

Keian Taiheiki



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S H O C H I K U

Kabuki Play "KEIAN TAIHEIKI"

(" JOGAI HORIBATA NO BA ")

written by Mokuami Kawatake.

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To be presented by Ennosuke Troupe
at the Tokyo Theatre in March 1947.

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Sho Ito
Sho Ito
Manda
Wakana

The stage represents the neighbourhood of the moat outside the Edo castle.

There is a tea-house and three footmen are drinking sake sitting on two benches. The master of the tea-house is warming sake.

The curtain rises with a wheat-gluten vendor's song.

Footman A: ~~As~~ Say, master, who is singing? Only courtesans[♀] play samisen in the residential quarters, I thought.

Master: That is a wheat-gluten vendor who comes to this neighbourhood these days and sings ditties making his child dance. Now he is playing in a large room of the mansion overthere.

Footman B: He is one of those who come from 2-chome, Honcho to this street singing in the tune of woodman's song, isn't he?

Footman C: Anyhow, he is just as good as a geisha girl for us, so long as we are drinking.

Foot man A: Our masters are drinking at Shimmei or Imado calling in geisha girls, while we are taking sake and some eatables like this sitting ~~here~~ here, but as for taste, it comes to the same thing in the end.

Footman B: Well, there may be no comparison between us and dray-men or rag-pickers, but we and our masters are all the same under the influence of liquor.

" C: It is far more comfortable and tasteful to gulp

down taking boiled knnyaku and taros than to take things we are not accustomed to eat.

Footman A: (goes towards the left side) Hey, give me another half a bottle.

Master of the tea-house: Certainly. Again half?

Foot.B: How many times do you take half by half?

Foot.C: This is the third bottle.

Foot.B: It is advantageous to drink half by half.

Foot.A & B: What a calculating fellow!

(Thereupon Chuya Marubashi makes his appearance wearing a red rain-coat and a round wicker-hat. He is carrying a sword tucking up the skirts and seems to be ~~nd~~ under the influence of liquor.)

Chuya: (On the stage passage) Oh, how comfortable it is! At the public house on the riverside, I took only two bottles of sake, but I feel the effects of drink. It ought to be so, for I drank two go of sake before breakfast and then took one sho and five go at Masuya. After leaving there, three bottles at Hamaguri and again one sho with sliced raw fish. Besides I took three or five go here and there. After all, I have already ^{drunk} over three sho of sake today. In the end I may have to pawn my armour. But I cannot do without sake even if I become penniless.

(arrives at the stage and sees three footmen drinking)

Oh, they are drinking! I will drop in and drink, too. (takes off the hat and sits on the bench.)

Master of tea-house: You are welcome. What kind

of relish do you want? Taros or konnyaku?

Chuya: Anything will do. Bring two or three bottles of warmed sake.

Master: Certainly sir.

(Offers a bowl and a bottle.)

Chuya: Thank you. Oh, this is excellent!

Master: As I am fond of sake, I offer good one though the shop is reed-blinded and seedy.

Chu.: Do you like sake, too?

Master: Yes, I am extremely fond of it.

Chu.: Well, I expect much from you. Bear company.

Master: Thank you. But this sake is for sale, so -----.

Chu: As I will pay the price, bear me company without reserve.

Master: Then, do you let me drink sake bearing the price?

Chu.: Yes, help yourself; I will pay the price.

Master: Then I am ready to keep company.

Chu.: What a mercenary fellow!

Master: Thank you very much.

(Chuya pours sake and the master drinks.)

Foot.A: You are in good spirit, aren't you?

Chu.: Are you also fond of sake?

Foot.A: Yes, we have a weakness for sake.

Chu.: If you like sake, better help yourself, as I will pay the price.

Foot.A: Then do you let me drink?

A, B, C: Thank you very much.

Chu.: Fill their cups, master.

Master: Certainly sir. Shall I give another half a bottle?

Foot.A: As I am treated, give me a full bottle.

Foot.B: What a mercenary fellow!

Master: Shall I give you, too?

Foot.C: I don't decline, if I am treated.

Foot. B: Will you give another bottle also to me?

Chu: It is interesting that such drinkers have gathered together. Say, what kind of relish do you have?

Master: Well, there are boiled taros and konnyaku.

Chu: Anything will do, Bring some eatables.

Master: Certainly sir.

(Master of the tea-house brings dishes of boiled taros and konnyaku.)

Chu: Well, it's good. Now pour in more.

(Soon footman A gets intoxicated)

Foot.A: I don't know how do you think, but I feel grateful to this stranger who treats us to such dear sake as much as we want. I wish this kind gentleman would rule over the country.

Chu: What! Do you wish I would come into power?

Foot.A: If you come into power -----

Foot.C: We should like -----.

A,B,C: To drink to our heart's content.

Chu: A half drunkard says an interesting thing. Ha, ha, ha--

Foot.A: Many thanks for your kind entertainment. Now the sun is going down and I feel the effects of drink.

