Zegai-bō, the leader of *tengu* goblins in China, prides himself on successfully

Now, he has come to Japan in order to extend his power over this land where

Zegai-bō Parting the clouds, I continue my journey, flying through the

sky. I will visit Japan, the land of the rising sun.

sky. Parting the clouds, I continue my journey, flying through the

I am Zegai-bō, the head of the *tengu* goblins in Great China.

In my country of Great China, I successfully lured everyone

whose minds had even the slightest conceit into the realm of

tengu goblins, even those people studying at the sacred sites as

the Temple of King Ashoka, Qinglong Temple, and the Seat of

Wisdom. Japan is a country as tiny as a grain of millet, sitting at

the edge of the world. However, I heard that it is called the land

of the gods and furthermore, the Buddha Dharma is flourishing

there. I therefore hasten to Japan, intent upon obstructing the

luring into his *tengu* realm all of the self-conceited people in that country.

1. The Chinese Tengu Zegai-bō Comes to Japan

represent variations in phrasing according to different

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0 天 狗 \mathcal{O} 首領 是界坊 は 自 玉 \mathcal{O} 慢 心 0 者を天狗 0 魔道に引き込んだと自負

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な日 本 に 勢力を伸 ばそうと来日す る 仏法 0)

雲路をか 日本を訪ねよう き分けて空の 旅を続け、 雲路 をかき分け É 空 0 旅 を続 け \mathbb{H} づ 玉

天狗 で日本に渡 \$ 龍 分 かか ?は大唐 0 道 わらず に誘引 般若台 り、 の天 狗 1/2 0 ず 国 首 n で も仏法の聖地)に至るまで、 領 か しなが ŋ ようと思うのだ。 是界坊である。 また仏法が今なお盛んだと聞き及んだ。 ら日 一本は、 さて 辺境の地の、 自分の行力を試 わずか 我が 大唐 でも慢心する者は 粟粒の 0 国 ような小国である で てみるため、 は そこで急い 冏 育 す ~ 王 7 Ш

 \mathcal{O} 本へ行くのだ。 有 名 な豊葦原 0 玉 \exists 本の 美称) は 葦 原 \mathcal{O} 玉 伊ぃ <u>の</u> 一神

海 原 を天 0 瓊矛を 掻 き ま わ た 時 \mathcal{O} 雫 か 5 できた 国 だと 77 ゔ。 秋 津 島 根 日 |本の

か

Buddha Dharma there. / Now I go to Japan to put my supernatural powers to the test.

That famous land of lush reed-fields (an honorific name for ancient Japan), that land of lush reed-fields is said to have been formed from drops of water that fell from the jeweled spear when the gods Izanagi and Izanami used it to stir up the ocean.

*Sections highlighted in

the Buddha Dharma is flourishing.

schools.

め

Ç,

Oh, it seems dawn breaks now at the land of flying dragons (another name for ancient Japan). The rising sun points me in the direction of the land of the gods, Japan. Yes, I can see that there lies Japan, the land of the gods.

2. Zegai-bō Works out a Plot with Tarō-bō at Mount Atago

Zegai-bō visits Tarō-bō, the *tengu* residing on Mount Atago, and reveals his plan to obstruct the Buddha Dharma in Japan. Agreeing to this plan, Tarō-bō recommends that Zegai-bō target Mount Hiei for his attack. However, Zegai-bō shows hesitation, thinking it will not be easy for him to win against the temples in Mount Hiei.

Since I made haste, I have already arrived in Japan. First of all, I shall go to the renowned Mount Atago to pay a visit to the great *tengu*, Tarō-bō. It seems I have already arrived at Mount Atago. Looking at Mount Atago and its cryptomeria forests, the mountain is indeed the perfect place for a *tengu* and his retinue of followers to live. / Since I hastened forth, I have already arrived in Japan. Looking at the mountains and cryptomeria forests in this area, this place is indeed perfectly suitable for us *tengu* and our retinues of followers. First I intend to go to renowned Mount Atago to pay a visit to the lair of the great *tengu*, Tarō-bō. / Since I made haste, I have already arrived in Japan. Looking at the mountains and woods of cryptomerias in this area, this is indeed a place perfectly suitable for us tengu and our retinues of followers. I am thinking to go to Mount Atago first to pay a visit to the lair of the great tengu, Tarō-bō. / Since I hastened forth, I have already arrived in Japan. Looking at the mountains and woods of cryptomerias in this area, this is indeed a place perfectly suitable for us *tengu* and our retinues of followers. I will ask the great tengu Tarō-bō to be my guide.

