

平成24年1月1日

# 英語対訳

～生徒に読ませたい日本の古典（古典落語）～

\*日本の話芸。たった一人で無限の世界を作り上げる。笑ったり、泣いたり・・・。  
まさに落語は表現力の極み。授業展開の参考になります。

## 課題例

- 客はどうやって「そば屋」をだましたのでしょうか。日本語で簡潔に説明しなさい。
- お殿様はどうして「目黒のさんま」に限ると言ったのでしょうか。日本語で簡潔に答えなさい。
- 「芝浜」を読んで、どう思いましたか。英語で3行程度の感想を書きなさい。

Masahiro Kudo

## What time is it now?

In the Edo era, there were soba stands here and there called 'Ni-Hachi soba,' or '2-8 soba.'

Because a cup of soba-noodles were served for 16mon (Mon was a fractional monetary unit in old days in Japan.)

One evening, a soba seller pulled his yatai (a small movable booth with a small equipped counter and a bench) to the road and waited for customers.

A man approached the soba booth, and said, "Hey, Soba man."

"Good evening, sir, may I help you?" the soba seller said.

"What kind of soba are you serving? Oh, you are serving shippoku and hanamaki? I'd like a cup of shippoku. It's cold out, isn't it? I need something hot to warm me up."

"All right sir."

"How is your business?"

"Not so good," the soba man answered.

"Is that so? That's good for you?"

"Good? I said not so good."

"That's why I said it's good. After a good business, follows bad things, and vice versa. Everything in the world is rotating. Don't let it get you down too much. What you need is patience."

"You are right. I'll keep it in mind."

"Oh, look at your andon. (a paper-covered lamp stand) It has a good sign on it, a target and an arrow. I have plans this evening. Because I've just encountered this sign, I'm sure I'll be a lucky man. As I like soba noodles, whenever I see this sign, I'll come again.

"Thank you, sir. And here's your soba."

"Oh, so soon? Every soba man should serve like you do. We are quick-tempered. If the order doesn't come soon, we complain. If it still doesn't come, then we eventually lose our appetite." In this way he continued talking.

"Oh, you're using disposable chopsticks. I'm impressed. Most soba-sellers have used-chopsticks. I don't like the ones someone has already used, especially the ones whose tips are wet. Yucky! But these are nice—. (The man began to eat blowing on his hot noodles.) You use a good bowl. Soba in a good bowl gives you a good appetite, because it makes the food you serve look delicious. Even restaurants around here might not use bowls as good as this one. —Smells good. You must use a lot of dried bonito for the stock. They say making good stock is a hard job. It isn't easy to make this taste. Some 'Ni-Hachi soba' is pretty salty—. I've tried soba here and there— But— uh, these noodles are really thin, very good. Soba noodles should be thin, but sometimes I encounter such thick soba noodles they are like udon. We don't eat soba as a substitute for rice, so they should be thin. I don't like thick ones—I've never eaten such good soba as this. Oh, I'm not making lip service to you —. Uh, your chikuwa (steamed fish cake) is thick. Do you make a profit from serving this thick chikuwa? You said all right, huh. Uh, somewhere I ate soba that was served with imitated Chikuwa-fu. (Fu is wheat-gluten bread.) I didn't like it. But it's all right for patients, you know. Yours is genuine—oh, how nice. To tell you the truth, the soba noodles here are so good, but I came here to kill the bitter taste I've had before. So I don't need another cup. Sorry."

"Oh, that's all right."

"How much do I owe you?"

"Well, it has some ingredients on the top, so it's 16mon."

"I only have small change, so I'll put them into your palms. Hold out your hands."

"Yes, sir, here you are."

"You said 16mon, right? One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, what time is it now?"

"Well, nine, isn't it?"

"Ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen— See ya," he said, and left.

Another true-born foolish Edo man, who was standing near the booth, saw it from the beginning.

"What a man he is! He spoke too much. He kept talking to the soba man from the beginning to the end. I wonder if he could eat soba noodles without talking," he thought to himself.

"He said, 'Hey, soba man. It's cold, isn't it?' Then what did he say? The low temperature isn't the soba man's fault. 'How is your business?'

'Not so good,' he answered.

'Is that so? That's good?'

'Good? I said not so good'

'That's why I said it's good. After a good business, follows bad things, and vice versa. Everything in the world is rotating. Don't let it get you down too much. What you need is patience.' He is clever, isn't he? 'Oh, your andon has a good sign on it, a target and an arrow. I have plans this evening. Because I've just encountered this sign, I'm sure I'm going to be a lucky man.' He's going to be a lucky man? I don't think so. All his talk was nonsense. About disposable chopsticks, a good bowl, good stock, fine noodles, and thick chikuwa—. He talked so much I thought he would leave without paying his bill. If he'd left without paying, I'd have given him a lesson. But he paid. Ruts! I didn't enjoy it very much—. He asked, 'How much do I owe you?' Why did he ask the price? You know soba is always 16mon for one cup. 'I have some small change, so I'll put them on your palm. Hold out your hands.' The way he counted was— like a child.

'You said 16mon, right? One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, what time is it now?' 'Well, nine, isn't it?' 'Ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen—.' Gee-whiz! He asked the time there. Very unusual. Why did he ask the time in the middle of counting? If I were him, I'd have miscounted. Very strange. 'How much?' '16mon..' 'One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, what time is it now?' 'Well, nine.' 'Ten, eleven, twelve—' I can't get why the guy asked for the time there. Wait a minute. How much?' '16mon.' 'One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, what time is it now?' 'Well, nine.' 'Ten—' 'Ten!' It's not 'Ten', is it? See, he miscounted! 'Ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen—.' He counted one less! Actually he saved 1mon. How sly he is! The soba man will never notice. It went really smoothly. 'How much?' '16mon.' 'One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, what time is it now?' 'Well, nine.' 'Ten—.' Hmm, it sounds easy. I'll try it."

