

狂言 「呂 蓮」 (Kyogen : “Roren”)

会 場 : 国立能楽堂 (National Noh Theatre)

日 時 : 2017 年 2 月 11 日 13 時開演 (Feb. 11th, 2017 at 13:00-)

流 派 : 和泉流 (Izumi School)

登場人物 (The characters in the play)

シテ…出家 {野村 万蔵} (Shite [main actor]…A priest {Manzo, NOMURA})

アド…宿主 (Ado [the 1st supporting actor]…A landlord)

小アド…宿主の妻 (Koado [the 2nd supporting actor]…A wife of the landlord)

[用語(Terminology)]

シテ : 能や狂言の主人公。 (Shite : The, main actor in Noh and Kyogen.)

アド : 狂言の助演者。

(Ado: The supporting actor to the shite in kyogen is called Ado. When there are more than one Ado, they are refer to the first, second and third Ado, or the shu (“main”) and ko (“small”) Ado.)

Kyogen describes the inside of human mind but in the comical or ironical aspects. But we can enjoy Kyogen even without the knowledge about the background or the story because it is basically comedy. Then I show you the minimum outline of the story as follows.

The outline of “Roren”

This episode depicts the comical conversational exchange between an easy-going priest, a thoughtless landlord and a practical landlord’s wife over the thoughtless tonsure of landlord.

A priest is traveling across the countries with only minimum personal effects without settling down to the fixed place of residence. He narrates that his easygoing status is comfortable for him and is putting up at an inn for the night. A landlord says they are regularly prohibited to put a stranger up, but he specially might be able to provide an accommodation to a priest. The landlord envies the priest’s life style and inquires of him how to die a peaceful death. Impressed by the preach from the priest so much, the land lord asks the priest to get his head shaved and make him enter the Buddhist priesthood. The priest rejects his request at first saying that he can attain Buddhahood without entering the priesthood and it’s not too late to take the tonsure after getting the agreement of his wife. The landlord asks the priest again saying that he already has gotten the agreement of his wife. The priest finally accepts the request, gets the landlord’s head shaved and gives him a Buddhist name “Roren” that is just the combination of “Ro”, which is the 3 rd character of the Japanese old syllabary, and “ren”, which is the specially associated character with the landlord’s family, because the priest has just the limited basic literacy.

When the landlord’s wife show up later to serve a dinner to the priest, she finds out her husband’s shaved head and gets mad at her husband for attaining Buddhahood without consulting her. The landlord explains his wife how grateful divine favor the Buddhahood bring about to their family but she does not consent to his rationalization. The landlord then blames the priest for his shaved head to escape from her anger, which turns her wrath against the priest. The episode comes to an end with the commotion of the wife and the priest.

This document was prepared by Norih Saito for The second meeting of Meetup “Let’s Watch Noh & Kyogen”