

21670

S H O C H I K U

Kabuki Play

"HOTOTOGISU - KOJO - RAKUGETSU"

(The Fall of the Osaka Castle)

----- From the Melee at the Main Castle to
the Granary -----

C.C.D. J-2040



Written by Shoyo TSUBOUCHI

To be Presented by SHIKAN & BAIKO Joint Troupe
at the SHIMBASHI-EMBUJO THEATER from
Aug. 5th to Aug. '48.

SYNOPSIS:

Impregnable as the Osaka Castle had been, at length it was encircled by Tokugawa's troops.

The fall of the castle being imminent, Hideyori tried to stab his mother Yodo-gimi who had gone crazy, but in vain and cried bitterly.

Gun-fires blazed up in the neighborhood as if hastening the doom of the Toyotomi family.

The Melee Within the Main Castle.

The castle-gate opened aslant is seen somewhat down stage left from within the main castle. All the stone walls on the right of the gate are also seen from within the castle.

The random reports of guns come within hearing.

Just then, in the direction of the interior are raised war-cries simultaneously. From outside of the gate a great many soldiers of the castle who have been put to rout come running with their respective weapons when a number of soldiers of the East Force come running after them and within the gate the opposing forces engage in a melee. After all the soldiers of the castle yield to their enemy and run off over there:

Thereupon all the men of the East Force leave running after them.

Just then, from the right Chief Cook Ozumi Yozaemon, aged 45-6, dressed as a cook in a warrior's family, turning up his pleated skirt, tucking up his clothes with a cord and wearing a sword at side comes running in a flurry, runs about as if seeking for somebody, once runs out of the gate, again comes back in a minute, stops at a suitable place, looks at the drop-curtain and seems to be suspicious of it.

Yo: I wonder where she has gone. She must have been here, though.

Judging from her back dressed in white the family crest of the hollyhock, I was sure it was the Lady, so I started running after her, but due to the whirling smoke and the disturbance I lost her sight and couldn't catch up with her after all. However, she can't walk so fast as a man, so I don't think she went far. I wonder where she has gone. I'm afraid she might have hurt herself.

Oh, how I feel anxious about her! (Hesitates to go and seems to be worried. Just then, over there is heard a war-cry.)

Heavens! They've penetrated into it from over there, as well.

Well, there's no time to lose.

(Tries to run off to the left. Just then, from over there a young warrior wearing an armour and a belly-band over his naked body comes running near the gate fighting violently with a few soldiers of the East Force brandishing a halberd. Thereupon Yoemon gets confused and hides himself behind the stone walls.

The young warrior fights with them bravely, but gets wounded. All of a sudden, again a war-cry is set up.

Just then, from the drop-curtain a group of wounded soldiers of the castle -- most of them wear armours over their naked bodies, but some of them are almost naked --- come near the gate fighting hard with numbers of soldiers of the East Force and again engage in a melee. At the same time, from the drop-curtain, the old and weak, male and female, of the castle --- tea-bonzes, fat maid-servants, people bent with years, women, old men and children --- come, in great numbers, running totteringly in their respective clothes and struggle to be off through this rough-tumble.

During the time, a variety of actions are carried out.

After all a refugee comes running in a flurry taking Sen-hime (young lady), who is clad in white with the family crest of the hollyhock, by the hand. In less than no time, two waiting-maids, Hanano and Nishikigi, come out running gallantly and go into the main stage. Kaji-No-He, a waiting-maid, looks around in deep thought.)

Kaji: Well, right now. (Tries to go out of the gate immediately. Just then, Yozaemon who came out from behind the stone walls and runs forward directly.)

Yo: Oh, just a minute, please. You're Kaji-No-Ha-sama, aren't you? (Bending forward)
I'll lead the way.

Please wait a moment. (Turns round when all of them stop. Kaji-No-Ha looks at Yozaemon.

Kaji: Oh, you're from the large kitchen and -----.

