

Otabi Festival Children's Kabuki 2018

**Tera-machi: "At the Nakamura Retreat"** by Chochidori, from the  
*Chronicles of Goro's and Juro's Revenge*



The "Tale of the Soga Brothers/Sogamonogatari" is considered one of the 3 great revenge stories in Japan. It consists of several loosely connected plays, each depicting one part of the overall story.

When Juro and Goro find out that their father's murderer will be attending a festival, they hatch a plot to kill him there. But a big problem stands in their way, can they resolve it? And what does their youngest brother have to do with it all?

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When Kawazu Saburo is murdered by Kudo Suketsune in a sneak attack, he leaves behind a pregnant wife and two infant sons, Juro and Goro.

Shortly the recently-born youngest son is adopted by his uncle, Ito Sukekyo. Man'e also remarries to Soga Sukenobu, and brings along the two older boys. The older boy takes on the name, Soga Juro Sukenari, and the younger, Soga Goro Tokimune.

When they are older, Soga Goro begins Buddhist training under a high priest, but eventually leaves the temple for his coming-of-age ceremony under the Lord Hojo Takimasa. His action enrages his mother, Man'e, and she cuts him from the will.

In May 1193, the Shogun Yoritomo decides to hold a festival at a hunting ground. The chosen date so happens to be the monthly anniversary of their father's death. Upon learning that Kudo, their father's murderer, will be attending, the brothers decide it's a good day to exact their revenge. Despite their decision, their mother still refuses to reverse her decision to disinherit Goro.

Meanwhile, the adopted son, now known as Zenjibo Jitsue, comes by to pay his older brothers a visit. However, Jitsue suffers from night blindness and cannot see well in the dark.

Jitsue takes a short break from traveling under the eaves of a house, without realizing belongs to his brothers, and he ends up eavesdropping on the conversation within. Both brothers are attempting to convince Man'e to revoke Goro's disinheritance, as it will legitimize the revenge. However, Man'e still refuses to budge on her decision, and seeing no other option, Juro orders Goro to commit seppuku (ritual suicide).

Upon hearing this, Jitsue is convinced that if he himself commits ritual suicide instead, Goro will be forgiven.

How will this story reach its final conclusion?!