と考え、 太郎坊も賛同し、 是界坊は、 やや逡巡する気配を見せる。 室を訪ね るにつけ、 狗)を訪ねようと思う。 日本に着いた。 宕山に行き、 つけ、まさに我々、 で参ったので、 の眷属が住む で参ったの 杉木立 ようと思う。 ここはまさに我々、天狗の眷属が住むのにふさわしいところだ。/急い 太郎坊 このあたりの 早くも日本に着い で、 を標的にすることを勧 様子を見 のにふさわ 早くも日本に着 天狗の眷属が住む (天狗) 早くも愛宕山に着 えるに 17 の庵室を訪 ね で参っ 山の姿、 いところだ。 本 まさに我々、 た 61 杉木立の様子を見るにつけ、 このあたりの た。まずは噂 がめる。 0 0 のにふさわしいところだ。まずは噂に聞く愛 ねようと思う。 仏法を妨げ で、 まずは愛宕山 € √ たようだ。 是界坊は 早くも日 天狗 ると に聞 Щ 本に着 の姿、杉木立の様子を見るに に行き、 急いで参ったので、早くも く愛宕山 う自分 「の姿、 叡 が Ш 61 攻略 住 杉木立 0 太郎坊 (天狗) た まさに我々、天 この が 容易ではな うあたり ふさわ の様子を見 みを語る。 0

别 0 国 夜 本はここかとわかるぞ け だろ か 朝 0 る方角 5 神 0 玉 日 本

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ところだ。

まずは太郎坊

(天狗)

に案内を願おう。

Story Zegai I will ask his help first. (a few schools include this phrase) Hello, hello! Is there anyone here in this dwelling? (a few schools include this phrase) Who is it? Tarō-bō Zegai-bō I am the leader of Chinese tengu, Zegai-bō. There is something I would like to discuss with you. I have come all the way from China to meet you. What a great surprise! Are you the famous Zegai-bō? Please come Tarō-bō into my dwelling. Now, what brings you here today?

Yes, let me tell you the very reason for my coming here today. In China, I successfully lured everyone with even a little conceit in their minds into our evil *tengu* realm—from those people studying at the Temple of King Ashoka and Qinglong Temple all the way to those at the Seat of Wisdom. Now, considering this country, Japan, it is a small country, but it is the land of the gods. I have heard that now the Buddha Dharma is flourishing here. This news is somewhat disturbing to me, so I decided to come all the way to Japan. / I heard that now the Buddha Dharma is flourishing here, so I have come to test my supernatural powers against it. / I heard that now the Buddha Dharma is flourishing here, so I have come all this way to obstruct the Buddha Dharma. / I heard that now the Buddha Dharma is flourishing here. This news is somewhat disturbing to me, so I have come to obstruct the Buddha Dharma. I hope you will decide to join forces with me so that we can fulfill the highest goal, the original vow of the way of tengu.

太郎坊 のです。/ はるばるここに来た こに来たの さてこのたび お 仏法は今なお盛ん り込んだのです 龍寺 お、 か 仏法を妨げるため ただいま参りま 般若台に至るまで、 の有名な是界坊が / 仏法は今なお盛んだと聞き、 です どのような目的 だと聞き、 のです。 まことにこの 仏法が今なお盛ん た に来たのです。 0 少し心にひっかかりがあったので、遙々ここまで来た ず 、仏法は今なお盛 したのですか。 で、 か 日本はと言えば、 か でも慢心する者は皆、 でもござい お出でになっ だと聞き、 自分の行力を試そうと考え、ただいま、こ あ なたもどう まず ません、 その仏法を妨げてやろうと考え、 私 た 小国であり んのです の庵室 か 心を くと心 唐に 我ら天狗 へお入り下さ つ なが 61 に Ω つ 0 ら神国であり は、 魔道に引きず 阿育王山 天狗道 がある

太郎坊

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What a commendable objective you have. My country, Japan / As you said, Japan has been, since the beginning of heaven and earth, the land of the gods. Therefore, the Buddha Dharma is now flourishing still here. (A few schools include this phrase) First of all, there is Mount Hiei, not far from this mountain. It is the headquarters of the Tendai Sect in Japan and considered to be the Japanese equivalent of China's Tiantai Mountain. It is the perfect target for the attack you are planning.