Yo: That's right. I'm Yozaemon. It'd be dangerous for you to go there.

Go round this way and to the back-door.
(Starts going and bows to Sen-hime)

Kaji: This man is Ozumi Yozaemon who has worked in the large kitchen of the castle by order of Honda-Sado-No-Kami-dono and of whom I told you a while ago.

Sen: Well, then, you and a woman named Tokiwagi of whom I've heard -----.

Yo: Well, that's right. It's I that set fire to the large kitchen by taking advantage of their unguarded moment.

That was because I only wanted to save you from the trouble. I'll give a full account of it later on -----.

There's no time to lose.

Now, go this way, please.

(Yozaemon tries to go round to the right. Just then, a wounded soldier of the castle who came to life a while ago and has been wriggling rises to his feet totteringly.)

The Soldiers of the Castle: Y Ugh!

(Brandishes the blood-encrusted sword and strikes at Yozaemon, who gets astonished, makes a swift parry a few times and seizes the soldier by the arm with his hands.)

Yo: Don't worry about me, but go right away.

(Lets the arm go suddenly and steps back.

Just then the soldier of the castle falls forward and stumbles over another wounded soldier.

In the meantime, Kaji-No-Ha leads the Lady by the hand, followed by Hanano and Nishikigi and they go into the right hurriedly.

Another wounded soldier over whom the soldier stumbled comes to life, too and strikes at Yozaemon desperately together with the soldier. Thereupon Yozaemon makes a swift parry, draws his sword, loses no time in killing one of them, kills the other immediately and straightens himself on the left. Again a rattling sound; a war-cry.

----- Act Drop -----

The Upstairs Granary of the Castle.

In front as well as on both sides the three sides of the granary are seen from within. Here and there are windows, but all of them are closed. There is a staircase used for ingress and egress down stage left.

By the wall to the left of the staircase there are piled up a number of bales of dried rice. Against the wall there are placed a few mats.

Somewhat to the right from the staircase there is a high-brimmed mat used for Hideyori's seat.

There are placed some high-brimmed mats used for Yodo-dono's temporary seat down stage right. Behind the seat there are a golden folding screen in the fashion of Momoyama, a few pieces of gold lacquered furniture and a halberd.

Yodo-dono with a long overdress which Sen-hime threw off in her hand has a fit of spasm and is about to throw back her head violently when Shoeci, Okura, Kyotei and all the others hold her down.

All of a sudden the boom of guns and rifles; a war-cry.

Lady Yodo laughs violently, but after a while her laughing voice changes to tearful one and she quiets down after all.)

Nun Shoeci: Now is very urgent time whether the Toyotomi family will exist or die out, though.

Okura-kyo: She has had a more violent fit of spasm than usual.

Lady Kyoten: We've no remedy for her illness in readiness.

Nun Shoei: Ah, it's annoying.

(Then Lady Yodo again groans and is about to throw back her head.)

Waiting-Maid: Gracious!

She's going to throw back her head again.

All: (Again start rising to their feet.)

Madam, Madam!

(Just then, from downstairs comes up hurriedly Ono Shurinosuke in armours wearing a yellow surcoat over it and bandaging his arm which seems to be slightly wounded and gets astonished to see this scene.)

Shurinosuke: Oh, the Old Lady ----- Well, she has had a fit of spasm again, I'm afraid.

Nun Shoei: Oh, Shurinosuke-dono, I'm glad you've come in good time.

Okura-kyo: Oh, Harunaga! (Turns to the waiting-maid.)
You mustn't let her hand go.

Shurinosuke: What's the matter with her? Has she become quiet yet?

Okura-kyo: Now, she seems to have become quiet a little.

(Thereupon Okura-kyo and Nun Shoei go back to their respective seats somewhat to the left and confront Shurinosuke.)

As I told you a while ago, I ordered Kaji-No-Ha to let the Lady leave here secretly, so the Old Lady got very much angry and said,

"Now that you've let the only hostage run away from here, all of you must have communicated secretly with the enemy of the Kanto district and betrayed us."

