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KABUKI PLAY

"KIICHI-HOGEN SANRYAKU-NO-MAKI"

"KIKUBATAKE"

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ONE ACT

TO BE PRESENTED BY THE KIKUGORO AND BAIGYOKU

TROUPE AT THE TOKYO THEATRE IN NOV. 1946.

*Selection*

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C.C.D. J-2040



*Right to Propagate*

*21 Sep 47*

SCENE:

There are many beautiful chrysanthemums all over the stage. At the right part of the stage there is a door made of branches. About the middle of the passage leading to the stage, there is another door made of branches. At the front part of the stage, there is a bamboo bench, on which Chienai, a servant, sits. He is pulling his beard. A bamboo broom is put on the ground near him. Curtain draws up with a song of hoto. (one of the Japanese music instruments.)

Song: "In the garden of famous, Yoshioka-Kiichihogen's mansion at Imadegawa, a servant is taking rest after finished his work of sweeping. There comes out Rikusuke and Sampai whose works are to sweep the front garden of the entrance."

(There comes out servants Rikusuke and Sanpei.)

Rikusuke: Chienai, have you finished sweeping of the inner garden?

Sampai: You must have been pulling your beard. I'm surprised to find that you have not yet finished the sweeping.

Rikusuke: Tankai-sama will be coming here soon and surely scold you.

Sampai: That's right. Do you realize that you may be scolded by our merciful Tankai-sama?

Chienai: Bother it! Of course it's my duty to clean up the entrance of the house, but the master doesn't order me to sweep the inner garden and my master is Kiichi-hogen-sama, not Tankai-sama.

Chienai: No, no knowledge at all, but I simply feel like laughing at it.

Sampei: If you say you know nothing of it, you can't be a servant of the authority of the strategy.

Rikusuke: All right, come on! We'll teach you.

Chienai: What are you doing with me?

Rikusuke: You shall know what strategy is.

(Rikusuke and Sampei spring on Chienai. But he twists them down.)

Rikusuke: Oh! painful!

Sampei: Help me!

Chienai: You can't be the servants of the authority!

(He throws them down. They spring at him once more. But at this moment maids appear from the garden, so they run away.)

R: You fool! You see that Tankai-sama is the No.1. disciple of our master don't you?

S: Moreover it's said that Tankai-sama is going to marry with the daughter, Minazuru-sama and to succeed to the headship of the family.

R: As such you'd better render special service to Tankai-sama!

Sampei: Do you understand? Fool!

Chienai: What a nonsense you are talking, comparing our great master with such a poor fellow like Tankai-sama!

Rikusuke: If you can laugh at it, you must have known something about war strategy, mustn't you?

Chienai: What boastfull fellows they are!

(Two maids come out of the door at the upper-stage with a cushion and a tobacco-tray.)

Maids: Chienai-dono! The master will be coming here soon. So take the bench near to the flower-bed and put this cushion and tobacco-tray there as usual.

Chienai: Certainly. Oh, I've finished the sweeping just in time. The master will sit on this bench. Before that I'd like to sit on. (He is to sit on, but refrains from it.) But if I dared, I will be punished by Heaven. Oh, I've thought of a good idea. (He puts a sheet of toilet-paper on the cushion.) Oh, how comfortable! But this warm and comfortable cushion cannot protect the master from the disease. I'm lucky enough to have been brought up with nothing provided.

Maids: Chienai-dono. The master will come here soon. Hurry up!

Chienai: I'm sorry.  
(He hides himself behind the hedge.)  
(Yoshioka-Kiichi-Hogen appears with many maids from the door at the upper-stage. He wishes to forget his illness by seeing the beautiful, blossoming chrysanthemums.)

Kiichi: Oh, how beautiful! I appreciate them most as they are the last blossoming flowers of the year.  
(He walks through the flower-garden and sits down on the bench in high spirits.)  
Chienai sweeps the flower-garden everyday, doesn't he?

Maids: Yes, sir.

Kiichi: Call him up.

Maids: Yes, sir. Chienai-dono, themaster wants to see you.  
Chienai-dono, come at once!

Chienai: I'm coming, sir.

(He comes out.)

Maids: Here comes Chienai-dono, master.