But he had to wait until the next evening because he had no change on him that night. The next day, he prepared some change and went out earlier than he did the previous night and waited for a soba man to come along.

"Hey, Soba man. I'm here. I've called you a couple of times, but you're going ahead so fast. What kind of soba are you serving? Oh, you are serving shippoku and hanamaki? I'd like a cup of shippoku. It's cold out, isn't it? I need something hot to warm me up."

"Well, sir. It's rather warm this evening."

"Oh, actually, it's warm. It's warm all right. But it was cold last night."

"You are right. It was cold last night."

"How is your business?"

"Not so bad. I have some good customers. So the business is going well." the soba man answered.

"Is that so? —Oh, boy. I can't handle this conversation—. But you see, don't feel at ease. After a good business, follows bad things, and vice versa. Everything in the world is rotating. Don't let it get you down too much. What you need is patience."

"I think so too. I always keep it in mind."

"You seem like you know everything I'm about to say. Oh, your andon has a good sign on it, a target and an—. No. Your sign is kanji 孫 (mago, that means grand children) in a circle. What do you call it? Hmm, Magoya, or something? That's good. I have plans this evening. Because I've just encountered this sign, I'm sure I'll be a kind of magnet this evening. Never mind—. We are quick-tempered. What we ordered should come soon—. If it doesn't go that way— Well, it's all right. Some Edo men can't wait, but I'm one who can wait. I can wait. I can wai—t. I can wai—t. Hey, you haven't finish yet?"

"I'm terribly sorry, sir. I didn't have enough hot water. That's why I needed extra time. Here are your soba noodles."

"Well, I finally got my noodles. Oh, you're using disposable chopsticks. I'm impressed. Most soba-sellers have used-chopsticks. I don't like the ones someone has already used, especially the ones whose tips are wet. But these are—. Boy, mine are a pair of used-chopsticks! Yucky— Well, come to think of it, I don't need to break them. The most important thing is the bowl. Soba in a good bowl gives you a good appetite. It makes the food you are served look delicious. Even restaurants around here might not use bowls as good as—. Wow! It's dirty, and has some cracks. How does it keep soba in it without leaking? Well, it's all right if the soba is good. Smells good. You must use a lot of dried bonito for the soup. I was so sure that. (He slurped the soup. He almost threw up, but he just held himself.) Give me some hot water. The taste is rare. Sometimes I've had salty one, but this one is bitter—. They say good medicine is bitter. It must be good for my health—. Soba noodles should be thin, but sometimes I encounter such thick soba they are like udon. We don't eat soba noodles as a substitute for rice, so they should be thin. I don't like thick ones—. Look, my noodles are thick. They must be udon. What! You say that they are soba noodles? All right, all right. But these noodles look swollen. Maybe they are developing beriberi. Don't worry about that. I can eat thick noodles for a change. But too soft! They are as soft as oatmeal. Great! — I have a weak stomach, so they are good for my stomach. Uh, where is my chikuwa? I can't find it anywhere. You really put one in the bowl? Oh, here it is. It's too thin. Maybe you planed the chikuwa. What did you say? You chopped the chikuwa with a kitchen knife? Really? How can you chop chikuwa this thin? Um, somewhere I once tried soba that was served with imitated Chikuwa-fu. I didn't like it. Oh, no! It isn't chikuwa, but imitated fu. I can't believe it—. (He finished eating.) Well, how much is it?"

"It has some ingredients on the top, so it's for 16mon, sir."

"I only have some small change, so I'll put them into your palms. Hold out your hands."

"Yes, sir, here you are."

"You said 16mon, right? One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, what time is it now?"

"Well, it's four."

"Five six, seven, eight nine—"

Oh, oh—it seems like he paid far more than 16mon!(2005.11.1)

## 時そば

江戸時代、二八(にはち)そば屋と言うのがあちこちにありました。なぜ二八そばかと言うと、そば一杯が(二八の)十六文だったからです。

ある晩のことです。そば屋が屋台を道端に止め、客を待っていました。

そこへ一人の男がやって来ました。

「おい、そば屋。」

「へーい。いらっしゃい。」

「何ができる？おっ、花まき(焼き海苔をもんでそばにふりかけたもの)に、しっぽく(具がおかめの面のようなかたちでそばにのっているもの)か？しっぽくをもらおうかな。寒いな。こんな日は熱いもんで体を温めるに限る。」

「かしこまりました。」

「商(あきな)いはどうだい？」

「ぱつとしませんね。」

「そうかい？そりゃいいや。」

「え？ぱつとしないと言ったんですが。」

「それがいいんだ。運がよけりや、運が悪くなる。運が悪けりや、運がよくなる。世の中そんなもんだよ。気を落とさなさんな。商いと言って、あきないでやることだな。」

「うまいことおっしゃいますね。覚えておきます。」

「おっ、行灯(あんどん)だね。いい屋号(やごう)がついてるな。的にあたり矢か。今晚は一稼ぎするぜ。この屋号を見たからついてるぞ。そばは大好きだ。この屋号を見たら、また来るぜ。」