So saying, she assumed a horrible look.

Nun Shoei: Since there remained the Lady's long overdress, she held it tightly like that and pierced it with her sword (for self-protection) as if stabbing a living person with it and said, "I say, Ieyasu! I wanted to let her join the majority with me and to forestall you, though."

Lady Kyotei: (Comes forward a little on her knees.) We tried to check her, but she thrust us away, pushed us aside and ran about here and there crazily. After a while she had a fit of spasm and we've had such a hard time of it.

Okura-kyo: What with the matter and what with the other we hardly had time to inform her of the messenger's words.

Even if we had told her of it, she wouldn't acknowledge surrendering to them as from her looks. Harunaga, what do you say?

Nun Shoei: Shurinosuke-dono, what do you say?

(In the meantime, Lady Yodo tries to throw back her head again when Lady Kyotei and the waiting-maids hold her down.)

Shurinosuke: No wonder ----- . In her such condition we can't tell her of the very message. However, if she makes no reply to it right now, I'm afraid any trouble might happen due to the melée.

As for the Junior Minister of State, he said, "If it's Mother's strict order, I'll have no objection to it, but will never have the disgrace of surrender so as to save my own life.

I think the House of Toyotomi today is doomed, so I want you all to urge Mother forcibly to be prepared for death and reply to the messenger that we will disapprove the terms," but as in the proverb the longer the reply is withheld the longer our trouble lasts, so anyway I'd like to have him agree to the terms of surrender.---

Nun Shoei: Well, we're of the same mind with you. We've outgeled our brains so as to save the Lord's life at the worst, though. (Heaves a sigh. Meanwhile, Shurinosuke determinedly draws near to her.)

Shurinosuke: Mother, there is no help for it now. Even if she's sane, she's sceptical by nature and always bears a deep-rooted grudge against the House of Tokugawa and says that she will never see Ieyasu even though she dies, so if

We tell her of it openly, she won't agree to it. Now -----

(Gesticulates. Shoei and Daizo understand his gesture and draw near to him.

Shurinosuke whispers something to them for a while.)

Shurinosuke: Now the Old Lady is not sane, so I'll concoct that she approved of it and immediately arrange for him to leave here, anyhow.

Okura-kyo: Well, then, do you mean to say that we'll have to deceive our lord?

Shurinosuke: It'll be for the sake of his House to deceive him. (Both of them nod.)
Then, I'll tell him of it right away.
You must know how to turn the trick, but I hope you'll convince the others of it, as she has lost her senses.

If our lord asks the matter of you, I hope you'll be careful in your reply so as not to make contradictory remarks.

Okura-kyo: Take it easy. Don't worry about it.

Nun Shoei: Then, right away.

Shurinosuke: Very well.

(Then Shurinosuke goes down the staircase hurriedly.)

Meanwhile, suddenly Lady Yodo bursts out laughing merrily, but after all her laughter changes to tearful voice. The waiting-maids make a row, so the old women quiet their nerves and nurse Lady Yodo.)

Okura-kyo: Madam!

Nun Shoei: Madam!

All: Cheer up, cheer up!

(Just then, in the direction of the interior or outside of the window a war-cry is heard. A stray bullet strikes the window when the wall comes crumbling down, the bales of dried rice piled up by the window fall down and smoke flows into the granary. Something burns down, followed by a terrific sound. This boom of guns is so unexpected and near that all of them get astonished, unconsciously let Lady Yodo go, jump back on both sides and face downward unintentionally.)

Just then, Lady Yodo suddenly rises to her feet, runs forward directly and glares at the front.)

Yodo-gimi: Oh, they've come here again.

(Stands up and shakes herself.)

Blast them! If they curse me at any cost?

(Puts her hand on the sword and tries to draw it, but staggers a few steps backward as if being afraid of something.)

