*Sections highlighted in

schools.

61

た老女が

岩戸

 \mathcal{O}

観世音

に水を供えようと水桶

を持

つ

7

Þ

っ

てくる。

女は老

61

て

老

女

の

登

は 流儀によっ て異なるところを示

肥 後 僧 の 登 場

岩戸 に住 が 現 の美しい風景に つ ζ J

む僧 岩戸 て語る。

西 5 は じる 肥 は 後 か 海 な \mathcal{O} や雲が 玉 ٤ \mathcal{O} が 岩戸 できる。 ばら つ と申 なって広がっ Ш に住ん 逗留 で 人は 7 77 る僧です ほとんどなく ま す。 遠 い昔から変わらな この場所の さて、 この岩戸 心を慰め 美し い風景を見ると、 , の 77 るも 観世音は霊験 0

に供 風景 住 2 で える水を汲 に 惹か る れて 0 で んできます。 八里を離 ここには百歳にも及んでいるように思われる老女が 今日も来たならば、 誠に住むべき霊地、 どのような者なの 所と思って、 趣を心のうち 三年間この が多い いて

てみようと思 います

1. Monk living in Higo Province Appears

A monk residing in Iwato in Higo Province appears and talks about the beautiful scenery in Iwato.

Monk living in Higo Province

I am a monk living in the mountain called Iwato in Higo Province. Now, since the Kannon Bodhisattva enshrined here in Iwato is wonderworking, I have been confining myself in the temple here to pray / staying in the temple here for a while. Looking at the beautiful scenery this area, in the southwest, I see the ocean and clouds spread out and melt together in the horizon. I can sense the charm of this place unchanged since ancient times. People hardly come to this place. Many things here comfort my heart. Attracted by the beautiful scenery, I left a village and have been living in this place for three years, determining that this is truly the holy ground / the place where I should live. There is an old woman here who looks as old as a hundred years. She brings water to offer it to the Buddha every day. If she comes here again today, I'm going to ask her name and learn who she is.

represent variations in phrasing according to different

2. Old Woman Appears

An old woman walking with a cane and holding a pail comes to the temple to offer water to the Kannon Bodhisattva in Iwato. She laments to herself that she grew old and mentions that she repeatedly tries to receive the providence of the Buddha in order to expiate her sin.

Old Woman

When scooping the water from Shirakawa River that is shining white in the moonlight, I feel like not only the water but also the moonlight wets / comes into my sleeves. A bird in a cage misses the clouds in the sky, and a goose returning to the north laments parting from its friends. We humans are the same as them. However, if my family is poor, not many people want to befriend with me. When I have a lowly life, old-time friends start to keep their distance from me. In such circumstances, I grew old and feeble, and look nothing like myself in my olden days. Our lives are extremely fragile, just like a leaf frosted and decayed in coldness. It reminds me that this world constantly changes like the flow of water and is ephemeral like a bubble. In order to expiate my heavy sin as deep as this Shirakawa River, I want to meet with the monk and arrive at his hut at the foot of a mountain.

3. Old Woman Narrates

Asked by the monk about who she is, the old woman tells a story about a Japanese poem which she made and disappears in the dimness of the sunset.

Old Woman

As usual, I come to offer water to the bodhisattva again today.

Looking at an old lady walking like this every day, I indeed / truly Monk feel sorry for her.

