

**The Monkey Son-in-Law
(Saru Muko)**

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**Monkey Son-in-Law
Monkey Father-in-Law
Monkey Taro Kaja
Monkey Father
Monkey Relatives**

(NOTE: Throughout the play, all set dialogue exchanges that are common to Kyogen plays of this type are replaced with monkey-chatter. All of the places mentioned are famed for their great numbers of wild monkeys even today. And there are many untranslatable puns on terms that relate to monkeys.)

MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW I am a long-time resident of the western part of the capital on Mount Arashi. I have a monkey son-in-law who resides in the Land of Yamato on Mount Yoshino. As today is a most auspicious day, I expect him to come to pay his Ceremonial First Visit. I will call my servant and give him a job to do. Taro Kaja, are you there?

MONKEY TARO KAJA Here.

MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW There you are.

MONKEY TARO KAJA At your service, Sir.

MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW You came quite quickly. The matter I have called you here about is of no great import. As today is a most auspicious day, I expect a visit from my son-in-law. Have you made ready as I ordered?

MONKEY TARO KAJA I have made ready indeed.

MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW Let me know as soon as my son-in-law arrives.

MONKEY TARO KAJA As you say, Sir.

MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW Ei.

MONKEY TARO KAJA Ha.

MONKEY SON-IN-LAW (Singing.)

As today is a most auspicious day for monkeys,
I am happily on my way to make
my Ceremonial First Visit to my father-in-law.

(Speaking.) I am a monkey resident of Mount Yoshino. I have a father-in-law who resides on Mount Arashi. As today is a most auspicious day, I am on my way to pay him my Ceremonial First Visit. (Singing as he makes the trip, accompanied by the **MONKEY RELATIVES**.)

MONKEY RELATIVES (Singing.)

Setting out from the flowering branches
On Mount Yoshino,
Setting out from the flowering branches
On Mount Yoshino,
I ride no horse as I climb Kuruma Hill,
And cross Okuchi Pass,
With the trees of Ame Isle in the distance,
And drop by to extend invitations to the monkey's
Who reside on the branches,
Among the tree leaves on Mount Mikasa,
I arrive on Mount Arashi.

MONKEY SON-IN-LAW I have made the trip with great speed, and here I am already at Mount Arashi. First I will announce myself. Hello in there! Is anybody home?

MONKEY TARO KAJA **Someone is at the door. Who is there?**

MONKEY SON-IN-LAW **Are you a member of this household?**

MONKEY TARO KAJA **I am Taro Kaja, a servant of this household.**

MONKEY SON-IN-LAW **Please announced that the son-in-law from Mount Yoshino has come.**

MONKEY TARO KAJA **I will indeed. Please wait where you are for a moment.**

MONKEY SON-IN-LAW **With all my heart.**

MONKEY TARO KAJA **(To the MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW.) I have a message for you, Sir.**

MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW **What is it?**

MONKEY TARO KAJA **Your son-in-law has arrived.**

MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW **Ask him to come right on in.**

MONKEY TARO KAJA **As you say, Sir. (To the MONKEY SON-IN-LAW.) He says you are to come right on in.**

MONKEY SON-IN-LAW **With all my heart. (He enters the main stage and sits, followed by the MONKEY RELATIVES who sit in a line around the upstage area. To the MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW.) I request your kind hospitality.**

MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW **I am happy to make your acquaintance.**

MONKEY SON-IN-LAW **I should have come much soon, but I have put it off for one reason and another until today.**

MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW I have heard that you are extremely busy. I heartily thank you for coming to visit me today. (To the **MONKEY TARO KAJA**.) Taro Kaja, bring the wine cup.

MONKEY TARO KAJA As you say, Sir. . . . I have brought the wine cup.

MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW You have done well. (Receives the cup and speaks to the **MONKEY SON-IN-LAW**.) Now, in celebration, I drink to you. (He drinks.) Now, Son-in-Law, I pass this cup to you.

MONKEY SON-IN-LAW And I receive it.

MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW Taro, Kaja, take this cup to him.

