

Confucianism

- Ideal social order =
 - Moral example of rulers
 - Proper ritual conduct
 - Observance of status norms
- Source of morality = filial piety
- Intellectual cultivation
- Benevolence

- The Way of the Samurai is found in death. Meditation on inevitable death should be performed daily. Every day when one's body and mind are at peace, one should meditate upon being ripped apart by arrows, rifles, spears and swords, being carried away by surging waves, being thrown into the midst of a great fire, being struck by lightning, being shaken to death by a great earthquake, falling from thousand-foot cliffs, dying of disease or committing seppuku at the death of one's master. And every day without fail one should consider himself as dead.

- It is a good viewpoint to see the world as a dream. When you have something like a nightmare, you will wake up and tell yourself that it was only a dream. It is said that the world we live in is not a bit different from this.

- Among the maxims on Lord Naoshige's wall, there was this one: "Matters of great concern should be treated lightly." Master Ittei commented, "Matters of small concern should be treated seriously."

- Even if one's head were to be suddenly cut off, he should be able to do one more action with certainty. With martial valor, if one becomes like a revengeful ghost and shows great determination, though his head is cut off, he should not die.

- There is something to be learned from a rainstorm. When meeting with a sudden shower, you try not to get wet and run quickly along the road. But doing such things as passing under the eaves of houses, you still get wet. When you are resolved from the beginning, you will not be perplexed, though you still get the same soaking. This understanding extends to everything.

- In the Kamigata area they have a sort of tiered lunchbox they use for a single day when flower viewing. Upon returning, they throw them away, trampling them underfoot. The end is important in all things.

Noh 101



Image courtesy of Wikipedia.

Noh story

- Contemporary vs. phantasmal Noh
- *Waki*: subordinate character, usually traveling priest
- *Shite*: main character, usually tormented ghost

- 1: hashigakari.
- 2: kyogen spot.
- 3: stage attendants.
- 4: stick drum.
- 5: hip drum.
- 6: shoulder drum.
- 7: flute.
- 8: chorus.
- 9: *waki* seat.
- 10: *waki* spot.
- 11: *shite* spot.
- 12: *shite-bashira*.
- 13: *metsuke-bashira*.
- 14: *waki-bashira*.
- 15: *fue-bashira*.

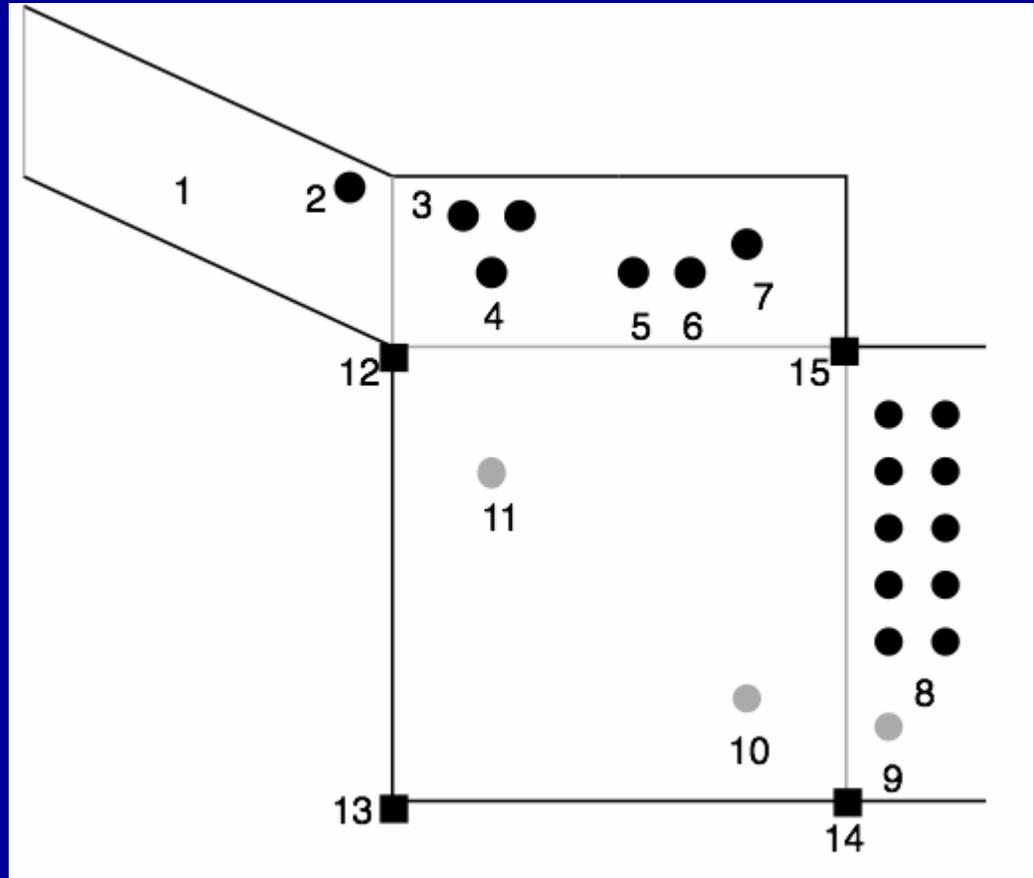


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Photograph of “emaciated woman” mask, representing the spirit of a wife after some horrible death.

Photograph of mask representing the old woman, half-demon who roams the mountains.

Photograph of mask of the warrior.

Photograph of shakumi mask, “a beauty who is no longer young;” woman about to go mad.

Photograph of fukai mask, or distraught mother; wrinkle-like dimples.