" B: Now it is near the time of our lord's withdrawal from the castle.

" C: We must be going now lest we should be scolded by that disagreeable head servant.

Master: Well, you had better go; you must attend your lord.

Foot.A: Good-bye, sir. Thank you very much for your kind entertainment.

Foot.C: Thanks to your kindness, I have comfortably got drunk.

Foot.B: I wish you would come into power and ----.

A,B,C: Treat us again.

(The three ~~foot~~ footmen exit towards the right side.)

Chu.: Drunkards are innocent indeed.

Master: Thanks to you, they have got intoxicated.

(The master of the tea-house exits towards the left side, when a dog appears.)

Dog: Bow - wow.

Chu: What! It is natural that you bark "Bow-wow" I hear a red dog tastes like a cow, therefore cry "moo".

Dog: Bow - wow.

Chu: You still cry "Bow-wow." All right! You shall be killed if you don't moo.

(The dog runs away)

That fellow came perhaps to urge me to cast up, but I will not.

(drinks up one sho of sake) Say, haven't you more sake?

Master of the tea-house: Nothing, sir.

Chu: Good God! Let me drink a little more; I will pay as much as you want.

Master: Then I will bring a little.

(goes behind the read-blind and brings a one sho bottle.) Here is a little.

Chuya: There! You have much, haven't you?

(fills the bowl)

By the way, haven't you any raw fish?

Master: There is nothing like that.

Chu: Again you say such a thing! We can get it at any place if we have money.

Master: Of course I can, if I go to the town. But it is far from here.

Chu: Though far, it is not a matter of three or four miles.

Master: Well, but I cannot go out leaving the shop empty. I should like to be excused from doing such a thing.

Chu: No, I will not. Once I have declared my determination, I will adhere to it at the last. If you don't obey me, I will kill you on the spot. (Chuya puts his hand on the hilt of the sword. The master gets surprised and overturned.)

Master: Ah! I am ready to go. Save my life please!

Chu: What! Do you really go?

Master: I don't like to go, but must is master.

Chu: Well you really go, don't you? I only said so for fun, then.

Master: You carried your joke too far.

(Chuya takes out a gold coin)

Chu: Now go and buy two or three portions regardless of the price.

(Chuya gives the coin to the master. The master gets astonished.)

Master: Sir, this is a gold coin, isn't it?

Chu: I may give more, if it is short.

Master: No, you can get change, even together with the price of sake.

Chu: I ask you to go and buy; I will give extra for sake.

Master: Certainly sir. Please take charge of the shop during my absence.

Chu: All right.

(The master goes towards the stage passage, but stops thinking something.)

Master: Thinking that he has such a gold coin while ~~he~~ is poorly dressed, he might be a thief, I suppose I am afraid I might involved in the matter.

Chu: Don't you go yet?

Master: I am going now. I should not like to be mixed up. (exits.)

Chu: (sees him off) Seeing my poor dress he was afraid that I might run away without paying for ~~the~~ my drink. But he is ready to go receiving a gold coin. A tradesman is really mercenary.

(drinks sake again.)

It is not interesting to drink sake alone. Is there any boon companion?

Somebody is coming. Oh, he is my wifes' father Toshiro. He will give a lecture to me if he finds me out. Curses upon him!

(Chuya enters behind the reed-blind putting on the hat, when bowyer, Toshiro makes his appearance with a oil-paper umbrella carrying a bow and arrows.)

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Toshiro: I am carrying a oil-paper umbrella, for I think it would rain as an earthquake occured last night. Nothing is more disagreeable than to be caught in a rain in the residential quarters. By the way, my son-in-law, Chuya is the black sheep. As for his personal appearance and character, there is nothing to complain [and moreover he is a master of martial arts.] But he is a heavy drinker and is apt to lose himself by drinking. I have to suffer troubles as I gave my daughter to such a man. (It begins to rain.) Oh, the rain has begun to sprinkle. I must go hurriedly before it comes down in earnest. (Suddenly he stumbles over a stone) Cuch! (He falls to the ground, when Chuya appears and helps Toshiro to his feet.) Oh, who are you? Thank you very much for your kindness. (Toshiro looks into Chuya's face.) Oh, you are Chuya, aren't you?

Chu: It was dangerous. Are you safe?

Toshiro: Yes, I am unhurt. The clog-thong broke when I tumbled over a stone.

Chu: I will fix it now.

Toshiro: Never mind, please. I will do it myself.

Chu: Use no ceremony, father.

Toshiro: Oh, you have drunk again, haven't you?

Chu: Well, I drank a little.

Toshiro: You must have heavily drunk, for you are tipsy like

that. Sit down here!

(Chuya sits on the bench.)

