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S H O C H I K U

KABUKI PLAY

"HONZO'S DETACHED MANSION"

(HONZO SHIMUYASHIKI)

Handwritten scribble

----- SCENE OF LIVING-ROOM OF
VILLA RESIDENCE

----- SCENE OF DEPARTURE FROM BACK
GARDEN OF SAME VILLA RESIDENCE

T.C.C.D. J-2040



TO BE PRESENTED BY KICHIELON, KOSHIRO
AND SOJURO JOINT TROUPE AT TOKYO
THEATER FROM JUNE 4TH TO , '48.

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HONZO'S DETACHED MANSION

(Honzo Shimoyashiki)

SYNOPSIS :

Momonai Wakasanosuke who had been appointed Official Entertainer at Kamakura abstained from venting his rancour against Moronao owing to his chief retainer Kakogawa Honzo's discretion, but as a result of it he came to be called a sycophantic warrior, so Honzo confined himself in his detached mansion in deference to his master.

Then Honzo had kept back Enya Hangan at the corridor of the palace and in consequence of it his daughter's engagement to Yuranosuke's son Rikiya was dissolved, so he was in mental anguish.

As for Wakasanosuke, he thought that Hangan had died instead of him and sympathized with Hangan's chief retainer Yuranosuke, so he dismissed Honzo and made him go on a journey so as to let him see Yuranosuke giving him a drawing of Moronao's Mansion and a suit of a strolling flute player's clothes. Having known Inami Banzaemon's intrigue, Honzo exerted himself for execution of the wicked man. Being seen off by Wakasanosuke and his sister Young Lady Michitose, he shed tears of gratitude and was reluctant to leave them.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE:

Young Lady Michitose,

Wakasanosuke Young Sister

Waiting Maid Haruno

" Konatsu

" Akishino

" Fuyuki

Momoi Wakasanosuke Yasuchika

Chief Retainer Kakogawa Honzo

" Inami Banzaemon

Chief Page Yasui Hikokuro

Attendant Takagi Heima

" Aikawa Kanzo

Inami's Footmen

SCENE OF ROOM FOR TEA CEREMONY IN VILLA
RESIDENCE.

The main stage is a flat stage. In the middle of the stage there are an alcove, alcove shelves, a receptacle for sliding doors, walls and paper slidingdoors. The above represents the living-room of Kakogawa Honzo's villa residence. With the lovely melody of a harp song, the curtain rises.

To the left in front there are displayed things for tea ceremony on the black shelf for tea things. Beside the shelf there are seated four waiting maids Haruno, Konatsu, Akishino and Fuyuji.

Haruno: Well, Konatsu-san, now that we've displayed the tea things and put more charcoal into the fireplace, water in the kettle will be boiled in a minute.

Konatsu: Right you are!
Especially, today the lord has come to this villa residence incognito, so we'll have to entertain him to his satisfaction.

Akishino: Since the lord has come here today, the marriage between the young lady and Nuinosuke-sama will be solemnized, I guess.

Fuyuji: Well, as to the marriage, nobody will find fault with the young lady, but since Nuinosuke-sama is Enya-sama's younger brother, out of deference to the authorities, -----.

Haruno: Indeed I sympathize with Young Lady Michitose.
(With music, Takagi Heima wearing a ceremonial dress comes out.)

Heima: Well, waiting maids, Inami Banzaemon has attended the lord and come here today, hasn't he?

Haruna: Yes, he has.

Heima: Tell him that I'd like to have a personal interview with him, please.

Four Waiting Maids: Certainly.

(The four waiting maids leave. Heima sees them off and talks to himself.)

Heima: I've plotted with Mr. Inami to usurp the House of Momonoi and today our lord has come to this villa residence incognito, so I'd like to fulfil the ambition within tonight.

(With music, Inami Banzaemon wearing a ceremonial dress and a pair of swords comes out.)

Banzaemon: Heima-uji, what is it that you'd like to have a personal interview with me?

Hei: As you must know, by mutual consent, that poison -----.
(Is on the point of saying.)

Ban: Hush! (Looks around.)
Walls have ears.
Be quiet, please.
By the way, have you obtained the medicine?

