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

1. Itinerant Monk Appears

An itinerant monk from Miho-no-seki in Izumo Province visits Kyoto for sightseeing at temples. He arrives at Sennyūji Temple in the Higashiyama area.

Itinerant Monk

I have traveled a very long way. Let's hasten toward Kyoto. I am a monk from Miho-no-seki in Izumo Province. Since I have never seen Kyoto, I made up my mind to go and see temples in Kyoto. / I decided to travel to Kyoto now. In the morning, when clouds were rising in the sky, I left Miho-no-seki. While leaving my heart at home / in the evening at my home, I traveled day after day and have already arrived in Kyoto. As I have traveled day after day and made good time, I soon arrived in Kyoto. First I shall go to the renowned Sennyūji Temple in the Higashiyama region and offer prayers before the statues of the sixteen arhats and the relic of Shakyamuni Buddha that was brought there from China. This must be Sennyūji Temple. I'm going to ask someone in the temple to be my guide and tell me about the temple. / I have arrived at Sennyūji Temple in Kyoto. I am offering prayers before the renowned relic of the Buddha.

2. Itinerant Monk Offers Prayers Before the Relic

The itinerant monk requests a low-ranking monk who performs manual labor at the temple to show him the statues of the sixteen arhats and the relic of Shakyamuni Buddha. Guided by the low-ranking monk, the itinerant monk sees the relic that, according to tradition, was once retrieved from

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てきた僧です 評判を聞く仏舎利を拝もうと思います。 や仏舎利を拝もうと思 きました。まずは評 が立ち上って しく案内をし 目見ようと思 ば 日数を重ねて早くも都 11 、る朝 私はまだ都 つ 7 らえるよう尋 判 0 7 17 う を聞く東 61 ・ます。 ます。 ちに美保 に着 を見たことが ここにある寺が泉涌寺であるようだ。 山泉涌寺 7) ね た。 ただだ 0 と急ぎま ようと思 関を出立 日を重 ま思 な へ参って、 11 した。 0 立 で、 て急ぐうちに、 つ 故郷 て都 この 玉 は 「から渡 度思 出 の夕暮に心残りするうち の泉涌寺に着きました。 玉 つ 61 立 程なくして都に着 ってきた十六羅漢 7 美 61 つ 、ます。 て京都 保 寺の \mathcal{O} 関 空に雲 0 か 仏閣 5

a rakshasa demon by the heavenly deity Skanda. Moved by the sacredness of the relic, he sheds tears. (According to the school, variations exist in the exchanges between the itinerant monk and the low-ranking monk.)

Itinerant Monk

Excuse me. Is anyone here?

Low-ranking Monk

How may I help you?

Itinerant Monk

I am a monk who has traveled all the way to Kyoto from a rural area. Having heard many things about this temple, I came all the way to pay a visit. I would like to offer my prayers before the statues of sixteen arhats and the relic of the Buddha that was brought here from China.

Low-ranking Monk

I see. You heard about this temple and came to offer your prayers. Although not everyone is permitted to see the Buddha's relic, today is indeed a special day on which the relic is on view to the public. I am in charge of this event and have brought the key with me now to open the door. After you offer prayers to the relic of the Buddha, I will take you to the main gate. We can climb up into the gate building and offer prayers to the statues of the sixteen arhats enshrined there. Come with me this way.

Itinerant Monk

Yes, I will.

Low-ranking Monk

Rattle, rattle. Now, I have opened the door. Look upon the relic and do pay homage to it well.

Story

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能力の掛け合 -六羅漢 5 11 取 は、 n 返したと や仏舎利を見 流派によって違いあり いう仏舎利を見た旅僧 せてもらえるように能 は、 そ 力 0 に 尊さに 頼 能 感じ 力 0 案内 つ て涙を流す。 で、 韋駄天が (旅僧と

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Itinerant Monk

How splendid. I will follow you now. From one thing to the next, there is nothing in Kyoto unworthy of attention, but how extraordinary is this opportunity to offer prayers directly to a wondrously efficacious relic of the Buddha. This relic was once stolen by an evil rakshasa, but Skanda took it back from the demon. Looking at this beneficent, virtuous tooth that has remained in this world beyond the time of two lifetimes – this lifetime and a future lifetime, I am so moved that I cannot stop shedding tears. This sight will always be engraved in my mind. I earnestly offer my prayers to Shakyamuni Buddha, who is replete with all virtues.

