

THE GOD DAIKOKU AND THE POETS

(Daikoku Renga)

Translation copyright 2014 by Don Kenny
Kyogen-in-english.com

OKURA SCHOOL SCRIPT

Shite — DAIKOKU

Ado — WORSHIPPER I

Koado — WORSHIPPER II

WORSHIPPER I I am a resident of Sakamoto in the Land of Koshu. It is my custom to make a pilgrimage each year to the God Daikoku of three faces on Mount Hiei. And I have a friend who always accompanies me. I will go fetch him and we will set out on our journey. I must be on my way. Well, truly, since

I am going to the trouble to fetch him, I do hope I find him at home. I am certain that since we always make the pilgrimage together every year, he has not forgotten about it. Well, here I am already. First I will announce myself. Hello in there. Is anybody home?

WORSHIPPER II Well, someone is at the door. Who calls out at the door? Who is it?

WORSHIPPER I It is I.

WORSHIPPER II Well, I have been awaiting your arrival.

WORSHIPPER I I was quite certain that you would be. In that case, let us be on our way at once.

WORSHIPPER II That is a fine idea.

WORSHIPPER I Then you lead the way.

WORSHIPPER II No, I will follow you.

WORSHIPPER I Since you insist, I will go first. Well then, come, come.

WORSHIPPER II I am coming, I am coming.

WORSHIPPER I Now just what do you think? As we travel each and every year to see the New Year in at the shrine of the God Daikoku, it seems to me that we are blessed with increasing good fortune.

WORSHIPPER II It is as you say indeed. Life become gradually more pleasant with each passing year.

WORSHIPPER I Well, here we are at the shrine already.

WORSHIPPER II Truly, we have arrived at the shrine.

WORSHIPPER I First, let us pay our respects.

WORSHIPPER II That is a fine idea.

WORSHIPPER I Let us pay our respects over there.

WORSHIPPER II With all my heart.

WORSHIPPER I Well, I say, whenever we come here, this is always a quiet and wondrous shrine.

WORSHIPPER II Truly, it is a wondrous shrine.

WORSHIPPER I Now let us compose linked verses as is our custom.

WORSHIPPER II That is a fine idea.

WORSHIPPER I First you must begin.

WORSHIPPER II First you must begin.

WORSHIPPER I In that case, let us start with whoever thinks
of a verse first.

WORSHIPPER II That is a fine idea.

WORSHIPPER I What would be best, I wonder?

WORSHIPPER II Just what would be best, I wonder?

WORSHIPPER I How is this?

WORSHIPPER II Have you thought of one already?

WORSHIPPER I Let us start with. . . (Reciting.)

The new jewel of

WORSHIPPER II (Repeating.)

The new jewel of

WORSHIPPER I

The New Year at the Shrine of
God Daikoku.

WORSHIPPER II In that case, I will add. . . (Reciting.)

Those who worship him receive

His gift of great good fortune.

WORSHIPPER I That is fine indeed. Now let us chant it.

WORSHIPPER II That is a fine idea.

WORSHIPPER I (Chanting.)

The new jewel of

The New Year at the Shrine of

God Daikoku.

WORSHIPPER II (Chanting.)

Those who worship him receive

His gift of great good fortune.

WORSHIPPER I Oh, there is a great commotion in the shrine
and a rare fragrance wafting forth from it. Let's move over
there.

WORSHIPPER II With all my heart.

DAIKOKU (Singing.)

Appearing here now,
 Is the God DAIKOKU of three faces of Mount Hiei,
 And that is who I am.

WORSHIPPER I Who is this august being. . .

WORSHIPPER I & WORSHIPPER II . . . Who appears before us
 here?

DAIKOKU Do you two not know me?

WORSHIPPER I & WORSHIPPER II We know nothing of you at
 all.

DAIKOKU As you make your laudable pilgrimage here each
 and every year, wishing to make life more pleasant for you, I,
 the God DAIKOKU of Three Faces, appear now before you.

WORSHIPPER I & WORSHIPPER II Haaa. We are indeed most
 grateful.

WORSHIPPER I We heartily welcome you.

WORSHIPPER I & WORSHIPPER II Grant us the pleasure of
 your august company.