Hei: Yes, I've had the medicine made up. Here's the
poison.
(Takes a packet of medicine out of his pocket and
hands it to Banzaemon.)

Ban: So this is the very medicine.
Thanks awfully. If I've only this, the long-
cherished ambition will -----.
(Puts it in his pocket.)

Hei: And how about today's arrangements?

Ban: Don't worry.
Our lord Wakasanosuke sent his younger sister
to this mansion of Honzo
Young Lady Michitose on the pretext of recuperation
the other day, but in fact left her with Honzo so
as to keep her away from her fiance Nuinosuke and
today he ordered me, Banzaemon, to meet her.

Hei: Well, I wonder why the lord has come to this
villa residence.

Ban: I'll tel you the reason for it. He's to put the
sycophantic warrior to the sword.

Hei: Well, then, is he going to execute Honzo?

Ban: That's right.

Although I'm infatuated with Young Lady Michitose, Honzo disturbs me from making advances to her in some way or other.

He is a nuisance to me anyway.

The lord has ordered me to take Michitose to my mansion with me after he executes Honzo today.

All things come to him who waits. Our cherished desire will be realized tonight.

However, Honzo is our toughest antagonist, so we mustn't be off our guard. If he proves to be too strong, -----

(Both of them whisper to each other.)

Hei: Certainly.

Well, then, the young lady's palanquin must be ready right now.

Ban: Tell her a lie that she'll enjoy her time at Hanakawado and take her to my mansion along the field path from Mukojima.

Hei: Very well.

Ban: You mustn't be off your guard.

Hei: I'll successfully do so.

(Says loudly.)

Ban: Hist!

(Just then a "joruri" or a ballad-drama starts.)

"The rebels conspire with each other and one of them goes round to the yard."

(Heima goes away.)

"Banzaemon opens the lid of the kettle, takes the poison ready at hand out of his pocket, puts it secretly into the seething water of the kettle and smiles alone.

Without knowing that Honzo is looking at him stealthily and overhearing him, he replaces the lid of the kettle as it was."

(Banzaemon takes the packet of poison out of his pocket, takes off the lid of the kettle, put the poison into it and closes the lid thoughtfully as it was.)

Ban:

Ha, ha, ha, ha!

Apart from execution of Honzo, after a while, all of them will be killed with poison in strong tea.

Ha, ha, ha, ha!

"He turns to the paper sliding doors when the doors are closed with a bang.

He gets startled, but pretends ignorance."

(On the right Honzo who has been overhearing him closes the paper sliding-doors.)

"Like flowers in their glory, Momonoi Wakasanosuke's younger sister Young Lady Michitose who has parted from her lover Nuinosuke is in deep thought with tears in her eyes, comes out of a room and listens to the boiling sound of water in the kettle."

(Just then Banzaemon who seems to be satisfied with his success hides himself on the right.

During the words, out comes Young Lady Michitose wearing a long sleeved dress, in deep thought.)

Michitose: That boiling sound of water reminds me of Matsukaze. In old days Matsukaze ~~was~~ longed for Lord Yukihiro who had been exiled to Suma and died of grief, I hear.

Both Nuinosuke-sama and I, Michitose, -----.

"Since she parted from her lover she has not heard from him."

Michitose: If I had wings, I'd like to go to him.

"She bursts into tears owing to her grief."

"In good time, Banzaemon stealthily draws near her."

(Michitose gesticulates her grief. Banzaemon draws near Michitose.)

Ban: Young Lady! Michitose-sama!

"Hearing his voice, she keeps back her tears."

Mi: Oh, you're Banzaemon.

When did you come here?

Ban: Why, just now.

Well, Young Lady, Honzo will be executed today and I, Banzaemon, have been ordered by the lord to meet you and take you to the mansion tonight.

Mi: Hmm, does my elder brother want me to go back to the mansion tonight?

Ban: That's right, that's right. I'll tell you good news. Your wedding has been arranged suddenly. You're very happy to hear it, aren't you?

Mi: Well, then, do you mean the marriage between Nuinosuke-sama and me?

Ban: Oh, no. The lord has ordered that you and I should marry.

(Hearing his words, she is about to run off.)

Ban: Oh, don't run away, don't run away.

Please be seated.

