

THE MIMIC

(Kuchi Mane)

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Taro Kaja

Master

Man

MASTER I am a resident of this neighborhood. I have  
received wine and  
provisions from a certain person, and since I do not feel  
comfortable  
consuming it all by myself, I have decided to find  
somebody who can enjoy

my feast with me. 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 (Bowing.) At your service, Sir.

MASTER You came quite quickly. The matter I have  
called you here about  
is of no great import. I have received wind and  
provisions from a certain  
person, and since I do not feel comfortable consuming  
it all by myself, I  
want to find somebody who can enjoy my feast with me.  
Who do you think it

would be best to invite?

TARO KAJA    Rather than haggling over this person  
or that person, let me

(Bowing.)

be the one to share your feast.

MASTER    How could I have one such as you as a  
guest? I just cannot think  
of anybody on such short notice. (MASTER and TARO  
KAJA turn to audience.) You  
must use you native wit to go out and fetch someone for  
me who drinks a bit but  
not too much, and while he does not drink much, does  
indeed drink well.

(MASTER and TARO KAJA face each other again.) Go  
find and bring here to me an  
amusing person of that sort.

TARO KAJA As you say, Sir.

MASTER Go quickly and hurry back.

TARO KAJA Ha.

MASTER Ei. (Goes to sit in neutral position.)

TARO KAJA (Bowling.) Ha. (Steps forward with right foot, turns around, takes three steps to return to original position, turns to face forward. ) I have been burdened with a most difficult task. He ordered me to go out and fetch an amusing person who drinks a bit but not too much, and while he does not drink much, does indeed drink well. (Bends body and head

slightly to right.) Just  
who would be best, I wonder. (Straightens up.) Oh, I  
know. Rather than  
haggling over this  
person or that person, I will go and invite Somebody  
(name of actor playing  
the role of the MAN) who lives Uptown. MAZU ISOIDE  
MAIRO. (Takes a step back at  
an angle to the left, then commences walk around the  
stage, beginning next  
speech after four steps.) Truly, I do hope that he is at  
home, for if only he  
is, (Turning left to head for bridgeway.) since he is so  
very fond of wine, I  
am certain he will come. (Stops at entrance to  
bridgeway.) Well, here I am  
already. First I will announce myself. Hello in there. Is  
anybody home?

MAN (Walks to third pine.) Someone is at the door.

(Walks to second pine.) Who  
is there?

TARO KAJA (Bowing.) It is I.

MAN Oh, Taro Kaja. And for what have you come?

TARO KAJA My master says that as he has received  
wine and provisions  
from a certain person, and is going to prepare a feast  
that he wishes to  
invite you to come to drink and dine with him.

MAN I would very much like to go, but as your  
master and I have never  
become close friends, I feel that it would be most

inappropriate to accept  
his invitation. (Turns to face audience on last  
words.) (Don, the Japanese  
line here finishes with KADOCHIGAI DARO, something  
to the effect that "you must  
have the wrong house." I am not sure if it is your loose  
translation or that  
you have a different version, but in any case it is a  
minor point.)

TARO KAJA It is just because you have never  
become close friends that he  
has taken the fortunate opportunity today to send me  
to invite you.

MAN (Turns back to TARO KAJA.) Since he has  
gone to so much trouble for me, I  
will, then, go with you.

TARO KAJA (Bowing.) For that I am most grateful.  
Come, let us be on our  
way.

MAN You must go first to lead the way.

TARO KAJA If that is the case, I will go first.

MAN That is a fine idea.

TARO KAJA (Starting walk around the stage.) Come,  
come. Come along with me.

MAN (Following.) With all my heart.

TARO KAJA When I tell him that you have come  
with me, I am certain that



my master will be quite delighted.

MAN As this is the first time I have ever paid him a  
visit, and I am  
quite unfamiliar with the proper protocol, I beg to you  
do everything  
necessary to help me do things right. (At this point  
TARO KAJA has reached the  
curtain and makes a U-turn, followed by MAN.)

TARO KAJA One that score, I assure you, you have  
no need for concern.(Stops  
at first pine.) Well, here we are already. I will  
announce you arrival. Wait  
right there  
for a moment.

MAN With all my heart. (TARO KAJA enters main

stage.)

TARO KAJA (Faces left diagonally, then faces front  
after completing line.)

I say, Sir, are you there?

MASTER (Stands up.) It looks like Taro Kaja has  
come back home.

TARO KAJA (faces right diagonally, and then walks  
after completing line.)

Are you there, I say, are you there?

MASTER I say, Taro Kaja, are you back?

TARO KAJA (Backs up to original position, bows. ) I  
have just now come back  
home.

MASTER Well, I must say, I thank you for your efforts. And who is it you brought with you?

TARO KAJA It is Master Somebody (name of actor playing the MAN) who I have brought with me.

MASTER He who lives uptown?

TARO KAJA (Bowing.) That it is.

MASTER What is this? What do you mean by bringing him here?

TARO KAJA Why, I brought him here because he is a good drinker.

