schools.

\*Sections highlighted in

は流儀によっ

て異なるところを示

represent variations in phrasing according to different

#### 1. The Monk from Chu Appears

A monk residing in the mountains of Xiaoshui in the state of Chu, China, spends his days and nights reciting sutras. Strangely enough, when he engages in his nightly recitations, he begins to hear the sound of someone approaching his humble dwelling.

#### Monk from Chu

I am a monk residing in the mountains of Xiaoshui, a rural area in the state of Chu, China. As I recite sutras / the Lotus Sutra, I devote myself to reciting the holy scriptures from morning till dusk, day in and day out / every day. Especially now, in the midst of autumn, under the illumination of the beautiful moon, I never neglect my recitations throughout the night. There is something peculiar here. Although there is no one else living in these mountains besides myself, every night as I engage in my recitations, I hear the sound of someone approaching near my humble dwelling. If that someone comes again tonight, I intend to inquire about their identity. The sun has already set in the west, and the shadows between the mountains appear desolate. Even the faint sounds of birds in the distance add to the solitude. The evening sky grows darker, and the moon begins to rise. In this monk's hut with a humble door enveloped in a tranquil and somber atmosphere, I continue to recite these scriptures.

# ると、 国 $\mathcal{O}$ 庵室 国 に あ

中

楚

玉

の

登

楚国僧

今は秋 こで読経をしてい 0 のあたり 不思議なことがあ 0 る小り 陰は荒涼 どのような者 経す つ の半ばで、 0 ラる身な に人の来る音がきこえてくる 楚国 月が 山 に 居 美 る折 あ 0 す か名 る 61 田 め 庵室 ます。 を尋 か 月 る。 が 夜、 が照るな  $\mathbb{H}$ ね 0 [夜読経 あ 水 に ようと思 0 たりに 聞こえ 0 か か 中 で う 7 る 13 晩 鳥 ま る。 中読 0 来る音が聞こえます。 で 0 そりと 鳴 不思議なことに、 き声 経 毎 で 住 日 を怠ることはあ した、 む者 に夕 御 で は を読 H 17 は 17 る 0 西  $\lambda$ 戸 で で 61 毎晩読経 移 今夜も来たな のに、 ŋ 61 ある僧庵で ます 夕暮 ません 毎夜こ 出と出 0) 空が 特に 7 13

御経を読

Bashō (Plantain Tree) Story

### 2. Woman Appears

Under the moonlit night, a woman appears as if she is attracted by the recitation of the sutra and laments her own transience.

Village Woman

The winds travelling over the pine rustle the plantain leaves and break them apart. In Du Xunhe's poem, he laments the desolate dwelling, "the wind blows in through the broken window, extinguishing the candle easily. The moonlight shines into the dilapidated house where I cannot even dream while sleeping." Spending the whole night in such a barren place, where dew descends in autumn, how pitiful I am who ages unnoticed to anyone. Even though I have become accustomed to living in the mountains, it is the rocks and trees, not people, that become familiar companions. The Lotus Sutra contains profound Buddhist teachings that are not easily encountered. Without immersing my heart in the Lotus Sutra, even dressing in ornate silk robes would be in vain, as it would not lead me to attain buddhahood. The sleeves of leaves of my humble dress are wet in the tears of dew. Alas, how pitiful and transient. While passing seasons continue to circle, the glory of past autumns is no longer present here.

#### 3. Conversations between the Woman and the Monk

The woman who claimed herself a resident of Xiaoshui desires to enter the monk's hut in order to create a tie with Buddha.