Group Reciters

How splendid! I feel as though Shakyamuni Buddha is still living here today in this world. Nothing can compare to paying homage to relic of the Buddha, presented before my very eyes. The sleeves of my black monk's robe are wet with my tears.

3. Villager Appears

A villager appears in front of the relic of the Buddha and extols his blessings.

Villager

What blessings! When Shakyamuni Buddha resided in this world, people could hear his preaching with their own ears. Since they directly encountered the Buddha and with their own ears heard him expound the teaching, for a long time they were able to attain buddhahood and gain joy and peace of mind in both this lifetime and the next. However, in this world where / living in this age when the Buddha's teachings have fallen into decline, my fervent prayers brought me this opportunity to pay homage to the Buddha. I am extremely happy.

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現世と来世 ろそかなも h が これ 13 一の二世 は ことで 昔、 0 は 一を超え 足疾 無 61 鬼 け て残 が n 奪

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4. Villager Talks

The villager talks about revering the Buddha's teachings and about Vulture Peak.

Itinerant Monk

I am offering prayers in front of an altar. This is a lonely place, but I hear the voice of someone revering Buddha's teachings. May I ask who you are? / I am a traveler temporarily staying at this temple and the night is growing late. When the eight o'clock bell is clearly tolling, I hear the voice of someone revering the Buddha's teachings. I wonder who you are. Please tell me your name.

I am a villager living near this temple. Since I heard a voice talking Villager about the wondrous Buddha's teachings, I stopped by here. / I visit this temple occasionally to pay homage to the relic of the Buddha.

Whoever you are, if you want to pay homage to the relic of the Monk Buddha, our hearts are one. I am a traveler, and

Villager I am a stranger, visiting this temple. However,

Itinerant Monk

this place where we encountered each other is

Itinerant Monk / Villager

still

Villager and Itinerant Monk

at the edge of the capital city, on a peak in the southern end of Higashiyama.

The atmosphere of this old temple is well matched with the moon Reciters and snow. The water of its well is clear and a chilling wind travels

また

里人 心です。 こうして来た私も他人ではあ 私 偶然出会ったこの場所 あなたが です。 はこの寺の 名を名乗ってください。 私も旅人で だれであっ 舎利 あた で拝 りに住む者です 7 to ため 仏舎利を拝もうという望みを持 ります に、 が が 々 霊妙 0 寺 な仏法 0 辺り 0 ん来る 声 を聞 0 う 61 のであ です。 て、 ここに立ち寄 n ば 私と

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Reciters

Reciters

Story

over the pine tree in the garden. I feel as though the sound of the bell, echoing through the night as it grows late, purifies my heart. Listen, all night long, to the sound of the wind rustling through the pine trees on the mountain. Listen to the sound of clear water running through the canyon. The stormy wind sounds like a voice reciting scripture. Where there is the Buddha's teachings, there are also worldly teachings, just as the delusions of worldly desires exist together with enlightenment and buddhas reside alongside living beings. When you consider such matters after attaining enlightenment and grasping the true nature of reality, you understand that good and evil are not two separate things, they are indeed one and the same.

Villager Buddha's teachings is in decline, and we are already in the age of the decay of the Dharma.

> Buddha's teachings was brought from India through China to Japan and is flourishing in this country. At Higashiyama in the moonlight capital, one of the Buddha's bones is enshrined / has remained as proof that his teachings have been disseminated here.

Their wondrous light sparkling beautifully in front of my eyes,

for nothing could be more sacred than this relic. In this way, Buddha's teachings has been disseminated eastward from India and the three tathagatas—Shakyamuni, Bhaishajyaraja, and Amitābha—as well as the four bodhisattvas—Avalokiteśvara, Maitreya, Samantabhadra, and Mañjuśrī—have all manifested themselves in Japan in order to save living beings. My heart is as clear as the autumn sky when I think of Vulture Peak, where Shakyamuni Buddha preached the Dharma. When thinking of Shakyamuni entering nirvana on the twenty fifth of February / facing the dimly shining crescent moon, I feel as though my soul will vanish. The flowers of the twin sala trees growing by the River 地

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Today, however, the peak is empty and abandoned. Villager

