

---

### Lord of Satsuma

A monk on a training journey approaches Kan'zaki, with a view to crossing the river to visit Ten'noji-Temple. He knows nothing about the monk's way of life, nor even the necessity of paying for tea-service at a tea-shop. The shop-keeper becomes sympathetic towards this naïve, penniless monk and drops a hint about the existence of a joke-loving boatman who will give him free conveyance to the other side of the river, if he follows these detailed instructions: 'At disembarkation, you must start by saying "A courtier of the Heike", and when questioned what the point is, simply say: "Satsuma-no-kami Tadanori"(Lord of Satsuma).' All would have gone perfectly had he not forgotten, at disembarkation, the second half of the instructions, so to his shame, he was unable to remember the name he was supposed to repeat.

### Noh: Haku Rakuten ('Po Chüi')

The Chinese poet, Po Chüi (772-846), is sent by his Emperor to Japan to measure the country's intelligence level. On arriving at the coast of Bizen early in the morning, he meets an old fisherman with his oarsman in a small boat, already out for the day's work. Coming close to the fisherman, Po Chüi asks if he knows him and the purpose of his visit. To his utter consternation, the fisherman makes a perfect guess as to his identity, and moreover, when his composition about the bay scenery is presented, the old man converts the Chinese poem almost simultaneously into a waka poem, and sings it. The fisherman explains that in Japan, even frogs and nightingales enjoy making waka-poetry.

Later in the play, the God of Sumiyoshi, who is also the God of Poetry, and who up to this point has been incarnated in the old fisherman, stands on the blue waves and, praying that Japan be guarded from having to submit to the foreigners against its will, performs a dance. Soon other gods from Ise, Iwashimizu, Kamo, Aki and elsewhere join the dance performance, and the gentle breezes caused by dancers' sleeves, augmented by the winds of the gods, gradually blow the Chinese boat, with Po Chüi onboard, back to the land of Han.

Takao Saijo