

## BOAT OR BARQUE

[Fune Funa]

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Shite TARO KAJA

Ado MASTER

MASTER I am a resident of this neighborhood. I have not been on an outing for quite some time. Today I have decided to go out somewhere or other. First, I will call my servant TARO KAJA and give him a job to do. TARO KAJA, are you there?

TARO KAJA Here.

MASTER There you are.

TARO KAJA At your service, Sir.

MASTER You came quite quickly. The matter I have called you here about is of no great import. I have not been on an outing for quite some time. Today I have decided to go out somewhere or other. What do you think?

TARO KAJA If you had not mentioned it, I was about to suggest it myself. That is a fine idea.

MASTER In that case, where would be the best place to go?

TARO KAJA Just where would be best?

MASTER Where would be best?

TARO KAJA Rather than haggling over this place or that place, have you ever been to Nishinomiya?

MASTER I have heard about it but I have never been there. That is just where I will go, and you must accompany me.

TARO KAJA As you say, Sir.

MASTER Come, come. Let us be on our way.

TARO KAJA Haaaa.

MASTER Well, now, does this place called Nishinomiya have good scenery?

TARO KAJA With its bay and mountains, its scenery is very fine.

MASTER With a bay and mountains, it must have fine scenery indeed.

TARO KAJA That it truly does.

MASTER Oh! Here we have arrived at a big river.

TARO KAJA Do you not know this river?

MASTER I do not know it.

TARO KAJA It is known as the Kanzaki Crossing, and it is a very well known river.

MASTER So is this the river known as the Kanzaki Crossing?

TARO KAJA That it is indeed.

MASTER It is a much bigger river than I had heard it was. Is it possible to cross this river on foot?

TARO KAJA Oh, no, never. It is not the sort of river you can cross on foot.

MASTER In that case, is there something to ride across it in?

TARO KAJA I am certain there must be something or other to ride in.

MASTER Fortunately, I see something over there. Call it over here.

TARO KAJA As you say, Sir. You, I say. Barque! Barque!

MASTER Hey, TARO KAJA! What are you calling to?

TARO KAJA I am calling to that barque.

MASTER What is this? That thing is called a boat. You must call it a boat.

TARO KAJA You do not know about such things. Just leave me do as I like. You, I say. Barque! Barque!

MASTER Hey, TARO KAJA!

TARO KAJA Huh?

MASTER It will neither come at your first call, nor your second call, nor no matter how many times you call it, as long as you continue to call it a barque. Just do as I say and call it a boat!

TARO KAJA I have a good example in my favor in this matter. Just tell me what you call this bank and that bank directly across from it?

MASTER Well, let me see. It's called a boat landing.

TARO KAJA Oh, no! What it is called is a barque landing. It is not called a boat landing.

MASTER Well, even though it may well be called a barque landing, that thing over there is a boat. So just do as I say and call it a boat!

TARO KAJA      What stubborn things you keep on saying. Even in the poems passed down from ancient times, it is called a barque, never a boat..

MASTER      While quoting poems is quite outside your ken, if you know an ancient poem to prove your point, I would like to hear it.

TARO KAJA      As you say, Sir.

Where the barques compete  
On the Horie River,  
At the water's edge,  
Those who come to lite and chirp  
Seem to be plovers.

There, you see, it is barques.

MASTER      I am sure it is boats.

TARO KAJA      No, it is barques.

MASTER      Well, I have a poem where it is boats. Shall I recite it for you?

TARO KAJA      Please recite it for me.

MASTER

In the soft, warm light  
Of the misty dawning morn,  
At Akashi Bay,  
The boats hide behind an isle,  
How I regret their passing.

There, you see, it is boats.

TARO KAJA      It is only natural that you have one poem to prove your point. But I have yet another.

MASTER      If you do, recite it.

TARO KAJA      As you say, Sir.

Even the barque man  
 Seems to love someone out there  
 On the big island  
 For sadly, across the bay,  
 Pleadingly his voice echoes.

MASTER I also have yet another.

TARO KAJA I do wish to hear it.

MASTER

In the soft, warm light  
 Of the misty dawning morn,  
 At Akashi Bay,  
 The boats hide behind an isle,  
 How I regret their passing.

TARO KAJA That is the same poem you recited  
 before.

MASTER Oh, no. The one I recited before was  
 composed by Kakinoki no Hitomaru, while the latter  
 was by Poet-Priest Sojo Henjo. Is it not a fine poem?

TARO KAJA In any case, I have yet another.

MASTER What's that? You say you have yet  
 another?

TARO KAJA

If I launch my barque,  
 Then it will eventually  
 Drift out far away,  
 At Ueno in Suma,  
 Autumn breezes come blowing.

MASTER I also have yet another.

TARO KAJA I do wish to hear it.

MASTER

In the soft, warm light  
Of the misty dawning morn,  
At Akashi Bay,  
The boats hide behind an isle,  
How I regret their passing.

TARO KAJA That is the same poem you recited  
before once more.

MASTER This one is by Poetess Ono no Komachi. Is  
it not a delicate and lovely poem?

TARO KAJA The old adage "One single poem for art  
and sunny days" fits you perfectly. It is no matter  
that you do this in front of me, but if you persist in  
this manner in front of others, you will bring shame  
upon yourself.

MASTER Oh, well, the fact is that quoting poems is  
completely outside the ken of both you and me. But  
I know a song that was composed about boats. I will  
sing it for you.

TARO KAJA I do wish to hear it.

MASTER I will also dance as I sing it.

TARO KAJA That is a find idea.

MASTER (Singing and dancing.)

At Yamada Yabase,  
The ferry boat plies the night waters  
Even when there are no passengers.  
The moon seems to beckon them,  
Yearning to join it,  
The ferry boat also sails

In its direction.

TARO KAJA You had done well thus far. Let us be on our way after one more phrase. (The MASTER turns to go.) Here, here. Sing the rest of the song!

MASTER There is no more to this song.

TARO KAJA No, there is indeed more to it.

MASTER If there is, I know it not.

TARO KAJA I will tell you what the rest is.

MASTER What is it?

TARO KAJA I will tell you now.

MASTER What is it?

TARO KAJA

The barque man also  
Rows in its direction  
As though entranced.

MASTER Sometimes you must let you MASTER win.

TARO KAJA Ha.

MASTER Ei.

TARO KAJA (Bowling.) Ha.