

I find the Samurai in overseas!!



The 5th Edition!!

~My fourth daddy?!~

A comment from Mr.Chris

Good morning Takako-san, Musume-san,
Thank you for the record-fast shipping,
the fine price on the equally fine Koshirae.
Now you have another Dad !!!!
Gassho to you, Otosan



I received a letter from a Samurai who repaired decoration of swords. Mr.Chris with whom I had been exchanging some mails since about five years ago read the article of previous newsletter and said 'Musume-san, I am your Dad as well'. Though I was so surprised at his unexpected message, I was so happy because the sender of this message was from Mr. Chris who often had happy talks with me.

Finally, I got the fourth Dad !!

Such my Dad visited Nara in Japan when he was 17 years old. Since then, the Japanese culture has thoroughly fascinated him. He had strong impression of Karate, Iaido and temples at Nara. Especially, the temples at Nara gave him the strongest impact of all. After coming back his home country, he began to train Zen meditation.

He also likes ukiyoe, flower arrangement, Japanese landscape gardening and haiku. And he sent some short poems as 'foreigner's haiku'.



Thank you so much for your excellent haiku!
I expect you to gear up your Japanese YAMATODAMASHII from now on !!!!
I make it sure to do that, too !!!

" Infant sun a summer's dawn.
Old bones warm and content...
the ecstasy of coffee and birdsong."

How about this Yamatodamashii? We need your opinions and feedbacks more. We are waiting for them!

Please write as 'Sub: reply to the newsletter' and send it to us



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We deliver 大和魂

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— The Philosophy of Daimyou Ltd.—

The Philosophy of Daimyo Company Limited. Under our slogan of 'We deliver the YAMATODAMASHII', the Daimyo Ltd offers information about the Japanese history and antique goods and aims at guiding our customers to the old Japanese world by fulfilling our customers demands to antique gears.

— Index —

1. I cooked Sakuramochi- Mochi wrapped in cherry-leaves (Shimatani)
2. The story about 'YAMATODAMASHII' ... (Nakabori)
3. I am going to make you back in time ... (Hanamoto)
4. I find the Samurai in overseas! (Shimatani)
- 5 Here are the winners of New Year's gifts · (Nakabori)

I cooked Sakuramochi - Mochi wrapped in cherry - leaves

Hello! I am Takako Shimatani. Speaking of spring, it is the season for graduation and entrance ceremonies in schools. My second daughter is going to enter an elementary school this spring this year, wow~. I have a lot of worries as her mother. For example, can she go to school and listen to what teachers say in good order... etc.

Speaking of one more things about 'spring', it is 'cherry blossoms. So, I had a try to cook Sakuramochi. I though my daughters were able to cook it easily without my help. And I made a choice of Kanto-style cooking, which means covering soybean paste with skins.



These Sakuramochi were so tasty that my daughters had eaten them up in the blink of an eye. The three sisters always have some quarrels. But they were able to cook them peacefully. It made me really happy. The second daughter was capable of listening to what the eldest daughter said well. So, she was able to hear teacher's talks. This calmed me down. I guess some readers might have some doubts about the shape of Sakuramochi. So, I am going to give you some explanation. What I produced is Kanto-Styled Sakuramochi. (Leaves of cherry blossoms were not available. Therefore, I only covered soybean paste with pink skins.). In the Kansai area where I am now living, people create

another-styled Sakuramochi, which is like a sweet bun covered soybean paste with steamed and smashed glutinous rice. Ingredients and shapes of Sakuramochi are very various depending on regions. Which styles of Sakuramochi do you like. I am going to cook Kansai-Styled Sakuramochi and make a comparison with Kanto-Styled Sakuramochi by eating next time :-).





Hello! I am Akemi Nakabori. When you listen to the word of spring, what do you imagine? Talking of spring, don't you think about cherry-blossom viewing? I like dumplings rather than cherry blossoms...No, I prefer Japanese sake to cherry blossoms. Our company holds cherry-blossom viewing every year as well. Since when did the Japanese people begin cherry-blossom viewing?

The story about
Yamatodamashii
大和魂

When it comes to view blossoms, the objects of blossoms were plum blossoms!?

In Nara period, plum-trees were transferred from China and people thought them smelled good. So, they treasured them. The nobility at that time started to hold 'a party for composing a poem' with seeing plum blossoms. That was said to be the origin of cherry-blossom viewing. In 786, an year of Heian period, the Emperor Saga saw cherry blossoms at a shrine and he liked them very much. It was said that this event had been the origin of annual event to see cherry blossoms, not plum blossoms and became common in the Japanese society.

Cherry blossom viewing had a strong relationship with great men?

Attention-getting style
Hideyoshi Toyotomi

The cherry-blossoms viewing at Yoshino(Nara prefecture).