DAIKOKU With all my heart. Bring me a stool to sit on.

WORSHIPPER I As you say, Sir. (To WORSHIPPER II.) Go and
bring back a stool.

WORSHIPPER II As you say, Sir. (He gets the stool and places
it behind DAIKOKU .) Haaa. I have brought you a stool.

DAIKOKU (He sits on the stool.) Now both of you come over
here.

WORSHIPPER I & WORSHIPPER II As you say, Sir.

DAIKOKU Well now, the two of you make a laudable
pilgrimage to this shrine each and every year, do you not?

WORSHIPPER I & WORSHIPPER II (Bowing.) Haaa.

DAIKOKU Do you wish to hear the lineage of this God
Daikoku?

WORSHIPPER I & WORSHIPPER II We do wish to hear it.

DAIKOKU I will gladly relate it to you, (To WORSHIPPER I.)
so you listen well.

WORSHIPPER I As you say, Sir.

DAIKOKU (To WORSHIPPER II.) You listen well too.

WORSHIPPER II With all my heart.

DAIKOKU Now the Enryaku Temple on Mount Hiei was built when the great Saint Dengyo and Emperor Kanmu joined together in heart and mind, during the era called Enryaku, and it was because it was completed during that era that it was given the name Enryaku Temple. Then they placed three thousand believers in the temple, each with three thousand karmas, bringing great prosperity to the Buddhist law. When this had been accomplished, Saint Dengyo thought that such a great mountain temple should by all means have a guardian deity who was capable of caring for three thousand believers every day. It was in answer to his prayer that I, Daikoku appeared. But Saint Dengyo objected, saying, "But Daikoku is able to provide protection for only one thousand believers daily, so since we have three thousand believers in this temple, how can Daikoku serve our

purpose?" Then I became so angry that in order to demonstrate to him that I do indeed possess the power to protect three thousand believers, I appeared to him with three faces and six arms. Thus this mountain temple was opened with great joy. And since that occasion, I have been known as the three-faced God Daikoku of the steadfast temple of Mount Hiei, from which position I bring great prosperity to the Buddhist faith. So worship me here with peace in your hearts and I will bestow on you a pleasant life.

WORSHIPPER I This august lineage of yours. . .

WORSHIPPER I & WORSHIPPER II . . . we hear now for the first time.

DAIKOKU Now recite for me the linked verses you composed earlier, recite them for me.

WORSHIPPER I & WORSHIPPER II (Singing.)

The new jewel of

The New Year at the Shrine of
 God Daikoku.

Those who worship him receive
 His gift of great good fortune.

DAIKOKU (Singing.)

Amused by these linked verses,
 Daikoku dances.

(He performs a Mai-Bataraki.)

CHORUS (Singing.)

Amused by these linked verses,
 Daikoku presents
 His bag filled up to the brim
 With so many treasures
 That they never have been counted,
 To you now indeed.

(DAIKOKU gives WORSHIPPER I his bag.)

WORSHIPPER II (Singing.)

Oh, I must say, how I envy,
 How I envy him.
 I beg you please give me too
 My share of fortune.

DAIKOKU (Singing.)
 Your demand for good fortune too
 Is only natural

CHORUS (Singing.)
 Your demand for good fortune too
 Is a most natural one.
 Seventy-thousand of most exquisite treasures,
 This my magic hammer brings.
 (To WORSHIPPER II.)
 And it is to you I give it,
 this hammer of mine.

Thus Daikoku bestows all the blessings that he has,
 Thus Daikoku bestows all the blessings that he has,

It is in this place I leave them
To benefit you both.

DAIKOKU AND THE POETS

(Daikoku Renga)

IZUMI SCHOOL SCRIPT

Shite — DAIKOKU

Ado — WEALTHY MAN

Koado — TARO KAJA

Tachi-Gashira — FIRST FRIEND

Tachishu — FRIENDS

WEALTHY MAN I am a wealthy resident of this neighborhood.
Each and every year we celebrate the Rat Festival. This year
as every year, I intend to pay my respects to the blessed god
Daikoku. During this festival, I always call my FRIENDS

together to composer linked verses. First I will call my servant Taro Kaja and order him to go invite all my FRIENDS to come here. Taro Kaja, are you there?

