

Cat Wagon (猫車)(2)

- 1) The father of the siblings Ochiyo and Kōshichi has been killed by the samurai Lord. They weep and weep until their father's cremation has been completed. The 100th day of funeral observances have also passed and the bones are buried.
- 2) "Dear sister, I am terribly frustrated by this! No matter how great this lord is, he killed our innocent father for a crime he did not commit, and that is too much to bear! I will kill him and have my revenge!" (vows Kōshichi). "You should not say such a thing," (says Ochiyo).
- 3) While the two are discussing the matter on their way back home, they are being eyeballed by a scoundrel by the name of Gonta. (He mutters to himself), "I'll craftily lure away the older sister and sell her to a slave trader! Right-oh!"
- 4) "He, he, he, he, he, Mrs. Ochiyo, today I've got some good work for you. Would you mind coming along with me? It won't take much effort," (says the evil Gonta). "Yes. Kōshichi, Mr. Gonta's been kind enough to ask me..." (replies the gullible Ochiyo).
- 5) Ochiyo sends her younger brother back home, not knowing she is heading into a frightful trap. She leaves with Gonta. Kōshichi returns home, (remarking to himself), "I feel uneasy about all this."
- 6) Kōshichi waits until evening, but his sister does not return. "Sis is late... That Gonta is a real scoundrel, he has a bad reputation. What a worry!" (remarks Kōshichi to himself).
- 7) "Meow," meows Tama the cat. "Tama, it looks like you're worried too? I wonder what's happened to sis?" (says Kōshichi to Tama). Then, Tama slips from Kōshichi hands...

- 8) ...and runs outside. “Hey Tama where are you going! Hey!” (yells Kōshichi after the cat). However, Tama ignores Kōshichi’s cries. Here we have...
- 9) ... Ochiyo who has been tricked into coming to the scoundrel’s house. “It’s already late, I had better be going home,” (says Ochiyo). “He, he, he ,he, he, you’re staying the night. You want to run off then? Well, I am not letting you go!” (says the wicked man). As he says this...
- 10) ... a single girl comes to the house. What is this? Isn’t her face and the shape of her body exactly like that of Ochiyo?

And then...