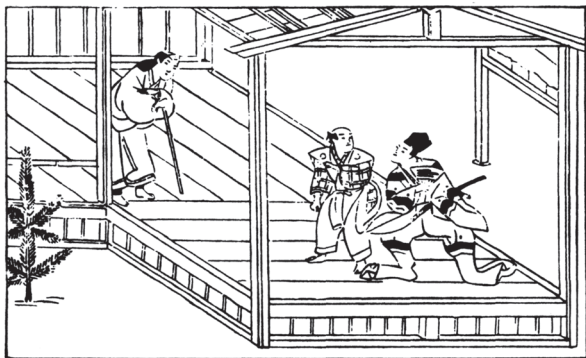


BUAKU 武悪 (Buaku, the Living Ghost) I O
和 大

Shite BUAKU
Ado MASTER
Koado TARŌ KAJA

The Master comes on in a rage calling for Tarō Kaja. He orders Tarō Kaja to go kill his servant Buaku, because he is lazy and impudent, and hasn't been to work for some time. Tarō Kaja pleads for Buaku's life because they were raised together and are good friends. The Master threatens to kill Tarō Kaja if he doesn't carry out this order immediately, so Tarō Kaja accepts the sword and starts out for Buaku's house.

Tarō Kaja has warned Buaku about his behavior many times, but to no avail. If he tells Buaku the truth, he is sure Buaku will stall and make excuses, so he hides the sword and invites Buaku to go fishing with him. He says he will offer the fish to their Master and say they are a gift from Buaku.



Since Buaku is especially fond of fishing, he readily agrees.

Tarō Kaja tries to kill Buaku while they are fishing, but Buaku stops him and asks the reason. Tarō Kaja explains that he has made excuses for Buaku time and again, but this time the Master was so angry that he threatened Tarō Kaja with his life if he didn't go to kill Buaku. Even so Buaku accuses him of betrayal, and says that he doesn't blame their Master but Tarō Kaja. He sits down and offers himself to be killed, weeping all the while.

Tarō Kaja, won over by the tears of his old friend, puts away his sword and lets Buaku go, making him promise to leave the country immediately and forever. Buaku asks Tarō Kaja to take care of his wife and children, thanks him profusely for saving his life, and goes happily on his way.

Tarō Kaja reports to his Master that the deed is done. The Master is very happy and asks how Buaku died. Tarō Kaja says that Buaku was expecting it and immediately said his prayers and offered his neck to the sword. Since Buaku died so bravely, the Master is a little sad he acted so hastily, so he decides to go pray for Buaku's soul.

The Master and Tarō Kaja set out for Higashiyama and on the way, as they are crossing Toribeno, they run into Buaku who is on his way to Kiyomizu Temple to pay his respects and express his gratitude before leaving town. He hides as soon as he sees the Master, but it is too late. The Master is sure he saw Buaku, but Tarō Kaja assures him that that is impossible because Buaku is dead, and offers to go see who or what it was.

He finds Buaku scared out of his wits and instructs him to fix himself up like a ghost and appear again.

Tarō Kaja comes back and reports that there is no one in sight, and says that he thinks it must have been Buaku's ghost.