Kiichi: Chienai, you've swept very well in the flower-garden,  
but under those pine and maple trees, many fallen-leaves  
are left. I don't think you have left them purposely,  
thinking that the whole garden would be finer with them.  
Do you think they would be remained unnoticed?

You should never be an eye-servant. Do you understand?

Chienai: Oh, you've misunderstood me, master. As I was brought  
up in Kumano mountain, I'm not refined.

But I can proudly say that I'm not an eye-servant.

Once I heard that some fallen-leaves in the garden  
are regarded as dust, while piles of fallen-leaves  
under trees look tasteful. So I've practised that saying.

Kiichi: Oh, how clever you are! Come Chienai, I wonder why  
you are named Chienai. (Chienai means no knowledge in  
Japanese.) Were you brought up at Kumano?

Chienai: Yes, sir.

Kiichi: I have two brothers called Onijiro and Onisanta at  
Kumano.

Chienai: Master, were you born at Kumano?

Kiichi: No; we, brothers were born in Kyoto. Both my father  
and I were the Samurais (warriors) served for the  
Genji. But as our master Yoshitomo's family were  
dismembered into two and disputed at that time,

my father thought that the decline of the Genji would soon come. As such he made up his mind to send ~~his~~ secretly his two little boys of three and five years old with their mother to Kurama Mountain in order to let them serve the Genji some day. They are my younger brothers, Onijiro and Onisanta. On the other hand, he ordered me to live long and hand over the secret book of war-strategy to the one of the Genji blood who is worthy of the master. And father himself died from the anger at the dispute within the Genji family. Oh, I've told you this story involuntarily. You should never tell this to others.

(Chienai wishes to confess that he himself is Onisanta-Kiyosumi, but refrains from it.)

Chienai: I deeply sympathize with you. Master, what will you do if your brothers appear just now before you claiming that they are real Onijiro and Onisanta?

Kiichi: If they are against the Heike according to our fathers will, I'll bound them up and submit them to Aiyomori-ko. For Aiyomori-ko is the only master for me now. Oh, I won't say any more about this. You'd better stop asking me further and look at these flowers. Well, now I'd like to smoke.

(Maid brings the tobacco-tray and he smokes)

Song: Ushiwakamaru, the eighth son of Yoshitomo, has studied the war-strategy and fencing under the tuition of Tokobo at Mt. Kurama for sixteen years. He wishes to reestablish the Genji family and now is in Kiichi's mansion as one of his servants. He calls himself Torazo.

(Ushiwaka disguised himself in servant costume appears with a letter-box in his hand.)

Ushiwaka: I'm Torazo. Please send in my name to the master.

Maid: Master, Torazo has come back.

Kiichi: Torazo alone? I wonder why my daughter has not yet come back with him. I'm anxious to know the reason. What's the matter?

Ushiwaka: The princess ordered me to tell you the following message after she saw Kiyomori-ko.

I have to call on Shigemori-ko at once. As I'm afraid if my father is anxious about me, I'll send back Torazo with this message. "Kiyomori-ko wishes you to submit the secret book of the Genji to him, though you are ill. As for Onijiro and Onisanta, as they are your relatives later he will send Tankai to catch them. He will investigate them strictly."

Kiichi: Investigate Onijiro and Onisanta, eh? (He is very much surprised.)

Chienai: Torazo, do you say that he will investigate Onijiro and Onisanta, our master's brothers? I wonder why. Oh, I see, you've mistaken Kitsuji and Kitsunai, gold-sellers, who are highly spoken in Kyoto now for Onijiro and Onisanta, haven't you? I see, I see.

Kiichi: No, no, Torazo has not mistaken. I heard that my brothers were helping the Genji to reconstruct the family. But as I have no connection with it at all, I don't care. Anyhow I cannot forgive Torazo. Come, Chienai! Beat Torazo with this stick!

Chienai: What?

Kiichi: Beat out Torazo with this.

Chienai: Why?

Kiichi: Why? Don't you understand? Every servant has his own duty. Torazo should have kept my daughter's foot-gears, and yet he worked as a messenger forgetting his own duty. Why didn't he go to Rokuhara ~~Shigxxxxxxx~~ -higemori-ko's mansion, with my daughter? When you think of this you see Torazo's behavior of to-day is entirely wrong. Or am I wrong?