僧

毎

Ě

老女がこのように

歩

(1

7

61

るのを見ると、

かえすがえすも

0

ます

に素性を尋ねら

老女

つものように、今日もまた御水を御供えに参りました。

れた老女は 自身が詠 2 だ 和 歌 0 61 わ n を語 ŋ, 夕暮

0

中に消えて

61

老 女

の

語

Ξ

滅ぼす

僧

に会おうと足を運

んで

61

ると、

片 この

の庵に着きました

泡

0

よう

は

61 人

 \mathcal{O}

世

が

思

11

知

らされ

深

13

・白河の

ように深く重

さも 61 窮ま 私もその つ

寒さで

朽ちて

・霜葉に似

7

61

水の流

れのように変わり

ゆき かな

よう 少な

な境遇

老い

・衰え、

以前

0

姿は見る影も

命

0

は

1/7

生活をするようになると昔から

0

入も遠ざか

友との てく 別 n n る人は

つ を悲しむ。

人間

もまたこれと同じである

か 61

貧 知

しけ

れば親

袂に伝 月影が白

「く照ら てくるようだ。 7 61

0

中の

鳥は雲をなつか

しく思

`と帰

って

61

<

・雁は

を汲

むと、

水だけでなく月までもが

袂を濡らす

、る白河 0

た自身の境遇を嘆き、

ま

つ

背負った罪を滅ぼそうと重ねて仏縁を結ぼうとする

Story

Old Woman

I will be able to expiate my sin even for a little, if I keep making an offer like this. After I die, please kindly console my soul. I will come here again after the day breaks. Excuse me for now.

Please wait for a second. May I have your name? / What kind of Monk person are you? Please kindly give your name.

Old Woman

What a surprise. Are you telling me to give you my name?

Monk Yes.

Old Woman

Your request is utterly unexpected. In the famous Gosen Wakashū (Later Collection of Japanese Poems), there is a poem, "Since the time has passed, my black hair became white like the name of this White River (Shirakawa River). I who scoop water from the river grew very old, having a bent waist and wobbling knees." This is the poem I made. In the past, there was a *shirabyōshi* (a courtesan who also dances in male costume) lived in a hut surrounded by a cedarwood fence in Dazaifu in Chikuzen Province. After that woman aged, she lived in this area near Shirakawa River.

I see. I overheard / remember the story. Around the hut near the Monk Shirakawa,

僧

なるほど、

そ

0

ようなことを聞

61

たことがあります

しました。

そ

0

白

河

0

庵

0

あたりを

老女

お待ちくださ

あ

いなたの

名を名乗ってくださ

41

あなたはどのような方で

で失礼します

つ

た後に

は、

その

が跡を弔

· つ 7

7

ください

 \exists

が明けたら、

また参ろうと思います。

老女

てこ

0

よう

なことをし

61

n

は罪

から逃れ

5

るで

名を名乗ってください

をめ 髪も、 これ のあたりに住んだのです。 ば た)」と詠ま ぐら は思 わ この が せて住ん 黒髪も白河 「白河」 11 b よらな の名にあるように白くなり、 で 77 0 11 、た白拍 み ことをお つはぐむまで老 つ (歌舞を演じた遊女) n しゃ は私 61 の歌です。 水を汲むのにも腰が二重にかがむほど年をとってし 11 ・ます にけるかな が 0 後には老い衰えて、 (年月が経 後撰 筑前 和歌 0 太宰府 ったので、 集』 0 私の黒 庵に檜 この白河

か

った

なんと、名を名乗れとおっ しゃる のです

Monk / Old Woman

Old Woman / Monk

たけ

て消えて

しまった。

地

老女

詠んだのです。

7

僧/老女

藤原興範が通った時

水を汲んで差し上げる時に

僧/老女 「みづはくむ」

老い そもそも づ と言うの ただ白 河 の水を汲 むとい その証拠をご覧になり う意味だけ では

な 61

て腰 n ば 0 あ か \mathcal{O} が 6 河 で のほとり 11 る姿を「みつはぐむ」 で私の亡き跡を弔ってください と言うのです。

そう言うと、

所 の 者 の 語 ŋ 中 入

匹

つ 戸

61 \mathcal{O}

て話す

の者は

弔

13 0

を勧

8

観世

参詣

にきた所

檜垣

 \bar{o}

女のことなどを語る。

が先ほど会った女

Old Woman

at the time of offering a cup of water to him,

when Fujiwara no Okinori passed by,

he asked if he could have water. Then,

Monk / Old Woman

the poem of "mizuhakumu (I grew old)"

Old Woman

was created.

Group Reciters

First of all, the word "mizuhakumu" not only means scooping water from Shirakawa River but also means an appearance of an old person who is bending at the waist. If you would like to see the evidence of my words, please console my soul at the shore of the Shirakawa River. So saying, the old woman disappears in the dimness of the evening.

4. Story by Villager [Interlude]

A villager who comes to pray for the Kannon bodhisattva in Iwato talks about the woman who lived in the house with a cedarwood fence. When the monk talks about the woman he just met, the villager encourages the monk to make a prayer for that old woman.

