

HAGOROMO 羽衣 'The Robe Of Feathers'

By Zeami

Characters

Waki · · · · · a fisherman

Waki-tsure · · · · two fishermen

Shite · · · · · an angel

Some fishermen are walking at Matsubara on Mio Bay when one of them finds a beautiful robe hanging from the branch of a pine tree.

He is about to take this home when an angel comes to claim it, explaining that it is a feather robe from Heaven.

This makes the fisherman determined to keep it as a national treasure, but when the angel tells him that without it she can never again ascend to Heaven he is so moved by her distress that he agrees to return it if she will dance for him.

He at first refuses to give it back before she dances for fear

that she will fly away as soon as the robe is hers again, but when the angel tells him that such behaviour is only to be found in the ways of men, he shamefacedly gives up the robe.

Overjoyed now, the angel puts it on and dances.

Then, calling down blessings without number on the land, she disappears up to Heaven among the mists and clouds.