



Mountain Moon After Rain: Soga Goro Tokimune

Date

1885

Primary Maker

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi

Medium

woodblock print; ink, color, embossing, and burnishing on paper

Description

The story of the Soga brothers was a popular subject for theatrical, literary, and pictorial dramatization. It Sukenari Jr (1172–93) and his reckless younger brother It Tokimune Gor (1174–93), pictured here, sought revenge against Kud Suketsune for their father's death. Moments before enacting their revenge, Tokimune heard a cuckoo, which was believed to call spirits into the next life. The background gradation from brown to blue evokes the rising dawn mist as the crescent moon disappears behind a bank of clouds. Tokimune rolls up his sleeves to prepare for the final strike, which will result in his own death.

Dimensions

Oban: 33 × 22.6 cm (13 × 8 7/8 in.)