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5. Monk Performs a Memorial Service

The monk visits the area of Shirakawa River to console the old woman's soul. In the dense fog covering the river and the area, he finds a dim light leaking from a hut.

Monk

The woman who lived in the house of cedarwood fence must have appeared in a disguise. And she had conversations with me. While walking towards her place, I am thinking it was a miracle happening in this Degenerate age. What a mystery. / Now, I am consoling her soul. The sun has already set, and a dense fog started to rise from the river. From far away, in the fog, I can see the dim light of a hut. How mysterious. Ghost, enlighten yourself, emancipate from the worldly attachments and attain buddhahood.

6. Woman Higaki Appears

Responding to the memorial service offered by the monk, the woman who lived in the house of cedarwood fence (Woman Higaki) appears and talks about the transience of this world.

Woman Higaki

How grateful to have a memorial service. In a lush field, winds calm down and a willow branch quietly hangs straight down. A cloud stays above the rocky mountain, and the round moon shines. A poem in Wakan Rōei-shū (Collection of Japanese and Chinese Poems for Singing) says, "Even though in the morning we have young and beautiful faces and enjoy the world / are proud to be of this world.

Reciters / Monk

in the evening we are reduced to skeletons and decay in a field."

Story

~

は白骨となっ

て野原で朽ちてしまう」

とあり

六 檜 垣 の 女

の

登

0 弔

61

に

合わせて檜垣の女が現

机

無常に

つ

17

て語る

檜垣の女 る。 なん 雲は岩 しく美 とあ りが 山 た 0 顔 上 13 弔 を で動 61 て、 か 月が 0 野 で まるく照 は風 で が静ま 61 って つ 17 る。 \neg 和 0 漢朗 枝 は 詠集』 ま は に 垂 n 下 は

僧

は末

世に

お

け

る奇跡

で

ると思

なが

て

61

不思

議

なことだ。

´z

える 0 跡を弔おうと白河を尋ね いると、 h に は 河霧が 立ちこめ 庵 0 灯 火が ほ \mathcal{O} か に見

0 垣 女が 仮 0 姿 で n 0 であろう。

あその跡 を弔 ほ 0 か に 見える 早く b 0 Ħ は不思議なことだ。 が暮 n て 深く立 ちこめ 離生死頓証菩提(幽霊よ、 はじめた。 その 奥 に庵

が灯火が

悟りの境地に至り、 解脱して成仏せよ)。

が

Higaki (Cedarwood Fence)

Story

Everything happening in this world is

Reciters / Monk

transient and unstable.

Woman / Monk

Life and death is everyone's

Woman / Reciters

truth that is unavoidable to think of.

Reciters / Woman

We never know when our own death arrives.

Both for a young person and an old person, death comes for each Reciters of us equally. Human beings must be prepared to cross the bound-

ary – the transition from life to death. Who in this world can avoid

anticipating that all living beings must die.

7. Woman Higaki Scoops Water

Responding to the request from the monk, Woman Higaki appears. She laments the sufferings she has been receiving in another world due to her karma as she was a renowned dancer. Woman Higaki scoops water from Shirakawa River, intending to expiate her sin.

*The Kongō school version starts this section from the phrase, "Monk: How pitiful you look...."

金剛流は

みを嘆く

垣

0 檜

女は罪を軽くしようと白河の水を汲む

僧

0 求

め

垣

 \mathcal{O}

女が

が姿を現

て名高

か

たため

に受け

1/2

る冥途での

七

檜

垣

の

女

が

水

を汲

\$}

変わりやす もが生死の 世 0 61 0 無 常 は 切 なも 0 61 5

0

であっ

n

な

61

女

死 0 道理を考えずに 転変は しない は た者 61 で 11 5

つやってくるとは限らな にとっ 間 に とつ も若 7 61 の境目として覚悟 つ 死は しなけ 分け

隔

Þ

つ

から

ば 7

なら

61

が

者必滅

でを予

れるだろうか

なんと気の毒な御姿です。 5 から始まる

Monk

Monk

間

が

2身を焼

け

ども、

は

あ

つ

ても燃え盛る火

は n

消え

Story

How interesting. The voice I hear is from the same person I met during the daytime. If you are the same person, please appear before me. I am going to console your soul.