Now, as I diligently recite *nembutsu*, invocations of the Buddha's Monk name, although I am unsure I am dreaming or awakening / then,

僧

女 ع 僧

Ξ

の 会話

水に住  $\lambda$ さて、 でい るという女は 怠らずに念仏を唱えて 仏縁を結ぶため 4 、ると、 に 夢とも現ともわからない 僧 の草庵に入ることを望む

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/その時 女性が

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粗

末な葉の

決決は露

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れば

唐衣な深

る法華経。

0

法華経に

が音を立てて芭蕉 の葉に吹き落ち が > 芭蕉 の葉を吹き破

里の女

光が

で夢を見て寝ることもできな

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晩中このような露の降りる荒涼と

のはあわれなことだ。

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窓が破れ

61

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で灯灯

は消えやす

果て

た家

光が照らす 読経に惹か れるように女が現 n 自身 0 は かなさを嘆く

https://www.the-noh.com

Bashō (Plantain Tree) Story it looks there is a woman at my door, illuminated distinctly by the moon. Who exactly might you be? I am a resident of this area, and it is a rare opportunity for me Woman to be able to listen to the precious scriptures. I therefore offer flowers in reverence and simply seek to form a connection with the Buddha. That being said, now that I have revealed myself, there is no need to hesitate. Please allow me to enter your hut, even if only for a brief moment, for the sake of the Dharma and to form a tie with Buddha. Monk I understand. It is indeed commendable that you seek to form a tie with Buddha. However, I cannot go against convention and grant lodging to a person who is not a man. You are a woman. Woman I respect you are following those rules, but you and I are not complete strangers. I also reside in Xiaoshui, Monk and draw water from the same river. While we may not know about our past lives, there is a karmic connection that has brought us together to draw water from the same river in this way. Meeting under the same tree is also a result of the karmic ties Woman formed in our previous lives.

僧/女

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内に入ることを

女

同じ木陰で会うのも前

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女

僧

女

聴くことができた はこの 草庵 61 つ ても、 あた 0 内を、 ŋ こう 0 ほ む者です で、  $\mathcal{O}$ て姿をお見 花を供えて拝礼 の間 せし か たから をして、 仏法 出逢うことが 0 に は、 ため ただただ仏縁を結ん 何をはばかることが 仏縁を結ばせるためと思 できない り で 61 ?あるで るの 61 、御経を です つ

男では なるほど、 な ζ) 仏縁を結 女のあなたに宿をお貸 ぼう とは誠 に殊勝 しすることは なことです できませ か な が 5 通例 に従わずに

あり *、*ません。 た 心得 私もまたこの はごも つとも です 水に住 が  $\lambda$ あなたと私はまっ でい いる者で たくのよそ者と わ

け

で

同 ЛĬ 0 水を汲 6 で 61 る 前 世 0 事 は わ か らな 61 が 前 世 か 0 あ るか

のよう に同じ川 の水を汲 W で 61 る

お貸しください

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能楽ポータルサイト the .com

Therefore, entering the hut

Monk / Woman

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**Group Reciters** 

should not be declined. The moon rests in the dew and is taking a nap. Looking at the old eaves and dilapidated fences of this ancient temple, it reminds me of Du Fu's poem: "As I tread deeper along the mountain path, my heart grows heavy. But when I visit the ancient temple below the cliff, my sorrowful heart finds solace." Even the moon lit here is desolate. Someone once composed a poem that goes, "My friends are spending joyful time beneath the brocade canopy in the Department of State Affairs at the royal court in the flower season, while I am spending time lonely inside the grassy hut at Mount Lu on a rainy night (based on a poem of Bai Juyi)." It brings to the thought of your humble hut, venerable monk.

# 4. Monk Narrates the Story of How Plants Attain Buddhahood

The monk explains to the woman the belief mentioned in the "Parable of the Medicinal Herbs," a chapter of the Lotus Sutra, which states that even plants and trees have the potential to attain buddhahood.

Your dedication seems profound. Please enter the hut while I Monk continue to recite the scriptures.

Then, please allow me to enter. Oh, how grateful I am. By listening Woman to these scriptures, even someone like me, a woman and heartless plants and trees, can be saved by the merits of the Lotus Sutra.

You are truly listening well. Faith lies in wholeheartedly devoting Monk oneself to the path of the Buddha, so there should be no doubt that even all beings such as women and heartless plants and trees can attain buddhahood.

