

*Sections highlighted in represent variations in phrasing according to different schools.

1. Senju Appears at the House Where Shigehira Is Being Held Captive

Kanōnosuke Munemochi, a vassal of Minamoto no Yoritomo, has been taking care of Taira no Shigehira, an enemy warlord who was captured during the battle of Ichino-tani Valley. Yoritomo sent a woman called Lady Senju (Senju no mae) to the house to comfort Shigehira. Again today, Senju visits Shigehira in the place he is staying.

Kanōnosuke Munemochi

I am Kanōnosuke Munemochi, who serves as a vassal of the Lord of Kamakura (Minamoto no Yoritomo).

Now, Taira no Shigehira, a son of Taira no Kiyomori, was captured during the recent battle at Ichino-tani Valley, and I received orders to take care of him. Although Shigehira is an enemy of the emperor, Lord Yoritomo has taken pity on him and ordered me to take good care of him. As such, Lord Yoritomo sent Lady Senju (Senju no mae) to Shigehira yesterday. / Now, Shigehira, a commander of the third rank and a son of Taira no Kiyomori, was captured and sent to Kamakura. I am in charge of taking care of him. Sir Shigehira is the youngest son of Kiyomori and was very much loved by his parents as well as the members of his clan. As such, he is an unparalleled man. As Lord Yoritomo ordered me to take good care of him, I prepared a bath for him yesterday, then Lord Yoritomo sent Lady Senju to Shigehira to help care for him.

千手／千寿

* は流儀によって異なる場合を示す。

一 平重衡が捕われている館に、千手が現れる

源頼朝の家臣、狩野介宗茂は一の谷の合戦で捕われの身となった、敵将の平重衡の世話をしていた。頼朝は、そこに千手の前（千寿の前）という女性を派遣し、重衡を慰めていた。その日も千手が重衡のいる館へとやってきた。

狩野介宗茂 私は、鎌倉殿（源頼朝）の家臣の、かのうのすけむねもち 狩野介宗茂でございます。

さて相国（平清盛）の御子である重衡卿は、このたび一の谷の合戦で生け捕られ、私がお預かりしています。朝敵ではございますが、頼朝公は重衡卿を気の毒に思召しされ、大切にいたわりなさいと仰せられ、昨日も千手の前を遣わされたのです。／さて相国（平清盛）の御子で、三位の中将重衡卿は、囚人となって鎌倉へ送られ、私がお預かりしているのです。重衡卿というお方は、相国の末子ではありませんが、父母から寵愛を受け、一門の人からも慕われ、ほかに並ぶ者のないお方です。大切にいたわるようにとのことで、昨日もお湯を用意したところ、鎌倉殿は千手の前を遣わされ、お世話をさせて下さったのでございます。／さて相国（平清盛）の御子で、

/ Now, Sir Shigehira, a commander of the third rank and a son of Taira no Kiyomori was captured and sent to Kamakura. I am in charge of taking care of him. As Lord Yoritomo ordered me to take good care of him, I prepared a bath for him yesterday, then Lord Yoritomo sent Lady Senju to help care for Shigehira.

This Lady Senju is a daughter of the master of Tegoshi town (a post town in Suruga Province). As she is a very kind woman, Lord Yoritomo ordered her to stay at his side and serve him. How considerate of Lord Yoritomo to dispatch his favorite woman to an enemy commander. It is raining today, so I will offer Shigehira some drinks to make him feel comfortable.

Senju Visiting him with a *koto*, visiting him with a *koto*, I am reminded of the song of Azumaya (a melody from Saibara).

When we gaze upon the spring flowers fully blooming in the treetops and the autumn moon sinking and reflected in the water, we understand the transience of this world. How pitiful is Shigehira. He was once a nobleman, permitted to set foot into the imperial palace, but contrary to his expectations, he ended up floating in a boat tossed between the waves. Although he was lucky enough to be washed ashore, he was captured and became a prisoner, his suffering no different from before he was captured.

How truly pitiful that he was not even allowed to stay in Kyoto and in tears, was forced to come down to Kamakura.

My grief is nearly unbearable and I cry uncontrollably, my grief is nearly unbearable and I cry uncontrollably. When it continuously drizzles, my mind is as scattered as the drops of dew that have fallen everywhere. My heart has withered up like a dying flower.

