

# I am so sad because I cannot visit the Daimyo Shop even though I want to make it due to the spread of Covid-19.

Part Two

Your travel plan to Onomichi With Visiting The Daimyo Shop

How are you going? While some restrictions about Covid-19 have been still remained, I suppose you might have more chances to go outside than before. Our shop takes anti-infection measures and wait for your coming. So, please head to 'Daimyo' without fail.

JR Shin-Onomichi Station → Visiting 'Daimyo' → JR Onomichi Station → Strolling about the Shopping street in Onomichi → Senko-ji Temple Ropeway → Senko-ji Temple → After going through the Path of Literature, returning to 'Daimyo'

We are going to introduce Onomichi, Hiroshima prefecture, where the Daimyo Shop is settled. Onomichi is well-known for 'the town of literature', 'the town with many slopes', 'the town for bicycles', 'Ramen town' and so on. We will show you 'Senko-ji Park', one of the must-see tourist spots. **Before that, we will have an aimless walk to the shopping district.**

Well, let's have a walk around the shopping street.



Totoan

A Japanese traditional sweets shop. You can eat Warabi-mochi (bracken mochi) made of 100% domestically-produced bracken starch with your self-ground roasted soybean powder.



Keima Fish Cake Shop

This authentic fish cake shop has a long history over one hundred years. The shop uses carefully selected fresh fishes every morning and keep its classic style of producing fish cakes without adding chemical seasonings and preservatives. I ate 'the fish cake having a shape of persimmon' and 'the fish cake containing a piece of burdock'.



Marion Crêpe

This shop serves a crispy crepe in a large amount. But the cream is so tasty. But you can eat the crepe in no time. I had the strawberry special crepe this time.



Yamato Yu

A public bath which was built 100 years ago has unimaginably changed to 'a hole-in-the-wall Chinese restaurant'. You can eat some authentic soup dumplings.



Tea House Komon

It is a good place for getting some foods before heading to Senko-ji Temple. This tea house has specialized in waffles since 1977. The combination of hot and crispy waffle and chilled ice cream is marvellous. I had the ice cream with raspberry and cream cheese in this visit.

## To our destination by the ropeway



'PEAK' The observatory at the top of Senko-ji Temple Park.

It was so hot on that day. But I could get pleasant winds with a marvellous view after climbing the slope.



### ◆◆ The History of Senko-ji ◆◆

Taiho-zan Gogenin-in Senko-ji Temple is placed in the middle of Taiho-zan (Mt. Taiho) with the whole view of Onomichi Port. Senko-ji Temple was founded in the year 806, the 1st year of the Daidō era. Afterwards, Tada Mitsunaka was said to flourish the temple again. The temple has some whole scenic views of the urban area and channel of Onomichi and Seto Inland Sea.

### The road to Senko-ji Temple

You go down from the top slowly and arrive at Senko-ji Temple. In the middle of the way, you can get the picturesque scenery of Onomichi.



Takako's recommendation The best point to get picturesque scenery

### The Big Buddhist rosary to abolish the 108 worldly desires



In front of the main hall, the Big Buddhist rosary to abolish the 108 worldly desires, which was made of cherry trees, is hanged. When you pull it down slowly with praying for being happy, the beads drop down from the top and make the sound of 'tick'. It allegedly enables you to vanish your worldly desires causing the root of human suffering and gain the Kannnon's guard.

By the way, when you make a visit in the cherry blossom season, you can get the whole views of them in full bloom. After taking a walk a lot, let's have a chat at Daimyo again.

### The Bell Tower



The Bell Tower at Senko-ji Temple is well-known as 'the hour bell'. Since the 1st year of the Genroku era, it tells 6PM currently.



All of Daimyo staff are looking forward to your visit from our heart.

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 Vol.49 Aug. 2022

## 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.

Hello! This is Nakabori Akemi. Now, the hot summer days are going on. How are you going? After the summer vacation began, these hot summer days prevent my children from going outside. They lie around all day long at home. They are reluctant to get out. But they make it sure to go and visit a grave with my family members together in Bon.