I am very grateful for that. Now, would you please tell me why

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る。

女に法

# 草 木 が 成 仏 す る い わ れ を

僧

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語

している)」

と詠んだが

の草庵のことが思われる

匹

楽しく過ごしているが、 花の時、 が を見ると、 湿慰め 5 る の下。 路を深 ع د ہا 私は廬山 行く 0 甫 で雨の 雨 0 と心 詩が思 の夜、 夜 が 草庵 草庵の中で寂しく暮らしている/白楽天の詩をもとに ま 出 0 され 中 (友は花盛り n 月影 \$ に蘭省の朝廷で、 0 0 古寺 寂 61

か 錦

蘭省

の帳

の下で

plants and trees are eligible to attain buddhahood?

It is clearly mentioned in the "Parable of the Medicinal Herbs" of Monk the Lotus Sutra. All grasses, trees, and earth, regardless of having

or not having hearts, all beings possess their own state of things.

Stormy winds travelling over mountains and Woman

Monk the sounds of stream running in a valley,

Monk / Woman

serve as Buddhist practices. When purifying my mind like the water standing still at the bottom of the well in the temple,

I face the moon with the glow of the lamp at my back. Under the Reciters moon, I come to understand the tender heart that compassionately embraces the deepening night. This, too, is the true heart that follows the teachings of the Buddha. Perhaps this must be a path to escape from this world filled with worldly attachments, even while dwelling in this humble hut. By recognizing that "willows are green and flowers are red," one can realize that plants and trees attain buddhahood simply by being true to their own colors and fragrances. Plants, trees and earth, all beings can attain buddhahood.

# 5. Woman Vanishes after Talking about the Painting of Plantain Tree

The monk finds it intriguing that the woman understands the principles of Buddhist teachings well. The woman hints at her hidden nature while referring to the story behind the painting of the "Plantain Tree in the Snow," said to be depicted by Wang Wei. She then disappears.

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がありのままに真実の相を持ってい

0 嵐

0 水音も

仏事をなして 7 る。 寺にある井戸 ,の底に佇む水のように心を澄ましてい

え 火を背に のまま 0 て向 であ か う月の下 これ 深まっ 0 61 く夜を共に慈 に 11 なが 5 しむ心を知 煩 悩 0 多 る 61 0  $\mathcal{O}$ 世 から

ただそ 出 0 ること まま  $\mathcal{O}$ が 色 できる道な や香をも つ 0 て成仏すると悟ることができる。 だろうか は緑、 花は 紅 と知ること 草木も国

成仏 できるのだ。

https://www.the-noh.com

Ó

一芭蕉

0 絵

 $\mathcal{O}$ 

How mysterious. I regarded her as a foolish woman, but she Reciters possesses knowledge of Buddhist teachings, just like untangling a knot of white threads.

No, no. There is nothing to be suspicious about me. Without Woman clearing the delusion in this heart that will result in me suffering in the darkness of the abyss, how could I say that I attained the merit of the Buddhist teachings.

Indeed, we were born as humans which we rarely attain and Reciters encounter the Buddhist teachings that is difficult to meet.

You must think of me as someone who was given a life to be a human.

> How embarrassing. The moon clearly illuminates the path back home, and the garden's surface glistens like snow. They say Wang Wei painted an impossible scene of a lush plantain tree in the snow, but if I who is untrue like the plantain tree in the snow were to be revealed by the moonlight, what would I do? As soon as she spoke so, with the resounding sound of the bell that echoes the impermanence in the evening, the woman's figure vanished.

地 女 地

女

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何

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仏法の功徳を得たと言えるだろうか

地

道理を知って 不思議なことだ。 いることだ。 かな女人と見てい

愚

たが

白糸

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 $\mathcal{F}$ 

つれをほどくように、

仏 法

 $\mathcal{O}$ 

まれた。 まことに 逢 61 が た 61 仏法に出会 13 容易に授かることはできな 61 لح て 生

7 17 る 61 は あ 帰 りえ る道を月が な 61 雪中 0 は 芭蕉を絵 つ きり を照 5 61 たと 7 61 う が 0 そ 0

に女の姿は消え失せてしまった。

よう たらどう あなたは私を人として生を授か に偽 っ 7 13 る自 そう言ったかと思う 分 0 姿が つ の光 た身と思 で明 5 つ 7 か に 61 0 諸行 る な り、 0 で 無常と鳴 真実の 姿が り響く鐘 . 見ら も雪 雪 n 中 0 の音ととも ように Oて 芭蕉 しまっ  $\mathcal{O}$ 

故事を引きながら、 自らの正体を隠していることをほ の めかして姿を消す

Reciters

# 6. Narration by Villager (Interlude)

A villager tells a story about a plantain tree to the monk.

