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## Noh *Hagoromo* (Celestial Feather Robe)

The cover photograph shows a scene from a Noh play (classical Japanese performing art) titled *Hagoromo*.

One spring morning *Hakuryu* (whose name means White Dragon), a fisherman who lives in *Mihonomatsubara* known for its scenic grove of pines, finds a beautiful article of fine clothing caught on the branch of a pine tree. Just as he is about to take it home, an angel appears and begs him to return it to her. At first the fisherman is reluctant to return it, but takes pity on her on seeing her sadness at not being able to ascend back to the heavens without her feather robe. He agrees to give it back to her if she will dance for him. The angel clad in her feather robe performs graceful dances for the fisherman, as pictured on the cover. Little by little, she dances towards Mount Fuji and vanishes into the heaven above the misty mountain.

There are both *logic and sensibility* in the story: on one side there is the sensibility of *Hakuryu* who is attracted by the beauty of the angel's feather robe, and the logic that tells him he must return it to her. *Hakuryu* is fearful that if he returns the robe she will fly away without dancing as she has promised. The angel tells him, "It is the way of humans to doubt, the celestial world knows no untruthfulness." Deeply-moved by her words, *Hakuryu* finally returns the robe. Perhaps this is a case of sensibility affecting logical thinking.

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