1. Ōtomo no Kuronushi Sneaks into Komachi's House

The day before a poetry-writing contest is to be held at the imperial palace, Ōtomo no Kuronushi sneaks into the house of his competitor, Ono no Komachi, and secretly listens to the poem she has composed to submit in the following day's contest.

Ōtomo no Kuronushi

I am Ōtomo no Kuronushi. I have been invited to participate in a poetry-writing contest* tomorrow at the imperial palace. It has been decided that I will compete against Ono no Komachi. She is an extraordinary poetry master, and I am not at all confident that I can defeat her. Today, she must be reciting her poem in preparation for tomorrow's competition, so I will sneak into her house and listen to what she is preparing.

Ono no Komachi

When you trace the origins of Japanese poetry, you find that they go back to Prince Shōtoku—who became a bodhisattva of great compassion by saving living beings from their suffering—composing a poem at Mount Kataoka that spread among the people.

Now, there is a poetry-writing contest tomorrow at the imperial palace. It has been decided that I will be matched against Kuronushi in the competition, and I have been given the subject of "grasses by the water" for my poem. / Now, there is a poetrywriting contest tomorrow at the imperial palace. Since my partner in the competition is determined to be Kuronushi, I will try to compose my poem for the contest. "Grasses by the water" was assigned as the subject of my poem.

大 伴 は流儀によって異なるところを示す。 主、 小 の 屋 敷 に 忍 び込 **\$**}

町も

中 0 0 歌 8 合 に ※を明日 詠 んだ歌を聞き取る に 控えた大伴黒主 は、 相手となった 小野 小 町 \mathcal{O} 屋敷に忍び込み 小 町 が

大伴黒主 私 女の は 大伴 7 手 で 野 黒主でござい に忍び は 小 前 あ 込んで が ŋ りません。 決まりま ・ます。 歌を聞 今日、 さて こうと思 明 小町 はき 7) 宮中 ・ます。 つ 大変な歌 で歌 0 0 \mathcal{O} 歌を吟ずることでし 名手 が で、 n ま \mathcal{O} 黒主 す が が かなう 私 0 手

和 岡 歌 Щ \mathcal{O} 源 で を尋 和歌を詠 御 所 ね で御 n じら ば 歌合 n 聖徳太子が衆生 の催 お広め しが ありますが になったことに、 の苦しみをお救 の相手には、 行き当たるよ 17 になる大悲 黒主をお定め \mathcal{O} 菩薩とな

小野小町

て、「水辺さて明日、 相手 には 草」 を題 黒主をお定め に賜 りました。 なっ /さて明 日 歌を詠もうと思 御所で御歌合 います の催し がありますが

て賜りま

Grasses by the water is such an interesting subject. Well, a poem has come to my mind.

"No one has planted them, / So from what seed have they grown so lushly, / These grasses floating between the waves?"

I am going to write down this poem on a strip of paper.

* Poetry-writing Contest: A form of refined entertainment enjoyed by nobles. Participants were parted to the right and the left and pairs competed against each other in composing poems.

[Interlude]

2. Kuronushi Devises His Plot to Win Against Komachi

Kuronushi is done eavesdropping on Komachi, so he returns home and asks his attendant about the meaning of her poem. The attendant gives an irrelevant answer, so Kuronushi explains what the poem means. He then copies Komachi's poem into a volume of Man'yō-shū (Collection of Ten Thousand Leaves), determined to make it appear as though Komachi had plagiarized the poem from the ancient anthology. He then exits the stage. In turn his attendant enters the stage, delivers a monologue, and exits.

Story

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舞台

つ が

て独り言を連ねた後、

退く

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黒

主

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歌

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内容を解説

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黒主

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を万

葉集

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町

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見せ

かけようと決意し、

舞台から退出す

入れ替

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した黒主

は、

家に帰った様子で、

従者に歌

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外

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の

計

略

を巡らす

歌合:歌人が左右に分かれて、 おのおの歌を詠み、 その優劣を競う王朝の

貴族の遊び

歌を短冊に写そうと思

77

、ます。

「蒔か

なく

に何を種とて浮き草の、

波 のう

ねう

ね生ひ繁るら

2

(蒔くこともない

0

に

水辺の草とは

誠に面白

11

御題ですが、

このような歌が浮か

びましたよ

草は何を種に、

このように波の畝に生い繁るのか)」

[中入]

りで従者 書き写 な答え - 2 -

 \mathcal{O}

| 殿に

て、

丸

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詠

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を詠

み、

同は帝

の勅を待っ

た。

貫之・ツレ(立衆)・黒主

Ξ

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歌

合が

始ま

The poetry-writing contest starts at the Seiryō Hall in the imperial palace. After the emperor and famous poets are seated, Ki no Tsurayuki recites aloud a poem attributed to Kakinomoto no Hitomaro, and everyone in attendance waits for a word from the emperor.

Kuronushi, Ki no Tsurayuki, Tsure (bit players) / Komachi, Tsurayuki, Tsure (bit players), Kuronushi / Komachi, Emperor, Tsurayuki, Tsure (bit players), Kuronushi This party is a poetry-writing contest in this auspicious reign. For this poetry-writing contest in this auspicious reign, we shall compose splendid poems and receive blessings from the emperor.

Tsurayuki, Tsure (bit players) / Tsure (bit players) / Komachi, Tsurayuki, Tsure (bit players), Kuronushi

> It is now the middle of the fourth month. This contest is being held at the Seiryō Hall in the imperial palace and looks like it will be extremely lively.

Tsurayuki When I hold up the portraits of Kakinomoto no Hitomaro and Yamabe no Akahito.

Tsure (bit players)

the participating poets take out their poems written on slips of paper, and place them in front of these portraits.