#### 7. Monk Chants Sutra

The monk chants sutras while thinking of the spirit of the plantain tree.

Monk

Indeed, the woman referred to herself as "untrue like the plantain tree in the snow." I have no doubt that it was the spirit of a plantain tree appeared in the form of a woman. How mysterious this is. However, this too can be considered a miracle of Buddhist teachings. Throughout the night, the voice of chanting sutras in this hut / garden, with the moon shining beautifully, will be carried by the wind and reach the spirit of the plantain tree.

### 8. Spirit of the Plantain Tree Appears

The spirit of the plantain tree transforms into the form of a woman and laments her own shabby appearance.

Spirit of Plantain Tree

How desolate this garden is. How grateful I am that I have encountered the magnificent teachings of the Lotus Sutra, just like encountering the udumbara flowers that rarely bloom. Thanks to this, the leaves of the plantain tree have received the abundant blessings of the nourishing rain of the holy teachings, and please

Story

# 芭蕉の精

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芭蕉

灬の葉が

芭蕉の精

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女の姿となって現

自身のみすぼらしい姿を嘆く

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読

は芭蕉の 精に思 61 をはせながら読経する。

0 われる 晚中、 月が美しく照 つ 7 いるこの庵

って芭蕉に伝わるだろう。

さて 奇跡であると思 芭蕉の精が はただ今の 女の姿で現 女が 雪中 n たのだろう。 0 逆蕉 0 よう に偽 んと不思議なことだ。 庭で読経する声が ただこれ も仏法の もな

っ 7 17 る姿」 と言っ たの behold me who has adorned myself in more humane attire / transformed into a human form. However, even though I have taken on this human form, I am originally unable to bloom flowers,

as I am a plantain tree. My clothes are old and worn, and I am in a garden wet in dew

Plantain Spirit

and in the shadow of the mountains.

Monk Unable to sleep, I did not lay my head on a pillow but have waited without purpose, then someone appeared before me. Looking at the person, it is the woman I met earlier. May I ask who you are?

Plantain Spirit

No, I am ashamed to call myself a human. In truth, I am the spirit of something without consciousness – I am a plantain tree who has been disguised in the form of a woman.

How did the plantain tree transform itself into the form of a Monk woman? Tell me what kind of karma brought about this transformation.

Plantain Spirit

It is a mistake to be suspicious in such a way. There is no predetermined rule that a plantain tree cannot become a woman.

Monk Soil, grasses, and trees are embracing the coming down merits from the heavens,

Plantain Spirit

the blessings of rain and dew, however,

芭蕉

雨露の恵みを受けて

61

ながら

土も草木も天より降りる

芭蕉

61

13 や、

61

うの

は恥ず

か

61

本当は、

私

は心を持たな

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芭蕉が

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芭蕉なのであっ 衣は古び 露が降りた

庭や山陰で過ごし てい

先ほどの女の顔かたちである。 あなたはどの ような人ですか

47 芭蕉の女とは、 41 う縁によ つ てこのように女の身となっ 0

そのように不審に思うのは誤りです。 芭蕉が女になれな 61 という定めはな 61 .のです。

Monk they are unaware of the fact. Both beings with hearts and without

hearts.

Plantain Spirit

take on their natural form.

Monk Therefore, a plantain tree also transforms into a foolish

Plantain Spirit

woman and appears.

Indeed, the frail plantain tree appears as a woman, and her attire Reciters is thin. It is not a light-colored flower-dyed robe, and the sleeves

are fraying as if they would tear apart in the wind. It is indeed

embarrassing.