「ありがとうございます。どうもお待ちどうさまで。」

「おっ、もうできたかい。そば屋はこうでなきゃだめだな。わしら気が短いから、遅いとぶつぶつ言いたくなる。それでも出てこない、もう食べる気がしなくなる。」

こんな調子で男はしゃべりまくります。

「おっ、割り箸だね。気に入った。たいていのそば屋は割ってある箸だ。人が使った箸は嫌だね。特に先がぬれてるやつは、ご免だね！ここはいい・・・(男はそばをフウフウしながら食べ始める。)いいどんぶりだね。いいどんぶりだと食欲が増すね。中身がうまそうに見えるぜ。この辺で、こんな上等などんぶりを使っているところはなかなかないぜ・・・いい匂いだ。汁(つゆ)にかつおぶしをいっぱい使ってるね。これだけの汁を作るのは大変だろ。この味を出すのは大したものだ。二八そばは塩っ辛いのが多いが・・・あちこちで食べてるが・・・ところが・・・うん、この麺は細いね。いいね。麺は細くなくちゃだめだ。時々うどんのように太いそばがあるが、めしの代わりにそばを食うわけじゃないから、麺は細くなくちゃだめだ。太いやつは嫌だね・・・こんなうまいそばは初めてだね。おっ、お世辞を言うわけじゃないが・・・うっ、ちくわが厚いね。こんな厚いちくわを出して、もうけはあるんかい？大丈夫？そうかい。おっと、どこかでちくわを麩でごまかしたそば食ったな。嫌だね。あれは病人用だぜ。ここは本物だ・・・うん、うまい。ぶっちゃけた話、ここのそばはうまい。けどな、他所(よそ)でまずいそばを食った口直しに寄ったんだ。一杯で勘弁してくれ。ごめん。」

「いいんですよ。」

「いくらだい？」

「ええと、具入りで、十六文です。」

「銭が細けえんだ。お前さんの手に置くから、手をだしてくんねえ。」

「へい。これに願います。」

「十六文だったな？ひー、ふうー、みー、よー、いつ、むー、なな、やー、何刻(なんどき)だい？」

「エー、ここのつ(九刻)で。」

「とお、十一、十二、十三、十四、十五、十六・・・じゃ、あばよー。」

男は立ち去りました。

さて、どこか間の抜けた江戸っ子が、屋台のかたわらで一部始終を見ていました。

「あの野郎！よく喋ったね。そば屋に向かって最初から最後まで喋っていたね。黙ってそばを食えねえのかい。」男は思いました。

「あの野郎、こう言ったね。『おい、そば屋。寒いな。』寒いのはそば屋のせいじゃないぜ。『商(あきな)いはどうだい？』

『ぱっとしませんね。』ときた。

『そうかい？そりゃいいや。』

『え？パツとしないと云ったんだんですが。』

『それがいいんだ。運がよけりや、運が悪くなる。運が悪けりや、運がよくなる。世の中そんなもんだよ。商いと言って、あきないでやることだな。』きざだね。『おっ、行灯(あんどん)だね。屋号がいいね。的に矢か。今晚は一稼ぎするぜ。この屋号を見たからついてるぞ。』ついてるか？そうは見えねえな。話がうますぎる。割り箸だとか。いいどんぶりだとか。いい汁だとか。ちくわが厚いとか・・・好きなことしゃべって食い逃げするかと思っただらちやんと勘定払った。食い逃げでもしようものなら、お説教と思っただが。確かに払った。畜生！面白くねえ・・・あの野郎、こう言ったな。『いくらだい？』なんで値段を聞いたんだ。そば一杯一六文に決まってるじゃねえか。『銭が細けえんだ。お前さんの手に置くから、手をだしてくんねえ。』あの数え方・・・子どもじゃあるまいし。

『十六文だったな？ひー、ふうー、みー、よー、いつ、むー、なな、やー、何刻だい？』

『エー、ここのつで。』『とお、十一、十二、十三、十四・・・』おかしいぞ！あの野郎、あそこで時刻(とき)を聞いたな。なぜだ。何で勘定の途中で時刻を聞いたんだ？俺だったら間違えるな。実におかしい。『いくらだ

い?』『十六文』『ひー、ふうー、みー、よー、いつ、むー、なな、やー、何刻だい?』『エー、このつで。』『とお、十一、十二…』なんだってあそこで時刻を聞いたんだ。待てよ。『いくらだい?』『十六文』『ひー、ふうー、みー、よー、いつ、むー、なな、やー、何刻(なんどき)だい?』『エー、このつで。』『とお…』とお!十(とお)じゃねい。ほら、まちがえた!『とお、十一、十二、十三、十四、十五、十六…』ひとつ少なく数えたな。一文ごまかしたな。ずる賢い野郎だな!そば屋も気がつかないや。実にうまくやったな。『いくらだい?』『十六文』『ひー、ふうー、みー、よー、いつ、むー、なな、やー、何刻だい?』『エー、このつで。』『とお…』ふうん、かんたんじゃねえか。俺もやってみよう。」

その晩はあいにくこまかいのがなくて次の晩まで待つことにしました。屋間こまかいのを用意して、昨晚より早く出かけ、そば屋が来るのを待ちました。

「おい、そば屋。待て。何度も呼んだけど追いつけねえや。何ができるん?おっ、しっぽくに花まきか?しっぽくをもらおうかな。寒いな。こんな日は熱いもんで体を温めるに限る。」

「いえ、親方。今日は暖かいほうで。」

「うん、なるほど、暖かい。まったく暖かい。昨日は寒かった。」

「そうですね。昨日は寒うござんした。」

「商いはどうだい?」

「おかげさまで。ご鼻頂(ひいき)のお客さんもおりまして、商いはうまくいっております。」

「そうかい?…ちきしょう、あれが使いねえ…でも、いいかい、油断しちゃだめだよ。運がよけりや、運が悪くなる。運が悪けりや、運がよくなる。世の中そんなもんだよ。気を落とさなさんな。商いと言って、あきないでやることだな。」

「その通りです。いつも気に留めております。」

「俺の言おうとすることお見通しだな。おっ、行灯(あんどん)だね。いい屋号がついてるな。的に…。違うな。丸に孫か。(丸損)なんて呼ぶんだ。孫屋とか何とかか?そいつはいい。今晚は一稼ぎ、この屋号を見たから今晚は取られちゃうかな。気にするな…。わしら気が短いからな、たのんだもんは早くなくちゃいけねえ…そうじゃねえと…まあいいか。江戸っ子は待てねえ、でも俺は違うぞ。待てるぞ。待て…る、待て…、おい、まだかい?」