千手

三位の中将重衡卿は、囚人となって鎌倉へ送られ、私がお預かりしているのです。大切にいたわるようにとのことで、昨日もお湯を用意したところ、鎌倉殿は千手の前を遣わされ、お世話をさせて下さったのでございます。

この千手の前というお方は、手越宿（駿河国にある宿場）の長の娘ですが、大変優しい女性だということで、頼朝公がお側近くでお召使いになっておられたのです。その方を特にお遣わしになるのは、誠にありがたいお心遣いです。今日はまた雨も降っておりますので、重衡卿のお慰みとして、酒をお勧めしようと思います。

琴を携えて訪れる、琴を携えて訪れるのは、東屋、あずまや（催馬楽の曲名）の趣でしゅうか

春の花が木々の梢に咲き誇り、秋の月が水底に沈み、映っているのを見れば、世のはかなさは分かるものだ。哀れな重衡卿も、もとは貴い殿上人であったけれど、思いもかけず、浮舟に乗って波に漂い、たまたま陸にお着きになっても、またもとの変わらぬ苦しみにさらされる囚われの身とおなりになってしまった。

都にさえ留まらず、涙のうちに鎌倉まで下られたのは、まことにいたわしいことだよ。

悲しみに耐えかねて泣きすさみ、悲しみに耐えかねて泣きすさみ、雨はしとしと降りしきる折には、露が散るように思いは乱れ、萎れた花のように心も打ち萎れ、涙

The rain this evening is a perfect reflection of my sleeves, which are soaked and wrinkled by my tears.

Could someone help me, please? / Is anyone here?

Munemochi

Who is it? Oh, wonderful. It must be Lady Senju, isn't it? [A few schools include this phrase]

Senju

Would you kindly let Shigehira know that Senju is / I am here.

Munemochi

Please wait here for a moment.

I will ask how he is and let him know that you are here.

2. Shigehira Meets with Senju

Shigehira is reluctant to meet with Senju and declines her request to meet. Senju emphatically tells Shigehira through Munemochi that she visits him under the orders of Yoritomo. Thanks to Munemochi's skillful plan, Senju enters the house and meets Shigehira.

Taira no Shigehira

Just like the hibiscus flower in full bloom, our lives flourish brilliantly for a moment before snapping off. Our lives are as delicate and fleeting as that of a mayfly. Although he was a prisoner like myself, when Su Wu of the Han dynasty in China was captured and imprisoned in a cave by the people of Xiongnu, he remained loyal to the purpose of his master, annihilated the enemy thanks to the strategic plans laid by Yang Li, and returned to his hometown in the end. However, in my case, I have been imprisoned by

に萎れた袖にお似合いなのは、今日の夕べの景色だ。

ご案内くださいませ。／誰かいますか。

宗茂
どなたが来られたのですか。おお、千手の前がおいでになったのですね。「一部流儀
にあり」

千手
千手の前／私が参りましたことを、重衡さまにお知らせください。

宗茂
しばらくお待ちください。

ご機嫌をうかがい、申し上げます。

二 重衡、千手と対面する

重衡は、気が進まない様子で千手との対面を断っていた。千手は、宗茂を介して頼朝の命を受けてきたことを重ねて重衡に伝え、宗茂の計らいもあって館の中に入り、二人は対面する。

平重衡
人の栄華は槿の花の盛りのように儂く短く、命は、蜉蝣かげろうと相似て儂く頼りない。同じ囚人でも、漢の蘇武は匈奴に捕われて、岩窟に押し籠められても、忠君の志を

my enemy and have endured the shame of being bound and tied.
No one knows if I will still be alive tomorrow. Alas, the matters
are truly unsettled.

Munemochi

Excuse me, but Lady Senju is here.

Shigehira

What on earth brought her here today? Oh well, whatever she
wants from me, I will not see her today. Tell her so.

Munemochi

All right, I will.

Excuse me, Lady Senju. I told him that you have arrived, but for
some reason, he said that he does not want to meet with you
today.

Senju

That is not what I expected. [A few schools include this phrase]
It was not me who decided to visit Shigehira today, it was Lord
Yoritomo who ordered me to comfort Shigehira as it's raining
today. [A few schools include this phrase] I therefore brought a
biwa and *koto* with me. Please kindly tell him what I just said.