> The moon alone shines as it did in the past. The moonlight shines from between the pine trees growing in the lonely mountain. I revere the autumn moon, shining like the sacred light emitted from the urna on the Buddha's forehead. What barely / distantly remains in this world is the teaching of Four Noble Truths – the Truth of Suffering, the Truth of the Cause, the Truth of Extinguishment, and the Truth of the Path—that together clearly explain the causal relationship between delusions and enlightenment. That only this teaching still exists makes us feel anxious and uncertain, wandering like a predawn cloud over the vast blue ocean. Although I have never seen Vulture Peak, I am actually able to see and pay homage to a relic of the Buddha at this temple, which is extremely aweinspiring.

5. Rakshasa Reveals His Identity

The villager reveals that he is a rakshasa demon and disappears after grabbing the Buddha's relic.

Itinerant Monk

Reciters

How strange. The sky that was clear / The moon that shined brightly until a moment ago is suddenly covered by clouds.

Story

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足 疾 鬼 が 正 体 を 現 す

一人は自分が足疾鬼であることを明 不思議 なことです。 7 61 舎利を奪い 今までは 取 明 って消えてしまう。 る か つ た月 が 急 心に曇り

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Villager Now I have nothing to hide. From long ago, this rakshasa has coveted the relic of the Buddha and still wants it now. Forgive me, reverend monks. / people.

Itinerant Monk

How astonishing! While I am watching him, how strange / While I am watching him, how dreadful, his face has suddenly turned into that of a demon.

I run up to the hall enshrining the relic of the Buddha, and just as this rakshasa stole the relic in the past,

he uncovers the gold casket in which a relic of Shakyamuni was Monk placed after he entered nirvana.

I sit on the jeweled seat of the Buddha,

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in front of the altar where precious incense such as sandalwood Reciters and agilawood are offered to the Buddha, smoke rises. / the rakshasa is concealed in smoke. He flies about, lost in flashes of lightening. A rakshasa is, by nature, a demon that can run quite fast. He scrambles up the stupa, moves around quickly and, while people are confused and bewildered, grabs the tooth of the Buddha. He kicks open a hole in the ceiling and flies through the air. In an instant, he vanishes into the sky.

6. Low-ranking Monk Narrates the Story of the Relic (interlude)

Alarmed by the commotion, the low-ranking monk comes. When the itiner-

Story

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ant monk explains how the rakshasa stole the relic, the low-ranking monk tells the story of the relic and together with the itinerant monk, invokes the heavenly deity Skanda.

7. Skanda Chases after Rakshasa

Skanda appears and chases after the rakshasa demon, who is running all over the place. When the rakshasa is caught, he returns the relic to Skanda and then disappears.

Skanda, who protects this temple, is indeed myself. A rakshasa, a Skanda demon who follows incorrect teachings, is still coveting the relic of the Buddha that he tried to steal at the time of the Buddha's nirvana. Therefore, he has again stolen the relic. I will chase you to the end of the earth and never let you go. Leave the relic here.

Rakshasa No, I will not do as you command. This relic of the Buddha is something that everyone wants to have.

Reciters They run beyond the borders of the realms of Desire, Form, and Non-form – the circle of transmigration – and ascend to the heavens of Creating Enjoyment, Yama, Paranirmitavasavartin, and the Thirty-three Gods. And when Skanda chases the rakshasa all the way up to the palace of Indra, a Brahman encountering them at the palace helps Skanda drive the rakshasa back down to the earth.

Rakshasa Running to the left,

Reciters / Rakshasa

and running to the right,

韋駄天 0 まま消えて 駄 天が 現 した時 n \mathcal{O} 寺を守護 逃げ に舎利を奪 回る足疾鬼 7 61

どこまでも逃 日在天、三十三天を昇ぬい界、色界、無色界の そうい わけ は おう É な る章 0 は としたそ 61 駄 1/2 その 天とは か 転 生 牙舎利 \tilde{O} 61 執 \mathcal{O} 境界 心 0 を置 が残 の仏舎利は誰もが た越え 17 つ で 7 7 61 11 て て、 け 足疾 け またこの舎利を取 危と 巡 61 う外道 17 と望む が 上げ つ 0 てい 尊 が った。 他た 化

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Story

Reciters

in every direction in the heavens and on earth, I am blocked. When the rakshasa is swirling around back and forth in the air, Skanda approaches, strikes him down to earth with his jeweled scepter, and steps down firmly on his head. "Where is the tooth relic? Give it to me! Give it to me!" The rakshasa tearfully hands over the relic and so Skanda retrieves it. The demon who ran so swiftly now walks feebly, his energy exhausted. His mind a blank, he gets up from the ground and vanishes into thin air.