MONKEY TARO KAJA As you say, Sir. (To the **MONKEY SON-IN-LAW**.) Here is the wine cup.

MONKEY SON-IN-LAW I receive it with all my heart. (To the **MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW**.) Father-in-Law, I accept this cup.

MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW I regret I have soiled it.

MONKEY SON-IN-LAW It does not matter. . . . Taro Kaja, please pour for me.

MONKEY TARO KAJA As you say, Sir.

MONKEY SON-IN-LAW I drink to many felicitous years ahead for us. (He drinks.)

MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW Those are my sentiments exactly. (Singing.)

With my monkey baby in my arms,

MONKEY RELATIVES (Singing.)

**Hiding in the shadow of the verdant peak,
Meeting before its slopes laden with bird and flowers,
Never will I learn caution,
So determined to view the spring blossoms,
I bed down for the night on the mountain.**

ALL MONKEYS Well done, well done!

**MONKEY SON-IN-LAW (To the MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW.) Now, I
pass the cup to you.**

MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW And I receive it.

MONKEY SON-IN-LAW I regret I have soiled it.

MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW It does not matter.

**MONKEY SON-IN-LAW (Singing.)
At the break of day,
Mumbling as I awaken,
To a monkey who approaches,
Telling me I am called to serve,
What a pity.**

ALL MONKEYS Well done, well done!

MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW Now, will you have another drink?

MONKEY SON-IN-LAW Oh no, I will drink no more.

**MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW In that case, let the cup be passed to all
the others.**

**(Each of the MONKEY RELATIVES drinks a cupful in turn, amidst great
rejoicing, after which TARO KAJA puts the cup away.)**

MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW Now, I say, Son-in-Law, everyone has been served and the cup is put away. So let dance for us in celebration of the day.

MONKEY SON-IN-LAW I heartily agree to your suggestion to dance in celebration of the day.

MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW I am most pleased that you do.

MONKEY SON-IN-LAW (To the **MONKEY RELATIVES**.) You all, please, sing to accompany me.

MONKEY RELATIVES With all our hearts.

MONKEY SON-IN-LAW (Singing and dancing.)
How felicitous do we gather,
How felicitous do we gather,
Upon the occasion of the First Ceremonial Visit
Of a monkey from Mount Yoshino
To his father-in-law on Mount Arashi,
And let our joy be known
Throughout all the mountains of the land,
Our joy of ever multiplying joys.

(He dances to instrumental accompaniment, interspersing such monkey-like gestures as scratching for flees from time to time, then he begins singing again as he continues to dance.)

A monkey dance in the midst of a celebratory feast,

MONKEY RELATIVES (Singing in accompaniment to the **MONKEY SON-IN-LAW**'s dance.)

A monkey dance in the midst of a celebratory feast,
As cup after cup of wine is exchanged,
The faces of all present become flaming red,
As they sit neatly in a row,
What an amusing sight indeed,

What an amusing sight indeed.

MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW (Singing and dancing.)

In response to this felicitous sight, the father-in-law,

MONKEY RELATIVES (Singing in accompaniment as the MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW continues to dance.)

In response to this felicitous sight, the father-in-law,

Pleased by the fine figure cut by his son-in-law,

And the waving of his sleeves as he dance,

Which colt will he present, which colt,

First one and then a second,

And for a third, the black Shinano colt.

Even the brave boatman

When he stops to point out the sights,

Explaining that the stone lion there

Serves the Fugen Monju Bodhisattva

Of the Land of Kudara,

As a messenger along with the monkey.

This occasion will serve to bring

A reign of lasting a thousand autumns

And ten thousand more years,

With all joining in the piling up of rice bales,

With all joining in the piling up of rice bales,

The sheer joy of the effort

Contributing to the general felicitude.

(The MONKEY SON-IN-LAW and the MONKEY FATHER-IN-LAW stand face to face monkey-chattering their mutual congratulations and gratitude. Then they exit, followed by the MONKEY RELATIVES, all chattering and gesturing gleefully as they go.)