Then, I will appear before you to receive the benefits of your Woman memorial service, reverend monk. Please do not tell this to other people.

Monk Of course not. I will not tell this to anyone. Please appear now.

My face clouded by tears is too emaciated to imagine how I looked Woman in the past. Can anyone notice that I am the Woman Higaki? I am ashamed of my old self who is bending at the waist to scoop water from Shirakawa River.

> How pitiful you look. You still have attachments to this world and therefore scoop water from the river and appear in this world staying in the reincarnation. Attain buddhahood soon. / How pitiful you are.

Woman I was once / in a half-hearted way highly reputable as a dancer. Because of the deep sin I bedeviled people with my beauty, I am still suffering in another world where I reached after crossing the River of Woe. I carry a sizzling iron pail and scoop this water with a bucket of fire. The water in the fire bucket instantly boils and keeps burning my body. But today I met the reverend monk and received a providence from Buddha, so the fire in the bucket is extinguished.

僧 女 女

なん

と気

毒な御姿です。

今もこ

の世

に執心

が残

っ

て水を汲み、

この

世

に輪廻の姿

を見せて

61 0

るのです

ね

早く成仏なさっ

てください

なんと気の

毒なことです。

は

中途半端

舞姫

غ

61

判でした。

美しさで人を惑わ

した罪

今

でも三途

っの

を渡っ

た冥途で苦 して世で高

み

を受けて

61

・ます。

高熱

0

鉄

 \mathcal{O}

をか

つ

瓶ベ川

0

燃え盛る釣

を提げ

0 0

水を汲

そ

Ó

はたち

まち湯とな

つ

て仏縁を結

垣の もちろんです、 で曇っ 女であると気付くだろう た顔 つきは、 人に言うことはありません。 か つ 7 の姿が想像できな 白河 の水を汲むために腰をか 早く姿を見せてください 41 ほど衰えてしま がめ つ て、 て

41 る、 誰 が あ 77 0

姿が恥ずか

41 なことだ。 を弔 声 まし を聞 よう くと、 先ほど会った人の 声だ。 同 じことなら姿を現してく

僧

ださ

女

それならば姿を現して、

御僧

0

回向を受けましょう。

他人にはこのことを言わな

でください

Higaki (Cedarwood Fence)

Monk Now, scoop the water indicating karma, get rid of your attach-

ments and attain buddhahood now.

Then, also for you, reverend monk, if I scoop water with this pail,

Woman / Monk

my sin will be lightened.

Monk / Woman

During the deep night, holding a deep thought,

making my sleeves wet with dew and tears, I tuck up my sleeves Monk

with a cord.

Tonight when the moon reflects white on Shirakawa River,

from the Shirakawa River that is clear to the bottom, Monk

let's scoop the water. Woman

8. Woman Higaki Starts a Dance of Shirabyōshi

Woman Higaki laments the sufferings she experienced in this world and her aged appearance. Furthermore, because she remembers that Fujiwara no Okinori once told her to perform a dance of *Shirabyōshi*, she starts to dance.

Story

八

僧/女 女 それならば御僧 も軽くなるだろうと 夜に、 深き思い のため を込めて にも、 の釣瓶で水を汲み干せば

の 舞 始め

檜垣の て藤原興範 女は、 が 女に白拍子 0 世に 0 77 舞を舞うように言ったことを思い か 5 の苦 「しみや、 老い た我が身の 出 有様を嘆く。 舞を舞い始める。 さらに、 か

執心を振り捨てて早く成仏しなさい

僧







それでは因果を示すこの水を汲み、

袂を露と涙で濡らしながら、

襷をかけ

僧

月影が白く白河 に映 つ

て

ζ)

るこの夜に

女

僧

さあ汲もう。

女

檜 垣 の 女 が 白拍子 を 舞 い

底まで澄んでい る白河の 水を

女

小は水からできるが、水よりも冷た。

は 61 う か 0 5 であ できる n ば 今 でもそ ŋ 0 色 苦 が 深 2 1/2 n \mathcal{O} 去ることが # に 61 た 時 できず \mathcal{O} 業 \dot{O} 61 ・を受け Ź