Chienai: Yes, you're right, master. But please forgive him for he is too young to notice that point. I say, Torazo, you must come up here and beg the master's pardon. I beg your pardon for him. I'm more than grateful if you forgive him.

Kiichi: No, I won't forgive him. Beat him at once!

Chienai: Yes.

(He takes up the stick but dares not to beat him.)

Kiichi: Beat him at once!

Chienai: Yes.

Kiichi: Why don't you beat him?

Chienai: Well ----

Kiichi: Dare you to disobey my order?

Chienai: No, not at all.

Kiichi: Then beat him at once.

Chienai: Yes.

Kiichi: Do it at once ---- Give the stick to me.

Chienai: Yes.

Kiichi: I say you must give the stick to me.

(Just when he holds the stick aloft, Minazuru-hime appears.)



Minazuru: Wait a moment! (She clings to him.)  
He has just done what I ordered to do.  
I cannot stand as you scold him so much.  
See, Torazo is also begging your pardon.  
So please forgive him, Father.

Kiichi: No, this is no matter with you. Loose yourself!

Minazuru: No, I won't. Please forgive him.

Kiichi: No, I can't forgive him. Go away I'll ----

Minazuru: Please, Father!

(Maid appears hurriedly.)

Maid: Master!

Kiichi: What's the matter?

Maid: Here comes Kasahara-Tankai-sama to talk with you  
something about Kiyomori-ko's order.

Kiichi: Show him here.

Maid: Yes, sir.

(She hurries away. Kasahara-Tankai appears.)

Tankai: I heard that you were ill. But I'm glad to find  
you look better. What happened?

Kiichi: One of my servants has done wrong, so I'm now going  
to beat him.

Tankai: That's it! You are ill and you have no heir. And  
your only child, Minazuru-hime is a female. So your  
servants become disobedient. Why don't you kill  
those who are impudent? By the way, I've come here by  
the order of Kiyomori-ko. I wish to talk with you secretly

Kiichi: I'm your teacher and you are my pupil, but this is  
a private matter. Since you've come here by the  
order of Kiyomori-ko, you are the envoy of my master.

Will you go into the house? Now, maids,  
you must show him into the room.

Maids: Certainly, sir.

Kiichi: Well, I'll dismiss both of you.

Minazuru: What? Do you mean that both of them ----?

Kiichi: You needn't interfere with me. Now both of you  
shall go away at once!

Tankai: Yes, that's a good idea! They look very impudent.  
I'd rather shoot them ---

Kiichi: Why! Since I've dismissed them, you needn't think  
of them any more.

Tankai: But ---

Kiichi: They're not your servants.

Tankai: But ---

Kiichi: You shouldn't be meddling. Now, Minazuru,  
Come with us.

(They all go out of the garden through the door at  
the upper stage and disappear into the greenroom.  
Chienai (Onisanta) and Torazo (Ushiwaka)  
are left behind.)

Ushiwaka: Onisanta! For what we've disguised ourselves and  
served here? Why didn't you beat me when you were ordered  
by Kiichi to do so? Even if I was beaten by you, I don't  
care at all. We can take a chance to get the secret  
book only by staying here. When shall we be able to  
realize our wish since we are dismissed?

(He is irritable and looks disappointed.)

Chienai: It's quite natural that you are so much disappointed.  
I noticed it at that time, but how can I beat you?  
Anyway, now I beg your pardon that I didn't beat you.

Ushiwaka: Well, there's justice in what you've said!

Chienai: You are right, too.

Ushiwaka: When we think of how the Genji is unfortunate ----

Chienai: We can't help cursing the destiny.

(They look each other and lament.)

Chienai: By the way, Miyomori wants to have the secret book tomorrow and at the same time lets Tankai investigate Onijiro and Onisanta. And that Tankai is now talking with Kiichi in the room secretly! I'm ~~xx~~ sure they are talking on me. We can't idle away the time in lamenting. Let's think over the relief measure.

Ushiwaka: It's too late to think this and that. I know the inside of the treasure-house where the secret book is cherished. Let's steal into it to take back the book and run away. You must watch on all sides and if you find anyone against us, you should kill him. Don't refrain from it, if he is Tankai or Kiichi. Do you understand?

Chienai: Your idea is good. But as Kiichi is my elder brother, I hope you'll allow me not to kill him.

