

Kiichi Hogen's Book of Strategy

鬼一法眼三略巻 今出川菊畑の場

performed by Daimonji-cho 大文字町

Showtimes: 3PM, 7PM

Synopsis

(This story is set in the late Heian period prior to the Genpei War, as the Minamoto clan gears up to overthrow the Taira clan in power. Ushiwakamaru is the childhood name of legendary warrior Minamoto no Yoshitsune, younger half-brother of the Minamoto clan head, Yoritomo. Kiichi Hogen is a legendary warrior monk honored as an authority on swordplay and warfare.)

Ushiwakamaru and his retainer Kisanda infiltrate Kiichi's palace disguised as servants. Their goal is to steal a secret military strategy book inherited by Kiichi as his family heirloom. As his father's dying wish was to pass on the book's secrets to a worthy Minamoto warrior, Kiichi has not handed the book even to Taira Kiyomori, whom he serves.

Kiichi was actually originally a samurai of the Minamoto clan and the older brother of Kisanda. He sees through Ushiwakamaru and Kisanda's disguises, and tests them by getting Kisanda to beat Ushiwakamaru. Kisanda struggles to beat his own master, but Kiichi's daughter, Princess Minazuru intervenes and defends Ushiwakamaru. Kasahara Tankai, a disciple of Kiichi also appears, and asks to take the hand of Princess Minazuru. Kiichi and Tankai head off to talk, giving Ushiwakamaru and Kisanda a window of opportunity to steal the book.

Ushiwakamaru presses Kisanda to kill Kiichi, but he confesses his resistance to killing his own brother. Minazuru then enters the scene to confess her love for Ushiwakamaru, letting on that she knows his true identity. In panic at having their identities exposed, Kisanda tries to kill Minazuru, but Tankai, who has heard the whole conversation, then appears as well. He is actually serving as a spy for Taira Kiyomori, and is about to leave to report his discovery to his master, but is cut down by Ushiwakamaru.

Ushiwakamaru stops Kisanda from killing Minazuru, instead suggesting that they negotiate directly with Kiichi with her mediation. All three of them then head towards the back of the palace, prepared to reveal their identities and plan to Kiichi.