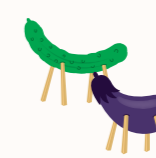
## The origin of Bon, 'お盆' (the Festival of the Dead)

Buddha, who was born in Northern India and actually existed in the history, was the founder of Buddhism. Mokuren, Buddha's disciple, found his dead mother hanging head upside down in hell as punishment, by using his divine power. Mokuren wanted to help her somehow and asked for Buddha's advice. Buddha replied, 'you should invite a lot of Buddhist priests on July 15th in old lunar calendar when your training is finished and hold a memorial service for your mother with offering a lot of goods. And you can save her.' Mokuren accepted and did what Buddha had said. Then, the mother was able to run away from hellfire and reportedly go to the Land of Happiness. In Japan, the origin of Bon was

said that 'the memorial service of Buddhism on July 15th in 606-the 14th year of Empress Suiko Era-was held. Before Edo Period, Bon was an event for the upper classes like the nobility, Samurai, priests and so on. But in Edo Period, the custom of Bon was common in ordinary people. The reason was allegedly 'the spread of candles. People at that time was able to get candles which were essential to family Buddhist altars and lanterns easily in low prices because of the mass-production of candles. So, this custom had been spread to all of Japan. In Bon, we welcome the souls of ancestors, show our thankfulness to them, worship our ancestors and hold a memorial service for them. Bon has had original development according to the religions, religious sects and regions and the current style of Bon is created.

## 8 August

- 1th Kamabuta Tsuitachi. The gate of heaven is open.
- 7th Nanoka Bon. Cleaning the tombs or on 11th
- 12th Buying flowers, dumplings and offerings
- 13th The welcome fire. In order to prevent the spirits of ancestors from losing their ways, people burn hemp reeds on a dish of earthenware pan and serve dumplings containing sweet soy bean paste. Mukae Bon. The day when returning dead souls are welcomed back \*Shoryoma. Conveyance for the spirits of the deceased. Producing a horse and cow with aubergines and corn silks.
- 14th The memorial service for the welcomed spirits of ancestors. Serving Ohagi, pounded rice covered with bean paste.
- 15th The memorial service for the welcomed spirits of ancestors. Serving Somen noodles. It means the appreciation that the deceased can eat them easily and the hope that 'the descendant of family may flourish forever'
- 16th Okuri Bon. The day when returning dead souls are coming back to the heaven. Serving white dumplings-dumpling for the ancestor's coming back to the heaven- as presents. In the evening, people burn bean-curd leftovers and send the soul of ancestor with ceremonial bonfire.



### \*Shoryoma

Shoryoma is a conveyance when the spirits of the deceased go and return between this world and heaven. Chopsticks, bamboo skewers, toothpicks, matchsticks and so on are stabbed to cucumbers and aubergines as feet of horses and cows. People set up stands for food offered to the spirits of their ancestors during the period of the Bon, visit their graves and light ceremonial bonfire in the evening. When the souls of the dead come to this world, they arrive rapidly with the horse made of cucumbers. When they return to the heaven, they go back slowly with the cow made of aubergines. These meanings are contained in that.

All of the Nakabori Family's members and relatives visit the grave and pray in front of the family Buddhist altar. We appreciate our healthy and sound lives thanks to the mercy of ancestors and have slightly luxurious meals with some chat in front of the altar. However, the spread of Covid-19 has made it impossible for us to get together on Bon for a couple of years. I have never imagined that it is very precious for us to have a meeting on Bon. I hope we can spend our usual Bon in this summer especially.





Hello! This is Shimatani Takako. I am going to talk about 'Momonari helmet' and 'Eboshinari helmet'.



