

File

7/5

S H O C H I K U

"TACHI NUSUBITO"

(Sword-thief)

To be presented by Kikugoroh with his troupe

At the Tokyo Theater, in Nov. 1946

o ----- o ----- o

Synopsis:

A rustic came to the capital and was walking along the street looking at various kinds of shops, when a thief secretly took the sword of the rustic and wore it about his waist.

The rustic noticed it and condemned him, but the thief insisted that the sword was his own. Soon a policeman appeared, cross-examined the thief, and asked him about the kind, and length of the sword. The thief could not answer correctly and the fact came to light at last.

S H O C H I K U

"T A C H I M N U S U B I T O"

(SWORD-THIEF)

KABUKI DANCING PLAY

ONE ACT

WRITTEN BY SHIKO OKAMURA

TO BE PRESENTED BY KIKUGOROH WITH HIS TROUPE

AT THE TOKYO THEATER IN NOVEMBER, 1946

X X X X X X X

C. C. D. J-2036



The sword thief (Tachi musubi)
A Comic Opera

~~The curtain rises with Nagauta reciting
From the left side of the stage a rustic named Mambeh
appears carrying a sword in the left hand.~~

265075
Mambeh: I ^{have} come from a distant country ~~and have stayed~~
~~in this city for a long time~~ concerning a judicial
case. Now, to my gratification the case has been
settled and before going back to the country, I
intend to get some souvenirs, as the new market
at Teramachi has opened to day.

(Nagauta reciting begins as if showing the
bustling quarter of the market.)

Oh, how bustling it is!

Beautiful satin silk is too expensive for me.

Is there anything cheaper? Oh, how crowded it is!

Don't push me; I am under the influence of liquor.

(Nagauta reciting starts. Mambeh is walking slowly
along the street looking here and there. Thereupon
from the left side, a thief named Kurobeh makes
his appearance under the influence of liquor.)

Kurobeh: I am a thief, running about in the city. As the new
market at Teramachi has opened today, I am going
there to find something good. Now I am in high
spirits as I took several cups of wine. (notices
Mambeh) Oh, there is a goody rustic over there
carrying a splendid sword in his hand. I will try him.

Mambeh: Master, what are those things? There are playthings for children, paper wind mills, tumblers, small drums and pipes. How much is that tumble? Eh, it's too dear. Can't you come down a little?

Kurobeh: Master, what are those things? There are playthings for children, paper wind mills, tumblers, small drums and pipes. How much is that tumble? Eh, it's too dear. Can't you come down a little?

(Kurobeh secretly grasps Mambeh's sword. Mambeh notices it.)

Mambeh: Oh! Truly we must always be on our guard in this city. Somebody has touched my sword behind me. I will pass the sword from one hand to the other.

Kurobeh: Oh! He is a shap-eyed fellow while I took him for a goody one. He passed the sword to the right hand. Well, I will try him once more.

Mambeh: What is this shop? There are many kinds of tea utensils. I can get any tea thing at this shop.

Kurobeh: Oh, what is this shop? There are many kinds of tea-utensils. I can get any tea-thing at this shop.

Kurobeh: Oh, what is this shop? There are many kinds of ~~tea-utensils~~ tea-utensils. I can get any tea-thing at this shop.

Mambeh: Hey! Don't push me.

Kurobeh: Hey! Don't push me.

Mambeh: Don't push me!

Kurobeh: Don't push me!

(Meanwhile Kurobeh takes Mambeh's sword and wear it about the waist taking advantage of the crowd of people.)