That sounds very good—a very good opportunity, indeed! In the Tendai sect of Buddhism, the Buddha Dharma

Zegai-bō / Tarō-bō

is divided into teachings of skillful means and teachings of the true reality of all things.

Tarō-bō / Zegai-bō

It also transmits the innermost principles of the esoteric teachings.

Zegai-bō / Tarō-bō

Its adherents study both exoteric and esoteric teachings and therefore.

Tarō-bō / Zegai-bō if the likes of we tengu

Zegai-bō / Tarō-bō

try to spy on them and make them an easy target—

Tarō-bō / Zegai-bō and Tarō-bō should we attempt it—

界坊・太郎坊太郎坊/是

なさるの

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のような者が

たやすくねらいをつけて様子を窺おうと

方便の教えと真実の教えの二つに分けて、

本意に達していただきたいと思うのです。

太郎坊

これ

なまた、

殊勝なことを思い立たれたもの

です。

そもそも我が日本の

国 は

のように日本の国

は

天地開闢

よりこの方、

ず

っと神国でありました。それ

ゆえ、

そこは日本の天台山と言えます。

思うまま、

標的になさるとよいでしょう。

仏法は今もなお盛んなのです。

(一部流儀にあり) まずは近隣に比叡山

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Story Zegai

Group Reciters

that might be a task beyond our capabilities and we might be just like "a praying mantis fighting with its sickles" or "a monkey trying to grab the moon."*1 Although I understand that, pride and conceit well up inside me and convince me that I can probably take advantage of their weaknesses. However, I am concerned about the Great Sage and Immovable Defender, Acalanatha, as he possesses awesome powers to subjugate evil demons. I have to think twice because that deity is there.

First of all, each of the five great deities who defend Buddhism took different vows. Among them, the merits of Acalanatha's vow are superior to the others. Acalanatha literally throws himself into a fire, enters a state of deep meditation, and completely burns all evil demons with a fire that illuminates the whole world.

Although his outward appearance manifests rage,

Reciters his inner heart is full of profound blessings of compassion for living beings. Completely focusing his mind to demonstrate the principle of immobility, he lives in the minds of all living beings. Truly, they are grateful to him.

> Having said that, I am still unable to free myself from the realm of transmigration. I can only lament my sad self, submerged in the realm of demons. Looking back upon myself, from the distant past until today, I used to pay homage before the buddhas before my eyes and my ears carefully listened to the teachings of the Buddha. Thanks to the merits obtained through these deeds, I managed to avoid falling into the Three Evil Realms.*2 However, I turned into a tengu, an evil being and the sworn enemy of the Buddha Dharma, which is extremely sad. If I do not now lament this, I will never be able to receive the water of the Buddha's wisdom in the future and to escape from the scorching fire of Acalanatha.

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悪道 か 0 0 御姿を拝み、 な は ※2に堕ちる 0 は 言 61 水を得 わけ つ ま つ では 5 た 0 仏法に く悲 自 ず 分は 61 免 輪廻 不動 耳をそば立 17 わ 、ことだ。 が身を振り返れ 朔王 0 道 それ 0 を去ることは 火焔 てたこともあ でも鬼畜 これ か ら逃れ ば、 を嘆 遠い の身 でき ること つ た。 ず 0 過去 天狗 この 魔境に は 「から 61 できな とな るなら 今ま Ď, 0 で 3 功 0 法 蕳 未来永劫 0 に 0 仇 身 敵 \mathcal{O} とな \equiv

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に 前脚を上げて立ち 斧、 猿猴が 月 向 か い つ ず た故事、 ń ŧ 分不相応な望みを持っ 「猿猴が月」 は、 猿が水面に て 破滅に至ることのたとえ。 映じた月を取ろうとして溺れ死んだ故事に基づく 「蟷螂の 斧」 は、 蟷螂が巨大

<u>*</u> 三悪道:悪業の報い により堕ちる三つの世界。 畜生道、 餓鬼道、 地獄道のこと。

郎 は 61 7 ま で も議論を続 け 7 蕳 が た つ

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姿を消す か け、 先導を申 出 る 是界坊 もこ に呼応 雲 りだと言 0 架け 橋を渡 つ 叡 て、 Ш 襲撃を是界坊にけ 比叡 Ш 向