Munemochi

Excuse me. When I relayed your message to Lady Senju, she
said that she is visting you not because of her own decision but
because she received orders from Lord Yoritomo to comfort you
during this rainy weather. [A few schools include this phrase] She
therefore brought a *biwa* and *koto* here. I fully understand why
you are reluctant to see her, but...

守り、楊李の謀略によって敵を滅ぼし、故郷に帰った。しかし自分は、いつまでも
敵陣に閉じ籠められ、縄目の辱めを受けて、今日をも知れぬ命である。ああ、まこ
とに定めのないことだ。

宗茂 申し上げます、千手が参りました。

重衡 今、どういう用事で参ったのだ。いや、何の用事があるうとも、今日は会えないと、
言いなさい。

宗茂 わかりました。

申し上げます。ご訪問のことをお伝えしたのですが、どう思われたのか、今日は対
面したくないと仰せになっている。

千手 これは思いのほかの仰せですこと。「一部流儀にあり」このご訪問も、私が勝手に参っ
たものではございません。雨の中をお慰め申せという「一部流儀にあり」、頼朝公の命
により、琵琶や琴を持参して参りました。このことを重ねて申し上げて下さい。

宗茂 申し上げます。お言葉を千手に伝えたのですが、この訪問は自分勝手なことではな
く、雨の中をお慰め申せという「一部流儀にあり」、頼朝公からの拜命により、琵琶や
琴を持参してきたものです。ご遠慮なさいますのは、ごもつともですが……。

Please come in, so saying, I invite Senju into the room.

Senju Senju then stands up, approaches,
 Reciters and opens a wooden door. Then, the wind blowing through the rolling blinds bring his fragrance out of the room. Coming from the countryside, I feel ashamed to meet with a sophisticated gentleman from Kyoto. A true native of Kyoto understands refined sentiments, which deeply penetrate to the furthest corners of the eastern provinces. In Kyoto, people enjoy sophisticated tastes and know that in spring it is cherry blossoms and in autumn it is the crimson leaves, but who could possibly remember all those things?

3. Shigehira and Senju Talk to Each Other

Shigehira had previously requested that Senju convey to Yoritomo his request to be allowed to renounce the world and become a monk. He asks Senju what Yoritomo said about his request. Senju tells him that his request was declined and consoles the lamenting Shigehira.

Shigehira Lady Senju, did Lord Yoritomo grant my request to be allowed to become a monk, which I briefly mentioned to you yesterday? I'd like to know what he said.

Senju When I delivered your request to Lord Yoritomo, he said that it's out of the question, as he alone cannot decide to allow you to become a priest since you are an enemy of the emperor. I sensed your innermost thoughts and explained many details to Lord Yoritomo, but he never granted your request. I am truly sorry about this.

千手 さあ、こちらへ、と千手を招いた。

千手 その時、千手は立ち寄って

地 妻戸をきりりと押し開いた。すると、御簾から吹く風に追われて、香気が匂ってきた。

田舎者で恥ずかしいのですが、風雅な都人に、お目にかかりましょう。まったく東国の果てまで奥深く行き渡る、情け深い者こそが、本当の都人というものだ。都では、春は花、秋は紅葉と、風雅に楽しむけれど、それは誰の思い出となるだろうか。

三 重衡、千手と語り合う

重衡は、出家の望みを、千手を介して頼朝に伝えており、その是非を教えてほしいと千手に問う。千手は望みのかなえられないことを伝える。嘆く重衡を、千手が慰める。

重衡 千手の前よ、昨日ちよつと口にした出家への願いは許されるだろうか、聞きたいものだ。

千手 はい、そのことを頼朝公に申し上げましたところ、朝敵であるから、自分の一存で出家をお許しするなど、思いもよらないことだと仰いました。私も、重衡様の御心中をお察し申し上げ、色々と細かく申し上げたのですが、お望みをかなえられず

Shigehira How unfortunate. I should have been killed in the battle of Ichino-tani Valley. I was captured and sent here to the furthest of the eastern provinces, where I show my face in shame. All of these occurrences are due to my deeds in previous lifetimes. Also, although it was not my decision to do so, I destroyed statues of the Buddha and killed people under orders from my father. The retribution I receive immediately in this world for the evil deeds I have committed in this lifetime is even more shameful to me than the retribution I receive for the evil deeds committed in my previous lifetimes.