MASTER     What foolish words you utter. He is the  
                  worst possible of  
drunkards. (MASTER and TARO KAJA turn to face  
                  audience.) He drinks one cup and  
begins to get drunk, then a second cup and gets doubly  
                  drunk, and then he keeps  
drinking and gets completely drunk. (MASTER and  
                  TARO KAJA turn to face each  
other.) What do you mean by inviting such a person as  
                  him?

TARO KAJA   (Stepping forward then turning around  
                  and walking as if to exit.)

                  If that is the case, I will just send him packing.

MASTER     Oh, here, here. (TARO KAJA stops, turns  
                  back around.) After

bringing him all the way here, we cannot just sending  
him packing. I will speak  
to him politely and send him on his way, so you must  
just leave everything to  
me and follow exactly what I say.

TARO KAJA So you mean I am just to imitate you?

MASTER Just stop talking nonsense and bring him  
all the way in here.

TARO KAJA With all my heart. (Turns and walks to  
bridgeway. To MAN.) Come  
all the way in here.

MAN (To TARO KAJA.) With all my heart. (MAN  
enters main stage and sits  
opposite MASTER. TARO KAJA enters main stage and

sits forward and left of his  
neutral position to form a triangle. Taking out fan and  
bowing to MASTER.) I  
request your kind hospitality.

MASTER (Taking out fan and bowing.) I am happy  
to make your acquaintance.

Though I have nothing special to offer you today, I am  
grateful you have come.

(Bows.) Taro Kaja, bring the winecup. (Don -  
winecups??)

TARO KAJA (Imitating MASTER'S actions.) Though  
I have nothing special to  
offer you today, I am grateful you have come. Taro Kaja,  
bring the winecup.

MASTER (Facing TARO KAJA.) What do you mean

telling him to bring the  
winecup. (Pointing fan.) That order was meant for you.

TARO KAJA (Imitating MASTER'S actions.) What  
do you mean telling him to  
bring the winecup. That order was meant for you.

MASTER Since I told you before that you are to  
follow exactly what I  
say, I see that you are imitating me.

TARO KAJA Since I told you before that you are to  
follow exactly what  
I say, I see that you are imitating me.

MASTER (Pointing fan.) It's you I'm talking to!

TARO KAJA (Pointing fan.) It's you I'm talking to!

MASTER     What am I to do with you? (Hits TARO  
                  KAJA on the shoulder with his  
                  fan, returns to his place.)

TARO KAJA    What am I to do with you? (Hits MAN  
                  on the shoulder with his fan,  
                  returns to his place.)

MAN    (Holding his shoulder.)   Ow, ouch! Ow, ouch!

MASTER   (Goes over the MAN and leads him to the  
                  left.)   Oh, that must have  
                  hurt. Come over here.

MAN    It does not matter.

TARO KAJA   (Goes over the MAN and leads him to



the right.) Oh, that must  
have hurt. Come over here.

MAN (To TARO KAJA.) What are you up to?

MASTER (Pulling on his own ears and walking in a  
small circle while making a  
disgusted face (THOUGH WE WERE TOLD KYOGEN  
ACTORS NEVER "MAKE" FACES!) .) Oh,  
what a hateful rascal you are.

TARO KAJA (To MAN, same action as  
MASTER.) Oh, what a hateful rascal you  
are.

MASTER What am I to do with you? (Hits TARO  
KAJA on the shoulder with his  
fan, returns to his place.)

TARO KAJA    What am I to do with you? (Hits MAN  
                  on the shoulder with his fan,  
                  returns to his place.)

MAN    Ow, ouch! Ow, ouch!

MASTER    (Goes over the MAN and leads him to the  
                  left.) Oh, that must have  
                  hurt. Come over here.

MAN    It does not matter.

TARO KAJA    (Goes over the MAN and leads him to  
                  the right.) Oh, that must  
                  have hurt. Come over here.

MAN    What are you up to? (TRIO poses in a tableau in

center of stage for a

beat.)

MASTER (To TARO KAJA.) Hey, let him go!

TARO KAJA (To MAN.) Hey, let him go!

MASTER (To TARO KAJA.) Are you going to let him  
go?!

TARO KAJA (To MAN.) Are you going to let him go?!

MASTER (Grabs TARO KAJA by the arm, pulls him  
around in a circle.) You  
rascal, once you start talking, you never stop!

MAN He really deserves to be punished.

MASTER (Grabs hold of TARO KAJA's hips, throws  
him to the ground at left  
diagonally.) This is what is good for the likes of you.  
(Sitting down and  
facing MAN.) Just make yourself comfortable. I will  
go order the feast  
prepared. (Bows, exits.)

MAN (Bows?) Please do not go to any special  
trouble for me.

TARO KAJA (Grabs MAN by the arm, pulls him  
around in a circle, stopping  
with the words "never stop.") You rascal!

MAN What are you up to?

TARO KAJA Once you start talking, you never stop!

MAN Oh, how dangerous!

TARO KAJA (Grabs hold of MAN's hips, throws him  
to the ground at left

diagonally.) This is what is good for the likes of you.

(Sitting down and  
facing MAN.) Just make yourself comfortable. I will

go order the feast  
prepared. (Bows, exits. MAN gets up and exits.)

FIN