

Alien Registration Certificate
(Gaijin Toroku Sho)
or
Variations on an Alien Theme

A Kyogen by
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Kenny & Ogawa Kyogen Players

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Alien (shite)
Clerk (ado)
Section Chief (koado)
Cook (tachishu)
Taxi Driver (tachishu)

ALIEN I am a peron who has been registered as an alien pursuant to the provision of the Alien Registration Law. I carry upon my person at all time a certificate confirming this fact – my Certificate of Alien Registration – and this I present to the competent authorities when so requested. In case any change has occurred in matters entered in this certificate, an application for their registration must be made within fourteen days of the change. In addition, in case this certificate is misplaced, stolen, or destroyed, an application for the reissue of a new one must be made within fourteen days of its loss. Further, and in addition, an application for the renewal of this certificate must be made within thirty days prior to the date of its expiration. Finally, and in addition, any person who fails to comply with the above-mentions requirements may be punished. This being so, I now discover that my statue of residence is again imperiled, and that my

authorized period of stay is coming to an end. This occurs to me with frequency – once every three months, once a season. So again I am hurrying to the Immigration Bureau at Shinagawa where the authorities in charge of such matters will renew my certificate. I am hurrying because my application for the renewal of this certificate must be made within thirty days prior to the date of its expiration and a person who fails to comply with the above mentioned requirements may be punished. I must hurry on my way. Well, here I am at Shinagawa Station, but again I must not tarry to admire any of the beauties of a seasonal nature I may encounter because today is by my counting the thirtieth day prior to the date of the expiration of my certificate. Indeed, I am so in a hurry that I see I must take a taxi cab. Yoi, taxi!

TAXI DRIVER Kash'komatta.

ALIEN Please take me to the Immigration Bureau.

TAXI DRIVER Kokoroeta. Rrrm-rrm-rrum (sound of taxi motor)

ALIEN Here I am being driven through the seasonal beauties of Shinagawa, but I am not appreciating them. I must make my application for the renewal of my certificate because a person who fails to comply with the above-mentioned requirements may be punished. Oh, here we are. Stop, stop.

TAXI DRIVER Kokoroeta.

ALIEN Here I am at the Immigration Bureau. And now I must enter and make my application. You, taxi driver, will please to wait here for me and then drive me back to Shinagawa Station.

TAXI DRIVER Kokoroeta. Rrm-rrm-rrm.

ALIEN And now I must approach a clerk. But first I must wait for up to half an hour in line. (Tableau) There, I have waited for up to half an hour in line and at last I may approach a clerk. (F Clerk) I am a person who has been registered as an alien pursuant to the provisions of the Alien Registration Law. An Application for renewal of my certificate must be made within thirty days prior to the date of its expiration. It is now thirty days before that date and I have presented myself here. I have all the necessary papers.

CLERK Give me your Alien Registration Certificate.

ALIEN Kokoroeta.

CLERK Give me your passport.

ALIEN Kokoroeta.

CLERK Give me your tax vouchers.

ALIEN Kokoroeta.

CLERK Give me your Letter of Guaranty and Sponsorship.

ALIEN Kokoroeta.

CLERK Go and sit down.

ALIEN Ah. (relieved), kokoroeta. I am always ill at ease when I visit the Immigration Bureau. There is no reason for my being so, but I am always anxious.

CLERK Don-don-don. Don-don-don. (Stamping papers, continuing)

ALIEN A person who fails to comply with the above-mentioned

requirements may be punished. This I do not wish to occur. I wish to remain within this capital and do not wish to be deported into exile. Yet, though I have done nothing wrong and I am within thirty days prior to the date of the expiration of my certificate, I am always and every three months much ill at ease at the Shinagawa Immigration Bureau. Strange. . .

CLERK Don-don-don. Don-don-don. (Stamping papers) Alien!

ALIEN Kashikomarimashita.

CLERK You will proceed and acquire the necessary Revenue Stamp for the issuance of your Validated Certificate of Alien Registration.