Senju That's certainly true. However, I have heard that many other people have experienced hard times, similar to you, in the past as well as the present. Please do not feel too badly, as you are not the only person who has suffered so.

Shigehira You are trying to console me, but no one has experienced such a harsh fate as I have.

Senju Until yesterday, you were flourishing, like a flower in its prime, in Kyoto,

Shigehira and today, I greet spring in a remote village in an eastern province.

Senju When the change

Shigehira / Shigehira, Senju
in my status

…誠にお気の毒なことでございます。

重衡 ああ、何とも口惜しい。自分は一の谷で死んでしまえばよかった。生け捕られて、今は東国の果てまできて、このように恥ずかしく面をさらしている。これも前世の報いであるのだが。また心ならずも父上の命により、仏像を破壊し人を殺し、この現世で犯した罪業の報いを、そのまま直にこの世で受けることが、前世の罪業の報いよりも、なお恥かしいことだ。

千手 誠にごもつともですが、昔も今も、こういうことは多々あったと聞きますので、ただ独りとお嘆きなさいませう。

重衡 まったくよくお慰めくださるが、類を見ない辛い身の上のなれの果てだ。

千手 昨日までは、都で花のようにお栄えになったのに、

重衡 今日、は辺境の春の東国にいる

千手 移り変わってしまった

重衡、千手
身の上を、

Group Reciters

is pondered, I see that this world is empty and transient. This world is empty and transient. I left my beloved Kyoto, where my wife lives, traveled a long distance under these skies, and stuck in this sorry state, I wither with shame and regret. I never could have imagined that my mind would be so deranged, my thoughts shattered in a thousand pieces. When I think that at any moment, my life might come to a painful end, even the comforts brought to me by this fleeting relationship fill me with bitter feelings, fill me with bitter feelings.

4. The Party Starts and Senju Performs a Dances

Munemochi holds a party for Shigehira, who is likely to feel depressed on such a rainy evening. Senju consoles Shigehira with her poetic singing and dancing.

Munemochi

On this rainy evening, those of us with nothing to do should bring ourselves some comfort. So saying, I hold this barrel of *sake* and try to start a drinking party.

Senju Senju also takes stock of the situation, stands up, and goes to Shigehira to pour sake into his cup.

Shigehira I am getting less reserved and although my heart isn't in this, my hand involuntarily holds a sake cup, and yet I sink into a pensive mood.

Munemochi

Well, well. Enjoy in whatever way you wish. I encourage Senju to sing and dance.

地

思えば、この世は空しくはかないものだ、この世は空しくはかないものだ。妻のいる懐かしい都を離れ、はるばると旅を続けてこの空の下、情けない思いのまま、衰えて行くこの身が悲しい。こうして千々に乱れる思いを抱くとは思ひもかけず、今にも辛い最期を迎えることを思えば、仮初の情けに慣れ親しむことも、かえって恨めしいことだ、恨めしいことだよ。

四 酒宴が始まり、千手が舞う

宗茂は、雨の夕暮れに、沈みがちな重衡のために、酒宴を催す。千手は朗詠や舞により、重衡を慰める。

宗茂 今日雨に暮れるこの夕べ、所在のないつれづれを、お慰めいたしましょう、と酒樽を抱きかかえて、酒宴を始めようとする。

千手 千手もこの様子を見てお酌に立ち、重衡の前へと参じた。

重衡 いつしか遠慮も薄らぎ、心ならずも、思わず盃を手にしたが、やはり心は晴れず、思いは沈む。

宗茂 さあさあ、いかようにも御肴になさいませ、と千手に歌舞を勧めると

Senju	Story
Senju	Then for a while, Senju will recite a poem: "A fragile princess complains that even her fine silk <i>kimono</i> is unbearably heavy. She thinks the weaver woman is thoughtless and did not weave the silk properly and holds a grudge against her."
Senju, Shigehira, Munemochi	This poem was made by the God of Thunder, Kitano Tenjin, (that is, Sugawara no Michizane). It is said that he promised to protect everyone who recites and hears this poem.
Shigehira	However, there is no hope for Shigehira in his present lifetime.
Shigehira / Senju, Shigehira, Munemochi	I just want to listen to a poem that lends support to my heart's desire for a brighter future in my next lifetime. So I say,
Senju	and I will make your wish come true. "Even a man who committed the ten evil deeds can be reborn in paradise."
Reciters	She has recited the poem.
[Iroe]	An extremely short dance, accompanied by the music of a Japanese flute and small and large hand drums.
Senju	Well, this Shigehira is the youngest son of Taira no Kiyomori,