Oh, how unkind of you, Young Lady.

Hm. Ha, ha, ha, ha!

(A piece of enchanting music starts.)

Well, Young Lady, as for Nuinosuke-sama for whom you languish in love, he's Enya Hangan Takasada's Younger brother, so you won't be able to marry him out of respect to the authorities.

Instead of longing for him in vain, you'd better marry me, Banzaemon, as I'm a perfect gentleman.

Moreover, Honzo on whom you rely will be executed personally by the lord today.

Do you understand? (Gets near Michitose, who is hard on him.)

Here, here, Michitose-sama, you mustn't be so hard on me.

What did Priest Kenko say, do you know?

If you don't, I, Banzaemon, will initiate you into its secrets.

"He makes advances to her when she disengages herself from his graps."

Mi: You rascal, how rude of you! Behave yourself.

Be off with you!

Be off with you!

Ban: Ha, ha, ha!

I-----.

"He seizes her by the sleeve.

Just then Kakogawa Honzo comes out. Without noticing Honzo, he runs after her due to his attachment to her."

(During the time, from the interior, out comes

Honzo and stands between both of them.

Banzaemon catches Honzo by mistake.)

Honzo: Mr. Inami, what are you going to do with me?

Ban: Oh, you're Mr. Kakogawa. You've come in bad time.

Hon: What?

Ban: Well, well, you've come here in bad time.

She started playing tag and made me the tagger.

It's very annoying tome. (Wipes the perspiration from his face. Honzo turns to Michitose.)

Hon: Ha, ha, ha, ha!

Thank you very much for the trouble you have taken.

Young Lady, please don't pay attention to such a friend, but go to the lord.

Mi: Well, then, I -----.

Hon: Now, please go there.

Right away, right away!

"She enters the room.

Seeing her off, Honzo takes a seat by the stand, notices the kettle and pays attention to it.

Thereupon Banzaemon becomes aware of it and draws close to Honzo."

(Honzo makes a sign with the eys to Michitose so as to urge her to go to the interior.

Michitose understands it and enters the living-room. Banzaemon draws near Honzo.)

Ban: Chief Retainer!

Well, Honzo-done!

(The music becomes lively.)

Although you despise me as a fiend, you ought to mend your own ways.

When the banquet was held at Kamakura some time ago, you curried favor with Kono Moronao by power of gold and silver coins and as a result our lord came to be called a sycophantic warrior, didn't he? So you're disloyal to our lord and should be called a fiend, I should say.

Hon: Well, because of my fault, since the other day I, Honzo, haven't been allowed to present myself before the lord, but have been confined to this villa residence.

However, I won't allow you to make love to her against her will.

Ban: Huh?

Hon: Shall I tell you anything more
In the hot water of this kettle ----- Ha, ha, ha, ha!
I'll abstain from saying so.

A retainer should give up his life for the sake of his lord. I don't mind the lord will put me to the sword personally. I am not afraid of it at all.

"Honzo says so resolutely. Hearing his words, Inami Banzaemon seems to be satisfied.

Hust then Heima comes out."

(Honzo says so resolutely. Banzaemon feels awkward. From the left, out comes Heima.)

Hei: Chief Retainer Honzo-sama will be executed.
The lord said, "Rope Honzo right away and take him to the back garden. Tell Inami Banzaemon to act as executioner."

"Kakogawa gets startled to hear his words.

In no time, Inami snatches the swords from Honzo when Heima ropes him right away."

(Honzo seems to be in deep thought. Heima snatches the swords from Honzo, takes out a rope ready at hand and puts the rope on him.

Banzaemon looks at Honzo.)

Ban: Now, Honzo, you won't be able to escape any more, but will be executed.

I, Banzaemon, will act as executioner. I'm awfully sorry for you. You needn't get excited. Are you trembling with fear? Oh, no wonder, no wonder!

A while ago you said, "A retainer should give up his life for the sake of his lord," didn't you?

Now, you ought to resign yourself to fate and give up your life.

Stand up, stand up right away. Stand up, I say.

"Being kicked and pulled, he puts up with a pain on his body under pressure of the rope, but he regrets that he will not be able to do anything

loyal to his lord any more, feels weak at his knees and leaves for the back garden without being able to understand his lord's mind."