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Story

realm while waiting for Acalanatha to come and slash me to death with his sharp, demon-subjugating sword. *1 Sickles of a Praying Mantis and the Monkey's Moon: Both are metaphors of someone who tries to get something beyond their capabilities, which brings them to a catastrophic ending. "Sickles of a praying mantis" derives from an ancient story of a praying mantis using its sickles to fight against a large carriage. The monkey's moon also refers an old story, this one about a monkey that ending up drowning itself when it tried to grab the reflection of the moon floating on the water. *2 Three Evil Realms: The three realms into which fall, after their death, those with evil karma. They are the realm of animals, the realm of hungry spirits, and hells. 3. Zegai-bō Decides to Attack Mount Hiei and Departs with Tarō-bō

Zegai-bō Is this world a dream or is it reality, or could it be that reality itself

is only a dream? I do not know. How utterly pathetic that I have

no intention of letting go of such delusions and following the

teachings of the Buddha, but instead would rather holds even

higher self-conceit and try to lure monks and priests into my

Zegai-bō accepts his offer and heads to Mount Hiei, traveling on a bridge of clouds, and then he disappears. Further discussion is just a waste of time. Come on, let's go! I will Tarō-bō

show you the way to Mount Hiei.

Tarō-bō insists that further discussion is merely a waste of time. He urges

Zegai-bō to attack Mount Hiei and offers to guide him to the mountain.

Now is the time to resolve ourselves to become the enemies Zegai-bō of the Buddha Dharma. Making such a vow before this Mount Atago, whose name includes the sound ada (enemy), I depart the mountain and travel over a bridge of rising clouds.

Zegai

Reciters

n

13

My name is one of great renown. Here is Mount Takao, and to the east we see Mount Hiei.

Zegai-bō Over the top of the cryptomerias in Yokawa,

I keep traveling while looking at Mount Nyoi-ga-take to the south.

While traveling, Zegai-bō and Tarō-bō disappear with storm winds, just like the clouds and haze covering Mount Hiei, which is also called Mount Sumeru. They disappear with storm winds.

[Interlude]

4. Temple Messenger Heads to Kyoto with a List*3 Prepared by the Hiei Abbot

A servant working for the abbot residing in Imuro on Mount Hiei appears. He announces that the abbot is requested to come to Kyoto to offer prayers, as a number of strange incidents have occurred in Kyoto because Zegai-bō has come on the attack. He then says that he has left for Kyoto ahead of the abbot in order to deliver the list of sutras. However, strong gusts of wind, which seems to be made by Zegai-bō, have forced the temple messenger to return to Mount Hiei.

*3 List of sutras: A catalog that records the titles, the number of volumes, and counts of recitation of sutras or dharani incantations recited by monks when offering prayers or conducting a memorial service.

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ると告げる。 Ď, 叡 Щ 僧正に祈 0 飯 室の 能力は是界坊由来と思われる強風にあおられ、 祷の 正 要請 仕える能 が来たと語 力が つ 登場する。 た のち、 僧正に先立って、 是界坊来襲に 戻る。 巻数を届ける役を担 でさまざまな怪 つ 事 が 61

あ 比

※3 巻数(かんじゅ/かんず):僧が祈祷や追善の際に、 読誦した経典や陀羅尼の題目、 巻の数、 何度読んだかなどを記し

愛宕山を出立し、 沸き立つ雲の架け橋を渡り

地

我が名は高名であるが、

ここが高雄

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横川の杉の梢よりょから

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を見て進む 太郎坊の姿は消えた、 うち \mathcal{O} Ш

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嵐とともに是界坊、 南 嵐とともに消え失せた。 Ш 0 雲や霞と同様

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Story Zegai

5. Abbot Repels Zegai-bō

On their way to Kyoto, the abbot and his entourage are attacked by Zegai-bō as they descend Mount Hiei. When the abbot recites a prayer to subjugate demons, Acalanatha and other deities appear and help him. The weakened Zegai-bō is unable to keep flying and disappears into the clouds, saying that he will never come back to Japan, which is fiercely defended by the powers of the buddhas and the gods.

Entourage of the Abbot

Having received an imperial order, we left our temple on Mount Hiei and travel on the path leading to the equally famous imperial court.

Abbot I gradually make my way down Mount Hiei. However, how strange. The pine tree over there,

Reciters the top of the pine tree is blown by storm winds and bends weakly. The top of the pine tree is blown by storm winds and bends weakly. Clouds form and rain starts falling. Mountains, rivers, grasses, and trees are all trembling. Lightning illuminates the sky and thunder rattles the earth, darkening my spirits and making me lose my nerve. What on earth is going on? What on earth is going on?