千手 その時、千手はとりあえず、「羅綺の重衣たる、情けなきことを機婦に妬む（かよわ

い姫は軽はずの羅綺「薄い絹と綾」の衣でさえも、重くて耐えられないと文句を言い、機織りの女を、織り方が悪い、不親切だと恨む」と詠じた。

千手、重衡、宗茂 ただ今、詠じた朗詠は、かたじけなくも北野天神（菅原道真のこと）の御作で、この

詩を詠ずれば、聞く者までも加護しようと、お誓いをなされたというよ。

重衡 しかしこの重衡は今生には何の望みもない、

重衡／千手、重衡、宗茂 ただ来世の心頼りとなる朗詠こそを聞きたいものだ、と語れば

千手 私がこの仰せを承ります。「十悪というとも引攝す（十悪をなす者でも極楽往生する）」と

地 朗詠を謡った。

「イロエ」

笛、小鼓、大鼓で奏される、ごく短い舞。

千手 さて、この重衡は相国（平清盛）の末子であり、

Senju	Story
Reciters	and my looks and personality are foremost among the men in my clan. As such, my parents showered me with the greatest love.
Senju	Time passes, however, and the fortunes of the Taira clan have been completely
Reciters	and thoroughly exhausted. In the woods of Ikuta in Settsu Province, Shigehira desperately fought to defense against our enemy. However,
Senju	just as drops of dew on the leaves of the trees
Reciters	are blown off by the winds racing down through the woods, I, too, was knocked down. How lamentable. Himself now powerless, Shigehira was forced to pull back his troops, but the enemy securely surrounded Shigehira on all sides, just as they had thrown a net over him. There was no way to escape, and finally, Shigehira was captured. Although I had no reason to live anymore, I still could not die. I went on living in shame, my name sullied. I was put in the hands of Kawagoe Shigefusa, and against my wishes, I was made to enter Kyoto.
Senju	Truly, this world is...
Reciters	unpredictable. It was October, the season of autumn showers. If I had been handed over to the monks in Nara, I probably would have been able to die, but instead, I was sent to Kamakura. Where am I now? I have already come to Yatsunashi in the province of Mikawa. All the while regretting that I would never be able to see Kyoto again, I passed through Tōtōumi, Ashigara, and Hakone, finally arriving in Kamakura at dawn. Here I would meet my end, so I thought, but I have grown accustomed to living in shame.

地 その器量、人柄は、兄弟一門のなかでも勝れ、父母からこの上もない寵愛を受けていた。

千手 ところが時は移って、平家の運命もことごとく

地 尽き果てて、摂津国生田の森で、重衡は身を捨てて防戦にあたったが、

千手 森の下風にあおられて木の葉の露が

地 吹き落とされるように、打ち落とされてしまったのは、まことに哀れなことだ。

重衡も今は力なく、仕方がないと陣を引こうとしたが、敵は網を置いたように四方を固め、逃れる道もなく、とうとう生け捕られてしまう。生きて甲斐のない身はまた、死ぬこともできず、生き恥の汚名を流して、川越重房の手に渡され、心にもなく都入りをした。

千手 まことに世の中は

地 定めのないものだよ。頃は十月、時雨にも逢うような時期で、奈良の僧徒の手に渡れば死ぬこともできただろうが、そうはならず、鎌倉へ送られることとなった。ここはどこかと思えば、もはや三河国八橋のあたりで、都も見納めかと思いつながら、

Senju	Story
	I fell in love with Senju and became intimate with her. There is the ancient story about the defeated warlord, Xiang Yu of Chu. Late into the night, when the lamplight grew dim and his concubine, Consort Yu's tears fell like rain,
Senju	the Chu army, which had betrayed Lord Xiang Yu, sung their songs, filling the air in every direction.
Reciters	Although such are his circumstances, Senju dances with feeling, setting her sleeves flying, because she sincerely wishes that Shigehira will return to his former self. Her sleeves hold her tears. My name is Senju (literally, "one thousand hands") and I keep on dancing as I wish for the blessings of my namesake, Senju Kannon, the bodhisattva of mercy with one thousand arms, whose powers are so great that she can make flowers bloom on withered branches on a snowy winter day.
Reciters	I will never forget this fleeting relationship.
	[<i>Jo-no-mai</i>] A very slow, elegant dance accompanied by the music of a Japanese flute and small and large hand drums.
	5. The Party Is Over and the Time to Part Has Arrived
	Shigehira has started to enjoy himself. He plays a lute while Senju accompanies him on a <i>koto</i> . They pass the time by playing music together. When morning comes, it is decided that Shigehira is to be sent to Kyoto. The two of them must part. With tears in her eyes, Senju sees off Shigehira as he leaves Kamakura.