TARO KAJA Here.

WEALTHY MAN There you are.

TARO KAJA At your service, Sir.

WEALTHY MAN You came quite quickly. The matter I have called you here about is of no great import. Today as every year at this time, we will celebrate the Rat Festival. While I realize what a great bother it may be, I order you to go the homes of each of my FRIENDS and tell them that the time is right and that they should come here.

TARO KAJA As you say, Sir.

WEALTHY MAN Ei.

TARO KAJA Ha.

WEALTHY MAN Ei.

TARO KAJA Oh, how happy, how happy I am. Today is the Rat

Festival, so everyone will come to visit and the place will be lively indeed. Well now, who shall I visit first? Oh, yes, Someone's (The name of the actor playing the FIRST FRIEND is used here.) place is nearest. I will visit him first. Hello in there. Is anybody home?

FIRST FRIEND Someone is at the door. Who is there?

TARO KAJA It is I?

FIRST FRIEND Oh, Taro Kaja! For what have you come?

TARO KAJA My master ordered me to come and tell you that the time is right and that you should come to visit him now.

FIRST FRIEND Indeed we have all been expecting his invitation, so the others have already gathered here.

TARO KAJA Then does that mean I will not have to visit each one separately?

FIRST FRIEND That is what I mean. We will all proceed together, so you go on ahead.

TARO KAJA As you say, Sir. (To the WEALTHY MAN.) I have

a thing to report.

WEALTHY MAN What is it?

TARO KAJA Just now when I went to Someone's (Use the name of the actor playing the FIRST FRIEND.) place, all your FRIENDS were gathered there and they said they will be here presently.

WEALTHY MAN When they arrive, show them all the way inside.

TARO KAJA As you say, Sir.

FIRST FRIEND (To the FRIENDS.) I say, I say. Are you all there?

FRIENDS We are here.

FIRST FRIEND Someone's (Use the name of the actor playing the WEALTHY MAN.) servant has come for us. Let us be on our way now.

FRIENDS That is a fine idea.

FIRST FRIEND Come, come. Let us be on our way.

FRIENDS With all our hearts.

FIRST FRIEND TARO KAJA, we have all come.

TARO KAJA It is good that you have come.

FIRST FRIEND (To the WEALTHY MAN.) What a felicitous
day it is!

WEALTHY MAN It is good that you all have come. First come
all the way inside.

FIRST FRIEND & FRIENDS With all our hearts.

WEALTHY MAN Well, I thank you for coming as usual.

FIRST FRIEND And we thank you for inviting us to visit you
as usual for the Rat Festival.

WEALTHY MAN Well now, let us composed linked verses as is
our custom. I request that one of you compose the first verse.

FIRST FRIEND Today for a change it would be good if you our
host would compose the first verse.

WEALTHY MAN Oh, no. They always say that the guest
composes the first verse and the host the second. In any case,

one of you please, make the first verse.

FIRST FRIEND No, no. This is a special gathering, so we do not want any ordinary first verse. You must by all means compose the first verse.

WEALTHY MAN Since you so insist, I will comply with your wishes.

FIRST FRIEND & FRIENDS That is a fine idea.

WEALTHY MAN Just what would be best. Well now, how is this?

FIRST FRIEND How is what?

WEALTHY MAN (Reciting.)

Tonight we gather
to offer yearly tribute
to Daikoku.

FIRST FRIEND & FRIENDS This is most amusing.

FIRST FRIEND Now I will compose the second verse.

WEALTHY MAN That is good. Please do.

FIRST FRIEND Well now, how is this?

WEALTHY MAN How is what?

FIRST FRIEND (Reciting.)

Here and there and everywhere,
Mountains of rice bales we see.

FRIENDS This is also well done.

WEALTHY MAN Come, come. Now one of the rest of you must
provide the third verse.

SECOND FRIEND Well now, how is this?

WEALTHY MAN How is what?

SECOND FRIEND (Reciting.)

Even all the rats
Rejoice at man's good fortune
On this festive night.