(Thereupon Heima pulls the rope and Honzo starts going to the left.

Banzaemon seems to disdain him.

With the toll of the bell announcing the time, the stage settings revolve.)

----- SCENE OF DEPARTURE FROM BACK GARDEN
OF SAME VILLA RESIDENCE -----

The stage represents the drawing-room and back garden of the villa residence.

With the notes of wild geese and the sound of the wind, the stage-settings are placed suitably.

After a while, with Banzaemon in the lead, four footmen come out of the left.

Ban: Now, take the heinous criminal Kakogawa Honzo here.

Four Footmen: Certainly. Walk quickly.

"Expecting his execution in the garden, Honzo is being taken before the lord.

(Over there Honzo bound with the rope comes out being pulled by Banzaemon, followed by the footmen. Banzaemon holds down Honzo and puts his hands on the left.)

Ban: Excuse me, my lord, but in obedience to your instructions I've had Honzo roped.

"Wakasanosuke looks down upon him."

Wakasanosuke: I've heard you, I've heard you.

(Wakasanosuke comes out of the interior.)

Waka: Well, Honzo, you'll have to be executed today for the following reasons:

Owing to your good birth and meritorious deed I've appointed you to the post of chief retainer and given you an annual stipend of 500 "koku" of rice like your forefathers.

However, some time ago I wanted to put Kono Moronao to the sword in the palace of Kamakura when he prostrated himself before me and made apologies for his rudeness against my expectation, so I couldn't understand his mind, but later on I knew that was because you stealthily had been to Moronao's mansion and cringed to him with a large amount of gold and silver coins unsuitable for my means.

Thus I failed in killing Moronao and have heard all the daimios (Japanese feudal vassals) call me --- Wakasansuke -- a γ sycophantic warrior or a coward.

Moreover, when I told you of my grudge against him, you cut off a branch of the pine-tree and beat it, didn't you? Although you made the vow, you bribed him, so I failed in killing him.

It was an irretrievable discredit to me.

Why did you deceive me?

Hon: Excuse me, my lord, but I'll have to tell you. First of all, unless I had remonstrated with you as to what I thought wrong, I should have been disloyal to you. However, if I had remonstrated with you about it, I should have had to disobey you, so I beat the branch of the pine-tree, instead.

How could I be a double-dealer?

I cut off the branch of the pine-tree according to the old proverb so as to warn you of your rashness and pray for prosperity of the land.

Waka: Hm! Well, then, do you mean to say that you cut off the branch of the pine-tree for the sake of the land and dropped me a hint so as to expostulate with me, Wakasanosuke, about the matter?

Hon: Yes, you're right.

Waka: Hmm.

Then, how would you make up for the humiliation I incurred?

Hon: When lord is humiliated, retainer should die, they say.

Waka: Button your mouth, Honzo.

(With a lively piece of music, Wakasanosuke straightens himself.)

Why didn't you commit "harakiri" in spite of your words?

Why didn't you disembowel yourself?

Why were you loath to kill yourself and have you confined yourself in this house up to now?

Could you call yourself a warrior or a chief retainer despite your cowardly action?

Banzaemon said to me, "Unless you execute Honzo resolutely, it would be a disgrace to your house." So he has remonstrated with me about it several times, so I shall be obliged to impose the penalty of death on you, but have you any objection to it or not?

Hon: Of course not, my lord. I, Honzo, am both disloyal and sinful, so have no objection to it at all. However, I should like to say only one word about the kettle on the stand -----.

(Just then Banzaemon cuts him short.)

Ban: Hey, hey, Honzo, have you lost your senses? You shouldn't say anything at this moment. Our lord failed in killing Moronao whom he had borne an ill will because of your interference. Besides, you pushed yourself forward and showed up in the great hall though rear-vassals had been forbidden to go there and held back Lord Enya. You've never done anything good up to now. Such a silly guy as you would be a nuisance to us if you should live out. Your penalty of death should be carried out right away. Well, I'll behead you.

(Inami tucks up the skirt and draws near Honzo.)

Waka: Wait, Banzaemon.

Ban: But, my lord, -----.

Waka: Wait, I say.