This party was held with over 5,000 people in 1594. Some dominant generals like Ieyasu Tokugawa, Toshiie Maeda, Masamune Date and so on at that time received invitation letters from him. In addition, each general allegedly masqueraded, which is equal to modern cosplay, and enjoyed very much in all gaiety.

Hideyoshi was a ruler. But, on that day, he was said to have a very good time together with viewing cherry blossoms regardless of attendants' social status. Since Hideyoshi was born in a family of poor farmer, he might be able to do such a thing.



Cherry blossoms viewing at Daigo

In 1598, Hideyoshi had a party to view cherry blossoms with 1,300 guests, whose genders were mostly female. Hideyoshi had a special reason to gather a lot of ladies. At that time, Hideyoshi's administration dispatched his troops to Korea but he struggled to fight against the opposition. He was physically and mentally unstable. So, he wanted to blow off the heavy atmosphere. He asked the invited women to change their clothes twice and showed them to the society that he still had some afford economically. By doing this, he was said to intend to stabilize his government.

It is said that Hideyoshi created the current modern style of cherry blossoms viewing with drinking Japanese sake.

The hero for ordinary people!!
Abarenbo Shogun(Wild Shogun)
Yoshimune Tokugawa

In 1720, he planted a lot of cherry trees along Sumida River in Asakusa district and offered places where common people enjoyed viewing cherry blossoms. He was also said to spread a cherry blossom tree planting campaign to rural areas and to build the infrastructure of viewing cherry blossom in Tokyo. He made touristic places, increased people's income and promoted their amusement.



I suppose Yoshimune was the man to let cherry blossoms viewing very common in ordinary people.

The fact that many generals involved in the history of viewing cherry blossoms surprises me. I feel cherry blossoms, which burst open and fallen with a good grace, are like the ways of living of Samurai warriors in the Age of Civil Wars as well. With thinking of such generals, I would like to enjoy cherry blossom viewing this year, too. Do you have any episodes of happy memories or/and failure stories in viewing cherry blossoms? If you have, I am very looking forward to hearing them from you. I am waiting for your contact!!.



Hanaemon's

I am going to Make you Back in time



Successive rulers

Hello! How is your day? Secondly to the last article, I am going to make you back in time successive rulers were in their 33 years old as I am the same age, now.



1 Nobunaga Oda said 'If the bird does not sing, I will kill it'.

The time was in 1567, the age of civil wars. Nobunaga: 'I am going to reduce the country to subjection and make the period of no war!!!!'

Nobunaga who had made two regions, Owari Province (the western part of Aichi Prefecture) and Mino Province (the southern part of Gifu Prefecture), his territories allegedly began to use 'Teanka Fubu', his red personal seal since that time. It meant stopping wars, not unifying the nation by force. It was in his 33 years old when he had a strong desire to create the times of no war. In 1573, he banished Shogun Yoshiaki Ashikaga, forced Muromachi shogunate to collapse and put on the road to end the age of Civil wars. It is in his 39 years old

2 Hideyoshi Toyotomi said 'If the bird does not sing, I will force it to sing'.

The time was in 1570, the age of Civil wars. The place was at Kanegasaki. Hideyoshi: 'I will surely rescue General Nobunaga even if it costs my life !!!!!.' Nobunaga: 'Guys!.....Please!'

Nagamasa Asai betrayed Oda's army who headed in order to suppress YoshiKage Asakura in Echizen Province (the northern region of Fukui Prefecture) and attacked Oda's army with Asakura's force from both sides. Nobunaga had gotten into a desperate situation. The rearguard secures from enemy's attack and supports retreating friendly force. It was the most dangerous part. Hideyoshi played this role and made Nobunaga escape. He himself barely escaped with his life as well. By this battle, the Nokiguchi Battle at Kanegasaki, he received his excellent reputation from Nobunaga instantaneously and made it a chance to become a senior vassal. It was in Hideyoshi's 33 years old. In 1590, Hideyoshi ruined Hojo family and completed unification of the whole country when he was 53 years old.



3 Ieyasu Tokugawa said 'If the bird does not sing, I will wait until it start to sing'.

The time was in 1575 in the age of Civil wars. Ieyasu: 'I have won against the terrifying Takeda's force.'



Coalition troops of Oda and Tokugawa won against Takeda Cavalry which was scared as the strongest in the age of Civil War by using a lot of matchlocks, the most current weapons at that time, at Nagashino (Aichi prefecture). This battle at Nagashino was held when Ieyasu was 32 years old, not 33 years old. It was his 59 years old when he conquered the country and began the Edo bakufu in 1603 after the death of Hideyoshi.

In this and previous article, I have made you back in time successive rulers were in their 33 years old. People in their thirties might be turning points in their lives. Like Nobunaga, who imagined and was going to implement halcyon times of peace, I also have a clear image of my future and carry it out as I imaged.