遠江、足柄、箱根を越えて、夜明け頃に鎌倉に着いた。ここで最期を迎えると思いつながら、忍ぶ暮らしにも慣れ、寵愛する女として、千手にも馴れ親しむようになった。楚の敗将、項羽の昔には、燈火が暗くなり、虞氏が涙の雨を降らしたその夜、更けゆく頃に、

四面には、寝返った楚の軍勢の歌が満ちていたという（四面楚歌の故事）。

地 そのような有様を、何とか昔のように取り戻せないかと、千手は思いを込めて舞の袖を翻す。その袖には、涙がこぼれ落ちていく。千手といえば、雪の降る、枯枝に花を咲かせるほどの千手観音の御利益を願って、舞を続けよう。

地 仮初の縁を、忘れはしまい。

〔序之舞〕
笛、小鼓、大鼓で奏される、非常にゆつたりとした優美な舞。

五 酒宴は終わり、別れの時が来る

重衡も興に乗り、琵琶を弾き、千手は琴を合せて弾いた。そのように過ぎ、やがて朝が訪

Senju	Story
Senju	“(Meeting) in the shade of a tree, (drinking) the water from a river—
Reciters	These are all karmic connections determined in our previous lifetimes.” I sing this song by <i>shirabyōshi</i> (female dancers dressed like men),
Shigehira	and then, Shigehira starts to enjoy himself,
Reciters	and then, Shigehira starts to enjoy himself. He picks up a lute and plays it. Senju plays a <i>koto</i>
Senju	to accompany Shigehira’s lute. Listening to our music,
Reciters	the winds blowing through the pine trees in the mountains seem to harmonize with our playing. We nap with our heads resting on the koto as a pillow, the night is soon over and day starts to break.
Senju	Oh, how quickly the morning has come.
Reciters	Oh, how quickly the morning has come. Imagining what Shigehira’s heart must have been feeling when he ended the drinking party, how very sad.

れると重衡は、都へ送られることとなり、二人は別れる。鎌倉を出てゆく重衡を千手は涙ながらに見送った。

千手 「一樹の蔭や一河の水、

地 皆これ他生の縁」という白拍子の歌を謡うと、

重衡 その時、重衡も興に乗じて、

地 その時、重衡も興に乗じて、琵琶を引き寄せて弾かれたので、千手も琴の音を

千手 合わせて弾き、その音を聞けば、

地 峰に吹く松風も、同じように調べを合わせる。琴を枕に仮寝をするうちに、間もなく短い夜が、ほのぼのと明け初めた。

千手 おお早くも明け方になった

地 おお早くも明け方になった、と、重衡が酒宴をお止めになった心中を察すれば、おいたわしいことであつた。

This Shigehira will, on imperial orders, this Shigehira will, on imperial orders, be sent back to Kyoto. Guarded by warriors, when Shigehira leaves Kamakura,

Senju Senju comes out to see him off, her tears falling and falling.

Reciters Why did we pledge ourselves to each other, even though we knew that it would be painful to endure such parting? Shedding tears and soaking their sleeves, they part from each other. Shigehira is such a sad sight that we cannot even look at him, we feel so terribly sorry for him. We cannot even look at him, we feel so terribly sorry for him.

千手

千手も泣く泣く立ち出でて、

こうして重衡は勅命により、こうして重衡は勅命により、また都へ上ることとなった。武士に守護されて、重衡が鎌倉を出る時には、

地

なぜ、このように別れの辛い契りを結んだのだろうか、互いに袖を涙で濡らしつつ別れていく。まったく重衡の有様は、目もあてられない気の毒なものであった、目もあてられない気の毒なものであった。

Senju

Synopsis

A warlord of the Taira clan, Taira no Shigehira, fought in a series of battles between the Taira and Minamoto clans. He was captured during the battle of Ichino-tani Valley and was taken prisoner. He was sent to Kamakura and was held, by force, in the house of Kanōnosuke Munemochi, a subordinate of Minamoto no Yoritomo. Yoritomo showed mercy to Shigehira and sent one of his servants, Lady Senju, to comfort the imprisoned warlord.

