

Sadashige: Every lord, large or small, is ready to meet the Shogun. If you don't go to meet him, he would be sure to be displeased. Moreover there are the Kajiwara's beside the Shogun. They may say anything unfavourable to you. To think of your family! Anyway I'll return once and come back to fetch you.

Usuginu: If father is still obstinate.....

Sadashige: In that case I'll go alone. If Yoritomo is displeased which I'm sure he is, I'll do my best to reconcile. So please set your mind at ease.

Usuginu: I rely upon you.

Sadashige: See you later, Usuginu-dono.

Usuginu: Please drop in on your way to meet the Shogun.

Sadashige: I'm afraid it'll be in vain but anyway I'll drop in.

Omino: I was told that Nenosuke was in the stable. Where is he?

Omino: O my brother!

Nenosuke: Glad to see you, sister.

Omino: It's very cold now. How are you?

Nenosuke: Quite well, thank you.

Omino: Glad to hear it.

Nenosuke: I attended the memorial service of my father.

Omino: Did you alone do it?

Nenosuke: With my lord.

Omino: How can he be impudent enough to pray for the soul's repose whom he killed himself.

Nenosuke: Do you still hate him, sister?

Omino: Naturally. My father was an honest man but 10 years ago he was killed and his horse was stolen. I was 13 and you were 11 then. Since then we have been looking for the man who killed my father. Fortunately we met Takatsuna who confessed himself that he killed my father.

Nenosuke: How we were surprised and pleased to know that he killed my father 10 years ago and that he was going to employ me at any high age I could demand!

Omiyo: I was in a mingled feeling of pleasure and sorrow but now that it became evident that Takatsuna was the man who killed my father you've decided to be employed in this house and throwing him off his guard to do harm to him. It's already 3 months since you came here. Couldn't you find any chance during that time? I came here today to ask you about it.

Nenosuke: He apologized me with repentance and I was moved by his sincerity.....

Omino: O you coward! As I told you just now how could he be excused by such a petty act for slaying an innocent man; Can't you understand my firm resolution? Why do you think an I still unmarried?

Nenosuke: Sister!

Omino: You've been staying in this house and you must know the topography of the house by this time. Will you please take me to his room? Or you won't?

Nenosuke: He is repentant and holds a memorial service on 2nd of every month. How could I hate him?

Omino: Say it again!

Nenosuke: Just a moment sister.

Omino: Don't touch me!

Nenosuke: Does my father come to life again if you kill Takatsuna?

Omino: O you coward and an ungrateful fellow. I'll kill him myself.

Omino: Don't touch me! Let me go!

Nenosuke: Wait a moment. It's crazy to go in alone.

Omino: I'm crazy. Don't stop me!

Nenosuke: But how can I let you go?

Sadashige: Wait here for a moment. I'll go and fetch my uncle.

Subjects: Yes, sir.

Sadashige: My goodness!

Takatsuna: I abandoned my bow and sword. I am a second Kumagāi.

Sadashige: You surprise me uncle. How could such a brave warrior as you abandon this world for the Buddhist world?

Takatsuna: I couldn't abandon it if it was a world of truth and sincerity but as it was a world of deceptions I could easily quit it. This is a world of liars and flatterers, not the place I live in.

Sadashige: Then you abandoned this world?

Takatsuna: O yes, I've nothing to do with it.

Usuginu: You turned a deaf ear to me and go with the priest to Koya. I'm sorry that you didn't listen to me.

Sadashige: Straight to Mr. Koya?

Yoichi: He took orders suddenly as a priest from Koya just dropped in.

Takatsuna: You heard the details. Don't be surprised. Tell my brother all about it.

Chizan: I myself was rather hesitating at first but since a warrior like him once decided no man could restrain him.

O petals are falling! What do you think of this Mr. Sasaki?

Takatsuna: If I were a poet like Saigyō, would have shed sentimental tears.

Chizan: What would you do yourself?

Takatsuna: I've nothing to say.

Sadashige: But tell me why you abandon this world.

Takatsuna: I hate to live in this world of deception.

Chizan: That's a kind of awakening.

Takatsuna: Ha-ha-ha..... Bring me Ikezuki.

Nenonsuke: I overheard every detail, my lord.

Takatsuna: Then I won't repeat it to you I'll go to Mt.

Koya, with this priest. After shaving my head I'm now a priest myself and I'll pray for the repose of your father's soul.

Nenosuke: I thank you, my lord. Please Mount.

Takatsuna: Now I'm a disciple of this sage. Will you please mount? I'll take the rain.

Chizan: Excuse me then. It's very significant that such a callant warrior as you degrade yourself to a kind of groom.

Takatsuna: Usuginu is Kotaro's fiance. Get married and be happy together! Good luck, Yoichi, I say Kotaro.

Sadashige: Yes, uncle.

Takatsuna: Please look after my family.

Sadashige: I will, uncle.

Takatsuna: Let's start now.

Omio: Stop Sasaki-dono, you killed my father.-!

Takatsuna: Who are you? Oh, I see, you're Nenosuke's sister. You're unawakened fellow.

Omio: My father fell a victim to useless bottle. It isn't Takatsuna but Shogun Yoritomo himself that killed my father.

Chizan: Let's make haste and reach Otsu before it is dark.

Takatsuna: Yes, sir.