Tsurayuki / Tsure (bit players)

Now, the people lined up before the emperor

Tsure (bit players) / Tsurayuki

are headed up by Ono no Komachi, Ōshikōchi no Mitsune, Ki no Tsurayuki,

Tsurayuki / Tsure (bit players)

Uemon-no-jō, and Mibu no Tadamine.

3. The Poetry-writing Contest Starts at Seiryō Hall

壬生忠岑とい

右衛門 の財気

小町をはじめとして、 凡河内躬恒、 いった面 々で 紀貫之、

帝 Ó 御前 に居並 ぶ人々といえば

ツレ (立衆)

0

お

の詠

2 だ歌

0

短冊

を、

我も我もと取り出

て、

その肖像の前

に置

のだった

貫之・ツレ(立衆)/ツレ(立衆) /小町・貫之・ツレ (立衆)・黒主

は 四月 の半ば、 清涼殿で催される御会であ Ď, まことに華やかな様子であっ

貫之

こうして人丸

(柿本人麻呂)、

赤人

(山部赤人)

の肖像を掲げたところ、

仰ぎ奉ろう。 でた 11 御代 の歌 合 め でた 61 御代の歌合に、 素晴らし い歌を詠み 帝 Ó 御聖徳を

61 よ歌合が が始まる。 帝をは じめ、 名だたる歌 人が 居並

 λ だ後、

紀貫

http://www.the-noh.com

Tsure (bit players) / Tsurayuki

They are seated to the left and the right

Tsurayuki / Tsure (bit players) and already,

Tsurayuki / Tsure (bit players)

they have started to write poems.

Tsurayuki "At dawn, / A boat sails through the mist in Akashi Bay. / The way it slowly disappears / Behind a distant island / Is quite pleasing."

Group Reciters

Truly, the sight of a boat disappearing behind an island as well as that of the setting moon, truly, the sight of a boat disappearing behind an island as well as the hazy moon setting behind an island... the picturesque view of Awaji Island is truly tasteful. Speaking of Awaji Island, at the dawn of our country, the god Izanagi and goddess Izanami were the first to enjoy themselves by speaking poems. The poetic tradition they initiated became a way of softening our hearts. Master poets are now seated together at the imperial palace, waiting for a word from the emperor, waiting for a word from the emperor.

4. When the Emperor Praises Komachi's Poem, Kuronushi Accuses Her of Plagiarism

The emperor orders Tsurayuki to read Komachi's poem aloud. Impressed with it, he praises her poem, but then her competitor, Kuronushi starts accusing her of plagiarizing her work. Although Komachi denies Kuronushi's accusation, he presents a book as proof, and the other participants start looking at her suspiciously.

帝

は

貫之に

小

前

歌

を詠ませ、

その が示さ

出

来映えを褒

相手となる黒主が

盗作を主張する

小

町

の

歌

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褒

め

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帝に

対

し

黒

主が

盗作

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拠

の草紙

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井

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に疑惑の

目を向

ける

貫之

(立衆)

、も詠歌

ず

らは左右に分か

がめた

(立衆)

明石の H \mathcal{O} た始まりで、 浦 ぼ 0 \mathcal{O} ربا ج 朝霧の中 ح が 明 う、 島に 石 あ 0 そ 浦 0 0 n 淡路 \mathcal{O} が 朝 伊ィ 0 彼方 ##諾、 入る景色、 に 0 嶋 が に隠れ n 再には まこと て見えなくなっ W 趣深 0 神 61 を b が 0 が ぞ思 てゆ だ。 を詠 Š まれ 淡路 、さまは Œ n たこ ح 7 0 ぼ W 61 まことに趣深 えば 0 とで始ま 夜 \mathcal{O} 我 明 淡 が つ H 77 た る 玉 頃 和 が

陰に入る 0 遊 びこそ、 S, 帝 0 0 が勅を待 心を和 つ 5 7 げる道とな 61 0 つ る つ 7 そ 61 0 歌 名手たちが 今、

能楽ポータルサイト the // .com

Emperor To start with, Komachi has been matched against Kuronushi. Read

Emperor Fascinating! No poem could exceed this one. Everyone, read this

The subject is grasses by the water. "No one has planted them, / So from what seed have they grown so lushly, / These grasses floating

Tsurayuki I am at your command, Your Imperial Majesty.

Komachi's poem first.

between the waves?"

poem aloud.

Emperor Hello, Tsurayuki.

Tsurayuki Certainly.

61

部流儀にあり]

面

61

この歌

に勝るものはまさかあるまい。

帝

貫之よ。

御前におります。

ぬより、 町

の相手には黒主を定めていたが、

まずは

小町の歌を詠み上げなさい

水辺の草。 しこまり 蒔かなくに何を種とて浮草の波のうねうね生ひ繁るらん

しこまりました。[一部流儀にあり]

これは古歌でございます。

古歌だというの

お待ちください。

小町よ、 なぜ古歌を申すのだ。

What is that? Are you saying that this poem was written a long

time ago? [a few schools include this phrase]

Kuronushi Yes. [a few schools include this phrase]

Emperor Komachi, why did you submit an existing poem?

Tsurayuki Yes, we will. [a few schools include this phrase]

Kuronushi Just a moment, please. This is an old poem.

Kuronushi As you say, I cannot make such a claim without clear evidence. The book in which this poem is compiled is Man'yō-shū. The season is summer, and the subject is grasses by the water, but the author is unknown. I therefore do not know who wrote it.

Although Man'yō-shū includes over seven thousand / four thousand and three hundred poems that were compiled by Tachibana no Moroe at the time of Emperor Heizei, I know every single one of those poems. Are there different versions of Man'yō-shū? Your story sounds ridiculous.

Kuronushi You are certainly right, but you are following the style of Princess Soto'ori, who wrote touching, gentle poems. So, it is natural that have you plagiarized an old poem in order to win this contest.

