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.