「誠に申し訳ございません。あいにくお湯が切れてしまいまして、余分な時間がかかってしまいました。はい、おまちどう。」

「よし、来た、来た。おっ、割り箸だね。気に入った。たいていのそば屋は割ってある箸だ。人が使った箸は嫌だね。特に先がぬれてるやつは。でもここは…ちよい、この箸、もう割ってあるぞ!おい…まあ、いいか、割る手間が省けて。どんぶりがよくなかつちやいけねえな。いいどんぶりだと食欲が増すね。中身がうまそうに見える。この辺で、こんな…どんぶりを使っているところはなかなかないぜ。おい!きたねえな。ひびだらけだ。よくそばがこぼれねえもんだな?まあ、いい、そばがよけりや。いい匂いだ。汁にかつおぶしをいっぱい使ってるね。きつと。(汁をすする。吐き出したくなるが、我慢する。)お湯を足してくれ。めずらしい味がする。塩っぱいのは食べたことがあるが、これは苦いよ…良薬口に苦しか。体にいいか…麺は細くなくちゃだめだ。時々うどんのように太いそばがあるが、めしの代わりにそばを食うわけじゃないんだから、麺は細くなくちゃだめだ。太いやつは嫌だね…おい、これは太いぞ。うどんと違うか。え?これがそば?いいだろ、いいだろ。そばがむくんだみてえだ。きつとこのそば、脚気(かつけ)をわずらってた。気にしない、気にしない。よし気晴らしに食べてやるぞ。しかし、ぐにやぐにやだね!まるでそばのおじやだぜ。なんでえ、これは!…おいら、胃弱だからな。おいらの胃にいいだろうよ。おっと、ちくわはどこだ?みつからねえぞ。どんぶりにちゃんと入れたのか?おっ、あった。薄いね。鮑(かんな)で削ったんじゃねえだろうな。え?包丁で切った?本当?よくもこんなに薄く切れたね。いつかちくわを麩でごまかしたそば食ったが。嫌だね。おっ、なんだ!ちくわじゃねえぞ、麩だ。信じられねえ…(食べ終わる)えい、いくらだい?」

「ええと、具が入って、十六文です。」

「銭が細けえんだ。お前さんの手におくから、手をだしてくんねえ。」

「へい。これに願います。」

「十六文だったな?ひー、ふうー、みー、よー、いつ、むー、なな、やー、何刻だい?」

「へー、四刻(よつ)で。」

「いつ、むー、なな、やー、ここのつ・・・」

あれ・・・余計に払ってるぞ！(Kudos)

## A Sanma from Meguro

In the Edo period, the shogunate, the feudal government, was in Edo, and every lord in this country had to live in their fief for one year, and live in Edo the next year alternately.

One clear autumn day, a young lord went out on a horse for a bit of relaxation with a dozen of his men. As is often the case, he knew little of the real world. When they came to Meguro, one of the suburbs of Edo, the lord got off the horse and said to his men,

“I’m tired of riding a horse. I want to run a race with you. Whoever defeats me shall have much reward.”

“Ready, steady, go!”

Since it was the lord’s request, they couldn’t help obeying it. The lord and his subjects started running. The young lord ran through a field for dear life, while the old subjects ran after him, losing their breath.

“How woeful it is! Look! Our lord has already been seated on a stump looking at us,” they said.

“What slow runners you are!” The lord looked proud of himself in triumph.

“By the way, where are we now?” he asked.

“This is the place called Meguro,” one of them answered. Then a good smell of grilled fish drifted out of a shabby house near there.

“Oh, smells good. I feel so hungry after running hard,” the lord said.

“It seems like someone is grilling fish near here,” one of them said.

“You’re right. Someone must be grilling a sanma, or a Pacific saury,” they whispered with each other.

“What is sanma?” overhearing the conversation, the lord asked, “I’ve never heard such a name in my life.”

“It’s the name of the fish,” one of them answered, “In autumn, sanma put on fat and become much more delicious. It’s a popular fish for people, but not a fish for you.”

“I’d like to have a sanma. Serve one for me right now,” the lord insisted.

Soon they found an old man grilling a fish on a *shichirin* (a small round charcoal stove made of clay or earthenware), fanning charcoals desperately.

“Excuse me, but the lord sitting over there has smelled your sanma, and wants to have it. Would you mind sharing it with him?”

“Why not, with pleasure.”

The lord had sanma for the first time in his life. The good smell and soy-sauce flavor pleased the hungry lord so much.

It’s delicious! I’ve never eaten such delicious fish. Give him much reward!”

After the outing, not a day had passed when he didn’t think of the taste and the smell of the sanma. At that time, the only fish the lord had eaten were expensive ones like a tai or a sea bream, which was known as ‘king of fish’ with big eyes on a red, oval body. Now he knew another fish called sanma, he fell in love with the fish; small eyes on a grilled slim body.

“I want to eat a sanma, I want to eat a sanma, again,” he was murmuring all the time.

His attendants noticed his wish and got the best sanma from the fish market at Nihonbashi.

They steamed it fully to get rid of much fat and pulled all the fish bones with tweezers not to stick them in his throat.

“Here you are. This is your sanma. Please enjoy tasting it.”

Looking at the fish, the lord said,

“What? You call this a sanma? My sanma should be grilled. You must have gotten the wrong fish.”

The lord smelled the fish. He smelled the faint scent of a sanma.

"Humm...It is true that this smell really belongs to a 'sanma'."