Komachi Well, I remember that you are following the style of Sarumaru Dayū, so you must be using the cunning of the monkey ("saru") in your name to try to ruin my reputation. My poem could never have been copied from an old poem.

小町

黒主

に

そ

は

そう

ょ

う

あ

なたは

0

流

n

にあ

哀

くな

61

作者は誰とも存じません。

黒主

ま つ せ や る通 草 り、 字 は そ 万葉集で、 の証 拠 \mathcal{O} 歌 題 が は 明白 夏、 「でなけ 水辺の草と n ば、 は 書 0 13 よう 7 あ つ 曲 た し上 が デ 読 3 は ず 知 は あ 5

四千三百余首 万葉集は奈良 か 色々 の異本 n 0 に及びます 天子 があるの で (平城天皇) が が しょう 0 0 か。 知ら 御 まっ 衣通姫 61 歌 諸 は 兄 を選者 お あ か りません。 しなことです に編ま つ て、 b しや 歌 n 0 万葉とい で強 は 七千首/ いう草子

だから そう 61 ば、 勝 つ た なた め に古歌 は 昔 を盗 \mathcal{O} 猿 丸 む 太 のも当然だろう。 夫 0 流 を引 13 方だ か 5 前 通 ŋ \mathcal{O} 猿 知恵 で

0 悪評を立 てようと 17 0 で ょ n は 古歌 では あ h ´ませ

61

うこと

で

よう、

古今、

万葉など

0 \mathcal{O}

勅撰集

に

Ō

で

それとも、

お話しく

か

の家集に

でもあるの

で

しょう

か

作者はどなたです

は皆

0

歌道を嗜

で

17

・ます。

それ

な

今の

歌を古 ある

歌だと言

わ

ます

0

ど

々

ことを ご心配 13 に 言葉でござい な Ŋ ・ます 知

小町

0 浦 に神とし わ n ŋ ませ 玉 一津島明 神と祀ら 通り が ń て以 道 来、

cherry blossoms...

Kuronushi in the past and present,

truly be a mystery of poetry.

Komachi perhaps do exist.

of stealing someone else's poem?

Kuronushi Someone said that I'm like a mountain man resting under the

Komachi I am not such a terrible person. How could I possibly even think

Kuronushi If you made a mistake by not checking your words carefully, that

Komachi Cases of making such a mistake in transcribing the words,

would be like the case of Fujiwara no Shunzei writing the wrong

word for Narusawa in a poem about Mount Fuji (he mistakenly

the same phrases found in the eight imperial poetry anthologies.

But this is very strange. Has it ever happened, from ancient times

down to the present, that all thirty-one syllables comprising a waka poem accidentally match those of an old poem? If this poem

is indeed exactly the same as the one in Man'yō-shū, that would

Then, show us the evidence, said the emperor. As the imperial

order has been repeatedly given, Kuronushi opens the volume

of Man'yō-shū. The theme of the first section is spring, and the

tion is not included there. The section of flower poems ends.

subject is the first day of the spring. However, the poem in ques-

sometimes make such a mistake of transcription or accidentally use

wrote "narusa" instead of "Narusawa"). It is possible that we

か

し不思議

なことだよ、

上古

か

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時

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まれた歌

があるな

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0

歌が

万葉集の

歌と

61

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和

歌 ま

0

不思議と

61

のだ。

それ

なら

が証

拠

しなさ の部

ζJ

と帝

ら宣旨 題であ

が

たびたび下され

た

0

黒主

は

万

葉集を開

61

た。

最 0

初 歌

は春 を出

で、

立春

0 か

つ

たがそこに

は

花

0

歌

B

尽き

あっただろう。

昔も今も

そのような文字の誤りというのなら

る場合や、

三代集から八代集にある古歌と同じ文字を使う誤りもあろう

士の鳴沢を

「なるさ」

と間違えた逸話)

0

よう

なも

四病

病

(作歌で嫌われること)

に罹

よく言葉を調

~

61

で間違えた

ならば、

のなるさ

0

大将

(藤原

俊

成が

花 0

陰を行く山人などと言われたが……

は

そのような賤しい

者ではありません

か

5

どうして古歌を盗もうなんて思うで

ż

Then the section of summer poems begins. When the subject of floating grasses appears, Kuronushi claims that Komachi's poem is included there and holds the book up to read it aloud. Even the other poets, who have been sitting by and watching the incident unfold, start to feel bitter and cannot help but place their hands on their hearts. There is no need to say how Komachi feels; her heart beats fast with enormous anxiety.

If this truly has been plagiarized from an old poem, what Komachi did is extremely shameful. However, if this is not an old poem, it means that Kuronushi has set a trap for Komachi and this is also an extremely shameful deed. Here is the poem from Man'yō-shū that Kuronushi submitted as evidence. The other is Komachi's poem. Let's read them aloud together to compare. [a few schools include this phrase]

Tsurayuki / Kuronushi

"No one has planted them, / So from what seed have they grown so lushly, / These grasses floating between the waves?" [a few schools include this phrase]

Kuronushi Look. It must be same as the old poem. [a few schools include this phrase]

5. Komachi Finds Something Unnatural on the Page of the Book

Being exposed to suspicious looks from the other participants makes Komachi feel very uneasy. However, when she closely examines the page of the book, she finds that, regarding the poem in question, the color of the ink is not natural. She requests that Tsurayuki allow her to wash the page of the book, but Tsurayuki shows hesitance.

