

1. Palace Official Announces the Entrance of the Emperor

A palace official (*ai-kyōgen*) serving the Emperor (Emperor Xuanzong of Tang or Yu the Great) appears and advises ministers and aristocrats in the imperial court to come to see His Majesty as His Majesty will visit Gekkyū-den Palace (the Moon Palace) at the beginning of the celebration of Chinese New Year.

2. Emperor Appears with Ministers

Emperor (*shite*) appears, followed by ministers (*waki* and *waki-tsure*), enters and sits in his palace (*ōyatai*).

Emperor Welcoming the advent of Chinese New Year, New Year's rituals are the first celebration of the four seasons.

Senior Minister

We will be graced by the honorable presence of the Emperor (also called 'son of Heaven'), who looks at the shining sun and moon at the Gate of Eternal Youth.

Emperor Many officials, ministers, and aristocrats crowded around, and their heels touch each other...

Senior Minister

The number of the gathering crowds easily exceeds 100 million.

鶴亀 / 月宮殿
つるかめ / げつきゅうでん

一 官人が皇帝の行幸を触れ歩く

皇帝（玄宗皇帝あるいは禹帝王とも）に仕える官人（間狂言）が登場し、四季の節会の始まりに皇帝が月宮殿にお越しになるから、大臣、殿上人に参上するよう触れ歩く。

二 皇帝が大臣を従えて現れる

皇帝（シテ）が大臣（ワキ、ワキツレ）を伴って登場し、宮殿（大屋台）に入り、着座する。

皇帝 初春を迎えれば、四季の行事の事始めとして、正月の儀式があるが、

大臣 不老門に天子様（皇帝）が姿をお見せになり、日月の輝きをご覧になるので、

皇帝 多くの役人、大臣、宮廷に仕える者たちは袖を連ね、踵を接してひしめき合い、

大臣 その数は一億をゆうに超えるほど。

Emperor In houses of commoners, people exclaim their adoration for the Emperor.

Senior Minister

Since all raise their voices in their worship for the Emperor at once, their voices...

Emperor ...are echoing even in Heaven and reverberating powerfully.

Group Reciters

The sand of the garden in the palace is covered with gold, silver and gems, the sand of the garden is filled with gold, silver and gems. The floor of the palace is covered by hundreds of thousands of brocades. Doors are made of lapis lazuli, beams are made of shining white seashells, and bridges are made of agate. There are a crane and tortoise on the shore of the pond. The view of the palace is as exquisite as the one of Mount Penglai where it is said that gods and immortal hermits reside. Truly, the grace of the Emperor is so precious. The grace of the Emperor is so precious.

3. Crane and Tortoise Dance

The Senior Minister of His Imperial Majesty steps forward and encourages His Majesty to have the Crane and Tortoise dance as had happened in the past and hold a party of dance and music at the Moon Palace afterwards. Then, Crane and Tortoise who have already appeared on the stage dance together.

Senior Minister

It is my honor to be allowed to make a proposal to Your Majesty. Following the custom of every year, it would be wonderful if you order the Crane and Tortoise to dance and host a party of dance and music at Gekkyū-den Palace (the Moon Palace) afterwards.

皇帝

民の家々では皇帝を礼拝する声が上がりに、

大臣

一同に礼拝するものだから、その声々は、

皇帝

天にも響いて、大変な勢いである。

地

(宮殿の)庭の砂には金銀の、庭の砂には金銀の珠玉を連ねて敷きつめ、床には幾十、幾百となく錦を敷き、瑠璃の戸、碑しやく（白く光沢のあるシャコガイの殻ゆきげた）の行桁（屋根裏の横に渡す木）、瑪瑙の橋が作られている。池の水際には鶴と亀がいて、神仙の住むという蓬萊山もこうであろうかというほど素晴らしい。君の恵みはまことに有難い、君の恵みはまことに有難いことだ。

三 鶴と亀が舞う

大臣が進み出て、皇帝に例年のように鶴と亀に舞を舞わせ、その後、舞樂をなさいませと、奏上する。すでに舞台に入っていた鶴と亀が合い連れ立って舞う。

大臣

申し上げます。毎年の例にならない、鶴と亀に舞を舞わせ、その後、月宮殿にて舞樂をなさいませ。

Reciters It is said that a tortoise lives ten thousand years and a crane lives one thousand years.