いっそう嘆きは強まって

女

哀 に整 つれ 0 61 もの 水に 夢とな P 涙 0 つ 力 花 に身をこが だ。 水底 て を見 ワ 41 つ に沈 た藻屑や塵 た眉も霜 ミの 7 しま ん 羽 で \mathcal{O} 9 \mathcal{O} が 41 た。 夕暮 よう 昔 るか た頃 のことを繰 \hat{O} h に紅葉を眺 でを思 ように のよう 61 容貌 なっ であ に白くなっ n せば本当にな 返 を 8 7 7 しまっ て舞姫 1/2 言 新芽 たような華 つ たところ の とし 水に つ 心のよう 変 て 詇 \mathcal{O} で いる面影 々 り果てた我が身 61 つ に艶 61 に衰え、 も高 生活 0 々 を見ると、 61 とし 白河 か け B だ 7 つ 三日月 たが は 0 61 た黒髪 姿は老 有様 \tilde{O}

滕原興範が

女

Woman

Reciters

Woman

Tears of sadness burns myself. Although only sadness overwhelms me when I repeatedly remember my past, the glamorous life that allowed me to look at scarlet flowers in spring mornings and crimson leaves in autumn evenings had already vanished like a dream at night. I enjoyed high reputation as a dancer with a beautiful visage, but the beautiful face and gorgeous hair just as graceful as the wings of a kingfisher have declined like withering flowers. My eyebrows nicely combed like crescent moons became silver, looking like frost landed on them. A reflection of myself in water looks aged and tired, looks like sinking in the bottom of the water. My black hair which used to shine like lush new buds now has been changed and looks like dust or seaweed covered by muddy water. What is sad is myself who has completely changed. I truly missed the time when I still lived in this world. At this Shirakawa,

The moon is reflecting on the water in the bucket. It looks like the moon is climbing up on the rope attached to the bucket to my sleeve. At dawn when stars are still shining in the sky, I get water

into a three-legged metal pot in the valley at north. At night, in a

Blue color derives from navy but the hue is deeper than navy. If I

am paying the penalty of sins I accumulated while I lived in this

firepit, I burn branches I collected in the mountain at south.

Ice is made of water but colder than water.

world, the suffering still stays with me, and

I lament even more.

Woman Fujiwara no Okinori

地

あさま

ことながら、

粗末な袖を翻

0

露を打ち払

61

涙

を

ぬ

ぐっ

61

しきりに舞うようにおっ

しゃるの

で

にはい 元も合わな しました。 0 陸奥の かな ~ 41 色あせた粗末な衣。 の里で作ら それはそうだとして な装束では、 れる幅の狭 どこに 11 昔の 布 袖 をど 0 白拍 昔手慣れ 衣を着け 0 ように 子の 面影 る た舞なの 翻 0 では が あ 7 0 る な 61 え け 舞わない ń う ども 0 と返 わけ な装

told me, "Perform a dance of *Shirabyōshi* you used to play."

Therefore, I replied, "I am wearing a faded and humble attire now, incomparable to the gorgeous costume I used to wear. How can I swirl these short sleeves in the dance? Although I am not wearing the attire made of a narrow roll of cloth from the village of Kyō in Mutsu Province, the size of my garment does not match me. With me in such circumstances, who can find the look of the Shirabyōshi in the olden days?" Okinori then replied that I was right but that was the dance with which I was very familiar. There was no reason for me to refuse dancing the dance.

As he repeatedly insisted that I should dance, Woman

although it was shameful, I swirled the sleeves of my humble Reciters kimono, swept off dew on those sleeves, wiped away tears on my face, and started to dance.

9. Woman Higaki Wishes to Attain Buddhahood and Disappears

After dancing, Woman Higaki wishes to reach buddhahood and disappears.

This is how Woman Higaki

Reciters ended up. I'll show you who I am now.