五 貫之/黒主 ろ 0 小 町 付 目 は ご覧くださ どきどきと脈打 力葉集の黒主が差 きが ならば を互い 証 に か 0 人たち 歌が古歌 なく さ 拠 5 の 、に詠ん 草 子 3 1, 何を種とて浮き草の、 黒主に謀が いならば、 に これは古歌ではな でみよう。 不審な点 17 し出 実に不安な思 た づ した証拠 あ ま ったことになり、 町 を見 は とん が 部流儀にあり 17 つ の歌、 湧 町 け 波 61 でもなく 61 持 は のう であ でしょう て胸に手を置く 草 こちらは小 \mathcal{O} つ 小 、恥ず う 4) 町 ぐ 生ひ n 7 町 一茂るら つ 0 部流儀にあり 有様 た てもその で、 題と草子を引き合わせて あ まし 子 恥 をよ で や は 申 61

が 9 に あ 61 ます で夏 部 \$ h もう と草子を差 題 0 げ 観 主 7 町 たほ まさ \mathcal{O}

でさえ、 苦 61 思 61

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こちらが

-8-

出

る が 見

難

たと

地

泣

Komachi Woe is me. The great patron of the way of poetry, Kakinomoto no Hitomaro, must have abandoned me. Woe is me.

> I have been accused of plagiarizing an old poem, and the Minister of the Left and the Minister of the Right, as well as the ladies who attend to consorts, are all staring at me. I feel as though I not in the real world, but seeing a dream within a dream. I am quite upset.

Now, I pick up the book in question. Then I see that the alignment of the said poem is not right, and the color of the ink is also different from other poems. This must mean that Kuronushi secretly listened to the poem I recited alone and copied it onto this page of a volume of Man'yō-shū in order to insist, before the emperor, that I stole an old poem. [a few schools include this phrase]

Because I feel so much shame, I would like to wash the page of this book in clear, pure water.

Tsurayuki Although Komachi says so, if her guess is not correct, she will only heap shame upon shame.

Komachi Anyway, the more I think about this, the grimmer and sorrier I feel.

Reciters Standing up in tears, I return to my seat before the burning eyes of the people. I feel so embarrassed.

小

町

貫之

とは違っ で、 て 61 0 た。 草子 きっ を取 とこれ n げ は私が独っ 7 いたとこ りで詠 ろ、 λ で \mathcal{O} 組 11 た歌 み方 も雑

で、

文字の

墨付

B

ほ

を御覧になるの

で、

夢に夢を見るような心

地が

心も定まらな

61

0

歌を古歌だと

61

わ

左右

0

大臣

や、

そ

 \tilde{O}

ほ

か

 \mathcal{O}

の女房たちも、

小 町

S

n

局で

古歌だと訴え出るため に [一部流儀にあり] この万葉集に筆を入れたに違い を黒主 が 立ち 聞 な きし、

h に恥か ゅうございますか 5 清 11 水を汲 んで、 この草子を洗おうと思い ます。

るであろう 小 町 はそう言うが ₽ しまた、 見 立 て 0 通り っでなけ 'n ば、 61 61 よ恥の 上塗り

とにもかくに < 泣 立 \$ 思 すごすごと帰る途中 61 をめぐらすほどに、 やるせな 無遠慮な人目 61 悲 しみ にさらされ は つ 0 ŋ 恥ず 13

小町

あ あ 悢 あ 8 恨 L 8 61 歌 道 柿本朝臣も私をお見捨てになっ てしまっ

6. Komachi Rinses the Page of the Book and Clears Away the Accusation

Tsurayuki decides to accept Komachi's request and asks the emperor about it. Having received the emperor's permission, Komachi rinses the page of the book in water. Then, while all the other poems remain on the page, only the poem of the floating grasses is washed off and completely disappears.

Tsurayuki Wait a moment, Komachi. I will ask His Imperial Majesty about your request.

> Excuse me, Your Imperial Majesty. Komachi has closely examined this page of the volume of Man'yō-shū and found that the said poem is not well aligned with other poems and the color of its ink is different. She therefore would like to wash the page of the book. That is her request.

What Komachi claims is certainly true. [a few schools include this Emperor phrase Then, tell her to try washing it.

Tsurayuki Yes, Your Imperial Majesty, I will.

Komachi, this is an imperial order. Wash the page of the book immediately. / His Imperial Majesty orders you to wash the page of the book.

Tsure (bit players)

Then, people attending the emperor pour water into a golden pitcher and place a silver basin before the emperor. / Then, people attending the emperor pour water into a golden pitcher and bring out a silver basin and pass it to Komachi.

Story

か しこまりました。

小町よ、 0 仰せであるぞ。

すぐ草子をお洗いなさ

それならば草子を洗

みよとの

仰せであるぞ。

時、 置 御前 61 0 人々は、 / その時、 金 御前 一の半挿 0 人々は、 (湯水を注ぐ器) に水を入れ、 金 の半挿に水を入 れ、 銀 の盤 0

ツレ(立衆)

その を取 盥を取り出し h 出 して

か

小町の

申す通りである。

部流儀にあり」そ

n

では

洗

つ

てみよと言

13

なさ

13

おります。

貫之

失せた。

です

す

61

すると、

ほ

か

0

歌

は

消

えなな

か

つ

た

が

浮き草

-の 歌

だけ

が が

3 出

n

さ

ぱ

ŋ

消え

帝

0

町 つ

は草子を水

貫之

で げま 文字の墨付もほ ぶす。 1 町 が かとは違っ 0 万 葉 0 7 草 77 子 ますの をよ で、 く見ましたとこ 草子を洗ってみた 行 0 え方 こう

b

申

前 しば らくお待ちなさい 0 このことを奏上しましょう。

は 小 1 町 町 は 0 申 し出を受け ることに 決 8 帝に奏上する。

草子を い 盗 作 の 疑 を 晴 5 す

Wakano-ura, let me wash the page of this book.

Washed at the shore of the Milky Way are

Reciters

Reciters

month.

Komachi Sleeves in the hue of flowers,

Komachi Upon graciously receiving His Imperial Majesty's permission, my

tears of delight drop like pearls. I tuck my sleeves up to the shoul-

der with a string and at last try washing the page of the book.

