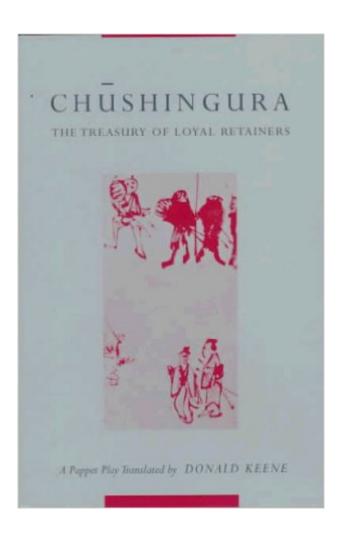
The book was found

Chushingura (The Treasury Of Loyal Retainers): A Puppet Play





Synopsis

Chushingura (The Treasury of Loyal Retainers), also known as the story of the Forty-Six (or Forty-Seven) Ronin, is the most famous and perenially popular of all Japanese dramas. Written around 1748 as a puppet play, it is now better know in Kabuki performances. In the twentieth century, cinema and television versions have been equally successful. Donald Keene here presents a complete translation of the original text, with notes and an introduction that increase the reader's comprehension and enjoyment of the play. The introduction also elucidates the idea of loyalty. This traditional virtue, as exemplified in Chushingura, has never completely lost its hold on audiences, in spite of twentieth-century changes in Japanese society and moral ideas. Moreover, as Professor Keene points out, the excitement, color and violence expressed in the play may be considered the counterpoint to the austere restraint and understatement which are more commonly thought to be "traditionally" Japanese.

Book Information

Series: Translations from the Asian Classics

Paperback: 183 pages

Publisher: Columbia University Press; 1st edition (1971)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0231035314

ISBN-13: 978-0231035316

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (18 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #346,494 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in Books > Literature &

Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Regional & Cultural > Asian #60 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities

> Literature > World Literature > Asian #173 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism

> Regional & Cultural > Asian

Customer Reviews

It is surprising that there is only one readily available (or at least affordable) translation of Chushingura, one of Japan's most famous puppet/kabuki plays, at . We are fortunate then that Donald Keene's translation is that particular one, for it is a vivid, elegant work, serving as both an entertaining read and historical document. After Tokugawa became Shogun in 1601, Japan entered a long period of regimented peace. The Samurai warrior-class were forced to adapt therein, trading

their swords for the pen, and many of the classic traditions fell into stagnation. The old ways were taught, but seldom practiced: to excel in Tokugawa's bureaucracy, skill with the tongue was more important than skill with the sword...at least in the long run.But occasionally the Samurai spirit rebelled. In 1703, forty-six former retainers of the late lord Naganori burst into the grounds of lord Yoshinaka, the man indirectly responsible for the death of their master; they killed Yoshinaka and then marched to a nearby Buddhist temple to offer the severed head to their master's grave. Even though they knew it would mean death by ritual seppuku (disembowelment), the ronin fulfilled their pledge to their master regardless, thus gaining 'face' through the performance of duty. Chushingura, a fictionalized account of this famous vendetta, emphasizes these aspects of honor and loyalty: the forty-six ronin are determined to see their course through to its end, regardless of cost. And the cost is, in places, quite high. Some have their wives sold to prostitution so that they can finance their revenge operation. Others deny their wedding promises, knowing death rests upon their shoulders.

"Chushingura" is Japan's "Romeo and Juliet". Not literally, of course, as the stories are very different, but in the way that it is a story that every Japanese person knows. Based on an actual incident, the story has been glorified and told and re-told for every generation, and still reverberates in hearts today. It is also, traditionally, a very hard story for Westerners to come to grips with, because the morals on display are not what we would consider to be admirable. Loyalty is something we can admire, of course, but this is unearned loyalty. The 47 Ronin do not avenge their lord because he was a good man, because he is worthy of their loyalty. They avenge him because he is their Master, and because he was born to be their master. The samurai also did not earn their position, they were born samurai, as an inherited class. Their job, rank and income was all decided the moment they drew their first breath, along with whom they would owe their loyalty to. The very word "samurai" translates as "servant", and without someone to serve they have no purpose. They uphold an inherently unfair system, as shown by their unwillingness to include a merchant in their vendetta, not because his courage is less but because his birth-determined class is lower than theirs. Donald Keene has performed a minor miracle with his translation of "Chushingura: The Treasury of Loyal Retainers". First off, his introduction deals with the inherent difficulties in the work. Even in Japan, since the inception of the work their has been debate on who are the heroes and who are the villains. A hotheaded lord sacrifices his life, family, home and the lives of the hundreds who depend on him simply because he could not swallow an insult.

Download to continue reading...

Chushingura (The Treasury of Loyal Retainers): A Puppet Play Puppet Play: 20 Puppet Projects

Made with Recycled Mittens, Towels, Socks, and More Puppet Planet: The Most Amazing Puppet-Making Book in the Universe Simon & Schuster Crostic Treasury #3 (Simon & Schuster's Crostics Treasury Series) A Treasury of Hadith: A Commentary on Nawawi's Selection of Prophetic Traditions (Treasury in Islamic Thought and Civilization) Sharing Like Shakespeare: A Grateful Recovering Sock Puppet Play How to Start a Blog that People Will Read: How to create a website, write about a topic you love, develop a loyal readership, and make six figures doing it. (THE MAKE MONEY FROM HOME LIONS CLUB) Emotional Story Selling: How to Create Meaningful Stories Through Video to Inspire Engagement, Build Trust and Command a Loyal Audience So That You Can Accelerate Your Sales. The Loyal Nine: A Post-Apocalyptic Fiction Series (The Boston Brahmin Book 1) Loyal Heart (The Von Wolfenberg Dynasty Book 1) Pokémon Go: Best Guide to Play Pokémon Go. Learn All Sneaky Tricks and Play Like A Pro. + Ways To Play PokA©mon Go On Your PC: (Unofficial Pokemon Go Guide, ... Go) (Pokemon Go Secrets, Pokemon Go Tricks) Disney's My First Songbook A Treasury Of Favorite Songs To Sing And Play Managing Infrastructure with Puppet Learning Puppet Pulling Strings with Puppet: Configuration Management Made Easy (FirstPress) Paper Puppet Palooza: Techniques for Making Moveable Art Figures and Paper Dolls Puppet Mania! Paper Puppet Palooza Directing Puppet Theatre Step by Step Puppet Master: 11 Creative And Easy To Make Puppets That Children Will Love

<u>Dmca</u>