On a rainy day, Lady Senju visits Shigehira with a *biwa* (Japanese lute) and a *koto* (a Japanese harp). At first, Shigehira was reluctant to see her, but they finally do meet, just as Munemochi has arranged. As Shigehira's wish is to renounce the world and become a monk, he previously asked Senju to convey this request to Yoritomo. When Shigehira asks Senju about his request, she tells him what Yoritomo said: Yoritomo cannot make the decision alone as Shigehira is an enemy of the emperor and therefore, his request has not been accepted. Shigehira laments that this is the result of his bad karma, rooted in his sinful deeds of burning down temples in Nara on orders from his father, Taira no Kiyomori.

Munemochi holds a party to cheer up Shigehira, who has fallen into a pensive mood. Senju offers drinks to Shigehira, recites poems, and tries to give him encouragement. When Senju performs a dance, the amused Shigehira starts playing the *biwa*, and then Senju plucks the *koto* as accompaniment to his lute. The night grows late. They take a nap with their heads resting on the *koto* as their pillow, and in a short while, the night comes to an end. In the morning, there is an imperial order to send Shigehira to Kyoto. Senju and Shigehira regret their parting, both of them soaking their sleeves with tears. With tears in her eyes, Senju sees off Shigehira who is leaving Kamakura.

Highlight

This is an elegant, Third-group Noh piece, which has a female lead character. A unique feature distinguishing it from other Third-group Noh dramas is that this play describes the fleeting love between a sophisticated nobleman from the Taira clan, Taira no Shigehira, and a kind-hearted woman, Lady Senju. However, a dark shadow hangs over their love— Shigehira's inescapable circumstances as a prisoner facing death.

The scene in which they converse with and feel sympathy for each other; the scene in which Senju elegantly dances in order to console Shigehira; and the scene in which they pass by each other in parting—these impressive scenes are presented at critical moments in the play. The subtle shifting of their emotions, as they come to understand that their eternal parting is approaching, is described through these scenes that leave lasting impressions that will linger in the hearts of the audience.

It might sound strange, but the tranquility and tenderness of these moving scenes only underscore the deep impression they make upon the audience. Therein lies the magic of stage techniques in Noh drama.

Shigehira plays a very important role in this play and his presence is as significant as *shite* (the lead character) although he is classified as *tsure* (a supporting character). In olden times, the title of this play was “Senju Shigehira,” which indicates the importance of Shigehira's character.

Schools	All five. The title is written 千寿 (Senju, literally, “one thousand blessings”) in the Kita school while it is written 千手 (Senju, literally, “one thousand hands”) in the other schools.	
Category	The Third group Noh	
Author	Komparu Zenchiku	
Subject	Heiki Monogatari (The Tale of the Heike) Volume 10, Azuma Kagami (Chronicle of the East)	
Season	Spring (March in the lunar calendar)	
Scene	Kamakura in Sagami Province (modern-day Kanagawa Prefecture)	
Characters	<i>Shite</i>	Senju
	<i>Tsure</i>	Taira no Shigehira
	<i>Waki</i>	Kanōnosuke Munemochi
Masks	<i>Shite</i>	<i>Wakaonna</i> , <i>Zō</i> , <i>Ko-omote</i> , etc.
Costumes	<i>Shite</i>	<i>Kazura</i> (wig), <i>kazura-obi</i> (belt for a wig), <i>iroiri karaori</i> (outer robes with patterns containing scarlet) wore in <i>kinagashi</i> -style, <i>kitsuke / surihaku</i> (short-sleeved kimono, worn as the innermost layer of the costume of a female character), and a fan.
	<i>Tsure</i>	[Occasionally wear <i>kara</i> (a piece of square cloth worn over other clothes by Buddhism priests)], <i>kitsuke / atsuita</i> (a type of short-sleeved <i>kimono</i> mainly worn by male characters) or <i>atsuita-karaori</i> , <i>hakama</i> in <i>ōkuchi</i> -style (white or pale yellow), <i>koshi-obi</i> (belt), and a fan. [Sometimes holding Buddhist prayer beads.]
	<i>Waki</i>	<i>Nashiuchi-eboshi</i> (<i>eboshi</i> -style headdress), a white headband, tops and bottoms of <i>hitatare</i> (<i>kimono</i> for warriors), <i>kitsuke / atsuita</i> , <i>komi-ōkuchi</i> (underwear <i>hakama</i> in <i>ōkuchi</i> -style), a sword, and a fan.
Number of scenes	One	
Length	About 1 hour and 40 minutes	