Just as the waves wash over the salty seaweed in Wakano-ura

(Poetry Bay), just as the waves wash over the salty seaweed in

the robes of the Cowherd (Altair) and the Weaver Girl (Vega),

who are reunited every year on the seventh day of the seventh

Wings of wild geese represent letters, however, we cannot wash them as they do not leave traces. / we do not know what the

letters mean unless we trace the path of the geese in flight. The

after they have been washed, have the scent of plums.

hermit Xu You washed his ears in the Ying River

worldly matter (A Chinese legend).

Komachi in order to purify them of the contamination of hearing a filthy

のお言葉をいただき、

嬉しくて涙が玉となって落ちるなか、

襷を結んで肩にか

け

よいよ草子を洗おうとする。

歌浦の藻塩草を波が洗うように

和

浦の藻塩草を波が洗うように、

この草子を

おう。

天 0 原で洗 った 0 は

0 ť 日 0 衣 (七夕に逢って別れる牽牛・

織女の衣)。

花色の 衣 0 袂に

洗った後も、 梅の 匂 17 が交じるだろう。

翼は文字を表す が 0 で、洗えない

雁

0

類川で許由ないが残らない で許由が耳を洗ったのは、

意味はわからない

た俗世の話を聞 61 て生じた汚れを清めたのだ (中国故事)。

小町

濁

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- 11 -

http://www.the-noh.com

Old moss, growing for many years like a long beard, was washed

Komachi by a pool of water that formed after the thin river ice melted.

When we wash the poems of spring, we thaw the mist that has Reciters frozen on our sleeves.

Komachi When we wash the poems of winter, wash the poems of winter,

We feel the cold on our sleeves. Let's sweep the frost off the Reciters feathers of waterfowl, who must be freezing in the cold. Let's sweep the frost off their feather.

Reciters / Komachi

Because it is a love poem, the ink of the letters spelling "memento of a clandestine love" disappear.

Komachi / Reciters

Tears pour down onto our sleeves, upsetting the memento of a secret love and the memento of something I want to forget.

Reciters / Komachi

In poems about Buddhism,

Komachi / Reciters

the letters spelling "lotus" are blurred and disappear.

Reciters / Komachi

In poems about Shinto deities, the sacred song, "Sakakiba," comes to mind.

Komachi / Reciters

Sleeves wet with tears dry before the fire that burns in front of the gods at the time of the sacred dance.

Story

その庭火

(神楽の時に神前で焚く火)

に涙

の袖も乾く。

蓮の文字が乱れて消え (神々) で 神楽

0

曲

「榊葉」

を思

61 ・つき、

(仏教/仏教にまつわる歌)

0

歌

の数々は

は 袖に降 'n か か り、 忍ぶ草 も乱 れ、 忘れ草

も乱

n

地/小町

0

の文字ゆえに、

「忍び草」

の墨は消え、

の霜を払おう、

上毛

の霜を払おう。

我が袂も寒くなるが、 さぞ寒かろう水鳥の上毛

冬の

歌を洗えば、

冬の歌を洗えば

0

歌を洗っ

凍っ

た霞

0

袖を解かそう。

原 に張る薄

町

氷 の解け た水

のような年経た苔を洗ったの

地

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Reciters / Komachi

Wet and washed by the drizzle

Komachi / Reciters

Was a brocade of crimson leaves.

Reciters / Komachi

At Sumiyoshi

Reciters

At Sumiyoshi, white waves traveling toward the shore wash the old pine trees. Just like the waves, I shall quickly pour the water and wash the page of the book. When I wash it well and pick it up, how strange! Miraculously, while various authors' names, subjects and their poems were not blurred at all, only the poem of the floating grasses has completely disappeared, just because it had been written later on. How grateful I feel. How grateful I feel. This must be due to the compassion of the gods of poetry: Izumo, Sumiyoshi, Tamatsushima, Hitomaru, and Akahito. After offering prayers to those gods for a while, Komachi gladly presents the book to the emperor.

7. Emperor and Komachi Forgive Kuronushi, and Komachi Performs a **Dance of Celebration**

As his wicked plot to entrap Komachi has been laid bare, Kuronushi tries to leave the Hall to kill himself. However, Komachi stops him, saying that he committed the evil deed due to his passion for poetry. The emperor calls for Kuronushi to come before him and pardons him, mentioning, just as Komachi did, that it was his passion for poetry that drove him to do the misdeed. The emperor forbids Kuronushi to commit suicide and orders him to return to his seat. In a festive mood, Komachi performs a dance celebrating the reign of the emperor and lauding Japanese poetry.

熱意

家囲気

小町

2舞を舞

代を寿ぎ

和歌を讃える

 \mathcal{O}

熱

悪だ

住 吉 小町/地

葉

0

だ

つ

時

雨

に

濡

て洗っ

 \mathcal{O} 0 御前 吉 0 0 文字 W に差し上 つ て取 で形 ŋ 文字が げた 住吉、 う げ 玉 ひと ば 津 つ残らず消えて n どう る ことは したことか 0 ま ただ浮草 不思議 恵 っ か なこと の歌 町 61 は 有難 々 0 歌 ら筆 n 0 で帝 和歌 者 入

黒 主 を 帝 も 小 町 も 許 L 小 町 が め で た < 舞 を

七

意 ゆ え あ 2 が に つ 7 0 見 た黒 とだ たの か 主 だろ は うと許 と呼 自害す るた 8 る。 8 自害をよ 帝 殿 は を退 黒主を御 しとせず 出 う ようとする に呼 8 7 町 لح 町 同 主 \mathcal{O} \mathcal{O} \sim

Kuronushi When I really think about it, nothing could be more shameful than my evil deed. I must kill myself. Having made up my mind, I stand up.

Komachi Excuse me. Wait a moment.

I cannot myself claim to be the friend of poetry, if I monopolize the fame and honor it brings. Anyone who is too passionate about the way of poetry might make such a mistake as you did.

