

KINTOZAEMON

Bandit Kintozaemon

Kintozaemon
Woman

金藤左衛門

A bandit named Kintozaemon sets out to ply his trade in the mountains. A woman comes along on her way to visit her home village. The bandit stops the woman and demands that she give him her belongings, wielding his halberd menacingly. The woman threatens to report him to the Lord of the Manor, in response to which Kintozaemon shows her a license that he received from that same Lord of the Manor granting him the right to work in these mountains as a bandit. Then he grabs the bag the woman is carrying and chases her away. Kintozaemon is so pleased with his booty that he puts his halberd down and begins looking at the contents of the woman's bag, commenting to himself on the value of the kimono, the sash, the mirror, the cosmetics, and so forth that he finds inside, and looking forward to making his wife happy with such treasures as souvenirs when he gets back home. He is so engrossed in this activity that he does not notice either that the woman has been watching him from a distance or that she has sneaked up behind him and grabbed his halberd. Suddenly she begins wielding the halberd and threatening him. She forces him to hand over his short sword and give back all her belongings, including her bag. Then she makes him take of his kimono and give it to her as well. She orders him not to watch her leave and goes off gloating over her booty. Kintozaemon deplores his miserable luck, complaining about not only losing his booty but even his own belongings to a mere woman, but then he says, "As the old saying goes 'the more good one does, the more good one gets in return and the more one's descendents will prosper as well,' so next time good will surely come my way." Then he goes off laughing merrily. There is a similar play titled "Yasematsu."