[*Chū-no-mai, tennyō-no-mai*]

This is a slightly slow, medium-paced dance, accompanied by small and large hand drums, a drum, and a Japanese flute. In Tsuru Kame / Gekkyū-den, Crane and Tortoise dance together.

4. Emperor Who Is Inspired by the Dance of Crane and Tortoise Dances

The Emperor is greatly pleased with the Tortoise which expresses an omen for auspicious future and the Crane which comes in the garden to offer one thousand years of longevity to the Emperor. The Emperor voluntarily performs a secret dance.

Reciters There are many examples of auspicious things which enjoyed long-lasting prosperity. There are many examples of auspicious things which enjoyed thousands of years of prosperity. What is a good example? Yes, Hime-komatsu (a type of pine tree) is a great one. When Tortoise dances and performs in front of the lush green pine tree, a red-crowned Crane comes into the garden in order to offer a one-thousand-year life to the Emperor. The grateful Emperor therefore performs a secret dance amusingly.

[Gaku]

This is a majestic dance which starts in a slow pace with the melody which imitates the music of the royal court and gradually increases its tempo.

地 亀は万年の齢を経て、鶴も千代の歳を重ねるといふ。

〔中之舞、天女之舞〕

笛・小鼓・大鼓・太鼓で奏せられる、ややゆるやかな中くらいのテンポの舞。「鶴亀／月宮殿」では、鶴と亀が相舞で一緒に舞う。

四 鶴と亀に触発された皇帝が舞う

亀が瑞祥を現し、鶴が千年の齢を皇帝に捧げようと庭に入ってきたので、皇帝も大いに喜び、自ら舞楽の秘曲の舞を舞う。

地 千代に栄えるめでたいものの例は数々あるが、千代に栄えるめでたいものの例は

数々あるが、何を例に引こうか、そうだ、姫小松がある。その松の緑を背にする亀が舞い遊べば、丹頂の（頭頂の赤い）鶴も一千年の齢を皇帝に差し上げようと、庭に参上してきたので皇帝は大変お喜びになり、舞楽の秘曲を面白く舞われた。

〔楽〕

宮廷舞楽を模した旋律に乗り、ゆったりと始まり、次第にテンポを速める荘重な舞。笛・

A flute, small and large hand drums, and a drum provide accompaniment for this dance. It represents the grand dignity of the Emperor as well as the celebratory atmosphere.

5. Emperor Returns to the Hall of Everlasting Life

The celebration further continues. Aristocrats in the imperial court dance variously in the Moon Palace. While enjoying their dances, the Emperor celebrates and feels delight with the richness and continuing prosperity of his country and returns to Chōsei-den Hall (the Hall of Everlasting Life).

Reciters White sleeves (of celestial people) in the Moon Palace on the moon, the white sleeves (of celestial people) in the Moon Palace change like sleeves of lovely flowers (in spring). In autumn, they change like crimson foliage moistened in drizzling rain. In winter, they swirl like brisk snowflakes. The robe of the swirling sleeves is pale purple. When the aristocrats of the Moon Palace on Earth play the music of Geishōui (the music from the moon) together, the Emperor is delighted and blesses the mountains, rivers, trees, and grasses, everything in His land so they will enjoy richness and thousands of generations of prosperity. Then, the palace officials and the bearers of his palanquin increase the pace of its progress. How auspicious it is that His Imperial Majesty returns to Chōsei-den Hall, whose name means the longevity of His Majesty. He returns to the Hall of Everlasting Life.