[Ōbeshi]

Entrance music for *tengu* and demon-spirits. The music, performed by a Japanese flute, small and large hand drums, and a drum, creates an ominous atmosphere. Zegai-bō enters the stage to this music.

Zegai-bō First of all, the man who appears before you is the head of *tengu* in Great China, Zegai-bō. Yes, that is me.

僧正一 飛行 0 正 が 行 悪 か す に去っ 魔 る 勅命を受けて、 力も 降 7 弱まり、 0 祈 13 った。 祷 で対抗 自分 九 す 0 ると、 61 神 る比叡 芀 の強 不動 山を出て、 61 明王 日本には今後、 は じめ、 同様に名高 諸天善神が現 来ることはない 61 大内 山 ħ て助力

の道を急い いで進む

こうしてようやく、 比叡 山を下りてきたが 不思議なことに、 あ の下 h

僧正

魂も暗 が ,降り、 が嵐に吹 くなるばかり 河草 か n 木 は震動 た だ。 わ 2 でしおれ n は 天 一体どう に は 梢 稲 が嵐 したことだ、 光 が に 輝 吹 き、 か n 大地 これ た わ は は 雷 で 体どう 鳴 が お 鳴 n したことだ。 響い 雲が は出で雨 て、

とともに、 是界坊が登場する 天狗、

鬼神

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そもそも、 の私のことだ。 こう て現 n た者は 大唐 0 一天狗 \mathcal{O} 首 領 是界坊であるぞ。 そうだ、

との声を残して

した。

是界坊

Hey, monk, how pretentious you are! So far, what has come from the meditation you practice in order to attain enlightenment? The Buddha said that "If a buddha wants to remove an impediment [to the Buddha Way], he must go to the realm of demons," which means that in order to drive away demons, you have to fall into the demon realm. Oh, how I pity you! For those who were born in the realms of desire.

the pursuit of the way of enlightenment leads to the realm of demons.

> How strange. I hear a voice coming from within the clouds that recites heretical verses. Of course, demons and buddhas are one and the same, just as ordinary people, who are not practitioners, are no different from wise sages in their fundamental nature. This is because fundamental nature is pure and undefiled, tranquil and stable. Therefore, the embodiment of this nature, Acalanatha, has a name that means "immovable."

[Iroe]

A short series of movements by which Zegai-bō tries to intimidate the abbot with his imposing dignity.

"Those who hear my preaching will attain the great wisdom of Abbot the Buddha." (The words of the vow taken by Acalanatha to save living beings.) "Untara ta kanman." (A dharani incantation recited as part of the prayer to Acalanatha.)

Then, upon the abbot's recitation of the prayer to him, then, upon Reciters the abbot's recitation of the prayer to him, Acalanatha appears. His boy attendants, Kimkara and Cetaka*4, as well as the Gods of the Twelve Directions,*5 unite their demon-quelling powers and serve as heralds who purify the way for Acalanatha.

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[イロエ]

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http://www.the-noh.com

Story Zegai

*4 Kimkara and Cetaka: Boy attendants who stand to the left and right side of Acalanatha.

*5 Gods of the Twelve Directions: The (originally) Indic gods protecting each the twelve directions: Brahma (up), Prthivi (down), Indra (east), Yama (south), Varuna (west), Vaisravana (north), Aguni (southeast), Raksasa (southwest), Vayu (northwest), Isana (northeast), Surya (the sun), and Candra (the moon).

[Hataraki]

A dance depicting Zegai-bō fighting against Acalanatha and the other gods.

Zegai-bō Not only are Acalanatha and other gods here,

Not only are Acalanatha and other gods here, but when I look to Reciters the east, from where the winds blow—what a dreadful sight,

Zegai-bō It is the god of San'nō Gongen (the guardian of Mount Hiei)!

From the south, the god Otokoyama (Iwashimizu Hachimangu Reciters Shrine); from the west, the god Matsu-no-o (Matsuo Taisha Shrine); and from the north, the gods of Kitano and Kamo (Kitano Tenmangu Shrine and Kamigamo and Shimogamo shrines)—they all appear and blow forth their mountain gusts and divine winds, forcing down even Zegai-bō, who is extremely skilled at flying. He falls to the ground, his supernatural powers exhausted. He appears to be leaving Japan, but then he flies back and shouts, "I am no match for such superb powers as the buddhas and gods protecting this land, so I will never come back." So saying, he disappears into the clouds. His words alone remain in the sky. His words alone remain in the sky.