Yodo-gimi: They're cursing me, they're cursing me.

(In the meantime, all of them come to themselves, run up to her from both sides and front and rear and then try to hold her back when she thrusts them away and wriggles. Just then Toyotomi Hideyori-kyo, aged 23, wearing an armour of red-threaded plates, swords and wooden shoes comes up, followed by Ujiie Naizen, aged 40, in armours and with slightly wounded parts dressed.

All of them salute Hideyori and inform Lady Yodo of it.)

Okura-kyo: Excuse me, but our lord has come over.

Nun Shoei: The Junior Minister of State has come over, you see.

Okura-kyo: Madam, our lord has come over.

Nun Shoei: Cheer up, cheer up, please.

(Then, Lady Yodo stares round and slants up her eyes.)

Yodo-gimi: What!

The Junior Minister of State?

Junior Minister of State Hideyori-dono is a Japanese general and the ~~commander~~ commander-in-chief of the army ---- the commander-in-chief -----.

(Is on the point of saying so, but looks closely over there vacitiously.)

Oh, how vexing!

Who do you think I am?

I'm Commander-in-Chief Hideyori's mother -----

(Bursts into tears., Kyotei tries to nurse Yede-gimi and gets near to her when she thrusts her aside roughly.)

Blast it!

(Suddenly her eyes flash with anger.)

What, what? Concubine?

Why could you call me concubine? Say it again. Say it again.

The whole land of this country Japan is just as good as my vanity case.

(Glares for a while with no word.)

Hmm. Sounds interesting.

(Seems as if listening to somebody's words and after a while, again grows excited suddenly.)

Say, is there anybody here?

Call Jibu Shosuke, Jibu Shosuke----

(Suddenly rises to her feet staggeringly,

so all of them get astonished and try to check her when she pushes them aside and is about to run to the right, so they all can hardly hold her back.)

Lady Kyotei: Oh, how shameful of you! Please compose yourself.

All: Please, please.

(Then they soothe her. Just then Hideyori who has been standing absent-mindedly like a stone figure up to now looks at this scene and heaves a sigh.)

Hideyori: How shameful of you, Mother!
Have you lost your senses?

(Takes the reserved seat of the left disconsolately.)

Ujiie Naizen seems to be unable to master his emotion and when Lady Yodo is forced to take her seat by them he places his hands before her and looks up closely at her.)

Ujiie: I'm sorry to say that you're in a shameful condition.
On such an important occasion your pent-up worries have befallen you at a time, so you've taken leave of your senses, haven't you? Well, the honor of the House of Toyotomi will depend on your words till hundreds of years later.

Filial as the Junior Minister of State is, he'll pocket any insult according to your words, but it's hard for us to foretell any secret desire of the Kanto Forces.

Should you surrender to them today, it'd be a disgrace to the honorable House of Toyotomi, I think.

I hope you'll calm yourself and think the interests over.

Would you rather die nobly than yield disgracefully or would you plead to Tokugawa-dono for your own life like Shuri's and beg for his mercy? Please answer me now.

(Ujiie persuades her keenly of it with tears in his eyes.

Meanwhile, Lady Yodo looks closely at Ujiie, gradually sits at ease and as soon as Ujiie finishes speaking, she utters her words.)

Yodo-gimi:

Oh, never mind, never mind. You needn't worry so much about it.

Come over here. I say, come over here ----.

(Holds out her hand coquettishly and tries to hold Ujiie's hand, so Ujiie gets startled and crawls back. In less than no time, Yodo-gimi nestles close to him.)

Gracious! You needn't run away -----

(Then, Nun Shoei plucks her by the sleeve from the left and tries to check her.

Lady Yodo looks back sharply at her.)

Who could point at me?

(Her eyes flash with anger.

Thereupon Nun Shoei lowers her hand.)

Who could reprove my conduct?

(Looks back at Okura-kyo who has been on the right and casts a sharp glance at him.