Emperor Hello, Kuronushi.

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Kuronushi I am at your service, Your Imperial Majesty.

Emperor Naturally, anyone who is passionate about poetry might do such a wicked thing. Do not worry about it, and return to your seat.

Kuronushi What an honor to receive such gracious words. I will humbly follow your order. So saying, Kuronushi sits respectfully before the emperor. [a few schools include this phrase]

Reciters / Tsurayuki, Tsure (bit players) / Tsurayuki

What a blessing! Both Komachi and Kuronushi feel no bitterness toward each other. People are requesting that Komachi perform a dance, so bring out a gorgeous robe and *eboshi* headdress and put them on her. They call for quiet in the place with the sound of a clapper. / so people come and encourage her.

帝

黒主

よくよく考えれば、

これ

ほどの恥辱はほ

かに

はな

自害をしよう、

と席を立

暫くお待ちなさい

・ませ。

やあやあ、 黒主よ

は、

誰でもこのようになるもの

で

名誉を独

り占めにするよう

で

歌

0

友とは申せませ

歌道に熱心なあまりに

御前におります。

0 道に熱意ある者は B が この ようになるも 0 だ、 気 に障ることは な

61

ぞ、

つきなさい

りません。 \mathcal{O} よう なお言葉を賜ること また名誉なことでござい 、ます。 仰せに背くこと

地/貫之・ツレ(立衆)/貫之

まことにあり

が

た

61

折

である

小

町

B

黒主も遺恨

は

なく、

々

は

小

前 に

舞を所望

子を着

つ

て座敷

- 14 -

そう言っ て黒主は御前に畏まる。 [一部流儀にあり]

あ

それぞれ 立ち寄っ 華やか な打 衣と風

を静めた。/

、それぞれ立ち寄って勧めた。

Komachi When spring comes, plenty of peach blossoms float on every

Komachi When it flows toward us, pick up a branch of the blossoms first,

Reciters and pile up colorful, beautiful robes. / peach color robes.

However, stones hinder the water's flow, and the blossoms float

町は舞装束を着る。

春が来ると、 水という水にはあまねく、 桃 の花が浮かぶ、

小町

石が邪魔になり、 流 れ来るのは遅くなる。

流れて来れば、まず手を差し出して花 0 一枝を取り、

色とりどりの美し 、桃色の衣を重ねるのだろう。

春霞が立つ。

小町

笛 つとり、 小鼓、

めでたく舞う。

大鼓

で奏する、

中

庸な速さの

三番目物

の女性がシテになる曲であり、

春霞が立てば

Ш

げ方頃

 \hat{o}

小町

が遠くに見える明

Komachi The spring haze is rising.

Komachi changes into the dancing costume.

body of water.

slowly.

[Chū-no-mai]

[Monogi]

A dance in medium tempo, which is performed with the accompaniment of a Japanese flute and small and large hand drums. This is a gentle, elegant, celebratory dance by a female lead of the Third Group Noh.

Komachi When the spring haze rises, we can see distant mountains at dawn.

Reciters

like pine trees in the dawn light of the rising sun, for thousands of years, His Imperial Majesty's reign will endure, His Imperial Majesty's reign will endure, flourishing for thousands of years. Even the waves of the surrounding oceans and the lands of the surrounding countries—that is, everything in this world—he reigns peacefully, so that the people need not worry about bolting their doors. His reign is as wonderful as those of Emperors Yao and Shun (legendary emperors in ancient China). When we talk about the origins of Japanese poetry, it starts with the god Susano'o-no-Mikoto, who established this country. This Land of the Gods is protected by this god of poetry and therefore, the scene of spring cherry blossoms in Kyoto is peaceful as well. The scene of the spring cherry blossoms in Kyoto is peaceful as well. How auspicious is the way of Japanese poetry.

花の都 られた素戔嗚尊にたどるが 影に見える松 四方の の春景色ものどかで、 中国 の聖天子) 国 | 々も、 の代にも並ぶものだ。 は太平に治まり 花の都の春景色ものどかで、 0 わが国はこの和歌の神がお守りになる神国ゆえに、 御代は千 民は戸締り また和歌 の起こりを尋ね の心配もない 和歌の道はめでたい限 れば、 この 御代は、 国を始

Sōshi Arai (Washing the Page of a Book) **Sōshi Arai Komachi** (Komachi Washing the Page of a Book)

Synopsis

In summer, during the middle of the fourth month (of the lunar calendar), a poetry-writing contest* is planned at the Seiryō Hall of the imperial palace in Kyoto. Ōtomo no Kuronushi is paired up with Ono no Komachi to compete in poetry-writing at the party. Since Kuronushi is afraid that he will be unable to defeat Komachi in poetry-writing, he sneaks into Komachi's house and secretly listens to the poem she has prepared to be recited at the contest the following day. He then copies her poem into a volume of $Man'y\bar{o}$ -sh \bar{u} (Collection of Ten Thousand Leaves), an anthology of ancient poems, trying to make it appear as though she plagiarized her poem from it.

The following day, at the poetry-writing contest, Komachi's poem is first to be read aloud before the emperor and other renowned poets, including Ki no Tsurayuki. While the emperor praises Komachi's poem, Kuronushi insists that Komachi submitted a poem she found in *Man'yō-shū*. Although she raises an objection to his claim, Kuronushi produces the volume into which he added Komachi's poem as evidence. Heartbroken by such a dishonor, Komachi manages to pull herself together and, carefully reading the Man'yō-shū volume, finds some unnatural parts in the alignment and the color of ink of the poem in question. She therefore asks if she may wash the book's page and receives the emperor's permission to do so. When she washes it, the added poem is rinsed right off of the page, exposing Kuronushi's wicked trick. Kuronushi leaves his seat with the intention of committing suicide, but Komachi calls out after Kuronushi. She forgives him for his misdeed because she thinks he only did it out of his passion for poetry. As the emperor also forgives him, Kuronushi returns to his seat. Now no bitterness separates Komachi and Kuronushi, and the party takes on a festive mood. Komachi praises the reign of the emperor and performs a dance lauding the virtues of poetry.