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是界坊

(比叡山の守護神)

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是界坊 不動明王や諸天はともかく 是界坊が不動明王とその

他

の神々に立ち向

かう様子を示す舞

タラキ]

十二天:十二の方位を守護する神々。 沙門天 (北方)、 火天 (東南方)、羅刹天 (西南方)、 梵天 (上方)、 風天 (西北方)、 地天 (下方)、 帝釈天(東方)、 伊舎那天 (東北方)、日天 (日)、 焔摩天 (南方)、 水天 月天 (月)。 (西方)、

4 矜羯羅童子、 制多迦童子:不動明王の左右に位置する童子

Zegai

Synopsis

Zegai-bō, a *tengu* (flying goblin), is proud that he has successfully lured all of the self-conceited people in China into his *tengu* realm. Intending to pull more people into his realm, he comes to Japan. He visits Tarō-bō, the tengu inhabiting Mount Atago, and tells Tarō-bō about his plan to obstruct the Buddha Dharma in Japan, the land of the gods, where Buddhism is flourishing. Tarō-bō agrees to this plan to expand their realm in Japan and recommends that Zegai-bō attack the temple complex on Mount Hiei. Zegai-bō is hesitant to attack Mount Hiei, where the Buddha Dharma is particularly well developed through the study of both exoteric and esoteric Buddhist teachings, admitting that he is especially afraid of the deity Acalanathanatha, the immovable defender who fiercely guards the temple. However, because Tarō-bō keeps pushing him and offers to be his guide to the mountain, the emboldened Zegai-bō departs for Mount Hiei, flying on a cloud together with Tarō-bō.

At Mount Hiei, the abbot of Imuro is about to depart for Kyoto because he received an imperial order to come and offer prayers as the city is experiencing abnormal events that seem to be caused by tengu. Therefore, a messenger from the temple starts out for Kyoto ahead of the abbot with a list of sutras*, but strong gusts of wind fiercely blow towards him. He is afraid that it must be a *tengu* who is making these gusts and returns to the temple complex of Mount Hiei.

As the abbot of Imuro descends Mount Hiei on his way toward Kyoto, a thunder storm hits him. It is indeed Zegai-bō who causes the storm as he tries to prevent the abbot from going to Kyoto. Although the abbot hears, coming from the storm clouds, voices chanting heretical verses, he calmly prays to Acalanatha. When he does so, Acalanatha appears, bringing with him other deities who are protectors of the Buddha Dharma and they together exercises their powers of subjugating demons. Furthermore, even the Shinto gods arrive and blow forth such powerful winds that Zegai-bō is unable to fly and falls to the ground, exhausted. Zegai-bō hides himself and runs away into the clouds, leaving behind a message that he will never come back.

* List of sutras: A catalog that records the titles, the number of volumes, and counts of recitation of sutras or dharani incantations recited by monks when offering prayers or conducting a memorial service.

Highlights

This play lauds the greatness of the Buddha Dharma with its story that even a tengu, a dominant figure in the realm of devils, is no match for its awesome power. The highlight of this drama is the fight between Zegai-bo and waki (the abbot) in the second half. This play seems to be a simple story about vice being punished. However, if you understand the historical background and peculiar characteristics of *tengu*, the goblins of Japanese folklore, this drama becomes even more mysterious and interesting, and you will surely enjoy it more. We will therefore provide some information about *tengu*.

Today, *tengu* is typically depicted in the form of a man with a long nose and red face, wearing the attire of a Shugendo mountain ascetic (yamabushi), holding a unique fan, wearing a pair of tall wooden clogs, and flying with wings. However, in ancient Japan, tengu meant a shooting star (meteor). Tengu did not appear for many years in Japanese history, but toward the end of the Heian period (late 8th century to early 12th century), they suddenly started cropping up in folklore and historical documents. By the end of the Heian period, *tengu* had ceased being a meteor and had been transformed into a half-man, half-bird with the ability to fly. Also by this time, tengu had incorporated the characteristics of *yamabushi* mountain ascetics. This development can probably be attributed to the image of these ascetics, who run across the mountains and possess supernatural powers, being well suited to the image of *tengu*, a flying goblin living in the lower realms. Thus the visual image of *tengu* was fixed as donning the attire of mountain ascetics and they always appears in that costume in Noh dramas such as Kurama Tengu and Kuruma-sō.