I am going to talk about Yamatodamashii

# 大和魂

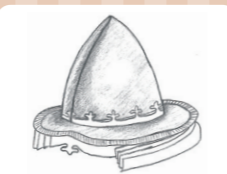
## The change of helmet



### Mass prodction for actual combat?

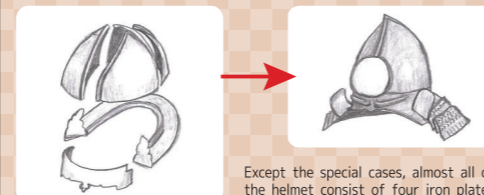
The European advancement into Asia started. Since 1540, Japan began its trade with Spain and Portugal. Portugalia merchants who brought guns to Japan presented the general armour and helmet made in Europe. 'Momonari helmet' was said to be influenced by the Nanban (European) helmet. Its shape was similar to a peach. So, it was called as 'Momonari' (peach-shaped) and was in fashion with 'Zunari helmet' from the latter half of Muromachi Period. This Momonari helmet was easy to create. So, a lower soldier mainly used it as a simple helmet and the helmet came to prevail. However, the helmet had the special high functionality, which reduced the damage brought by the attack with spears and swords due to its flat and smooth surface, and the beauty of shape. Therefore, even some high-ranked Sengoku Daimyo loved to use the Momonari helmet. In Sengoku Period, without regard to the social ranks, many Samurai were said to use the Momonari helmets. Some high-ranked Samurai added value to their own helmets as adding some distinctive decoration, Kinpaku-gold foil, etc. They were **Toyotomi Hideyoshi, Tachibana Tadashige- Kinpaku(gold foil) Osi Momonari Helmet- and Nabeshima Katsushige- Aonurushi Nuri(blue-lacquered) Helmet.**

#### Nanban (European) helmet



It has an edible acorn shape. On the central front and back, a couple of ridge lines were settled. Around the bowl, a brim like a hat was added.

#### Momonari helmet



Except the special cases, almost all of the helmet consist of four iron plates.

#### Suigyū (buffalo) helmet



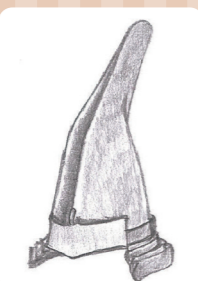
### Exchanging their helmets between military commanders each other?

**Fukushima Masanori** and **Kuroda Nagamasa** had had a lot of military success as the vassals of Toyotomi Hideyoshi. Kuroda Nagamasa preferred a helmet with a characteristical ornament very much and had allegedly worn it in various battles. Not only Kuroda Nagamasa but also his retainers favourably got the helmet in battle fields. On the other hands, Fukushima Masanori, a brave general, was relatively quick-tempered and had some quarrels with Kuroda Nagamasa concerning with the dispute about the invasion of Korea. As the evidence of peace-making, both of them exchanged their helmets. What Fukushima Masanori got was the **Kuronurushi Nuri Momonari DaiSuigyū Wakidate helmet(the big black- lacquered Momonari helmet with the ornament of buffalo-horn shape)**. It seemed common to exchange swords and helmets between Samurai as the evidence of peace-making and friendship at that time.

### Mass prodction for actual combat 2?

After 1590, 'unique helmets' which showed owner's preference were the nationwide vogue. Helmets like natural-shaped hats and crowns which were fit to the shapes of head appeared. 'Eboshinari helmet', which was like a standing\* Eboshi with an extended top, was one of them. It had simple structure but was superior in high functionality. So, it became common.

#### Eboshinari helmet

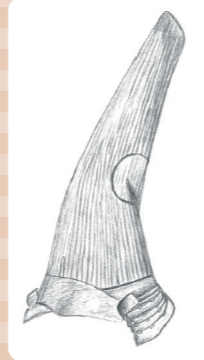


Being made of 4-6 pieces of iron plates

### The helmet for fierce god

**Kato Kiyomasa**, a believer in Nichiren Sect, was said to prefer to wear Naga Eboshi, which was 'Janome Mon Naga Eboshinari helmet (long Eboshinari helmet with Bull's-eye design)', 'Ginpaku Naga Eboshinari Harikake helmet (long Eboshinari Helmet with silver foil)', and so on. Janome Mon- the Bull's-eye design-was used by Nichiren, the founder of Nichiren Sect. Kiyomasa used this pattern to his helmet. It was said Kiyomasa got this Naga Eboshi helmet in the invasion of Korea as well. His height seemed to be 190 cm-very big. Some records said it was just like the fierce god. But Kiyomasa was actually about only 160 cm in height. The rumour said Kiyomasa wore the helmet in order to make his figure look big.