WEALTHY MAN Well, I must say, all our verses go amusingly
together. Since our linked verses are especially fine today, let
us make our offerings quickly. (They make their offerings.)

TARO KAJA, bring out the wine cup.

TARO KAJA As you say, Sir.

WEALTHY MAN Oh, what a wonder! Suddenly the air has
changed.

FIRST FRIEND Indeed, a wondrous fragrance fills the air.

WEALTHY MAN Now let us all move over here.

FIRST FRIEND & FRIENDS With all our hearts. (They all line
up stage left.)

DAIKOKU (Singing.)

Now know that I am
The god of great good fortune
Called Daikoku
Who blesses all the people,
Giving them treasures.

WEALTHY MAN Who might it be who appears to us in this
fashion?

DAIKOKU I am the object of your worship, the god Daikoku. I

am so overjoyed by your yearly holding of the Rat Festival and your kind offerings to me of linked verses that I now appear here to you.

WEALTHY MAN We are indeed most grateful. Please come all the way over here.

TARO KAJA Please honor us by sitting here.

DAIKOKU (To the WEALTHY MAN.) Here now! You worship me constantly and hold the Rat Festival for me faithfully every year. What is the purpose of your worship of me?

WEALTHY MAN You are, after all, a god of happiness. It is to gain good fortune that I offer our prayers to you.

DAIKOKU It is always my intent to provide you with abundant and overflowing good fortune, but my affairs have been in such a state that I have put it off for some time. Now I will bless you with good fortune.

WEALTHY MAN For this, I am most grateful.

DAIKOKU Well now, you who are gathered here must indeed be the group of FRIENDS who always gather together at the time of the Rat Festival.

WEALTHY MAN Indeed this is that group of FRIENDS. Each year at the time of the Rat Festival, I always invite my FRIENDS to my home for a celebratory banquet. I would be most grateful if you would also bless these FRIENDS of mine with good fortune.

DAIKOKU Well, I must say, what laudable people you are. First you must be wise and guard against falling into low and common ways. And participating in such a celebratory banquet is one form of faithful worship. I will indeed keep you all in a constant state of good fortune. But I always feel such sympathy when I see the state of the people in the world that I want the best for all of them. My desire to bring everyone good fortune keeps me especially busy at the time of this Rat Festival that is held in many places. So all I have to give at

this time is the advice that it is only the gathering and piling up of pieces of a certain type of thin paper that brings good fortune in this world. And if you also continue your faithful worship of me, you will find yourself thinking pleasant thoughts. These are what bring happiness.

FIRST FRIEND We will do as you say, Sir.

DAIKOKU Well now, what was that you were reciting earlier?

WEALTHY MAN It was some linked verses.

DAIKOKU What laudable people you are. And what were your linked verses about, what were they about?

WEALTHY MAN (Singing.)

Tonight we gather
to offer yearly tribute
to Daikoku.

FIRST FRIEND (Singing.)

Here and there and everywhere,

Mountains of rice bales we see.

SECOND FRIEND (Singing.)

Even all the rats

Rejoice at man's good fortune

On this festive night.

DAIKOKU (Singing.)

Amused by these linked verses,

Daikoku dances.

(He performs a San-dan-no-Mai.)

Amused by these linked verses,

Daikoku dances.

CHORUS (Singing.)

Seventy-thousand of most exquisite treasures,

This my magic hammer brings.

(To the WEALTHY MAN.)

And it is to you I give it,

this hammer of mine.

SECOND FRIEND (Singing.)

Oh, I must say, how I envy,

How I envy him.

I beg you please give me too

My share of fortune.

DAIKOKU (Singing.)

Your demand for good fortune too

Is only natural

Truly a natural desire.

This the bag of Daikoku

Known to contain all three thousand

Treasures of all the thousand worlds,

It is to you that I present

This bag of fortune.

And to all the rest of you here

Who say nothing at all,

And to all the rest of you here

Who say nothing at all,
You all hope for something from
This god Daikoku,
So I remove all my clothing,
Robes of rare and precious cloth,
And to you I give them.

Thus Daikoku bestows all the blessings that he has,

Thus Daikoku bestows all the blessings that he has,

It is in this place I leave them
To benefit you all.