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| A Page of Madness |
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| *A Page of Madness* [*Kurutta ichipeiji* or *ippeiji*] is a Japanese black-and-white silent film directed by Kinugasa Teinosuke celebrated for its experimental use of cinematic form. Assisting Kinugasa were members of the Shinkankakuha [New Impressionist School], a literary group that explored the new sensations of modernity. Kawabata Yasunari helped write the story, but the film was eventually made with additions by Kinugasa, Inuzuka Minoru, and Sawada Banko. The narrative features an old man who works as a custodian in a mental institution, where his wife had been admitted. When their daughter announces her impending marriage, the man experiences a series of delusions about her and his wife. Kinugasa uses rapid cutting, optical distortions, double exposures, mobile framing, and other devices influenced by French Impressionist film and German Expressionism to depict these moments, and achieves a level of experimentation that, some believe, surpassed contemporaneous films. The film made use of benshi narration instead of intertitles. The narrative purred debates about its cinematic form and melodramatic story. The film was considered lost until Kinugasa discovered a print in 1971. It was re-released, but in a version a fourth shorter than the original. |
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