Thereupon Okura-kyo turns away his face from her.)

I'm just as good as the ruler of this country.

(Says so arrogantly. Thereupon they all drop their heads.)

Whoever may see me -----

(Again coquettishly.)

I don't mind at all -----

(Poses enchantingly and tries to take Ujiie by the hand again. Ujiie gets astonished, jumps several steps backward, is in a cold sweat and bends his head tremblingly.)

Here, here, where, where are you going?

(Stands up enchantingly and tries to catch up with him.

Understanding Hideyori-kyo's mind, all of them have been unable to hear her words and

bending their heads, but get astonished and held her back from both sides. All of a sudden Lady Yodo changes color, wriggles and seems to be in fear and trembling.)

Gracious! You've caught me.

(Gets confused and tries to run off to the right.)

Oh, isn't there anybody here, anybody here?

I'll never be taken prisoner at any cost.

(Wriggles and runs amuck.)

Hideyori who has been looking at his mother's condition disconsolately cannot master his emotion and sheds tears. All of a sudden he unsheathes his shorter sword, runs up to Lady Yodo and puts his hand on her chest.)

Hideyori: Save us, merciful Buddha.

(Loses no time in trying to stab her.)

Thereupon Okura, Shoei and Kyotei get astonished and cling to his hand from both sides and front and rear.

Okura-kyo: Well, what are you goin' to do?

Nun Shoei: Excuse me, my lord, but out of your mind-----

Lady Kyotei: Are you? Ah, how dangerous!

Three: Please let your hand go.

(Then all of them stop him tearfully.)

Hideyori: Don't stand in my way, don't stand in my way.
Let me go, let me go. Mother's life will
never be saved.
If she lives out, ~~xxxxx~~ it'll be a disgrace to
her as well as to our House. I, Hideyori, will
assist her at her self-immolation and lead the
way to the River Styx for her by killing myself
with the same sword.
Don't stop me.
Let me go. Get out of way.

(Says so tearfully.)

Lady Kyotei: Well, no wonder you lament it and are angry
at it, so we've no words to check you, but
you see, she has taken leave of her senses.

Nun Shoei: Even if she has to die, I hope she'll do so
after she comes to her senses.

Okura-kyo' I hope you'll persuade her of it and then
urge her to kill herself.

Nun Shoei: Together with her we -----

Three: We'd like to exchange words with her once
more and go on a journey to the other world
with her.

Lady Kyotei: She'll come to her senses soon, I can assure
you.

Three: Just a minute, just a minute, just a minute,
please.

(Each of them checks him tearfully.

Meanwhile, Lady Yodo whose chest has been held by Hideyori seems to be speechless with amazement and gesticulates like a crazy woman.)

Yodo-gimi: Gracious me!

What are you going to do with me, what are you going to do with me?

(Then Hideyori cannot master his emotion, but throws away the sword, sits down there and sheds tears.)

Hideyori: Well, Maizen, pardon me.

Although I think it unmanly, I can't help shedding tears. A while ago I shed tears of remorsefulness, because I was afraid that my deceased father Taiko's great work would come to naught due to my incapability.

However, now I've shed tears of blood sinking deep in my heart owing to all worldly passions such as remorsefulness, wrath and regret.

Pardon me. I can't help crying.

(Shakes himself and cries bitterly covering his face with the hands.

Ujii cannot master his emotion, either, but seems to be grief-stricken with no word.

All the others also drop their heads and look troubled. As for Lady Yodo, she looks from one to the other and bursts out laughing in an uncanny voice.)

Yodo-gimi: Ha, ha ----- Don't cry, don't cry.
You're both men, aren't you?
Oh, how funny, how funny!
Ha, ha -----

(Splits her sides with laughter.)

Nun Shoen: Oh, how shameful of you!
Can't you recognize the Junior Minister of
State to whom you gave birth?

(Weeps. Kyotei also weeps and draws close
to Lady Yodo and takes her by the hand.)