 Poetry-writing Contest: A form of refined entertainment enjoyed by nobles. Participants were parted to the right and the left and pairs competed against each other in composing poems.

Highlights

This play has no basis in historical fact; rather, it is a fictional story with an "all-star" cast whose members are historically famous poets. This bold innovation makes this piece very interesting and entertaining. The drama depicts Ōtomo no Kuronushi as an evil man plotting someone's downfall, while describing Ono no Komachi as an unparalleled poetry master and paragon of justice. Although the stage is set at an elegant poetry party in the imperial palace, this play depicts dark human emotions, which makes this fictional drama unforgettable and true-to-life.

The highlight of this drama is the scene in which Komachi, who fell prey to Kuronushi's plot, washes the page of the book in order to prove her innocence. Justice prevails and the evil plot is laid bare. The scene in which she washes the page of the book and rinses off the added poem is quite dramatic. Leading up to this climactic scene is beautiful chanting that uses the word 'wash' in many plays-on-words and reminds people of many ancient poems. The audience should enjoy this chanting that adds to the excitement.

After Kuronushi's wrongdoing has been revealed, he tries to kill himself, but Komachi stops him. She forgives him as he committed the wicked deed due to his passion for the art of poetry. The tension is softened even more in the scene in which the emperor also shows that he is not angry with Kuronushi and generously pardons him. At this point, the story takes on a festive atmosphere, followed by Komachi's beautiful, yet brisk, dance, which will surely be pleasing to the audience. Rather than condemning wrongdoing outright, it is rinsed away with water, guiding us into a realm of refreshing purity, free of bitterness. Letting bygones be bygones — a wise maxim cultivated in Japanese culture since ages ago—is evident in this scene. In the play, when Komachi washes the page of the book, she is also cleansing Kuronushi's wickedness as well as the minds of the audience.

Schools All five. The title is "Washing the Page of a Book" (Sōshi Arai, 草紙洗) in the Hōsho and

Kongoh schools. It is "Komachi Washing the Page of a Book" (Sōshi Arai Komachi, 草紙 洗小町) in the Komparu and Kita schools and Sōshi Arai Komachi (employing different

kanji,草子洗小町) in the Kanze school.

Category The third group Noh

Author Unknown

Subject Unknown

Season Summer (the fourth month of the lunar calendar)

Scene Kvoto

Characters Shite Ono no Komachi Kokata King (Emperor)

Tsure Ki no Tsurayuki
Waki Ōtomo no Kuronushi

Ai Servant / Retainer of Kuronushi

Characters — The following roles are added depending on schools:

[Kanze School] Tsure Mibu no Tadamine Tsure Öshiköchi no Mitsune

Tsure Female retainers of Imperial Court (Two)

[Hōshō School] Tsure (Bit Player) High-ranking nobles (Three)

[Komparu School] Tsure High-ranking nobles (Two)

Tsure Female retainers of Imperial Court (Three)

[Kongoh School] Tsure (Bit Player) High-ranking nobles (Two)

Tsure (Bit Player) Female retainers of Imperial Court (Two)

[Kita School] Tsure High-ranking nobles (Two)

Tsure Female retainers of Imperial Court (Two)

Masks Shite Fukai, Wakaonna, Zō, Ko'omote

Tsure (female retainers) Fukai, Wakaonna

Costumes Shite

First Half of the Drama : Kazura (wig), kazura-obi (band for a wig), iroiri karaori (a short-sleeved kimono outer robe in scarlet with a pattern)

worn in *kinagashis*tyle, *kitsuke/surihaku* (short-sleeved *kimono* worn as the innermost layer of the costume of a female character), and a

fan.

Second Half: Kazura, kazura-obi, iroiri karaori worn in tsuboori-style, kitsuke / surihaku, hakama in ökuchi-style (scarlet), koshi-obi, and a fan. Wears kazaori-eboshi (eboshi style headdress) at the time of

monogi.

Kokata Uikanmuri (the headdress for emperors, nobles, or aged deities), hitoe-kariginu (unlined long-sleeved kimono worn by male

characters, especially gods and other dignified characters), kitsuke/ nuihaku (a short-sleeved kimono with embroidery and gold or silver flakes applied to the fabric) sashinuki (a pair of long hakama style trousers tucked at the knee by strings) / hakama in ōkuchi-style

(white), koshi-obi, and a fan.

Tsure (Ki no Tsuravuki)

Okina-eboshi / kazaori-eboshi (eboshi style headdress), hitoe-kariginu / chōken (unlined, long-sleeved elegant garment worn by dancing female characters), kitsuke / atsuita (a type of short-sleeved kimono mainly worn by male characters), hakama in ōkuchi-style (white),

koshi-obi, and a fan.

Tsure (Mibu no Tadamine, Ōshikōchi no Mitsune)

Kazaori-eboshi, chōken, kitsuke / atsuita, hakama in ōkuchi-style

(white), koshi-obi, and a fan.

(Nobles) Kazaori-eboshi, chōken, kitsuke / atsuita, hakama in ōkuchi-style

(white), koshi-obi, and a fan.

Tsure (Female retainers)

Kazura, kazura-obi, karaori worn in tsuboori-style, kitsuke / surihaku,

hakama in ōkuchi-style (scarlet), koshi-obi, a fan.

First Half of the Drama : Kazaori-eboshi, chōken, kitsuke / atsuita,

hakama in ōkuchi-style (white), koshi-obi, and a fan.