While people hold *tengu* in awe because of their extraordinary supernatural powers, tengu are also known for their extreme self-conceit. That arrogance is on display when in this play, Zegai, when Zegai-bō proudly boasts that he has lured many self-conceited people into his dark realm.

Schools All five. In Japanese, Zegai is written with the characters 是界 in the Komparu,

Hōsho, and Kita schools, 善界 in the Kanze school, and 是我意 in the Kongoh

Category The Fifth Group Noh. kiri-noh mono

Author Takeda Hōin Jōsei

Subject Konjaku Monogatari (Anthology of Tales from the Past), Zegai-bō Emaki (Picture

Scroll of the Tale of Zegai-bō), etc.

Season Unknown

Scenes Maeba Mount Atago in Yamashiro Province

Nochiba Mount Hiei in Ōmi Province

Tsukurimono Carriage

Costumes

Characters Mae-shite Zegai-bō

Nochi-shite Tengu Tsure Tarō-bō

Waki Abbot of Mount Hiei

Waki-tsure Retainers of the Abbot (two) Αi Messenger from the temple

Mask Nochi-shite Ōbeshimi Mae-shite

Tokin (a type of headdress worn by mountain priests or tengu), suzukake (bobbles on the costume of mountain ascetics).

mizugoromo (a type of knee-length kimono), kitsuke / atsuita (a type of short-sleeved kimono mainly worn by male characters), ōkuchi-style hakama (white), koshi-obi (belt),

(a small sword,) a fan, and Buddhist prayer beads.

Long red wig (kindon-hachimaki (a headband in gold)), ōtokin Nochi-shite

> (tokin headdress worn by tengu characters), awase-kariginu (a lined long-sleeved kimono worn by male characters, especially gods and other dignified characters), kitsuke / atsuita,

hangire (a type of hakama trousers worn by mighty characters such as demons, gods, and warriors), koshi-obi, and hauchiwa

(a fan for tengu).

Tsure Tokin, suzukake, mizugoromo, kitsuke / atsuita or muji-noshime

> (short-sleeved kimono with no pattern, worn as the innermost layer of the costumes of male characters of lesser standing), ōkuchi-style hakama (white), koshi-obi, (a small sword,) a fan,

and Buddhist prayer beads.

Waki Shamon-bōshi (a hood for high-ranking monks), kara (a piece of

> square cloth worn over other clothes by Buddhism priests), mizugoromo, kitsuke / atsuita, ōkuchi-style hakama (white),

koshi-obi, a fan, and Buddhist prayer beads.

Waki-tsure Sumi-bōshi (a hood for regular Buddhist monks), mizugoromo,

kitsuke / atsuita or muji-noshime, ōkuchi-style hakama (white),

koshi-obi, a fan, and Buddhist prayer beads.

Αi Nōriki-zukin (a hood for a temple servant), mizugoromo, kitsuke/

shima-noshime (short-sleeved noshime-style kimono with stripes), kukuri-bakama (a way of wearing hakama trousers, tucking the bottoms up at the knee with strings), koshi-obi, a pair of gaiters, and a fan. Holding a broom made of bushclover,

upon which is tied a letter.

Number of Scenes Two

Length About 1 hour and 20 minutes

是界/善界/是我意(ぜがい)

あらすじ

唐の天狗、是界坊 (善界坊/是我意坊) は、中国全土で慢心する者 をすべて、天狗道に引きずり込んだと自負し、さらに版図を広げようと、 日本にやってきます。愛宕山の天狗、太郎坊を訪ねた是界坊は、仏教 の盛んな神国の日本で、仏法を妨げ、天狗の勢力をのばそうという自分 のたくらみを語りました。太郎坊は賛同し、比叡山をねらうことを勧め ます。是界坊は、顕教、密教を兼学する比叡山の仏法の充実ぶりにた めらう様子を見せ、特に不動明王に恐れを表しますが、太郎坊がます ます後押しし、自分が案内しようというので力を得て、一緒に雲に乗っ て比叡山へ向かいました。

比叡山では、飯室の僧正が、都で天狗由来と思われる変事があるた め祈願に来てほしいとの勅命を受けて、出立しようとしていました。そ の先駆けとして、能力が巻数※を携えて都へ向かって進んでいると、大 風が吹いてきたため、天狗の仕業と恐れをなして、戻ります。

