

**ADZUMA; OR, THE
JAPANESE WIFE; A
PLAY IN FOUR ACTS**

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Adzuma; or, The Japanese wife; a play in four acts by Sir Edwin Arnold

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SIR EDWIN ARNOLD

**ADZUMA; OR, THE
JAPANESE WIFE; A
PLAY IN FOUR ACTS**

A D Z U M A

OR

The Japanese Wife

A PLAY IN FOUR ACTS

BY

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD

AUTHOR OF "THE LIGHT OF ASIA," "JAPONICA," ETC., ETC.

NEW YORK

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

1893

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NEW YORK

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

MORITO MUSA ENDO .	a	Japanese Nobleman.
KAMEJU	his	faithful Retainer.
SAKAMUNE	his	companion, a Samurai.
WATARU WATANABE .	{	another Japanese Nobleman,
	}	husband of Adzuma.
SASAKI	Lord	of Idzu.
HOJO TOKIMASA . . .	a	Samurai.
DOI MORINAGA . . .	the	same.
ADACHI SANEHIRA . .	the	same.
A FISHERMAN.		
A LAMPSELLER.		
ADZUMA	{	Wife of Wataru, and daughter
	}	of Koromogawa.
KOROMOGAWA	Mother	of Adzuma.
O YOSHI }	Waiting-ladies.	
O TAMA }		

*Retainers, Soldiers, Attendants, Citizens, Priests,
Musumes, Robbers, &c.*

PROLOGUE

*Lest aught offend you, in our foreign Play,
Let me—for him that writ it—briely say,
'Tis a true story of the old Japan,
Where they who will the changeless strife may scan
Of fateful mortal passions; and, beside,
See in our Adzuma, high-typified,
The gentle, patient, faithful Nippon wife
Done to the fashion of the faultless life
Which those did learn to lead, by ancient rules
And manners shut away from Western schools.
Here shall be seen, too, how the doctrine grew
That past, forgotten, years constrain the new,
And souls are born, with life-scores incomplete*

*Which start anew when seeming strangers meet,
But, most and best of all, here shall you see
How "dear to Heaven is saintly Chastity,"
And Death himself but friend and minister
To Adzuma, and noble hearts like her.*

ADZUMA,
OR
THE JAPANESE WIFE.

ACT I.

SCENE I.—KYÔTÔ.

An outer Guard-Room of the Emperor's Palace. Armed Samurai and Soldiers standing or sitting about.

HOJO. Saw you young Lord Morito throw Sakamune in the wrestling-ring to-day?

ADACHI. Aye! a notable shoulder-heave it was! Sakamune, for all his skill, rolled over the edge of the platform like a pine-log down the bank of Katsura.

HOJO. *Naruhodo!* What a man that is! Every inch of him soldierly!

DOI. He is now in high favour. When came he first to the Court?

HOJO. It was just after Morito won back the Emperor's favourite horse, Tama-jishi, which had been so boldly stolen by the robber Koroku, whom none of us could come at.

DOI. Did he do that?

HOJO. Yes! he was only a stripling, but he could swim the sea like a *tai*; and run so fleetly that a cord of thirty *shaku*, tied to his waist, would stream in a straight line behind him. With Kameju, his retainer, who is as prudent as Morito is headstrong, he went to Tosa in Tango, where the outlaw made his hold.

DOI. What could they look to do against Koroku?

HOJO. That which courage does, backed by wit. They gave themselves out as pilgrims to the thirty-three shrines, weary and in need: two wandering youths, one tall and stout, the other delicate as a *musume*, but both of the presence to please Koroku. So he entertained