Mambeh: Hey! Why do you wear my sword?
Kurobeh: What! It is you who grasp mine.
Mambeh: Why! Surely you are a thief that you should secretly wear my sword about your waist! Pass it to me.
Kurobeh: It is you who are a thief. Pass it to me.
Mambeh: Come everybody! Here is a thief! He wears my sword.
Kurobeh: Come everybody! Here is a thief who grasps my sword!
(Hearing their loud voice, the governor, Zaemon appears accompanied by his subordinate named Tonai.)
Tonai: Hey! Why do you make such a noise?
Mambeh: He is about to rob me of my sword. Give it to me!
Kurobeh: No, it is he who is about to rob me of it.
Give it to me!
Tonai: Well, since that person has come, leave the sword in my care.
Mambeh: Who is that person?
Tonai: Don't you know?
The two: No, I don't.
Zaemon: I am the governor named Zaemon.
Mambeh: Then thank you for your trouble.
Kurobeh: Thank you for your trouble.
Tonai: Well, leave the sword in my care anyhow.
Mambeh: No, I cannot, for this is my ~~valuable~~ valuable sword.
Kurobeh: Also, I cannot.
Tonai: In such a case you ought to put it in charge of me.
Mambeh: Well, but I cannot, for I must be always on my guard as there is such fellow who takes my valuable sword by stealth.

Kurobeh: Though in the presense of master, -----

Mambeh: We must ----

The tso: Keep sharp eyes.

Tonai: You may well say so, as you are rustics who don't know
the affairs of the city. (to the governor.)

Then will you please tell your function to them?

Mambeh: Then I should be set at ease ~~xx~~ and ----

Kurobeh: I may leave the sword in your care.

Tonai: Anyhow, listen to the governor.

The two: Certainly sir.

Zaemon: Well, now I will tell you the function of governor.

Listen to me.

(Nagauta reciting starts telling what the governor is and ~~xx~~
how his function ought to be.)

Zaemon: Besides this, I am the arbitrator of any kind of quarrels.

Tonai: He says he will settle the matter amicably,
so put the sword in charge of me.

Mambeh: Then, I will leave this in your care.

Kurobeh: Also I will.

(The two put the sword in charge of Tonai.)

Zaemon: Now, tell me what you are and what the matter is.

Mambeh: I came from a distant country and have stayed in this
city for a long time concerning a judicial case.
Now the case has been settled and I intend to return
to the country before long. To-day I came to this
market to get some souvenirs and was walking along
the street, when that man secretly took my sword
and wore it about his waist. He insists that the
sword is his own. Please give a good talking to him.

Tonai (to Zaemon): You had better give ear to also what the other says.

Zaemon: (to Mambeh) Wait a moment at any rate.

Mambeh: Certainly sir.

Zaemon (to Kurobeh): Now, what are you and what's the matter with you?

Kurobeh: I came from a distant country and have stayed in this city for a long time concerning a judicial case. Now the case has been settled and I intend to return to the country before long. Today I came to this market to get some souvenirs and was walking along the street, when that man secretly took my sword I was carrying about my waist and insists that it is his own. Please give a good talking to him.

Zaemon: Well, this matter is rather difficult to settle: it is an endless dispute isn't it? What shall I do?

Tonai: I have a good idea.

Zaemon: What is it?

Tonai: You had better ask them about the history of sword.

Zaemon: Well, it's a good idea. (to Mambeh) Do you know the history of sword?

Mambeh: Oh, it's an easy thing. I know it well.

Zaemon: Then tell it to me.

Mambeh: I may tell it by dancing but before it, won't you ask him if he dances too?

Zaemon: O.K. (to Kurobeh) Hey! He says he will tell the history of sword by dancing. Do you also know it?

Kurobeh: Of course I know. But in the first place please order him to dance.

Zaemon: All right. (to Mambeh) Say! Come here and dance.

Mambeh: Certainly sir. (Mambeh steps forward.)

Nagauta reciting begins as follows:

"In olden times the King of Kan in China put down a riot with his sword and afterwards General Shoki drove away a ghost with a ~~swastika~~ sword. In our country, in the age of gods Susano-no-mikoto killed a huge serpent in the province of Izumo and found a huge serpent in the province of Izumo and found a sword in its trail."

(Mambeh dances to the Nagauta reciting. Then Kurobeh rises to his feet and dances)

Nagauta reciting: "Long, long ago that famous famurai, Watanabe-no-Tsuna cut down a demon's arm with his ancestral sword magekiri. The sword Ushiwakamaru used on the bridge was named Usumidori, and brothers Soga revenged their father with the swords respectively named Satsukibare and Tomogiramaru."

Zaemon: Well, both of you know well the history of sword. Now what shall I do next?

Tonsai: Then, you had better ask them about the origin and signature of this sword.