Ban: But, my lord, it'll retard your return to the mansion,
I'm afraid.

Waka: Ha, ha! I'm not in a hurry.

It's a way of execution to make a heinous criminal
live long and suffer.

I hate Honzo ~~so~~ so much that I won't let another
man kill him, but I'll put him to the sword.

Bring the sword here.

Ban: Certainly.

"Banzo hands the sword to Wakasanosuke, who receives
it and goes down to the garden gracefully."

(Wakasanosuke holds the sword with its white sheath,
puts on garden-clogs and goes down.

He tucks up his sleeves with the cord of the sword
and draws the sword.

Banzaemon takes a pail of water.

Wakasanosuke is in deep thought.)

Waka: Honzo, I, Wakasanosuke, will put you to the sword,
but you'll bear a grudge against me, I'm afraid.

Hon: Oh, your words are too good for me.

Instead of an executioner, you will put me to the
sword personally, so I shall be very much obliged.

- Waka: Honzo is prepared for death manfully. Don't you think so, Banzaemon?
- Ban: Oh, no, I don't think so. Now that he can't help **it**, he seems to be prepared for death reluctantly, I should say. Hey, hey, Honzo, you made our lord a coward and called a loyal subject such as me a fiend.
- How swift Heaven's judgment is! You're now in such a sad plight. Hm, ha, ha, ha, ha.
- "He makes fun of Honzo.
- Without listening to him, Wakasanosuke draws his sword."
- Waka: Now, be prepared for death!
- "He swings the sword aloft and beheads Banzaemon instead of Honzo, who gets startled."
- (Wakasanosuke cuts off the rope of Honzo and loses no time in beheading Banzaemon. Honzo gets startled.)
- Hen: My word! You've put Banzaemon to the sword.
- Waka: Well! (Offers the sword to Honzo, who wipes blood off the sword. Both of them gesticulate.
- Wakasanosuke mounts the double stand.)
- Waka: You cleared yourself of your offence just now. Now, I'll allow you to leave my service.
- Hon: Well, then, will you kindly not only spare my life but also allow me to leave your service?
- Thank you very much.

Waka: Are you happy?

Hon: Yes.

Waka: No wonder you are happy. (Orchestra starts.)

Well, you're resolved to send your wife and daughter to Yamashina, to have an interview with Yuranosuke and to give your life to his son Rikiya. Oh, don't keep it secret. I've already known your mind.

It was your blunder to have held back Hangan, so unless you give up your life, apart from your daughter's marriage, you would be unable to excuse yourself to Hangan's memorial tablet.

It is not too much to say that Hangan died for me. You're not only the preserver of my life but also loyal retainer to my forefathers.

You are not to blame for your ~~fxk~~ flattery.

Well, there are a great many flattering warriors in the world.

I learned wisdom from Hangan's follies. Thanks to you, I abstained from doing such a rash act.

I can't express my thanks to you in words.

I, Wakasanosuke, shall have to dismiss you though you're my reliable retainer.

I want you to understand my mind.

I have a favor to ask you. I hope you'll remain loyal to me even after your death.

"He hesitates to say anything more, but looks aside and laments. Honzo has no words how to express his gratitude and happiness.

Hon: I appreciate your kind words, my lord. Instead of giving up my life before a celebrated general of wisdom and benevolence such as you, I'm afraid I'll have to die owing to trifling obligations and follies.

How disloyal and immoral I am!

"He repents of his misdeeds with tears in his eyes and looks up at the lord, who looks down upon him and sheds tears.

Their tears roll down their sleeves and pleated skirts and flow out as if flooding the small brushwood-fence in the garden."

(Both of them seem to be grief-stricken.)

"Suddenly Honzo rises to his feet."

Hon: Anyone of the next room, bring here the kettle on the stand, please.

(In the interior.)

~~Waiting~~

Waiting Maids: Very well.

"In reply, the waiting maids bring the kettle on the stand."

Waiting Maids: We've brought it here.

(The waiting maids turn back and leave.)

"Honzo stands up, ladles the hot water of the kettle and pours it over the potted orchid when the orchid withers with the poison in the kettle."

(Like the words of the above-mentioned "Joruri", he pours the hot water over the potted orchid when the orchid withers by a mechanical device.)