The lord tried to put a piece of it into his mouth with a pair of chopsticks. But the taste he had was different from the one he was expected.

"Is this really a 'sanma'?" He tilted his head in doubt.

"Yes, it surely is."

"Hmm, where did you get it?"

"It's from the fish market at Nihonbashi."

"Oh, I see. That's the reason it's not good. The best 'Sanma' must be from Meguro."

(2009.10.1)

## 目黒のさんま

江戸時代、幕府は江戸にありました。諸大名は江戸と領地を一年ごとに行き来して暮らさなければなりませんでした。

秋のよく晴れた日、ある若いお殿様が家来数人を連れて、気晴らしに遠乗りに出かけました。ご多分にもれず世間知らずのお殿様でした。江戸郊外の目黒に来ると、お殿様は馬から下り、家来にこう言いました。

「もう馬は飽きた。その方たちと走り比べがしたい。予に勝った者には褒美を取らせる。」

「位置について。用意はよいか。それ！」

主君のご命令ゆえ、さからうことはできません。お殿様と家来達は走り出しました。お殿様はわき目もふらずどんどん野原を走って行き、その後を家来達が、ハアハア息を切らしながら、追いかけてました。

「誠に情けない！見てみろ！わが殿はもう切り株に座ってこちらを見ておられる。」

「遅いではないか！」お殿様は誇らしげです。

「ところで、ここは何と申す所じゃ。」

「ここは目黒という所でございます。」

すると近くの民家から魚を焼くかぐわしい匂いが漂ってきました。

「うむ、うまそうな匂いだ。走った後の空腹は格別だ。」と、お殿様。

「このあたりで誰か魚を焼いているのだな。」

「そうだな。誰かさんまを焼いているに違いない。」家来達は小声でひそひそ話しました。

「さんまとな。予は生まれてこの方そのような名は聞いたことがない。」と話を小耳にはさんだお殿様が尋ねました。

「魚の名でございます。秋のさんまは脂(あぶら)が乗ってたいそう風味があります。下魚(げざかな)でございますゆえ、お殿様が召し上がるものではございません。」

「余はさんまを食(しょく)してみたい。はよう持って参れ。」

家来達は、七輪の炭を団扇(うちわ)でやけにあおいでさんまを焼いている年寄りを見つけました。

「済まぬことだが、あちらに座(ざ)しておられる我が殿が、その方のさんまをいたくお気に召されてな。食してみたい、と仰せられる。一匹分けてもらいたいのだが。」

「おあい御用で。どうぞ、どうぞ。」

お殿様は生まれて初めてさんまを食べました。さんまの香ばしい匂いと醤油の味にご満悦です。

「うまい！このような美味なる魚は初めてじゃ。そのものに過分に褒美を取らせよ！」

あの遠出以来、お殿様は、一日たりともさんまの味と匂いを頭に思い浮かべない日はありません。

当時、お殿様が食べる魚といえば鯛(たい)のような高級魚だけでした。「魚の王様」として知られ、赤く、丸みを帯びた魚体に大きな目がついていました。さんまという魚を知ってしまったお殿様は、さんまに恋こがれていました。細身の黒い体の小さな目に。

「さんまが食べたい。もう一度、さんまが食べたい。」お殿様の口癖でした。

家来達はお殿様の願いを悟り、日本橋の魚河岸から最上級のさんまを取り寄せました。  
さんまは余分な脂(あぶら)を抜くため十分蒸され、お殿様の喉に刺さってはいけなないと、毛抜きを使って小骨も一本残らず抜かれました。  
「殿、ご注文のさんまでございます。ご賞味下さい。」  
さかなを見て、お殿様は、  
「何？これがさんまと申すか？さんまは黒く焦げておった。これは違う魚であろう。」  
お殿様は匂いをかぎました。ほのかにさんまの匂いがしました。  
「ふう・・・む。まさしくさんまの匂いじゃ。」  
お殿様は箸でちよつとつまむと一口召し上がりました。美味しくありません。  
「これは本当にさんまか？」お殿様は首を傾(かし)げました。  
「まさしくさんまに相違ございません。」  
「ふーん、して、このさんま、いずれより取り寄せたのじゃ。」  
「日本橋の魚河岸でございます。」  
「は、そうか。それはいかん。さんまは目黒にかぎる。」(Kudos)

### Shibahama, Was It Really a Dream?

In Edo era, a fish peddler named Katsugoro lived in Shiba, Edo. Although he was a skilled fish peddler, he couldn't pay rent for months. He was such a heavy drinker that almost all the money he earned was spent for *sake*. The last day of the year would soon come, but Katsu didn't work: he had drunk *sake* and then went to bed as usual. His wife, who reached her limit of patience, woke him up, saying,  
"Hey, Darling, wake up! It's high time to go to the fish market."  
"Oh, don't cry loudly at midnight. You woke me up when I was sound asleep."  
"It's almost dawn. You should go to the fish market."  
"It's still dark, isn't it? I'm sleeepy..."  
"Hey! The end of this year will be coming soon. If you don't want to work, how do you think we will be able to pay all the debt that we owe?"  
"That is worth mentioning. But it is not only us who will have the last day of the year."  
"What are you talking about? You, lazy guy! Hurry up!"  
"Okay, Honey, you won. But where are the tubs for carrying fish I always use?"  
He was looking for his tubs with a sleepy face. The moment he asked her, she answered,  
"Here they are with water in it so that the fish won't be dry."  
"And I need a knife for cutting fish with."  
"Here you are. You sharpened it a few days ago, remember? And I prepared a pair of new straw sandals there. Good bye, have a nice day."  
Katsu reluctantly stepped out with a carrying pole on his shoulders with two tubs at each end.  
"Oh, it's cold outside. She may be satisfied to see me out. At any rate, what a dull business it is to deal with fish! I must get up early in the morning while others are still sleeping. But unless I work, I can't support our life. ...My wife said it's almost dawn...but it's still dark...possibly she miscounted the time. What a scatterbrain she is! It isn't worthwhile to be here. I'll go to the beach to kill time. It's been a long time since I last came here...what a nice smell the sea has!"  
While he was strolling around the beach, he found something between the stones on the beach.  
"What is this...? Oh, it's a wallet. How dirty it is...! Wow! It's so heavy...gee, so much money in it. Hurray! It must be a windfall!"  
He hastily put the wallet into the pocket of his workman's apron and hurried back.  
"It's me, open the door quickly." he cried.

