Japanese till Prapo Chaves Title Co, Inc. 1960

now I recall

cs just

rought, cannot /ho are · heart.

for me.

And as I wander about with no guide, Without a tinge of remorse, forsake the world of impermanence,

ence. After due consideration, I wish to go to Heaven.

Oh, please, sir! Here comes the first sinner.

Make haste and drive him into Hell.

exactly:

ife has

re such

joicing.

THE BIRD-CATCHER IN HADES (Esashi Jûwô)

Characters: YAMA, the king of Hades, KIYOYORI, a bird-catcher. DEMONS, CHORUS.

comes to the Meeting of the Six Ways. Yama the king of Hades, Yama the king of Hades,

Yai, yai! Are my satellites around?

DEMONS. Ha! Here we are.

DEMONS. If any sinners come along, drive them into Hell. We certainly will.

KIYOYOXI. than the rest of them. All men are sinners, and I am no more a sinner

impermanence. Now I am on the way to the world of darkvale of tears, came to its end, and I was caught by the wind of in the terrestrial plane. But my life-span, like all things in the My name is Kiyoyori, a bird-catcher, who was well known

DEMONS. Here comes a sinner. We will report to Yama. Indeed, this is already the Meeting of the Six Ways of Exist-Without a pang of parting, have already come to the Meeting of the Six Ways. Ha! Ho! We smell a man. Why, no wonder!

Very well, sir

KIYOYORI, who resists violently.) say that about Heaven. Make haste. (A demon takes hold of Come, you sinner! Hell is ever at hand, but one cannot

carth. What was your profession on the terrestrial plane? Yai, yai! You are different from most of the sinners of the

KIYOYORI. I was Kiyoyori, the famous bird-catcher.

FIRST DEMON. you to Hell at once. till night! Your sins are unfathomably great. I must send Bird-catcher? Taking life from morning

KIYOYORI. Oh, no! I am not such a bad sinner as you make me out to bc. Please let me go to Heaven.

FIRST DEMON. No, that cannot be! But first I shall ask the King about your case.

Pardon, sir!

Well, what is it?

FIRST DEMON. The sinner who has just arrived says that he about him? says that we misjudge him thoroughly. What shall we do deep sin and certainly is doomed to Hell. But he protests and told him that having taken life day and night, he committed was a very fainous bird-catcher on the terrestrial plane. So I

YAMA. Call the sinner to me.

FIRST DEMON. Very well.

Come along this way. King Yama wishes to see you.

I am coming.

Here is that sinner you sent for.

YAMA. Coine, you sinner! You have been sinning all through your life snaring birds, and you are indeed a very wicked man. I am going to send you to Hell at once.

KIYOYORI. What you say about me is very true, but the birds I caught were used to feed the falcons. There was really no serious harm in that.

A falcon is another kind of Bird, isn't it?

KIYOYORI. Yes, indeed.

basis. I do not consider that a serious offense, Well, then! That puts the case on a slightly different

kiyoyori. I am glad you don't. It really was more the falcon's fault than mine. That being the case, I hope you will send me straight to Heaven.

YAMA. Since I, the mighty king of Hades, have not yet tasted a bird, catch one with your pole, and let me taste it right here. Then I will grant your wish without further ado.

KIYOYORI. Nothing could be simpler. I shall catch a few birds and present them to you.

CHORUS. To the bird-hunt, bird-hunt!

All at once from the southern paths of the mountain

Swifter than a flash Many birds come flocking.

Snares many with his pole. The bird-catcher darts and

KIYOYORI. Please try one. I will roast them for you. Here, they are ready.

YAMA. Well, well! I will have a taste. Meri, meri! Yum, yum!

Oh, this is uncommonly delicious.

kiyoyori (to the demons). You would like to try them too? DEMONS. Indeed, we shall!

Meri, meri! Yum, yum!

What marvelous flavor!

YAMA. I have never tasted anything so wonderful. Since you have given us such a treat, I am going to send you back to three years. the terrestrial plane. There you may catch birds for another

KIYOYORI. I am greatly obliged to you, I am sure.

## KTOGEN

CHORUS. For another three years, you shall snare birds!

Pheasant, goose, peacock, stork, and many others.

Thus commanded, Kiyoyori has turned his step once more to the world beneath. But Yama, loath to see him depart bestows on Kiyoyori a jewelled crown. Our bird-catcher marches lightly to the world below, there to begin his second span of life.