九

檜

垣

の

女

が

成

仏

を

願

っ

て

消

え

て

L١

<

姓を舞っ 成仏を願っ

た檜垣の女が

て消えて

女

檜垣

女の

地

身の果てを、

あ

ŋ

Ó

ままに見せて舞おう。

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- 10 -

https://www.the-noh.com

女

今は弔っ

ただくとい

も満ちました。

仏の教えを直接教えてください

Story

女

時を繰り返して昔に帰り 水を汲む釣瓶 泡のように、 0 縄 無常な世の を繰り返して操るように

61

。 が だ。

白河

0

波

が返るときの

地

女

哀れさを知

つ

7

77

るため

ここまで現れ出たのだ。

根な し草 \dot{O} 7 61 た身では

えします。 して足を運び、 か罪を消

成仏させて

ださ

あり

)ます

が

水を運んで御

金剛流のみ以下が続く

は いかない 水の泡を汲 み、 の哀れさを知っている有様は気の毒なこ

とだ。

教えるまでもなく、 すでに悟っているようだが

[Jo-no-mai]

Higaki (Cedarwood Fence)

Just as we repeatedly tuck up the rope attached to the bucket to

scoop water,

I hope to repeatedly tuck my time back to the olden days. When

waves in Shirakawa River reverse,

bubbles are created. As I know the pity of this world that is as Woman

unstable as those bubbles.

Woman / Reciters

I came to appear here.

I came here. Although I am floating like a rootless plant, I carry

and offer water to the Buddha. Please expiate my sin and lead me

to attain buddhahood.

*The Kongō School version continues as below

Truly, how pitiful she looks, who scoops fragile bubbles from Reciters

Shirakawa River and understanding the woes of this world.

My wish to receive a memorial service has been accomplished Woman

now. Please directly teach me the teaching of Buddha.

You seem to have already been enlightened even before teaching Reciters

them.

心の濁りを取り除いたために、女は極楽の蓮の台に座って成仏したのであった。

Higaki (Cedarwood Fence) Story

Woman It must be because the moon shining to the chest has purified my

deluded and suffering heart.

Since the muddiness in her mind was removed, the woman now Reciters

sits on the pedestal of lotus in Amida's Pure Land and attains

buddhahood.

Higaki (Cedarwood Fence)

Synopsis

In Iwato of Higo Province, there is an old woman who comes to offer water to the Buddha every day. One day, a monk living in Iwato asks her name. The old woman requests the monk to expiate her sin and reveals that she was a *shirabyōshi* dancer (a female dancer in male costume) who lived in the house surrounded by the fence of cedarwoods in Dazaifu. Furthermore, she mentions that the poem in *Gosen Wakashū* where a *shirabyōshi* made a reply to Fujiwara no Okinori is indeed her poem. After asking the monk to console her soul, she disappears.

Recommended by a local person, in order to console her soul the monk visits the place by Shirakawa River where tradition says that the *shirabyōshi* lived in her old age. Then in dense fog, he meets the old woman in a hut in dim light. She tells the unstableness of this world and her suffering in hell and laments her old and feeble self. Remembering the communications with Fujiwara no Okinori, she dances the dance of *shirabyōshi* and disappears into thin air while wishing to attain buddhahood.

Highlights

This Noh drama is counted as one of the "Three Old Women" pieces, together with Sekidera-komachi and Obasute*, and is considered one the most advanced pieces to perform. Among the Noh pieces about an old woman that are currently performed, Higaki is considered the second oldest piece after Sotoba-komachi.

In the drama, the old woman describes herself as a courtesan who used to enjoy the reputation of her beauty and superb dancing skills and elegantly lived in her younger days in the house surrounded by a cedarwood fence. On the stage, however, the audience sees no sign of her glory days that connotes the sadness of a woman who has aged and declined.

Sad and quiet ambience exists throughout this piece, but Zeami said this is the piece that describes the ultimate profoundness, as it shed off any and all unnecessary elements. That is the reason why this piece is considered highly advanced for Noh performers.