9. Spirit of the Plantain Tree Narrates Stories

The spirit of the plantain tree discusses the deep connection between plants and trees and the teachings of Buddha, as well as the transient nature of its own existence.

Speaking of plants and trees that do not possess consciousness, Reciters their true nature inherently lacks a fixed form. Based on the understanding that the world of Buddha's teaching expands even within a single speck of dust, they manifest in various forms

through rain, dew, frost and snow.

Plantain Spirit

And thus, the way plants and trees bloom flowers on their branches is as if they are offering themselves to the Buddha in reverence.

Story

芭蕉

そうして草木が枝に花を咲か

せる様は

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も仏法世界が広が

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心構えを下地

霜や雪などに

よっ

て様

々な形を見せる

芭蕉の精

は、

草木と仏法の

深

61

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かな

い芭蕉の身などにつ

41

て語る。

地

そもそも

心を持た

草木 中に

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本来は

固 つ

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真実

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風

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ゆえ芭蕉も愚かな

女の姿となって現れる

ただた

に破 れだ は 7 か な 61 で芭蕉が 女とな つ 7 現

しまうように袖がほころんで れ、 61 るのも恥ずか  $\mathcal{O}$ 衣 は 薄 13

の 花変

いことだ。

薄色





のも心な

It represents the principles of Buddhist teachings. When one flower blooms, the entire surrounding area quickly transitions to spring, basking in the serene light of the sun in the sky. Cherries, plums, peaches and apricots, many flowers bloom.

#### Plantain Spirit

The scene is dyed in a myriad of colors and the air is filled with fragrance. Even the hearts of such flowers

Reciters

shows that everything possesses the real state of the thing. Moonlight first shines upon the tall building near the water's edge. Flowers and trees facing south are more likely to bloom. It is truly fascinating to witness such various principles. As spring passes, summer reaches its peak, and the wind announces the arrival of autumn – the reed field in the garden sway with the wind, signaling the arrival of autumn. My existence as a plantain tree is like a fern growing under the eaves of an old temple. It never bloomed flowers to begin with, and even the sound of a storm alone could easily tear the fragile plantain leaves that are as transient as falling dew. I listen to the sound of insects gathering and chirping under the mugwort plant. Even in autumn, without any change of heart, the true nature remains unchanged.

### Plantain Spirit

Indeed, this world is impermanent.

Reciters

It is reminiscent of the tale of "Plantain Leaves' Dream" (where a person from Zheng killed a deer and hid it with plantain leaves, but later couldn't find it and gave up, thinking it was just a dream). Oh, the humans' hearts that do not realize, even while hearing the cry of the male deer. Though there may be opportunities for enlightenment, the autumn wind blows towards the mountains accompanied only by the moon. Without noticing the sound of the autumn wind, in times of waking and sleeping, / preoccupied by numerous hardships, and we constantly indulge

ことは

の音だけ

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芭蕉 とよ

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まず庭 本当に

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思えばこの 世 は 無常なも

のであっ

「芭蕉葉 に、夢だと思っ つ 0 5 0 て あきら ことも多く 0 (鄭 t 方 0 8 人  $\mathcal{O}$ たとい が 吹 鹿を殺して芭蕉 う故事) 7 き 61 ŋ ŋ 0 よう 0 物 葉で隠 るき 思 風 であ  $\mathcal{O}$ け \$ 鹿 つ  $\mathcal{O}$ づ 0 9 る。 ずに 声 U を聞 見 9 起きる時も 風 <u>V</u> 7 つ は て、 ただ月だ な できず

が

 $\mathcal{O}$ 

相

を持

ることを示

に染ま つ ŋ を満たす。 そ のような花

0

心まで

な 空  $\mathcal{O}$ 理 0 を表  $\mathbb{H}$ 0 光 を得 7 て B 桃 や李など数 々  $\mathcal{O}$ 花 が 咲 77

仏

か

7 H に 兀 方 が と移り

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+

精

# 10. Spirit of Plantain Tree Dances

The spirit of the plantain tree dances under the moonlight. When a fierce wind blows from the mountains and sweeps away everything around it, only the leaf of the plantain tree remains in its aftermath.