"It's you, Darling, so soon? Wait a minute, I'll open it now."

She opened the door and looked at him.

"What's up...? You look pale. Did you have a quarrel with someone?" she asked doubtfully.

"Listen. I picked up a wallet on the beach. You won't believe it but I found a lot of money in it. Look, here..."

"Money?" she opened it and started counting, "One, two, three...My, my, there are 50 ryos."

"I don't have to work for a while. Go get some *sake* and food. Have a party here with my friends."

He cried with joy, invited some of his friends for drinks, and whooped it up.

The next morning, he was still sleeping while his wife came over, and cried as usual.

"Hey, Darling, wake up..."

"Oh, what's the matter? Didn't I tell you not to wake me up while I'm sound asleep? Let me sleep a little more."

"What are you talking about? It's another morning: the time you go to the fish market."

"Fish market? I don't have to work any more. We have 50 ryos, remember?"

"Don't be stupid. How can we greet a New Year's Day if you don't work? How can we pay for the last night's party you and your friends enjoyed having?"

"It's pretty easy to pay the bill, isn't it? Because we have 50 ryos."

"50 ryos? Where would we get such a large sum of money?"

"In the wallet I found on the beach yesterday. Didn't I hand it to you?"

"You found a wallet on the beach? How foolish you are! You didn't go anywhere yesterday. You were in futon sleeping almost all day at home."

"What? Didn't I go to the beach? It's unbelievable you said so. You woke me up and forced me to go to the fish market. But the market hadn't opened yet. To kill time, I went to the beach and found the thick wallet. I'm sure I remember handing it to you. But you insist you don't have it?"

"Oh, now I see why you had such a fuss yesterday. Everything you did was caused by a foolish dream. How woeful you are! Even though we are so poor, you shouldn't dream that you picked up money...!"

"A dream?"

"Yes, it's a mere dream. Yesterday, I tried to wake you up many times, but you never woke up. When you got up, it was about noon. Then you went to the public bath, and you brought your friends when you came home. You were crying, I'm so lucky. I'm so happy. Buy some sake, eels, tempura... Seeing you drinking and singing so much, I thought you had gone mad. At last you got dead drunk and fell asleep. That's all you did yesterday. You see, you didn't have time to go to the beach."

"You are saying it was a mere dream?"

"Do you doubt the truth of my words?"

"Well, you may be right, but...was it really a dream...? What a strange dream I had when the last day of the year is coming soon...You are saying that the wallet I found was a dream, and the party I drank and ate too much at wasn't a dream, right? How miserable I am to have such a dream! All that has happened to me is due to *sake*. I swear not to drink *sake* any more, and from now on I'll make the best effort in my job. Money is not what it is given to you but what you earn by yourself. I've come to my senses now."

Since then, he started working from early in the morning till late at night. As he was skilled in dealing with fish, he got a good reputation as a fish peddler among customers.

Three years had passed since then. Finally he succeeded in being a fish dealer having his own shop on main street. One day in December the wife said to her husband,

"Darling, when you finish work, why don't you come over to talk with me?"

"I'm finished working right now. I'll be coming soon. How comfortable I am to greet a New Year's Day on the new Tatami mats!...An old saying says, 'New Tatami and a new wife is...' Sorry, an old wife is better."

"You need not apologize to me," she smiled.

Feeling happy, he said to his wife, All I want to say is 'Thank you.' How nice it is not to have any debt collectors!"

"Listen, I have something to tell you. In advance, promise me not to get angry with me until I finish my talking."

Puzzled, Katsu looked at her serious face and said,

"I don't know what you are trying to tell me, but anyway I promise not to get angry."

"Do you mean it?"

"Yes, I mean it."

"If so, please look at this wallet."

"Oh, dirty as it is, it is a wallet. What does this mean?"

"There are 50 ryos in it. Don't you have any idea about 50-ryos and the dirty wallet?"

"Oh, now I remember, I had a terrible dream three years ago. In that dream, I found a wallet in which there were 50-ryos."

"It wasn't a dream. You really found this wallet."

"What? You'll pay for it! Damn you!" saying, he raised his hand.

"Do you want to hit me? You promised me you'd never get angry with me until I finished my story, didn't you?"

"It's true, indeed."

"At that time I got worried about you. You said you didn't have to work and you would live an enjoyable life, drinking sake everyday. So while you were fast asleep, I took it to the landlord to get some advice. He said, 'If he used that money, he would be arrested sooner or later. I'll bring it to the police and report it instead of him. All you have to do is make him believe that it was a dream.' Because you are an honest person, you believed me that it was a dream and decided to stop drinking and work hard for us. Thanks to you, we were able to get our own store...But whenever I saw you working hard, I always felt uneasy. I got this money back from the police two years ago because nobody appeared nor claimed ownership of the wallet. But I hardened my heart against pity and kept it in my mind. Now that you had your shop like this, I've decided to show you this money as a token of my apology. You may well be angry with me, deceived by your wife...Now you can hit and kick me if it makes you feel better."