Second Half: Kazaori-eboshi, hitoe-kariginu, kitsuke / atsuita, hakama

in ōkuchi-style (white), koshi-obi, a fan, and a book.
Naga-kamishimo (Long-sleeved kimono worn with a sleeveless robe

Naga-kamishimo (Long-sieeved kimono wom with a sieeveless for

and a pair of hakama trousers with trailing hems.)

Number of Scenes Two

Length About 1 hour and 30 minutes

Waki

Αi

草紙洗 (そうしあらい)

草紙洗小町/草子洗小町 (そうしあらいこまち)

あらすじ

四月(旧暦)の半ば、都の清涼殿で歌合※が催されることになっており、大伴黒主の相手には小野小町と定められました。黒主は歌の実力では小町に敵わないと思い、歌合を明日に控えて、小町の屋敷に忍び込み、小町が歌合のために詠んだ歌を聞き取ります。そして黒主は、小町の詠歌を万葉集の草紙(草子)に書き入れ、盗作を演出しようと企てました。

翌日の歌会では、帝をはじめ、紀貫之ら歌人が居並ぶ場で、まず小町の歌が披露されました。帝が小町の歌を讃えるなか、 黒主は、小町が万葉の古歌を発表したと主張します。小町は 反論しますが、黒主からは証拠として書き込みをした万葉の 草紙が提示されます。汚名を着せられ、心を痛めた小町でし たが、草紙にしっかり目を通し、行の整え方や墨付きに不自 然な点を見つけます。そこで小町は草子を洗わせてほしいと 願い出て、帝の許しを得ます。小町が洗うと、書き入れられ た歌だけが流れ落ち、黒主の悪企みが露見します。この時、 黒主は自害しようと座を立ちますが、小町は歌道への熱心さ ゆえのことだからと許し、呼び止めます。帝もお許しになり、 黒主は再び座につきました。こうして小町、黒主の遺恨もな く、めでたい雰囲気となり、小町は御代を寿ぎ、和歌の徳を たたえて舞を舞いました。

※歌合:歌人が左右に分かれて、おのおの歌を詠み、その優劣を競う 干朝の貴族の遊び。

みどころ

この曲は史実に基づかず、有名な歌人を一堂に集めた架空の物語として創作されています。思い切った創作だからこその面白さがあります。大伴黒主を、人を陥れようとする悪どい人物とする一方、小野小町を比類のない歌の達人として、正義の側に立たせます。宮中の雅な歌合を舞台としながら、どろどろした人間の欲を描き、架空とはいえ、真に迫った印象的な物語となっています。

物語の焦点は、黒主の悪だくみにはまった小町が、みずからの潔白を明らかにするため、草紙を洗うところ。ここで正義は勝利し、悪事が露見します。小町が草紙を洗い、書き入れた墨がすべて流れ去る場面は、まさに劇的な瞬間です。この場面に至るまで、「洗う」ことにかけながら、さまざまな和歌を想起させ、盛り上げていく謡も美しく、楽しみの一つです。

この後、黒主は自害を図ろうとしますが、小町はそれを止め、歌道への熱意ゆえのことであると許し、帝も怒りを見せず、寛大に許す場面が続きます。そのまま祝賀の雰囲気となって、小町の美しくきりりとした舞へつながる流れも、好感が持てます。悪をただ断罪するのではなく、水に流し、遺恨なく清々しい世界を導く。日本人が古い時代から培ってきた智恵を感じます。この曲で小町は、草紙を洗い、悪事を洗い流すとともに、観る者の心をも洗うかのようです。

流儀 五流にあり。宝生流・金剛流では草紙洗、金春流・喜多流では草紙洗小町、 観世流では草子洗小町と表記する

 分類
 三番目物

 作者
 不明

 題材
 不明

季節 夏(旧暦四月)

場面 京都

登場人物 シテ 小野小町 子方 干(帝)

> ッレ 紀貫之 ワキ 大伴黒主

アイ 黒主の下人/従者

流儀によって異なるが、以下の出演者が加わる

 [観世流] ツレ
 壬生忠岑

 ツレ
 凡河内躬恒

 ウス
 ウェニタ

 ツレ
 官女二名

 [宝生流] ツレ (立衆)
 朝臣三名

 [金春流] ツレ
 朝臣二名

 ツレ
 官女三名

 [金剛流] ツレ (立衆) 朝臣二名

 ツレ (立衆) 官女二名

[喜多流] ツレ朝臣二名ツレ官女二名

面 シテ 深井、若女、増、小面 ツレ(官女) 深井、若女

装束 シテ 前場:鬘、鬘帯、色入唐織・着流し、着付・摺箔、扇 後場:鬘、鬘帯、色入唐織・壺折、着付・摺箔、緋大口、腰帯、 扇。物着にて風折烏帽子をいただく

子方 初冠、単狩衣、着付・縫箔、指貫/白大口、腰帯、扇 ツレ(紀貫之)

翁烏帽子/風折烏帽子、単狩衣/長絹、着付・厚板、白大口、 腰帯、扇

ツレ(壬生忠岑、凡河内躬恒)

風折烏帽子、長絹、着付・厚板、白大口、腰帯、扇ツレ(朝臣) 風折烏帽子、長絹、着付・厚板、白大口、腰帯、扇ツレ(官女) 鬘、鬘帯、唐織・壺折、着付・摺箔、緋大口、腰帯、原料・原料・

7キ 前場:風折烏帽子、長絹、着付・厚板、白大口、腰帯、扇 後場:風折烏帽子、単符衣、着付・厚板、白大口、腰帯、扇

草紙 アイ 長上下

場数 二場 上演時間約1時間30分

草紙洗 (そうしあらい) Sōshi Arai (Washing the Page of a Book)

草紙洗小町 / 草子洗小町 (そうしあらいこまち) Sōshi Arai Komachi (Komachi Washing the Page of a Book) ©2020 the-noh.com

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