どう 章駄天が寄ってきて宝棒で足疾鬼を大地に打ち伏せて頭を踏みつける。 力も尽き、 は舎利を取り返した。 心も茫然としながら起き上がって消えてしまった。 出せ出せ」 って、 あれほど足の速かった鬼が、 と責められて、 足疾鬼は虚空でくるくるくると渦を巻 足疾鬼は泣く泣く舎利を差し出すと、 今となっては足元が弱くなって て回っ 「牙舎利は 韋駄天

Shari (The Relic of the Buddha)

Synopsis

An itinerant monk travels from Miho-no-seki in Izumo Province to Kyoto to do some sightseeing in the capital city. He visits Sennyūji Temple, in the Higashiyama area, to offer prayers to the sixteen arhats and a relic of the Buddha. Guided to the relic by a low-ranking monk who performs manual labor at the temple, the itinerant monk is so moved by seeing the Buddha's relic that he sheds tears. When the itinerant monk is chanting a sutra in front of the relic, a villager who lives near the temple appears and joins the monk in offering prayers before the Buddha's relic. While the villager is recounting the history of the relic, the sky suddenly turns dark and thunder starts to rumble. The villager then reveals that he is a rakshasa demon. He steals the relic, kicks apart the ceiling, flies through the sky, and disappears.

Alarmed by the commotion, the low-ranking monk comes in. The itinerant monk explains to him how the rakshasa took the Buddha's relic and ran away with it. The low-ranking monk tells the itinerant monk the story behind the relic and together, they invoke the heavenly deity Skanda. Then Skanda appears and chases the rakshasa through the sky, running the demon down to earth and finally retrieving the relic from him. The captured rakshasa, having lost his supernatural powers, vanishes.

Highlights

The main theme of this play, the rakshasa and Skanda's fight over the Buddha's relic, is based on an anecdote described in *Taiheiki* (Chronicle of Great Peace) and other texts. The incident in question occurred in the time shortly after Shakyamuni Buddha passed away. In this play, it is reenacted with the setting having been moved to Sennyūji Temple in Japan. Although rakshasas are also called "fast-footed demons," this one is caught by the heavenly deity Skanda, who runs even faster than the swiftly running demon. Of course, a demon who praises Shakyamuni Buddha and his relic is not entirely unlikable.

In the first half of this play, *shite* appears as a villager and does not move much. However, in the scene in which he reveals his identity as a rakshasa demon, his actions are vigorous and rough. He suddenly leaps up, steals the relic, dashes off, and stomps apart the floor of a stage prop in the form of a stupa. In the second half of the drama, the scenes in which Skanda is in pursuit of the rakshasa continue, and a stage prop, *ichijō-dai*, is effectively used to express, on the stage, the vast space of heaven and earth. Another interesting feature of this play is how the music changes along with the agile movements of the actors.

Schools All five

Category The First group Noh, Kirinoh-mono

Author Unknown

Subject Taiheiki (Chronicle of Great Peace) Volume 8, "The account of the Tanidō Hall

burning"

Season Autumn

Scene Sennyūji Temple in Higashiyama, Kyoto

Tsukurimono Ichijō -dai, a stupa topped by a flame-shaped gem

Characters Mae-shite Villager

Nochi-shite Rakshasa Waki Itinerant Monk

Tsure Skanda

Ai Low-ranking Monk in the service of the Sennyūji Temple

Masks Mae-shite Mikazuki, Awaotoko, Ayakashi, etc.

Nochi-shite Shikami Tsure Tenjin

Costumes Mae-shite Hachimaki (a headband), kurogashira (a long black wig),

mizugoromo (a type of knee-length kimono of middling quality), kitsuke / muji-noshime (short-sleeved kimono with no pattern, worn as the innermost layer of the costumes of male characters of lesser standing), koshi-obi (belt), and a fan.