ALIEN Kokoroeta. This bodes well. I am now more at ease. I acquire my necessary Revenue Stamp and then I receive my validated Certificate of Alien Registration. I will now go and acquire my stamp. (Approaching Cook) Excuse me, please.

COOK (Opening door) Gara, gara, gara. An alien. What do you want? I am busy cooking.

ALIEN I wish to acquire my necessary revenue stamp.

COOK Why is it that aliens always disturb me when I am cooking?

ALIEN Because it is you who sell the necessary Revenue Stamps for the issuance of our validated Certificates of Alien Registration. And because you are a cook.

COOK I see. Wait. Gara, gara, gara.

ALIEN Again, I will wait.

CLERK Don-don-don. Don-don-don. Don-don. . . !? Wait. An irregularity.

ALIEN At last I am now more at ease. When I have acquired my necessary Revenue Stamp, then my validated Certificate of Alien Registration will be issued me.

CLERK A grave irregularity.

ALIEN And I will remain at ease for the next season.

CLERK I must confer with my superior.

COOK Gara, gara, gara. Give me one thousand yen.

CLERK I have discovered an irregularity in the papers give me by an Alien for the reissuing of his Alien Registration Certificate.

ALIEN Kokoroeta.

COOK Gara, gara, gara.

SECTION CHIEF This is most serious. What could it be?

ALIEN I am much relieved.

CLERK Here, on this paper.

SECTION CHIEF An irregularity!

ALIEN Pausing on my way home, I will be able to enjoy the seasonal beauties of Shinagawa.

CLERK I have done my work well.

SECTION CHIEF Naka, naka.

ALIEN Enjoying the season beauties of Shinagawa is, indeed, one of the ways in which we aliens enjoy the capital here.

SECTION CHIEF Don-don-don. There, take this to that alien.

CLERK Kashimomarimashita. Hah-hah-hah. . .

COOK Here is your revenue stamp.

ALIEN With this stamp affixed to my Receipt for Renewal for my Alien Certificate of Registration, I am again, almost for three months, free of the Immigration Bureau. (Licking stamp) Namu, namu, namu. Why is it that the stamps always taste of curry.

COOK Because I am always making curry.

ALIEN I see. I now have my stamp affixed to my Receipt for Renewal for my Alien Certificate of Registration and am proceeding happily on my way.

CLERK Alien.

ALIEN Hai. Here is my newly purchased Revenue Stamp for the Receipt for Renewal of my Alien Certificate of Registration.

CLERK You will not be needing it.

ALIEN What?

CLERK You have been detected in an irregularity.

ALIEN What! And just when I was finally at ease.

CLERK A serious irregularity.

ALIEN Oh, what have I done?

CLERK Pursuant to the provisions of the Alien Registration Law, you must make application for the renewal of you Certification of Alien Registration within thirty days prior to the date of its expiration and a failure to comply with the above-mentioned requirements may be punished.

ALIEN Naka-naka, naka-naka, naka-naka.

CLERK Oh, miserable alien. You have not so complied.

ALIEN Oh, I am to be punished.

CLERK You have wasted the valuable time of my section chief, you have disturbed the cook at his duties, you have kept a taxi driver waiting, not to mention the care and concern you have caused me. It is thirty-one days before the expiration of your certificate.

ALIEN Oh.

CLERK You are too early. . .

ALIEN Oh.

CLERK A most grave offense.

ALIEN Oh, please forgive me.

CLERK You will appear tomorrow.

ALIEN I will, I will.

CLERK Or else you will be punished.

ALIEN Oh, forgive me.

CLERK Now. . . go!

(Tableau, then Alien begins his exit.)

TAXI DRIVER Yoi, wait. You told me to wait. (All repeat the following lines constantly as they chase off after the Alien.)

TAXI DRIVER Rrm, rrm, rrm.. .

COOK Gara, gara, gara. . .

SECTION CHIEF Don-don-don. . .

ALIEN Namu, namu, namu Amida, namu Amida.

CLERK Tomorrow I will catch you.

ALIEN Oh, forgive me, please forgive me. . .

CLERK Yarumai-zo,yarumai-zo.

ALIEN Goyurusaremase. . .