*Handwritten: Huh?*  
Ushiwaka: A man of courage dares to kill even his father <sup>according to the code (gi)</sup> or brothers for justice. I'm sure you know it well --- Well, I see, you are going to drive away this Ushiwaka ~~x~~ secretly consulting with your brother Kiichi, ~~st~~ aren't you?

Chienai: Oh, you've misunderstood me. If Kiichi knew that I'm his brother, I can kill him. It's not right to kill him with my hand when he doesn't know that I'm his brother Santa. I'll steal into the treasure-house, so I wish you to keep ~~ga~~ guard. Do you agree with me?

Ushiwaka: Indeed, you're right.  
(While they are consulting, Minazuru-hime stealthily appears behind them and is much surprised listening it.)

Minazuru: Torazo, Torazo! Both of you are still here. Torazo!

Ushiwaka: Yes.

Minazuru: Are you going to take leave?

Chienai: Though both Torazo and I have been dismissed by the master, we don't want to go out. Will you kindly persuade your father so that we may stay here, please? Come! Torazo, you should ask for the kind consideration of Her Ladyship.

Ushiwaka: If you kindly beg your father to forgive us.

Both: How glad we are!

Minazuru: Certainly it's easy for me, but do you really wish me to do so?

Chienai: Yes, of course, ----

Minazuru: I don't ask you. Torazo, do you really wish ----?

Chienai: Torazo! Why don't you answer?

U: Yes, if you please.

C: Please do for him, as he wishes earnestly.

M: Well, I will, but in return you ----.

Chienai: What?

M: That.

C: That?

M: That you ---

C: That he?

M: That you ---

Chienai: Well, I see. Torazo! Her Ladyship is willing to beg her father in favour of you. If we can stay here, we'll accomplish our aim ----- Thank her at once!

Minazuru: Chienai!

Chienai: What?

Minazuru: Does he understand?

Chienai: Yes, he is just going to answer -----.

Minazuru: Answer what? Doesn't he agree with me?

Chienai: Oh, no!

M: But he looks discontented.

C: Oh, no; he is contented.

M: Why doesn't he answer?

C: He is going to say ----

M: Does he dislike to be loved by a woman?

C: He likes it very much.

M: I don't think so. This is the evidence --- (plucks a spray of chrysanthemum) What's this?

Both: It's a chrysanthemum.

M: Do you know the waka (the Japanese traditional poem) dealing with the chrysanthemum of autumn?

Ushiwaka: Do you mean that famous one which analogizes women's chastity with the chrysanthemum?

M: Just like this waka, I wish you ---- Torazo, you are so handsome ----, I'd like to express the flame within, if you doubt.

Song: "Though she is a daughter of samurai, she can't help falling in love. And she begins to weep. Her tears in the proof of her sincerity."

Ushiwaka: Wait a moment please. You're the daughter of my master and I'm a servant.

Minazuru: That's a lie. In reality, you are Ushiwaka-sama of the Genji, and Chienai is my uncle Omisanta-sama.

Chienai: What? ~~Yes~~ You've heard of our conversation, haven't you?

M: Yes, I've heard all of it.

C: Although I pity my niece, this is the very important case. So I've to kill you for the sake of my master.

M: Yes, I see. Kill me. Ushiwaka-sama, please let me call your wife in the heaven.

C: Good! You won't regret if you die for the man you love so much. You will be waiting for him in the heaven. God help her!

(When Chienai is to kill her, Tankai suddenly appears.)

Tankai: Wait! How can I let you kill my beloved one? You are Ushiwaka and Omisanta, O.K. I'll arrest you and inform to Kiyomori-ko.

(When Tankai is to take Minazuru away with him, Ushiwaka cuts him into two all of a sudden.)

Ushiwaka: Santa! Now you needn't kill Minazuruhime. Well, I'll go and see Kijichi to ask him to hand over the secret book explaining the circumstances. If he denies, I'll kill him. Where's Kijichi?

Song: "Even if he is desperately against me, it's very easy for me to outwit him by the skill which I acquired during the training in Kurama mountain."

Minazuru: He is in the room over there through the garden.

Ushiwaka: O.K. Come on, Onisanta! Minazuru, guide us!

Minazuru: Yes, I will.

(They all run into the inner garden.)

----- Curtain -----