小鼓・大鼓・太鼓で奏せられる。堂々とした皇帝の威厳ある姿を見せつつ、祝賀の雰囲気を出す。

五 皇帝が長生殿へ還る

祝賀の行事はさらに続き、月宮殿で殿上人たちがさまざまな舞を舞う。その曲を楽しみながら皇帝は国土の豊かさ、繁栄の持続を祝し喜び、長生殿へ還っていく。

地 月にある月宮殿の白衣の（天人の）袂、月宮殿の白衣の（天人の）袂も、いろいろ

あって、（春には）妙なる花の袖のよう。また秋に時雨の紅葉の葉袖のよう。そして冬は冴え行く雪の袂を翻のよう。その袖を翻す衣も薄紫。下界の月宮殿で殿上人たちが舞樂の声に合わせて霓裳羽衣（月世界からの舞）の曲を奏すると、皇帝は、山河草木、国土豊かに千代、万代まで栄えよと喜び給う。すると官人、駕籠かきは御輿を早め、君も長生きなさるとの名を持った長生殿に、君も長生きなさるとの名を持った長生殿に、お還りになるのは、まことにめでたいことだ。

Tsuru Kame / Gekkyū-den

(Crane and Tortoise / Moon Palace)

Synopsis

In ancient China, a New Year celebration is being held at the Emperor's palace. A palace official serving the emperor appears and announces the entrance of the Emperor into the Moon Palace. The aristocrats within his court are all encouraged to come to see His Majesty. When the emperor comes at the Gate of Eternal Youth to see the shining sun of the New Year, all of his people raise their voices in celebration of the New Year, echoing even to Heaven. The garden of the palace is filled with gold, silver and gems and appears exquisite. In this atmosphere filled with joy and beauty, the Senior Minister of His Imperial Majesty steps forward and encourages His Majesty to have the crane and tortoise dance to music as happened in the past and hold a music party afterwards at the Moon Palace. When a crane and tortoise dance to celebrate His Majesty's longevity, the delighted emperor himself dances as well. After the aristocrats have also danced and enlivened the gathering, the emperor gets on a palanquin to return to the Hall of Everlasting Life.

Highlight

This very short Noh drama is often selected as the very first practice piece for novice Noh performers. Depending on the arrangement of the respective schools, this piece includes sufficient amounts of strong and weak chants and dialogues. The types of chants are simple but diverse, making it not only accessible but also interesting for Noh beginners.

However, the *shite* (lead role) of this piece is an emperor and "*gaku*" (a dance performed by characters holding a Chinese fan in many times) is included in the piece, hence the piece is not of less importance but rather holds great dignity and is difficult to learn. Accordingly, it takes time for performers to learn this piece.

The crane and tortoise are often played by *Kokata* or child actors. Their adorable performance is one of the highlights of this piece. The contrast between the emperor's majestic "*gaku*" and children's performance makes this drama even more intriguing.

Since it is familiar even to beginners, presents a celebration and the chanting is easy to follow, many people will enjoy watching Tsuru Kame easily.

Schools	All five (Called "Gekkyū-den" in the Kita school. "Tsuru Kame" in the other.)	
Category	The First group Noh, wakinoh-mono, kara-mono	
Author	Unknown	
Subject	Unknown	
Season	Spring (January in the lunar calendar)	
Scenes	The Emperor's palace in China (Gekkyū-den Palace)	
Tsukurimono	Ōyatai (ichijō-dai (a wooden frame covered with gorgeous cloth) with a roof which is supported by four pillars at the corners)	
Characters	Shite	Emperor (Emperor Xuanzong of Tang or Yu the Great)
	Kokata (or Tsure (the companion of shite) when an adult performs this role)	Crane
	Kokata (or Tsure (the companion of shite) when an adult performs this role)	Tortoise
	Waki	Senior Minister of His Imperial Majesty
	Waki-tsure	Ministers of His Imperial Majesty (about two)
	Ai	A Palace Official
Masks	Tsure (Crane)	Ko-omote
	Tsure (Tortoise)	Kantan-otoko
Costumes	Shite	tō-kanmuri (a type of crown worn by gods or Chinese emperors), iro-hachimaki (colored head band), awase-kariginu (lined kariginu-style kimono), kitsuke / atsuita, hangire (a type of hakama worn by strong characters such as demons, gods and warriors), koshi-obi (belt), and tō-uchiwa (a Chinese fan).
	Kokata or Tsure (Crane)	tsuru-dai (a crown worn by Crane), kuro-tare (a black wig with hair extending slightly longer than the shoulder), iroiri karaori worn in tsuboori style (a short-sleeved kimono outer robe with scarlet in patterns, worn by female characters) (chōken), kitsuke / surihaku, hakama in ōkuchi-style (white), koshi-obi, and a fan.
	Kokata or Tsure (Tortoise)	kame-dai (a crown worn by Tortoise), kuro-tare, iroiri atsuita worn in tsuboori style (a type of short-sleeved kimono with scarlet in patterns, mainly worn by male characters) (unlined) (kariginu-style kimono), kitsuke / atsuita, hakama in ōkuchi-style (white), koshi-obi, and a fan.
	Waki	hora-eboshi (eboshi-style head covering), awase-kariginu, kitsuke / atsuita, hakama in ōkuchi-style (white), koshi-obi, and a fan.
	Waki-tsure	the same as Waki
	Ai	kanjin-zukin (a type of headdress), atsuita, sobatsugi (lined happi-style kimono with no sleeves, worn by warriors or Chinese characters), and kukuri-bakama (a way of wearing hakama trousers, tucking the bottom up at the knee with a string).
Number of Scenes	One	
Length	About 50 minutes	