千手／千寿 (せんじゅ)

あらすじ

平家の武将、平重衡は源平の戦いに臨み、連戦していましたが、一の谷の合戦で源氏方の捕虜となりました。重衡はそのまま鎌倉へ護送され、源頼朝の家臣である狩野介宗茂の館に預けられます。頼朝は、虜囚の身となった重衡をいたわしく思い、侍女の一人である千手の前という女性を派遣し、重衡を慰めていました。

その日も折からの雨のなか、千手の前が、琵琶や琴を携えて重衡を訪問しました。重衡は気乗りしない様子でしたが、宗茂の手引きもあって千手と対面します。かねてより重衡は、出家したいとの望みを持ち、千手を通じて頼朝にお伺いを立てていました。重衡が千手にそのことを尋ねると、千手は、朝敵とされた身の上ゆえに、自分の一存では決められず意に沿えない、という頼朝の言葉を重衡に伝えました。重衡は、これも父である平清盛の命を受けて、南都(奈良)の寺を焼打ちにした罪咎であろう、と悲嘆にくれました。

沈みがちな重衡のために宗茂が酒宴を催すと、千手は、重衡に酒を勧め、朗詠を吟じて、少しでも彼の心を引き立てようとします。さらに千手は舞を舞い、重衡も興に乗って琵琶を弾き、また千手も琴を弾き合わせ、夜は更けていきました。やがて、琴を枕に仮寝した短い夜も明けました。その朝、勅命により重衡は都へ送られることとなり、二人は互いに袖を濡らし別れを惜しみます。鎌倉を離れる重衡を、千手は涙ながらに見送るのでした。

みどころ

女性がシテとなる優美な三番目物の一つですが、この「千手」は他の三番目物とは異なる興味があります。平家の雅な貴公子である平重衡と、優しい心を持った千手の前という女性の、束の間の情愛を描いていますが、そこに、虜囚の身で死を目前にする重衡の、抜き差しならない状況が深い影を落とします。

二人が言葉を交わしながら心を寄せ合う様子や、重衡の心を慰めようと千手の舞う優美な舞、そして二人が互に行き違い、別れていく場面など、節目に印象的な情景が配されています。そこで描かれる、今生での別れを察した二人の心の機微は、観る者の心にくっきりとした陰影となって刻まれるのです。

その印象的な陰影を不思議にも際立たせるのは、静かに、あくまでも端正に移りゆく舞台の情景ですが、それは能ならではの演出の妙から生まれるものでしょう

重衡は、この曲では非常に重要で、ツレでありながら、シテにも劣らないほどの、位と存在感を持っています。古い時代には「千手重衡」とも呼ばれていたことから、ツレの重みがわかります。

流儀	五流にあり。喜多流では「千寿」と表記する
分類	三番目物
作者	金春禪竹
題材	『平家物語』巻十、『吾妻鏡』
季節	春(旧暦3月)
場面	相模国鎌倉

登場人物	シテ ツレ ワキ	千手／千寿(せんじゅ) 平重衡(たいらのしげひら) 狩野介宗茂(かのうのすけむねもち)
面	シテ	若女、増(ぞう)、小面など
装束	シテ ツレ ワキ	鬘、鬘帯、色入唐織・着流し、着付・摺箔、扇 [掛絡(から)を掛ける場合もあり]、着付・厚板／着付・厚板唐織、白大口／浅黄(あさぎ)大口、腰帯、扇、[数珠を持つ場合もあり] 梨打烏帽子(なしうちえびし)、白鉢巻、直垂上下(ひたたれかみしも)、着付・厚板、込(こみ)大口、小刀、扇
場数	一場	
上演時間	約1時間40分	

千手／千寿(せんじゅ)
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