

PLAY #31 THIRTY ONE CLOUDS

by

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CHARACTERS

SUKE

GENJI

MAN WITH CART

GODDESS

THIRTY ONE CLOUDS

(At Rise: SUKE and GENJI lie on their backs looking up at the sky. Silence. SUKE sits up.)

SUKE

Ha! Thirty one!

(GENJI sits up.)

GENJI

No way!

SUKE

That's what you said! Thirty one!

GENJI

You couldn't have counted to thirty one that fast.

SUKE

They just came one after the other. It was unbelievable.

GENJI

What did you see?

SUKE

I saw a Goddess... A goat...

GENJI

Everybody sees a Goddess.

SUKE

I can't remember all thirty one. You think I cheated? Listen, I'm the one who wanted to go roller skating.

GENJI

Screw that!

SUKE

But you wanted to come to the park.

GENJI

You have to admit it was pretty cool. Did you see the sunflower?

SUKE

No.

GENJI

I don't believe you.

SUKE

You didn't say we had to remember everything we saw.
How far did you get?

GENJI

I don't know. Fifteen or so.

SUKE

Fifteen? That's it?

GENJI

It was only like thirty seconds!

SUKE

I don't know. It was amazing. They just seemed to keep
coming. It was like a big message.

GENJI

What do you mean a message?

SUKE

I dunno. They were all connected. The images. Like a
message.

GENJI

Suke! You're shittin' me. You didn't... You know...

SUKE

No. I haven't taken anything.

GENJI

Not even painkillers for your bursitis?

SUKE

No! God! I'm not tripping. I mean I am tripping.

GENJI

Okay. What kind of message? From whom?

(A man with a covered cart enters and
goes past them.)

SUKE

That's the guy I saw!

GENJI

You saw him?

SUKE

In the clouds.

(She calls after him.)

Excuse me!

(The man turns.)

Are you... From the area?

MAN

No. Here for the market. Selling turnips.

SUKE

(To GENJI) I saw the turnips, too. What else do you have in there?

MAN

What else?

SUKE

You have something else.

(She pulls off the cover.)

GENJI

Suke!

(Beneath the cover and beneath some turnips, there's a large woman, very Goddess-like.)

Whoa! I saw something like her in the clouds.

SUKE

The thirty first cloud!

MAN

I must cover her up.

SUKE

Wait. Where are you bringing her?

MAN

To the market. She helps me to sell things. She's my wife.

GENJI

Your wife?

GODDESS

Every year it's the same thing. Everything starts in the sky. The clouds come. The rains build. They burst on the fields. The crops grow. We go to market to feed the people. People come. People go. We work together breaking the plants up. Putting them back down for the cold. Preparing the grounds for the coming warm when the Great Sun returns. Blessings for everyone.

MAN

Our relationship is a very prosperous one. I'm a very lucky man. Wouldn't you say? Now I must cover her up.

SUKE

Why do you cover her up?

(The MAN covers up the GODDESS.)

MAN

She likes to rest after all the work is done. The light is changing. Cold and dark are coming. We must get to the market. Goodbye.

(The MAN pulls his cart away and exits.)

SUKE

Goodbye.

GENJI

Maybe we should have gone roller skating. Should we go and lie down again, Suke?

SUKE

I'm not sure if we ever really got up.

GENJI

We could play again. Thirty one clouds.

SUKE

Yeah. Let's play again.

(GENJI and SUKE lie down again, looking up at the clouds.)

BLACKOUT

END OF PLAY