* The Kongö School counts Sekidera-komachi, Ömu-komachi and Sotoba-komachi as their Three Old Woman pieces. Schools All five

Category The Third Group Noh

Author Zeami

Subject Gosen Wakashū (Later Collection of Japanese Poems), Yamato Monogatari

(Tales of Yamato)

Season Undetermined

Scene Iwato in Higo Province

Tsukurimono A straw hut with cedar-plank fence, placed before hand drum players

Characters Mae-shite Old Woman

Nochi-shite Woman Higaki

Waki Monk from Higo Province

Ai Villager

Masks Mae-shite Rōjo, Higaki-onna, Yase-onna, or Uba

Nochi-shite Rōjo or Higaki-onna

Costumes Mae-shite Rōjo-kazura or Uba-gami (a wig for old woman's character),

kazura-obi (band for a wig), karaori (a short-sleeved kimono outer robe worn by female characters) occasionally worn in tsuboori-style, kitsuke / surihaku (short-sleeved kimono, worn as the innermost layer of the costume of a female character), and Buddhist prayer beads. Holding a water pail in one hand

and a cane in the other.

Nochi-shite Rōjo-kazura or Uba-gami, kazura-obi, chōken (an unlined,

long-sleeved elegant garment worn by dancing female

characters), kitsuke / surihaku, hakama in ōkuchi-style (white or

pale sky blue), koshi-obi (belt), and a fan.

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

mizugoromo (a type of knee-length kimono of middling quality), kitsuke / kogōshi-atsuita (thickly-woven kimono with small check pattern), hakama in ōkuchi-style (white), koshi-obi,

Buddhist prayer beads, and a fan.

Ai Naga-kamishimo (tops and bottoms of kimono with long

hakama trousers), kitsuke / dan-noshime (short-sleeved kimono with very wide stripes, worn as the innermost layer of the costumes of male characters of lesser standing), koshi-obi, a

fan, and a small sword.

Number of Scenes Two

Length About 2 hour and 20 minutes

あらすじ

肥後国・岩戸に住む僧が、毎日水を運んで御供えする老女に名を 尋ねます。罪を滅ぼしてほしいと僧に語る老女は、太宰府で檜垣を しつらえた家に住んでいた白拍子が藤原興範に詠んだ『後撰和歌集』 の歌が、自身の歌であると明かし、亡き跡を弔ってくれるように頼 んで消えていきます。

所の者の勧めもあって、僧は女が老いて住んだという白河の跡まで弔いにやってきます。すると深い霧の中でほのかに灯がともる庵に先ほどの女がいて、世の無常や地獄での苦しみを語り、老い衰えた自身の境遇を嘆きます。藤原興範とのやりとりを思い出して白拍子の舞を舞うと、老女は成仏を願って消えていくのでした。

みどころ

本作は「関寺小町」、「姥捨」とともに『三老女』の一つであり (金剛流の『三老女』は「関寺小町」「鸚鵡小町」「卒都婆小町」)、 最高の秘曲とされています。現行曲としては「卒都婆小町」に次い で古い老女物とされています。

若き頃、美貌を持って舞の評判も高く、家に檜垣をしつらえて優雅に暮らしていた遊女としての自身の姿が老女の口から語られますが、舞台上の老女には華やかだった姿は見る影もなく、老い衰えた女の悲しみが立ち現れます。

全体に落ち着いたもの寂しい曲ですが、余計なものが削ぎ落され、 世阿弥が幽玄の極致として説いており、重く扱われている作品です。 流儀五流にあり分類三番目物

作者 世阿弥

題材 『後撰和歌集』『大和物語』

季節 不定

場面 肥後・岩戸

作り物 大小前に檜垣つきの藁屋

登場人物 前シテ 老女

後シテ 檜垣の女 ワキ 肥後の僧

アイ 所の者

面 前シテ 老女、檜垣女、痩女または姥

後シテ 檜垣女または老女

装束 前シテ 老女鬘(姥鬘)、鬘帯、唐織(壺折ニモ)、着附・摺

箔、数珠。片手に水桶を持ち、片手に杖をつく

後シテ 老女鬘(姥鬘)、鬘帯、長絹、着附・摺箔、白大口

(浅葱二モ)、腰帯、扇

ワキ 角帽子、水衣、着附・小格子厚板、白大口、腰帯、

数珠、扇

アイ 長上下、着附・段熨斗目、腰帯、扇、小刀

場数 二場

上演時間 約2時間20分

檜垣(ひがき)

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発行: 2023 年 4 月 1 日 (ver 1.1)

編集: the 能ドットコム編集部 https://www.the-noh.com (info@the-noh.com)

発行:(株)カリバーキャスト

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