鶴亀／月宮殿（つるかめ／げっきゅうでん）

あらすじ

いにしへの中国にて。新年を迎えた皇帝の宮殿でお正月の行事が執り行われます。皇帝に仕える官人が登場し、皇帝が月宮殿にお越しになるので、殿上人は皆参上するように、と触れ回ります。皇帝が不老門に現れて初春の日の輝きをご覧になると、万民が天に響く祝賀の声を上げます。宮殿の庭は金銀珠玉に満ちて美しいことこの上ない様子。こうしたなか、大臣が進み出て例年のように鶴亀に舞をさせ、その後、月宮殿で舞樂をなさいませ、と皇帝に奏上します。鶴と亀が舞って皇帝の長寿を祝うと、皇帝も喜び、みずから立って舞います。さらに殿上人たちが舞って祝賀の場を盛り上げた後、皇帝は御輿に乗って長生殿へ還ります。

みどころ

謡曲としては大変短く、謡曲初学者が最初に稽古する曲によく選ばれます。流儀によっては弱吟、強吟、問答の言葉などをバランスよく含み、節回しもシンプルながらバラエティに富んでいますので、とっつきやすいだけではなく、面白さもあります。

ただし、能としては皇帝がシテになり、楽も入りますから、決して軽々しい曲ではなく、むしろ難曲であり、時間もそれなりにかかります。

鶴と亀の役を子方が勤めることも多く、その際のかわいらしい舞も見どころのひとつ。皇帝の荘重な「楽」との対比が興を盛り上げます。

初心者にもなじみがあって、謡もわかりやすく、おめでたい曲柄でもあり、多くの人がストレートに楽しめる曲でしょう。

流儀 五流にあり（喜多流では「月宮殿」。他流は「鶴亀」）
分類 初番目物、脇能物、唐物
作者 不明
題材 不明
季節 春（旧暦1月）
場面 中国・皇帝の宮殿（月宮殿）
作り物 大屋台（一畳台に引立大宮）

登場人物 シテ 皇帝（玄宗皇帝、禹帝王）
子方（大人が演じる場合はツレ） 鶴
子方（大人が演じる場合はツレ） 亀
ワキ 大臣
ワキツレ 大臣2名ほど
アイ 官人

面 ツレ（鶴） 小面
ツレ（亀） 邯鄲男

装束 シテ 唐冠、色鉢巻、袷狩衣（あわせかりぎぬ）、着付・厚板、半切、腰帯、唐団扇
子方またはツレ（鶴） 鶴台、黒垂、色入唐織壺織（長絹）、着付・摺箔、白大口、腰帯、扇
子方またはツレ（亀） 亀台、黒垂、色入厚板壺織（単（ひとえ）狩衣）、着付・厚板、白大口、腰帯、扇
ワキ 洞（ほら）烏帽子、袷狩衣、着付・厚板、白大口、腰帯、扇
ワキツレ ワキと同じ
アイ 官人頭巾、厚板、側次、括袴

場数 一場
上演時間 約50分

鶴亀／月宮殿（つるかめ／げっきゅうでん）
Tsuru Kame / Gekkyū-den (Crane and Tortoise/Moon Palace) ©2018 the-noh.com

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