Waka: Yipe!

Hon: A while ago I, Honzo, overheard Banzaemon and saw him put poison in the kettle on the stand so as to kill you all with poison.

By good luck, you were saved, my lord.

"Hearing his words, Wakasanosuke is touched more and more by his loyalty. Just then, out comes a bonze from the interior with a wooden stand.

On the stand there is arranged a surplice and a bamboo-flute; they are supposed to be parting presents."

(Just then, from the interior out comes a bonze carrying a wooden stand with the articles thereon, puts it before Honzo and sits down.)

Waka: Honzo, I'll give you these articles as parting presents.

Hon: Thank you. (Takes away the wrapper and gets astonished to see the articles.)

Waka: Well, Honzo, this surplice and bamboo-flute are my parting presents to you.

You're worried about your only daughter, so had better play the tune of "The Pheasant In the Burnt Field and the Nesting Crane In the Night" on the bamboo-flute.

(Takes a drawing out of his pocket.) Moreover, I'll give this article to you as a trifling token of my gratitude for having left my younger sister Michitose in your care.

You'd better give this elaborate drawing to Yuranosuke as a present.

"The lords hands it to him in person."

Hon: Oh, it's very kind of you.

"He receives it and opens it. It is a drawing of Kono Moronao's mansion showing in detail the dwelling-house, sluice, servants' room, trees, fountain, living-room and hall."

Hon: I'm glad this is the minute drawing of the enemy Moronao's Mansion and serves me -- Honzo--very well.

I'm much obliged to you.

"He puts it in his pocket with thanks immediately, bows to the ground and sheds tears of gratitude.

Wakasanosuke looks all around."

Waka: All the lights go out when we expect dawn.
I'm leath to part from you, but I'll exchange cups
of rice-wine with you in celebration of your
happy departure.
Be ready for your departure. Bring some bottles
of rice-wine and cups.
(In the interior.)

Waiting Maids: Certainly.

(A song starts.)

Song: "When I woke up from a long dream, the Kanzan Temple
loomed large."

(Just then the waiting maids come out with some
bottles of rice-wine and cups, so they exchange
cups of rice-wine with each other.)

Waka: Being sorry to part from you, my sister Michitose
is singing that song.

Hon: I should like to see her once more so as to
bid her farewell.

Waka: Here, here.

Song: "Although I've spent my days happily here up to
now, I'll have to leave here as soon as the
palanquin comes."

(The farewell banquet is over, so Honzo dresses
himself and rises to his feet.)

Waka: Wait, wait, Honzo!

Hon: Yes.

Waka: I'm now twenty-five years old and for the past

twenty-five years you've kindly given me good lessons and looked after me day in day out. I'm quite satisfied with it, but now is the last time to see you in this world.

Hon: Yes, my lord.

I hope you'll enjoy your health more and more.

Waka: Wait, wait, Honzo.

I hope you'll also be in good health and realize your wishes.

Hon: It's kind of you to say so.

(Honzo looks at Wakasanosuke.)

Waka: Well, wait, wait!

The relation between lord and retainer will last throughout the three worlds.

I'll see you again in the other world without fail. Go, go!

Hon: Very well, very well.

"Honzo is loath to part from Wakasanosuke and hides his tears with his sedge-hat.

Just at the moment Young Lady Michitose comes out running so as to detain him.

However, Wakasanosuke checks her, so Kakogawa Honzo looks at her through the sedge-hat.

The young lady also sheds tears copiously."

(During the time, from the interior, out comes

Michitose and is about to draw closer to Honzo when Wakasanosuke checks her. Honzo is reluctant to leave them.)

Waka: Honzo, I must say good-bye to you now.

Hon: Good-bye, my lord.

Michi: Now is the last time in this world to see -----

Waka: Here, here.

"Lord and retainer trusting each other are expected to prosper.

In writing, Kakegawa's military fame will long-----.

(Honze starts going to the stage passage.

Wakasanosuke and Michitose see him off.)

"Remain."

(The toll of the time bell is heard. The three are heavy-hearted.)

----- Curtain -----

(As the curtain falls, Honze goes away.
The sound of the wooden clappers is heard.)