

## LONE WOLF AND CUB BABY CART TO HADES

See the Lone Wolf & Cub: Sword of Vengeance Liner Notes (also available online at <http://www.animeigo.com/samliner/lwc.t>) for general details on Tokugawa-era Japan.

**Trivia:** The Lone Wolf & Cub movies are based on the original manga (Story by Koike Kazuo, Illustrations by Kojima Goseki), a 142-episode epic, which ran in “Manga Action” between September 10, 1970, and April 1st, 1976. Repackaged and re-issued in 28 volumes (over 8400 pages), it is still among the most popular of its kind.

**Igamono, Shinobi, and Ninja:** These words are often used almost interchangeably.

Iga (far southwest of Edo, now a part of Mie prefecture), one of many provinces that was not a part of the scattered Shogunate domains, and thus not under the Shogunate control, also was home to many spies, Ninja and gangs that regularly infiltrated the Shogunate domains on behalf of various causes. So many of these spies, etc., were from Iga that the words “Igamono” (Iga-person) and “Igashuu” (Iga-people) eventually became synonymous with such infiltrators regardless of their true origins.

The kanji character used in the verb “shinobu” (to snake, stealth about, or hide) is the source for “shinobi” or “shinobi no mono” which literally means someone who engages in stealthy acts. The two kanji used in “shinobi no mono,” when joined together as one word, is read “ninja,” which is an equivalent term that’s more commonly known throughout the world.

Unless it is clear that a reference to “Igamono” is actually a reference to someone from Iga, we translate this term as “Ninja.” For the other two terms, we typically use the term that is spoken unless it would be confusing.

**What did Ogami see moving in the river?** Many ninja were equally adept in the water as well as on land. Among the most famous stealthy techniques ninja practiced were prolonged underwater maneuvers. Using breathing apparatus made of straw, ninja were able, for instance, to launch an ambush from the water, and traverse rivers and lakes undetected. When Ogami saw the straws moving as a group, he knew that the Kurokuwa (or Kuroguwa) Ninja were after him. Related to this (although not seen in the movie), many ninja stories describe special slippers that allowed the ninja to run across water.

**Black-Painted Teeth:** Among the seemingly strange customs of the Tokugawa Era is that of dental cosmetics, especially black-painted teeth (called “Ohaguro”, lit. “the teeth-blackening”), created by applying a special acidic solution to the teeth. Ohaguro had started many centuries before, popularized by wealthy women, but young men also began to blacken their teeth around the 8th or 9th century. This ‘fashion’ became quite popular among the remaining population, but by the Tokugawa Era it was more or less narrowed down to a fashionable decoration sought by some women to indicate that they were married.

**Picking up food and eating it:** The scene where Ogami smiles as Daigoro picks up the dropped rice and eats it might need a brief explanation. It is said that, as it takes an entire year (and a year of hard labor) for a grain of rice to be produced, wasting of it is considered highly disrespectful and immoral.

**“Sankin-koutai”:** In 1634, in an effort to control the Daimyo, the Shogunate instituted a policy known as "Sankin Koutai", or the “Alternate Residence System” - a regulation that obliged the Daimyo to spend every other year in service to the Shogun in Edo. The Shogunate was interested in hitting the Daimyo with the enormous expenses of constant relocation, but a side effect was the rapid expansion of Edo, as the Daimyo established great urban mansions there - which in turn promoted the development of the town.

To manage their residences in Edo, and to handle other small duties while they were out of town, the Daimyo appointed chamberlains, called “Edo-garou,” which literally means “Master of the House in Edo.” The chamberlain who requests Ogami's assistance is the Edo-garou of the Awa Clan.

**Watari-kashi:** Because the Sankin-Kootai (“Alternate Residence System”) obliged Daimyo to spend one year in Edo to serve the Shogunate, and the following year in their home province, a large-scale relocation by each and every Daimyo house took place each year. This took a form of a parade, wherein the Daimyo and his men walked in a long line, carrying their belongings with them. Larger Daimyo houses, who employed hundreds or thousands of men, often formed lines that measured many miles long. Many houses employed temporary aides to assist in the moving. These aides were known as “watari kashi”. During the parades, the security of the lord (who was either carried inside a palanquin, or rode on top of a horse) was a primary concern, as the trips would involve many days out on the road, at times extremely vulnerable to enemy attacks.

In many parts of Japan, these parades became festive events celebrated by the people of provinces along the route of march. Although the parades ended after the Tokugawa Era, some towns preserve the tradition by holding annual mock Daimyo parades.

**Carrying two swords:** Even within the samurai class, there was a hierarchy of rank and status. The upper ranks of samurai enjoyed such privileges as being able to ride horses, carry more than one sword, go hunting, and so on. They were usually paid much higher stipends than lower-ranked samurai. In fact, many low-ranked samurai were paid so little that they were forced to find part-time employment in handicraft work. It should be noted that such rank was preserved even when a samurai had become a ronin and jobless (for example, when a Daimyo house fell).

**The Province of Sanshuu:** In LWC3, Ogami finds himself spending a lot of time in the Province of Sanshuu. “Sanshuu” (lit. “three rivers”) is a nickname for the Mikawa Province, which is now the prefecture of Aichi (mid-east prefecture, capitol Nagoya, approx. 200 km southwest of Tokyo). The nickname comes from the fact that Mikawa literally means “three rivers”, though written using a different kanji character for “river”.

Kariya is a city just outside of Nagoya.

The Province of Tootoomi (now the prefecture of Shizuoka) was Mikawa's neighboring province just to the east.

**Trivia:** where the sign reads "1-ri to Tootoomi Springs", the camera stops before showing the remaining characters. In the script, it is supposed to say "1-ri and 3-cho", a cho being approximately 100 meters.

**Joro:** Joro were women who entertained men. This almost always meant prostitution, and most Joro were the daughters of peasants who had been forced to sell them to survive.

**Boohachimono:** Boohachimono were the owner-merchants of Joro and operated private clubs and other adult-entertainment houses. The term "boohachi" refers to those who lost 8 virtues as described in the movie, and it also came to mean "outcast."

**Buri-buri:** Boohachimono used various tortures to punish their Joro when necessary. In the Kozure Ookami book, this method of torture is described as the most cruel, in which the victim is spun around and beaten until unconscious, while the torturers shout "buri-buri".

A considerable amount of historical research was necessary when translating the Lone Wolf & Cub films and in compiling these liner notes. Among the many sources we have consulted, the following were especially helpful:

- 1) "Tokugawa Japan - The Social and Economic Antecedents of Modern Japan" Chie Nakane, Shinzaburoo Ooishi and Conrad Totman, eds. Univ. of Tokyo Press, 1990
- 2) "Japan - A Historical Survey" Mikiso Hane. Scribner, 1972
- 3) "A History of Japan: 1615 - 1867" George Sanson. Stanford Univ. Press, 1963
- 4) "Kozure Ookami", vols.1-28, Koike Kazuo & Kojima Goseki, published by Koike Shoin, 1995 (re-issue)