"How could I hit or kick you? You've impressed me a lot, you are a wonderful woman! If I had had the money at that time, I would have spent it up drinking and eating and wouldn't have worked any more. That might have made me a beggar in the end. As the landlord said, I might have been caught and beheaded...It is all thanks to you that we can have a New Year's Day safely with no debt. I'll express my sincere thanks to you from the bottom of my heart again. Thank you!"

"Do you really forgive me?"

"Whether I forgive you or not, I'm expressing my gratitude to you."

"I feel so happy. I've prepared some warm *sake* here for you today. I want you to drink it for the first time in three years, and talk about our future."

"What? *Sake*? Warm *sake*? I've noticed something smelling good from the kitchen...Now I see what it is."

"And I cooked this. How do you like it?"

"It's true that an old wife is better. How long haven't I drunk? Thank you...Thank you. Well, I'll accept your offer and have a drink of it...Pour it into this teacup...Oh, it's a long time since I drank last. Oh, the mere smell of it makes me happy. I can't wait...but," he suddenly stopped drinking,

"It may be a good idea not to drink it."

"Why? What's on your mind?"

"Nothing, but I'm afraid that this will become another dream."(2008/12/1)

## 芝浜の革財布

江戸時代、活五郎という魚屋が、江戸は芝、今の港区に住んでいました。腕のいい魚屋ではありましたが、毎月の家賃の払いもままなりません。たいそう酒が好きで、かせぎはみんな酒代にってしまうのです。歳末(くれ)も近いのに、今日も酒を飲んで寝てしまいました。さすがにかみさんもたまりかねて、

「ねえ、おまえさん。起きとくれ！魚河岸(かし)に行つとくれよ。」  
「おい。夜中に大声出すなよ。いい気持ちで寝てたってえのに。」  
「じきに夜が明けるよ。仕事に行つとくれ。」  
「まだ、暗いじゃないか。眠む…い。」  
「もう！歳末も近いっていうのに、仕事もしないで、どうやって借金を返そうって言うんだい。」  
「言われなくたってわかってらあ。うちだけが歳末が近いってわけじゃねえや。」  
「何を言ってるのさ。おまえさん、ぐずぐずしないで！早く行つとくれ！」  
寝ぼけ眼(ねぼけまなこ)で、回りをみまわし、  
「わかったよ。かかあ。行くよ。盤台(はんたい)はどこだ。」  
「ほら、いつでも使えるようにちゃんと水を張っておいたよ。」  
「庖丁は。」  
「はいどうぞ。二、三日前に、おまえさん、ちゃんと研いぢゃないか。忘れたのかい。わらじもそこに出してある。さあ、行つとくれ。気をつけてね。」  
活さんは、前と後ろに盤台のついた天秤棒を担いで、しぶしぶうちを出ると、  
「うー、外は寒いな。かかあのやつ、俺が出かけて一安心だろうよ。しかし、魚屋なんてつまらねえ商売だなあ。みんながまだ寝てるつちゅうのに、朝早くから起きなくつちやならねえんだから。そうかと言って、働かなくては飯の食いあげだし…かかあはもうじき夜が明けるって言っていたが…まだ真っ暗じゃねえか…あいつ、時を間違えたな。そっかしいやつめ。ここに居てもらちがあかねえな。浜にでも行って一服してくるか。久しぶりだな。磯の香りがたまらねえや！」  
活さん、浜をぶらぶらしていると、石ころの間に何かがあります。  
「何だ、こりゃ。おっ、財布だ…汚ねえな…！おっと！重てえな…おや、金(かね)だ。やったぞ！お天とうさまがおれにくれたんだ！」  
あわてて、腹がけのどんぶりの中へ財布をつっこむと、うちへとんでかえりました。  
「俺だ。早くあけてくれ。」  
「おまえさんかい。随分と早いじゃないか。ちょっと待って。今あけるから…」  
戸を開けて、だんなを見て、  
「どうしたんだい…真っ青じゃないか。喧嘩でもしたのかい。」  
「そんなんじゃねえんだ。浜で財布を拾っちゃったんだ。中を見ると金がいっぱえ入っているじゃねえか。驚いたのなんのって。見ろ、ほれ…」  
「お金？」中を開けて数え始めます。「ひい、ふう、みい…あら、あらっ、五十両も。」  
「しばらく遊んでも暮らしていけらあ。酒と肴を買ってこい。仲間と祝い酒だ。」  
活さん、大喜びで、仲間をよんできて、飲めや唄えの大騒ぎ。  
次の朝も、活さんは布団の中、かみさんがいつものように起こします。  
「ねえ、おまえさん。起きとくれ…」  
「おい、何だよ。いい気持ちで寝ているときは、起こすな、って言っただろう。もうちょっと寝かせてくれよ。」  
「何を言ってるのさ。朝だよ。魚河岸に行つとくれ。」  
「魚河岸？商売なんかおかしくって。五十両あるじゃねえか。」  
「ばかなこと言わないでよ。おまえさんが働かなくて、どうやって正月を迎えるのよ。それに、ゆうべの飲み食いの勘定だっけどうやって払うのよ。」  
「そんなものは簡単さ。五十両あるじゃねえか。」  
「五十両？どこにそんな大金があるのさ。」  
「昨日、芝の浜でおれが拾ってきた財布があるじゃねえか。おめえに渡したろう。」  
「芝の浜で財布を拾ったって？おまえさん、なに言ってんのよ！昨日はどこにも行きやしないよ。一日中寝ていたじゃないか。」  
「なんだと。浜に行かなかった？そんなことがあるものか。おれを起こして、無理やり魚河岸に行かせたじゃあねえか。でもな、まだ魚河岸が開いちゃあいなかった。一服しに、浜に行つて、あの金の入った財布を拾つ