Lady Kyotei: Well, Madam, Madam.

Now, please take your seat here.

(Points to Hideyori.)

Can't you see that nobleman?

(Then Kyotei rises to her feet, takes Lady
Yodo to Hideyori by leading her by the hand
and turns to Hideyori.)

Don't you know this nobleman?

(Lets Lady Yodo pay attention to Hideyori. Lady
Yodo looks closely at Hideyori for a while.)

Yodo-gimi: Oh, I know this man. He's my son Hideyori.

(Says so easily.)

Lady Kyotei: My goodness!

Well, then, have you come to your senses?

Hideyori: Why, you're right.

(Looks closely at Lady Yodo.)

Well, then, you've come to yourself, I think.

(Draws near to her.)

Now that you're alright, Mother, I've got something to tell you.

Please listen intently to what I, Hideyori, am going to say.

(Then Hideyori adjusts his clothes, places his hands before Lady Yodo and says quietly:)

It's about your reply to the messenger through Shurinosue when you intimated your intention a while ago.

I appreciate your merciful words with the intention of letting me, Hideyori, leave this castle at the worst so as to retain the blood-ties of the House of Toyotomi, but even if I beg for Ogoshe's (Ieyasu's) mercy and you and I are spared our life once, when I sound the secret desire of the Kanto Forces, the lineage of the House of Toyotomi will not last long. It's only Ogoshe's temporary stratagem to show mercy to us.

I'd rather kill myself nobly and apologize to my deceased father for my unworthiness than live out and be put to shame in the future -----

(In on the point of saying so and wipes his tears.)

Mother, Until then I thought you would also be prepared for death, so was at ease and prepared for death. However, it was cowardly of you to say such things to Shuri, unlike you, just now.

(Says so strictly and keeps back his tears.) This was because you had mercy on me out of your maternal love. So I think and -----

(Is about to say more, but can hardly say further and cries bitterly. Lady Yodo looks closely at him inquiringly.)

Yodo-gimi: Oh, eh, tears are running down your cheeks like water.

Oh, eh, tears are running this way, too.

Oh my! Tears are running. Ho, ho -----.

(Then all of them get astonished. Hideyori also gets surprised, looks up and looks closely at Lady Yodo sorrowfully.)

Hideyori: Oh, how silly of you -----

(Clenches his teeth and drops his head.)

Yodo-gimi: (Looking from one to another)

Ha, ha -----

(Laughs unconsciously. Hideyori rises to his feet in tears and goes back to his seat.)

All of them are heavy-hearted with no word.

Just then Ono Shurinosuke comes up hurriedly.)

Shurinosuke: The messengers again pressed us for an answer strictly and threateningly said that they would bombard our position immediately if our answer should prove to be unsatisfactory, so I had no time to ask for your mandate, but just now. I received your mother's permission and, anyway told the messengers of your consent to it, my lord.

(Ujiie Naizen gets astonished to hear it, suddenly changes color and turns to Shurinosuke)

Ujiie: Oh, how absurd your arrangement is! Do you think it your will as a retainer to put your lord to shame? Look! His mother has taken leave of her senses, you see.

Are you going to expose her such excited condition to public view so as to be sniggered at by the churls of the Kante district and to bring disgrace on the Toyotomi family?

(Says so strictly. Thereupon Shurinosuke seems to be sullen, but intentionally keeps self-possessed.)

Shuri: Well, don't get excited, Naizen. Unworthy as I am, how could I, Shuri Harunaga, make arrangements to bring disgrace on our lord?

After I negotiated with those two envoys about the matter, I told them to bring a suitable plankeen here without fail, so her figure would never be exposed to public gaze, I can assure you.

Although you took me to task for my arrangement as absurd, his Mother consented to surrender, you know.

It's rude of you toward our lord to say such a thing.

(Says so sternly.)

Ujiie: It's difficult for me to comprehend his mother's will.