Nochi-shite Hachimaki, akagashira (a long red wig), awase-happi (lined

happi-style kimono), kitsuke / atsuita (a type of short-sleeved kimono mainly worn by male characters), hangire (a type of hakama trouser worn by strong characters such as demons, gods, and warriors), and koshi-obi. Holding a gem, shaped like

a flame or a small stupa.

Nochi-tsure Hachimaki, kurotare (a long black wig), wa-kanmuri (a

ring-shaped, crown-like headdress often worn by male gods), sobatsugi (lined happi-style kimono with no sleeves, worn by warriors or Chinese characters), kitsuke / atsuita, hakama in ökuchi-style (white), koshi-obi, and a stick for beating.

Sumi-bōshi (a hood worn by ordinary Buddhist monks),

mizugoromo, kitsuke / muji-noshime, koshi-obi, a fan, and

Buddhist prayer beads.

Ai Nōriki-zukin (a type of hood worn by temple servants),

mizugoromo, kitsuke / muji-noshime, kukuri-bakama (a way of wearing hakama trousers, tucking up the bottoms at the knee

with strings), a pair of gaiters, koshi-obi, and a fan.

Number of Scenes Two

Waki

Length About 1 hour and 10 minutes

あらすじ

出雲国の美保の関から出てきた旅僧が、都を見ようと京都を訪 れます。十六羅漢や仏舎利を拝むために東山の泉涌寺にやってき た僧は、能力に案内されて仏舎利を拝み、感動のあまり涙を流し ます。旅僧が仏前で勤行をしていると、寺の近くに住む里人が現 れ、共に仏舎利を拝みます。里人が仏舎利のいわれを語っていると、 急に空が暗くなり、雷が鳴り始めます。里人は自身が足疾鬼であ ることを明かすと、仏舎利を奪い、天井を蹴破って虚空に飛びあ がり、消えてしまいます。

騒ぎに驚いてやってきた能力に、足疾鬼が舎利を奪っていった 様子を旅僧が語ります。能力は舎利に関するいわれを語り、共に **韋駄天に祈ります。すると韋駄天が現れ、足疾鬼を天上界まで追** いかけ、ついには下界へと追いつめて舎利を取り返します。捕ら えられた足疾鬼は力を失い、どこかへ消えていってしまいました。

みどころ

本作は、『太平記』などにある逸話を下敷きに、足疾鬼と韋駄天 の舎利をめぐる争いが主題となっています。釈迦が入滅したときに 起きた事件が、日本の泉涌寺に場所を移して再現されます。その名 の通り足の速い足疾鬼を、神である韋駄天がさらなる俊足で捕まえ ます。釈迦や舎利を讃える足疾鬼のキャラクターは憎みきれないと ころがあります。

前場で里人として現れる動きの少ないシテは、足疾鬼の正体を見 せる場面でいきなり立ちあがり、仏舎利を盗んで走り出し、舎利塔 を模した作り物の台を踏み砕くなど、荒々しい動きを見せます。後 場では韋駄天が足疾鬼を追いかける場面が続き、一畳台が上手く使 われながら、舞台上で天上から下界までの空間が表現されます。敏 捷な動きの演技に合わせて移り変わっていく囃子も聞きどころです。

五流にあり

初番目物、切能物

作者

題材 『太平記』巻八・「谷堂炎上事」

季節

京・東山泉涌寺

一畳台・火焔玉をのせた舎利塔

登場人物 前シテ 里人

> 後シテ 足疾鬼 ワキ 旅僧 ツレ 韋駄天

アイ 能力

前シテ 三日月、淡男、怪士など

> 後シテ ツレ 天神

装束 前シテ 鉢巻、黒頭、水衣、着附・無地熨斗目、腰帯、扇

> 後シテ 鉢巻、赤頭、袷法被、着附・厚板、半切、腰帯。火焰(舎利)

> > 玉を持つ

鉢巻、黒垂、輪冠、側次、着附・厚板、白大口、腰帯、打杖 後ツレ

角帽子、水衣、着附・無地熨斗目、腰帯、扇、数珠

能力頭巾、水衣、着附・無地熨斗目、括袴、脚絆、腰帯、扇

場数 二場 上演時間約1時10分

舎利 (しゃり)

Shari (The Relic of the Buddha) ©2022 the-noh.com

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