

Don Kenny, A Kyogen Companion (National Non Theatre, 1999)

## CHIGIRI KI

Cautious Bravery

Taro  
Host  
Taro Kaja  
Taro's Wife  
Poets

千  
切  
木

The host of a meeting of the local Renga linked-verse club sends his servant Taro Kaja to inform the members that he is ready to receive them, at the same time, warning him against informing Taro, a member who is so critical and boisterous that no one likes him. But Taro hears about the meeting anyway and as soon as the rest have gathered, he comes charging in and starts complaining about not being invited and criticizing everything from the flower arrangement to the hanging scroll. The host tries to get Taro to leave everyone in peace, but he adamantly refuses. Finally, in exasperation, everybody gangs up on Taro, beating him, stomping on him, and throwing him out into the street. Taro is lying there in a semi-unconscious and cowardly state when his wife, having heard what has happened, comes running on with a huge stick. She brings Taro to his senses and demands that he go and kill everyone who was involved in throwing him out. Taro is extremely reluctant, but his wife forces him along the way toward the various homes of the club members. All of them pretend to be out, so Taro gathers up his courage and shouts into each house that they should come out and fight like men to pay for insulting him. Each time, his wife praises him for his great bravery, and after the last member's house, she bids him come along home with her, and they go off together singing happily.