I know she has been out of her senses since a while ago, so she can't have given such instructions to you.

I guess you're so afraid to die that you must have framed up his mother's will and forced her to surrender.

Shuri: Butten your mouth, Ujiie Naizen.

It's rude of you to say that I framed up her will as compared with your mind.

Ujiie: It was audacious of you to use such expression "as compared with your mind."

Utilizing his mother's partiality to you, you and your mother have been exceedingly rude and negligent of your duties.

The present disaster is ascribed to the rashness of you and your mother.

Shuri: Is it ascribed to our rashness, eh?

Ujiie: Yes.

Shuri: Tell me the reason for it. Now, tell me -----

Ujiie: Oh, I'll tell you.

(Then both of them get excited as if putting their hand on the hilt of the sword respectively.)

Hideyori: Behave yourselves!

Both: Very well.

(Become quiet. Just then, Lady Yedo who has been lying face downward suddenly as if listening to their dispute -----)

Yedo-gimi: Ha, ha -----.

(Laughs merrily. Then Nun Shōei quietly draws near to Hideyori and places her hands respectfully.)

Nun Shōei: Excuse me, my lord, but I'll tell you.

If you act against your mother's last words, your lack of filial piety will be spoken ill of by people till future generations.

I dare to remonstrate with you in the hope that you'll pocket the temporary insult and leave this castle for the sake of your posterity.

(In less than no time -----)

Yodo-gini: Ha, ha! (Again laughs scornfully.

Okura-kyo also draws near to her again in tears.)

Okura-kyo: On such an important occasion she is out of her senses, but when we forcibly urged her to kill herself, she said, "Spare my life by all means, please. I won't die, I won't die."

When I recall her words -----.

(Is on the point of saying so, but bursts into tears. Shurinosuke cuts him short.)

Shuri: Although we owe her a great deal, we've no other way to save her life, so anyhow, -----

Nun: Since the messengers will have a palankeen in readiness for her and come -----.

Lady Kyotei: It'll be for the sake of your House -----.

Nun Shoei: It'll be for the sake of your mother -----

Okura-kyo: Please change your mind and leave this castle, anyway.

Shoei, Okura~~x~~ and Kyotei: Please do so.

All Waiting-Maids: Please do so.

(All of them places their hands and entreats Hideyori to do so. Meanwhile, Lady Yodo, who has sat up and has been looking closely at this scene, again now -----)

Yodo-gimi: Ha, ha, ha, ha-----

(Laughs mockingly. Hideyori seems to be in deep thought and after a while looks sharply at them all.)

Hideyori: What with your request and -----

(Is on the point of saying so and looks at Lady Yodo.)

What with her sad plight, I recall her words as follows:

"If I have to die, I'll exchange farewell cups of rice-wine with you and die nobly, so you mustn't leave me nor trick me into losing my life." So she said on a certain night when she suffered a great deal from her chronic disease.

Thus she spoke repentfully to me out of groundless suspicion, but I could clearly understand her maternal love toward me.

(Is about to say more, but blinks his eyes, drops his head and sheds tears.

As for Lady Yodo, she stares round and looks from one to another.)

Shurinosuke: Well, then, will you grant our petition, my lord?

Ujii: Well, then, will you capitulate?
(Seems to be surprised. All the others say gladly.)

All: Well, will you leave this castle?
(Just then Lady Yodo happens to notice Sen-hime's long overdress which is beside Hideyori's seat as it was a while ago.)

Yodo-gimi: Oh, Sen-hime -----
(Runs directly up to the long overdress and tries to pick it up, but totters when Hideyori supports her and looks closely at her.)

Hideyori: Whatever insult I may pocket -----
(Keeping back Lady Yodo,)
Mother's life cannot be replaced.
(Sheds tears. Meanwhile, Lady Yodo holds the long overdress tightly, glares over there and shakes herself in rising to her feet.
All of them look troubled.)

----- CURTAIN -----