

## LONE WOLF AND CUB BABY CART AT THE RIVER STYX

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.

**Ogami's Wanderings:** In LW&C 1, Ogami Itto found himself traveling along the Nikko Road, carrying out his assignment in a small village near Otawara (a city south of Utsunomiya in what is now the prefecture of Tochigi - no more than 100 miles south of Tokyo). In LW&C 2, we see him confronting his enemies many hundreds of miles to the southwest, first in the seaside province of Akashi (which is now a city just west of Kobe). Later, he crosses the Sea of Seto, landing in the province of Takamatsu (now a major harbor city, in the Kagawa prefecture). By the standards of the time, he really gets around!

**The Untranslated Song:** Peasants during this period were ordered not to consume all of their stocks of rice and other cereals after the fall harvest; instead, as their normal staples they were supposed to eat barley, millet, cabbage, and “daikon” (a large radish-like vegetable whose shape makes it the subject of many rude jokes). In the scene where Ogami battles the Akashi clanswomen, several of them pretend to be peasant women who are cleaning daikon in a stream. They are singing a folk song about cleaning daikon. We chose not to subtitle this song because it is not in the original script for the film, it was impossible to properly translate it from the video, and we were unable to track down other source materials to verify our translation.

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

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.

**Takeuchi-ryu Kogusoku-jutsu:** What is now called “Judo” has its origins in various ryu's of “juujutsu,” all of which teach various fighting techniques, with or without the use of weapons, of more or less defensive nature.

In the film, the brothers Benma, Tenma, and Kuruma, are said to be the masters of Takeuchi-style "Harness" techniques. This is loosely based upon the teachings of the same name. In real life, the Takeuchi-style is among the most influential of the juujutsu styles.

**Ota Dokan:** Sayaka mentions an Ota Dokan, who is said to have used piles of rocks as signs. Ota actually did a lot more than that during his day (c. 15th century): in addition to being a renowned warrior, he also built castles and rerouted rivers.

**The Awa Clan:** The Awa Clan ruled a large domain (what is now the prefecture of Tokushima) in the Shikoku islands. Their main castle-city is now called Tokushima City, and one of their tourist attractions is the historic, annual dance festival called the "Awa Odori."

Because of a remarkable growth in cotton production and sericulture during the early years of the Tokugawa Period, the demand for dyes to color the fabric increased. The Awa Clan prospered, thanks to dyes extracted from indigo plants that were harvested in the fief. The Yoshino River, the largest river in Shikoku, had banks that provided an ideal environment for the cultivation of indigo, and thousands of acres of indigo fields existed during this period.

The Awa Indigo dyes have a unique and beautiful mix of blue and purplish tints. Although Awa dye production during the Tokugawa Period was enormous, the introduction of artificial dyes has greatly reduced demand in modern times. Consequently, there are only a few small indigo farms left. Still, although little indigo is produced at present, it is highly treasured and appreciated nationwide.

**The Takamatsu Clan:** The Takamatsu Clan ruled a small domain in what is now Kagawa prefecture, south of Awa (or Tokushima), in the island of Shikoku. Today, Takamatsu is the capital city of Kagawa Prefecture, located at the north tip of the island.

**The River of Sanzu:** In Buddhist cosmology, the river of Sanzu performs a role similar to that of the River Styx. Sanzu is said to separate a life from the next life; a dead soul will cross the river in order to reach the subsequent world (or plane) in which it will exist.

**"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.

**“Koku” and other matters monetary:** The so-called “Koku-daka” system of calculating rice production was adopted before the Edo era. During the Tokugawa period, it became the standardized way to rate the holdings of the villages and fiefs. A “100,000-koku” Daimyo meant that he ruled a domain that produced 100,000-koku of rice.

Of Koku, George Sansom says that: “...the product of one choo (approx. 2.5 acres) of first-class paddy,” which are wet fields where rice is grown, “is of the order of 10 koku, a koku being the equivalent of about 5 bushels of dry measure in England or the United States.” Furthermore, “...in all discussion of the amount and quality of the crop, the ruling fact is that 1 koku of rice is the average annual consumption of one person.” He also states the amount of labor that's needed for producing such a sizable amount: “To cultivate one choo of mixed (wet & dry) arable land required the full-time labor of four or five men.”

To give you a better idea, the Shogunate, combining all of its scattered fiefs, controlled about 7 million-koku. There were almost 300 Daimyo, who altogether controlled 25 million-koku. Kaga, which was the richest fief, was a “million-koku fief.”

In 1601, the ‘gold’ coin called a “koban” was first minted, and was worth 1 ryo. At first, it weighed 44 momme of silver (1 momme = 3.75 grams, or 0.13 oz.) and contained 67.7% gold, 27.8% silver, and 4.5% copper. But the value (and content) fluctuated widely over the years. In early-mid 1700's, it equalled 60 momme of silver, and also equaled 1 koku of rice.

For simplicity, we've chosen to use "gold pieces" when necessary.

A considerable amount of historical research was necessary when translating the Lone Wolf & Cub films and in compiling the information contained here. 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)