Plantain Spirit

Tonight, the moon shines exceptionally white.

Bathed in the moonlight, my garments appear icy, and hakama Reciters trousers resemble frost.

[jo-no-mai]

Plantain Spirit

The frost weft, the dew warp, woven into fragile

Reciters sleeves of my humble grassy robe.

Plantain Spirit

I have been wearing it for a long time, and

Reciters no different from the feathered robe worn by celestial maidens.

地

天女の着る羽衣と違い

は

な

61

[序之舞]

草の衣の袂も

しく着なれたもの

霜を経糸、

て織っ

今夜は月も格別に白くて

月の光を受けて、 衣は 氷 のように、 袴は霜 0 ように見える。 は芭蕉の葉だけ が残っ 7 77 た。

月

0

光を受け

ながら芭蕉

の精

は舞を舞う。

Щ

日から激

い風が吹

ζ)

てあたりを吹き払うと、

0

袖を翻して舞を舞おう。

芭蕉

芭蕉の葉の袖を返して舞い

Plantain Spirit

I flip the sleeves of plantain leaves and dance, and

Reciters

swirl the sleeves. With the fan made of a plantain leaf, a fierce wind arises, sweeping through the low-growing cogon grasses, golden lace, and thatching sedge in the lonely old temple. In the brief moment when the woman's form seemed to have transformed, the gust blows down from the mountains, and the winds blowing over pine trees sweep through the surroundings. Flowers and myriad grasses scatter, and left alone was the remain of the torn plantain leaf.

そこには芭蕉の葉が破れて残っていた。 Ш 化、刈萱に吹き渡る。女」
・
をまます

・
芭蕉の葉の扇によって か ら吹きおろ 松風があたりを吹き払う。 て激 女の姿が移り変わったと見えたほんの り 風が起こ ŋ の寂 花も千草もちりぢりに わ ず 丈 か 0 な間

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# Bashō (Plantain Tree))

#### **Synopsis**

Every night, a monk living in Xiaoshui in the state of Chu, China recites the Lotus Sutra at his humble hut. One night he hears someone approaching his place. In the light of the moon a woman appears. The monk asks who she is. She replies that she lives in Xiaoshui, visits the monk to connect with Buddha, and requests the monk to enter her into his hut. Although the monk declines her request at first, he ends up inviting her into the hut after seeing the seriousness of her wish. After talking about the merits of the Lotus Sutra as well as the reason of the Buddha's teachings, she cites an old episode of the "Plantain Tree in Snow" and disappears, indicating that she is disguising her true identity.

As the monk hears the story about a plantain tree from a villager, he notices that the woman he met for a while ago was the spirit of the plantain tree. He recites the sutra all night. The spirit of the plantain appears before him and laments the fragility of themselves as well as the unstableness of this world. The spirit of the plantain tree dances in the moonlight and then it causes wind with its plantain leaf fan. When the mountain wind sweeps away the grasses and flowers around, a broken plantain leaf is left just there.

#### Highlights

This piece is based on the idea in the Lotus Sutra that "even plants without consciousness can attain buddhahood" from the "Parable of the Medicinal Herbs." In the pensive and somber atmosphere of an old temple, a plantain tree transforms into a woman and talks about the transience of the world.

There are other Noh plays which have the spirits of plants appear, but what sets this piece as unique is the presence of a middle-aged woman, when Noh plays often cast women as either young or elderly. The fleeting image of a plantain tree, which does not bloom and is torn by the wind, overlaps with the woman's figure. One of the highlights of the performance is the serene and dignified "Jo-no-mai", which is performed with music but without the accompaniment of a large drum.

The story of "Plantain Tree in Snow," in which artist Wang Wei (8th century) depicted a flourish plantain tree that should not grow in winter and snow together, is well-known. The kyōgen interlude that tells this story is also a delightful aspect of the performance.