その後、飯室の僧正は、比叡山を下りて、都へ近づいていましたが、 途中で雷雨に見舞われます。是界坊が現れ、行く手を阻もうとしたので す。雲の中から、邪法の呪いの声が聞こえてきますが、僧正は落ち着い て不動明王に祈願しました。すると、不動明王が仏法を守護する神々を 引き連れて現れ、悪魔降伏の力を発揮します。さらに日本の神々も来臨 して風を吹かせたため、是界坊の飛行の技も破られ、地に落ちて力尽 きます。是界坊は姿をくらまし、もう絶対にくることはないと言い残して、 雲の中に逃げていきました。

※巻数 (かんじゅ/かんず):僧が祈祷や追善の際に、読誦した経典や陀羅尼 の題目、巻の数、何度読んだかなどを記した目録。

みどころ

魔界の実力者である天狗も、仏法の力には対抗できないという内容 で、仏法の有難さを伝える話になっています。単純な勧善懲悪にみえ、 みどころとしては特に、後半の是界坊とワキ僧の戦いが焦点になります が、より深く楽しむために、天狗の背景や性質を少し、掘り下げてみま しょう。

現在、一般的な天狗の姿は「鼻高」「赤い顔」「有翼」「山伏姿」「羽 団扇」「高下駄」で示されますが、古代日本では流星(隕石)でした。 もともと古代中国で凶兆を示す流星を「天狗」と呼び、それが入って きたか、定かではありませんが、『日本書紀』に、大きな音を出して落 ちた流星を、中国帰りの僧が「天狗」、和名で「アマツキツネ」と呼ん だ、と記されています。その後、歴史から消えた天狗は、平安時代末期、 突如として説話や史書に頻繁に登場します。能「是界」のもとになった、 是害坊という唐の天狗が比叡山の僧に挑み、逆にやり込められて逃げ 帰る話も『今昔物語』に出てきます。当時の天狗はすでに流星ではな く、飛行する半鳥半人の姿でした。また山伏の要素も、この頃には取り 込まれていました。山野を駆け巡り、超人的な能力を持つ山伏が、飛 行する魔界の天狗のイメージと重なったのでしょう。天狗の山伏姿は 定着し、能でも「是界」のみならず、「鞍馬天狗」「車僧」など天狗の 出る能では皆、まずは山伏姿で現れます。

また天狗は、非常に高度な神通力を持ち、人間からは畏怖される者 ですが、極めて高慢な性質を持っています。得意げに自慢することを「天 狗になる」といいますが、まさにその性質が特徴的で、能「是界」で も慢心の者を天狗道に引きずり込んだ、と是界坊が自慢する場面が出 てきます。

このほか、いつごろから鼻高天狗になったのかなど、天狗という不 可思議な魔物について、興味は尽きません。

流儀 五流にあり。金春流、宝生流、喜多流では「是界」、観世流では「善界」、 金剛流では「是我意」と記す

分類 五番目物、切能物

竹田法印定盛 作者

題材 「今昔物語」「是界坊絵巻」等

季節 不定

場面 前場 山城国愛宕山

後場 近江国比叡山

作り物 車

登場人物 是界坊 (善界坊/是我意坊) 前シテ

> 後シテ 天狗

ツレ 太郎坊

ワキ 比叡山の僧

ワキツレ 従僧(二人)

アイ 能力(寺男)

後シテ 大癋見(おおべしみ)

装束 前シテ 兜巾、篠懸、水衣、着付・厚板、白大口、腰帯、(小刀)、

後シテ 赤頭、〔金緞鉢巻〕、大兜巾、袷狩衣、着付・厚板、半切、

兜巾、篠懸、水衣、着付・厚板/着付・無地熨斗目、白

大口、腰带、(小刀)、扇、数珠

ワキ 沙門帽子、掛絡、水衣、着付·厚板、白大口、腰带、扇、

ワキツレ 角帽子、水衣、着付・厚板/着付・無地熨斗目、白大

口、腰帯、扇、数珠

アイ 能力頭巾、水衣、着付・縞熨斗目、括袴、腰帯、脚絆、

扇、萩箒に文をつけて持つ

場数 二場

上演時間 約1時間20分

是界/善界/是我意(ぜがい) Zegai ©2020 the-noh.com

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