I think you don't like to listen to my advice, but I must again give a lecture to you against my will. Why do you drink sake so heavily. I do not always forbid to drink, as you are fond of sake like that. But I am sorry that you, ~~such~~ an able man, are still a ronin. After my frequent advice, you said you would be engaged by the Lord of Kishu as an instructor of spear exercise. When I congratulated you, you asked me to raise the money of 200 ryo ~~////~~ necessary for equipments to take office. Therefore I stood security for your borrowings from Urushiya and you got 200 ryo. Nevertheless you drink sake everyday here and there in poor dress, far from taking office. Soon the term was overdued and the creditor come pressing hotly for the money. You are really a worry that you should always under the influence of liquor regardless of my trouble.

Chu: Hearing what you say, I am ashamed of myself. Truly speaking, I intended to take office, but I was unintentionally seduced by some of my friends and lost myself in drinking sake against my will. I am sorry I have run through the money of 200 ryo I borrowed and I don't know what an excuse to make having given much trouble to you. I have made up my mind to give up sake from now on, so I hope you will set yourself at ease.

Foshiro: No, no, I cannot believe what you say. How many

times did you say such a thing? Last month you made a vow to god Marishiten that you would give up drinking for three years, but you could not endure even for ten days. On the fifth day you took sweet sake a bit and you have again become as heavy a drinker as ever. You may excuse yourself towards your wife and me, but how can you justify yourself before the god?

Chu: Well, I see. One cannot deceive god I promised that I would give up drinking for three years, but drank half of each day increasing ^(the term to six years) I was not, however, satisfied with it and again increased the ~~two~~ term to thirteen years. Thus I drink every day and do not drink only while I am sleeping. The result is that I do not drink for three years. It is a good idea, isn't it?

Toshiro: Topsy as you are, you must not make a fool of me. Do as you like whether you give up drinking or not. Anyhow you must return the money within two days; the term of the debt is overdue.

Chu: I am sorry I have used up the money of 200 ryo and cannot return against my will. Therefore will you please wait two or three years? Then I will return 2,000 ryo.

Toshiro: What a thing you say! Can you justify yourself for saying such a thing? Formerly I had many acquaintances at residential quarters and I could raise 200 or 300 ryo, but after my son's death my fortunes became on the wane and I cannot easily provide myself with such a large sum of money. When you borrowed the money from Urushiya, I stood for your payment saying that the money was

necessary for your taking office under the lord of Kishu. It was due to my virtue that / he was ready to lend the money. Nevertheless you did not take office, but spent all the money in drinking sake. Now I cannot apologize for non-payment of your debt. There is no alternative but to atone for it with hanging or drowning myself before being called / a swindler. I am quite disgusted with you now!
(While Toshiro is giving lesson to Chuya, Chuya falls asleep on the bench.)

Oh, what a contemptible man ~~that~~ he should fall in asleep while I am giving advice! Again it has began to rain. I must go as soon as possible before it comes down in earnest. (about to go putting up the umbrella.)

A man of talent as he is, it is regrettable that he should ruin himself by drinking and give much trouble even to me to say nothing of his wife.
(exits towards the right side.)

(Again the dog appears and eats taros on the dish. Soon the dog licks Chuya's mouth.)

Chu: What a nuisance! I can't drink any more. (brushes the dog aside, but again it is about to lick.)
What! I can't drink, you see!
(knocks the dog down.)

Dog: Bow-wow.

Chu: (awakes and rises to his feet.)
Hang it! You licked my mouth, didn't you?
(wipes off his mouth. The dog approaches Chuya.
He thinks something and picks up a stone.)

Dog: Bow-wow.

Chu: Be off this ~~is~~ instant! Hang it!

(Throws the stone into the moat and listen to the sound of water.)

What has become of the master? Has he not yet come back? I am just going for a walk. (Chuya walks totteringly and tumbles over the dog.)

Dog: Bow - wow.

Chu: Again you bark!

(picks up another stone. The stage rounds and indicates the scene before the double bridge of the Edo castle. Chuya throws the stone into the moat pretending to drive away the dog. Soon he takes out a pipe from the pocket and measures the depth of water. Thereupon Matsudaira Izunokami makes his appearance and stops behind Chuya.) Ha, ha, ha.

Izu: Ha, ha, ha. -----

The two: Ha, ha, ha -----.

(Chuya is about to go to the right side pretending to be under the influence of drink.)

Izu: Say, what are you doing?

Chu: As the dog barked at me, I threw a stone at it. Pardon me, if it stroke you.

Izu: Is that so?

Chu: Oh, how comfortable it is! I feel the effects of drink. (about to go towards the stage passage.)

Izu: (thinks something) Wait for a moment!

Chu: What is it?

Izu: What is your name?

Chu: Ehi (thinks) Chubeh is my name.

Izu: Say, Chubeh ----- (reconsiders)

Better go away, I have nothing to do with you.

Chu: What! Nothing?

Now I am going to drink again.

(Chuya exits by way of the stage passage. Izunokami sees him off.

The curtain falls with the sound of wooden clappers.)

----- Curtain -----