



# Hizakurige or Shanks' Mare: Japan's Great Comic Novel of Travel and Ribaldry

*Ikku Jippensha*

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## **Hizakurige or Shanks' Mare: Japan's Great Comic Novel of Travel and Ribaldry** Ikku Jippensha

From dust jacket flap: This celebrated comic Japanese novel is a lusty tale of two amiable scoundrels, Yajirobei and Kitahachi, and their disreputable doings. It is a madcap chronicle of adventure and misadventure along the great highway leading from Tokyo (then called Edo) to Kyoto. Its original title is a humorous word meaning "a journey on foot," and it is therefore appropriate that this translation by Thomas Satchell should be called "Shanks' Mare". It is beautifully illustrated by tipped-in colour reproductions of woodblock prints by Hiroshige, who depicts the floating world of inns, the teahouses, the gay quarters, the theaters, the travelers, the tradesman, the itinerant actors and musicians, the festivals--all the varied colors of life in Tokugawa Japan. The last unnumbered page contains Ikku's last poem in Japanese & then English: "Come leave this world thou dost not think to make a longer stay The funeral incense turns to dust thou forbear to say farewell to day"

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