

Monkey Performing the the Sanbaso Dance (Japan) 421#

MIRA N. MATARIC

Letter to the Monkey Performing
the Sanbaso dance

Dear Cousin,

I thank Darwin for letting me know
we were related and the artist
for your portrait while engaged in the dance that
shows how smart, graceful and talented you are.
I wish I could be admired for 211 years, like you.

Sincerely, your cousin, slightly removed,

Mira

JUST KIBBE

Celestial Monkey
Dance for me the Sanbosso dance, Monkey.
Stomp your feet on music gone wrong.
Flaunt your worldly hell scroll, Monkey.
Spin with me in your Sufi hat, your graduation gown.

illustration by Ross Anthony after Sosen



Mori Sosen (1747–1821) Monkey
Performing the Sanbaso
Dance Japan, Edo Period (1603–
1868); 1800 [‘Third Month of the
Monkey Year’] Ink on paper
Signed: ‘Sosen’; Seals: ‘Mori,’
‘Shusho,’ ‘Kakemono’ Gift of Mr.
and Mrs. Bruce Ross 1985.55.4