Zaemon: Well. (to Mambeh) Say, tell me the origin and maker's name of this sword.

Mambeh: Oh, it's very easy. I know it well, because that is my sword.

Zaemon: Then tell it to me.

Mambeh: First, that sword was made in the province of Soshu.

Zaemon: Well.

Mambeh: The maker is Goro Masamune who lived in ^SSohu. Perhaps you have heard the name. Please ask that thief if he knows it. (Kurobeh listens secretly)

Zaemon: O.K. (to Kurobeh) Hey! He knows the origin and maker of this sword. Do you know too?

Kurobeh: Of course I know, because it is my sword.

Zaemon: Then tell it to me.

Kurobeh: First, it was made in the province of Soshu.

Zaemon: Well.

Kurobeh: And the maker is Goro Masamune who lives in Soshu. Perhaps you have heard the name.

Zaemon: Also he knows.

Kurobeh: It's ~~V~~ unaccountable. It cannot be that he knows such a thing.

Zaemon: It's a wonder. (to Tonai) Both of them say the same thing about the origin and signature of the sword. Better draw the sword.

Tonai: Yes, sir. (draws)

Well, the maker is Goro Masamune, as they say.

Zaemon: Oh, I see. (to Mambeh) Then do you know how the design is?

Mambeh: Of course I know as well as it is mine.

Zaemon: Say it quickly.

Mambeh: Well I will tell you by dancing, so will you make that fellow dance with me?

Zaemon: (to Kurobeh) Say, he knows the design of the sword and he says he will tell it to me by dancing.

Kurobeh: Shall I dance with him?

Zaemon: Well.

Kurobeh: Certainly sir.

(Mambeh and Kurobeh step forward and dance to Nagauta reciting Kurobeh follows in the wake of Mambeh in everything.)

Zaemon: It's a wonder. Both of these fellows tell the same thing about the design ---- Well, here is a good idea. Say! Tell me the length of the sword.

Tonai: Well. I think he must say the same thing listening secretly what Mambeh say. So, this time you had better make Mambeh whisper to your ear.

Zaemon: Oh, it's a good idea. (to Mambeh) Say! tell me the length of the sword.

Mambeh: Well, then come here please.

(Mambeh takes Zaemon towards the left side of the stage. Kurobeh is about to follow them)

Tonai: Hey! Don't approach them.

Mambeh: Lend your ear. The length is two feet five inches, you see.

Zaemon: Oh, I see.

(Kurobeh tries to listen but it seems he cannot.)

Mambeh: If he cannot answer correctly, he must be the thief. In that case, let's strip him bare apart from the matter of sword.

Zaemon: It's good.

Mambeh: Then ask him quickly.

Zaemon: All right. Say, come here. He told me how long the sword is. Also you must say.

Kurobeh: How did he say?

Zaemon: It does not matter with you. Say the length of the sword,

Kurobeh: Certainly sir. But I am afraid he might hear what I say. So I should like to whisper to your ear.

Zaemon: It's better. Say quickly.

Kurobeh: Then, come here please.

Zaemon: O.K.

(Kurobeh takes Zaemon towards the left side)

Kurobeh: Lend you ear. The length is ----,

Zaemon: Say quickly.

Kurobeh: The length is ----.

Zaemon: Well.

Kurobeh: It was made in Soshu.

Zaemon: Say how long it is.

Kurobeh: ~~Say~~ It is Goro Masamune.

Tonai: It is the name of maker. Say the length.

Kurobeh: Goro Masamune.

Zaemon: You fool! Say the length!

The three: Now, say the length of the sword
(Kurobeh cannot answer anything.)

Zaemon: Well, you are surely the thief.

Mambeh: Yes, he is. Let's strip him bare.

Zaemon: It's a good idea.

Kurobeh: What do you do with me?

The two: You thief!

(Nagauta reciting starts. Mambeh and Zaemon force Kurobeh to take off his coat and find various things he stold.)

Mambeh: Look! It is just we expected.

Kurobeh: Forgive me please.

Zaemon)

Tonai): Hey! Where are you going?

(The two run after Kurobeh. Nagauta reciting begins)

----The Curtain ----