て、おめえに渡したんだ。持ってねえって言うんかい。」

「そうかい、それであんな大騒ぎをしたんだね。そんな夢を見たもんだから。情けないね！いくら貧乏だからって、お金を拾ったなんていう夢を見るなんて！」

「夢？」

「そうさ。夢に決まってるじゃないか。昨日は何回も起こしたけど、おまえさんは起きなかったじゃないか。お昼ごろ、ようやく起きたと思ったら、風呂へ行って、帰りに仲間を引っ張ってきて、おまえさん、『めでたい。うれしい。酒だ、うなぎだ、天ぷらだ…さあ買って来い。』って大声上げてた。そして飲めや唄えの大騒ぎ、気でも違ったのかと心配になった。あげくの果てに、ぐてんぐてんに酔っぱらって眠ってしまった。昨日はそんなありさまで、あんたには浜なんか行く暇なかった。」

「本当に夢かい？」

「あたしの言うことがうそだっていうのかい？」

「いや、おめえの言うとおりにかもしねえな。でも…本当に夢かい？歳末も近えっていうのに変な夢見ちゃったなあ…するってえと何かい？財布を拾ったのは夢で、飲んだり食ったりしたのはほんまものかい？…情けないね！あんな夢見るなんて。これもみんな酒がいけねえんだ。もう酒はやめろぜ。これからは商売に精をだすぜ。金はもらうもんじゃなくて自分で稼ぐもんだ。やっと目が覚めたぜ。」

それからというものは、活さん、朝早くから夜遅くまで商売に精を出しました。もともと腕のいい活さん、ご鼻唄（ひいき）さんもどんどんふえていきました。三年が経ち、表通りに魚屋の店を構えることができました。

師走のある日…

「おまえさん、仕事が終わったら、ちょっとこっちへ来ないかい？」とおかみさんが声をかけます。

「ようやく片付いた。いま行くよ。新しい畳で正月を迎えられるなんて気持ちいいね！…昔っからよく言うじゃねえか、『女房と畳は新しいほうが…』いや、すまねえ。かかあは古いほうがいいな。」

「何もあやまらなくて…。」かみさん、にこっとします。

「おれが言っているのは、『ありがとよ』ってことさ。どこからも借金取りが来ねえってのは気持ちがいいもんじゃねえか。」活さん、ご機嫌です。

「ねえ、おまえさんに聞いてもらいたいことがあるの。そいでね、私の話が済むまで怒らないって約束してくれるかい。」

活さん、戸惑いしつつも妻の真剣なまなざしに、

「なんのことだかわからねえが、約束するよ。」

「本当だね？」

「ああ、約束するよ。」

「じゃ、この財布を見てもらいたいの。」

「汚ねえけど、財布だな。こいつはなんだい。」

「中に五十両入ってるよ。お前さん、五十両と汚い財布に心当たりはないかい。」

「そう言われてみれば、三年めえ、ひでえ夢みたな。夢の中で、五十両入った財布を拾ったな。」

「あれは夢じゃなかったんだよ。おまえさん、本当に拾ったんだよ。」

「何だと。本当か！こんちきしょう！」活さん手をあげます。

「ぶつのかい？おまえさん、私の話が済むまで怒らないって約束しなかったかい。」

「した。確かに。」

「あの時は、あんたのこと本当に心配したのよ。おまえさん、商売なんかしないで、毎日酒を飲んで遊んで暮らすって言うたでしょう。おまえさんが寝込んでいる間に、財布を持って大家さんのところに相談に行ったんだよ。すると、大家さんは、『あの金を使えば、遅かれ早かれ手が後ろへ回ってしまう。おれがかわりにお上に届けてあげるから、お前さんは夢だということにしてごまかしなさい。』って言うんだよ。お前さんは人がいいから、あたしの言うことを信じて、酒もやめて一生懸命商売をする決心してくれたわ。お前さんのおかげでお店も持てたわ…でもお前さんが仕事に精を出しているのを見るたびに、あたしはいつも申し訳ないと思っていたの。このお金も落とし主がでないってことで二年前にお上からさがってきたんだけど、あたし、心を鬼にして隠してきたの。でもこんなふうにお店も持てたし、お詫びかたがた、このお金を見せることにしたのさ。腹

がたつのももっともだわ、自分の女房にだまされて・・・さあ、気が済むまで、あたしを殴るなり、蹴るなり好きにしておくれ。」

「殴る、蹴る？とんでもねえ。えれえ。おめえはえれえ！あの時あの金を持ってりゃ、おれは、飲んだり、食ったり、ぶらぶらして、しまいには乞食に身を落としていたかもしれねえな。大家さんの言うように、手が後ろに回って、打ち首だったかもしれねえ・・・こうして借金もなく正月を迎えられるのも、みんなおめえのおかげだぜ。おらあ、あらためて心から礼を言うぜ。ありがとよ！」

「本当に勘弁してくれるのかい。」

「勘弁するもしねえも、おめえに礼を言ってるじゃねえか。」

「あたしや、本当にうれしいよ。今日は、お前さんに飲んでもらおうと思ってお燗をつけてあるの。三年ぶりでしょう。他にも聞いてもらいたいことがあってさ。」

「え？酒かい？燗をつけたって？台所からいい匂いがしていると思っていたら・・・そういうことか。」

「こんなものもこしらえたんだけど。どう？」

「やっぱり古女房はいいな。随分と飲まなかったなあ。ありがとうよ・・・ありがてえ。じゃあお言葉に甘えて、一杯やるか・・・この湯のみにたのまあ・・・おととと、久しぶりだな。匂いだけでも酔っぱらっちゃうぜ。たまたねえな・・・でも。」

活さん、飲むのをやめます。

「止めとくわ。」

「どうしたんだい。おまえさん。」

「何でもねえ。また夢になるといけねえや。」(Kudos)