Schools All five

Category The Third Group Noh Author Komparu Zenchiku

Subject Lotus Sutra, Volume 3, "Parable of the Medicinal Herbs," etc.

Season Autum

Scene Xiaoshui in the state of Chu, China

Characters Mae-shite Village Woman

Nochi-shite Spirit of Plantain Tree

Waki Monk from the state of Chu

Ai Villager

Masks Mae-shite Shakumi, Fukai, or Ōmi-onna

Nochi-shite Shakumi, Fukai, or Ōmi-onna

Costumes Mae-shite Kazura (wiq), kazura-obi (band for a wiq), karaori (a short-

sleeved *kimono* outer robe worn by female characters) worn in *kinagashi*-style, *kitsuke/surihaku* (short-sleeved *kimono*, worn as the innermost layer of the costume of a female character), and crystal Buddhist prayer beads. Holding a twig

with leaves or a water pail.

Nochi-shite Kazura, kazura-obi, chōken (an unlined, long-sleeved elegant

garment worn by dancing female characters), kitsuke / surihaku, hakama in ōkuchi-style (white or scarlet), 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 / muji-noshime (short-sleeved kimono with no pattern, worn as the innermost layer of the costume of male characters of lesser standing), koshi-obi, a fan and Buddhist prayer beads. Hold a scroll of sutra in the bosom. Might also wear a pair of hakama trousers in ōkuchi-style

white)

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 hours and 10 minutes

#### あらすじ

中国・楚の小水に住む僧が、毎晩草庵で法華経を読経していると、 **庵室に人が近づいてくる音が聞こえます。月光に照らされて女が現** れると、僧は女が何者なのかを尋ねます。女は小水に住む者で、仏 縁を結ぶために訪れていると語り、草庵に入れてくれるよう僧に頼 みます。一度は断った僧も、女の志の深さに感じ入って草庵に招き 入れます。女は法華経の功徳や仏法の道理について語ると、「雪中の 芭蕉」の故事を引き、正体を偽っていることをほのめかして姿を消 します。

僧は、里人から芭蕉にまつわる故事を聞くと、先ほどの女が芭蕉 の精であったと思い、夜通し読経をします。そこに芭蕉の精が現れて、 芭蕉のはかない姿や無常な世を嘆きます。月が照らすなかで芭蕉の 精が舞を舞ったかと思うと、芭蕉の扇が風を起こします。山風があ たりの花や千草を吹き払うと、そこには芭蕉の葉が破れて残ってい るのでした。

#### みどころ

本作では、法華経の「薬草喩品」にある「心を持たない草木も成 仏できる」という説を下地として、古寺を舞台としたもの寂しい雰 囲気の中、芭蕉が女の姿で現れ、世の無常を語ります。

他の能にも植物の精が現れるものはありますが、若い女性でも老 婆でもなく、中年の女性が登場するのは本作の特色です。花が咲く こともなく、風で破れる芭蕉のはかないイメージが、女の姿に重な っています。静かで気品の高い大小物(太鼓が入らない)の「序之舞」 もみどころです。

冬には枯れてしまう芭蕉を王維が絵に描いたという「雪中の芭蕉」 の故事は有名で、これを語る間狂言もききどころです。

五流にあり

分類 三番日物

作者 金春禅竹

題材 『法華経』第三巻・薬草喩品(やくそうゆほん)など

季節 秋

場面 中国・楚の小水(しょうすい)

登場人物 前シテ 里の女

> 後シテ 芭蕉の精 楚国僧 アイ 里人

曲見(しゃくみ)または深井、近江女 面 前シテ

後シテ 曲見または深井、近江女

装束 前シテ 鬘、鬘帯、唐織着流、着附・摺箔、水晶の数珠。木の

葉の小枝または水桶を持つ

後シテ 鬘、鬘帯、長絹、着附・摺箔、色大口または白大口、腰帯、

角帽子、水衣、着附・無地熨斗目、腰帯、扇、数珠。

経巻を懐中する。白大口にも

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10分

芭蕉(ばしょう)

Bashō (Plantain Tree) ©2023 the-noh.com

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