#### The fierce god



The long helmets with gold and silver foil-they appealed the presence of general commanders though the enemy might easily detect where the commanders were. This surprised me. I suppose these commanders had their very huge confidence of military arts and tactics. The famous general commanders, like Uesugi Kenshin(Kinpaku Oshikaze Eboshinari helmet- the Eboshinari helmet like being bent by winds with gold foil), Maeda Toshiie(Noshi Eboshinari helmet- the tall Eboshinari helmet), etc. also got these helmets in battle grounds. I am going to talk about much more distinctive helmets in the next column.



Hanaemon's

# I am going to make you back in times!



I am likely to feature 'an expert at ~' this year. I am going to make you back in the times with this expert at bow and arrow.

The actual solder till 93 years old

## Mitsusuyoshi Ohshima

1508-1604

大島光義



### Nobunaga's man in his 60

Mitsuyoshi was born as a son of Oshima Mitsumune in Mino Province. Due to his father's death in action, Mitsuyoshi became a war orphan when he was 10 years old and was raised by his relatives. Mitsuyoshi expected to retrieve Oshima's fortunes and had practiced military arts. In his 13, Mitsuyoshi appeared in battle and killed enemy's commander with his arrows. When he was 14 years old, Mitsuyoshi got his military success by using arrows next year as well. After that, Mitsuyoshi was a vassal of Saito Clan. But, in 1567-in his 60, Nobunaga's invasion had eliminated Saito Clan. Mitsuyoshi, who was known as an expert at bow and arrow, served Nobunaga as the General of bow and arrow.

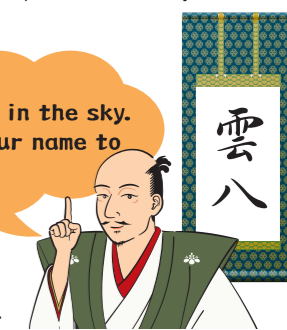


### The huge success in military operation like penetrating the clouds in the sky, described by Nobunaga

In 1570, it was the battle of Sakamoto that Oda Army fought against Asai and Asakura Armies. It was a fierce battle. Oda Army had a lot of dead commanders and solders in action. Mitsuyoshi, who was 63 years old at that time, was hugely successful once again. After the battle, Nobunaga praised Mitsuyoshi with these words:

'Your work was like penetrating the clouds in the sky. You should change your name to Unpachi'.

Accepting Nobunaga's advice, Mitsuyoshi altered his name to Oshima Unpachi.



### Returning father's territory over 80 years

After the death of Nobunaga, Mitsuyoshi served Niwa Nagahide and Hashiba Hideyoshi. Mitsuyoshi achieved military success and at last became the Daimyo with 11,200 goku when he was 91 years old in 1598. After Hideyoshi had passed away, at the Battle of Sekigahara, Mitsuyoshi and Mitsunari, Mitsuyoshi's first son, took part in the Eastern Army-Tokugawa Side when he was 93 years old in 1600. On the other hand, Mitsumasa, Mitsuyoshi's second son, and Mitsutoshi, the third son, joined the Western Army-Ishida Side. The Eastern Army won at the battle and Mitsuyoshi and Mitsunari were highly evaluated because of their military success. Fortunately, Mitsumasa and Mitsutoshi were able to get the mercy by Tokugawa. In addition, Mitsuyoshi got his more territory to 18,000 goku. Mitsuyoshi had made it possible to add his more territory of birthplace and recover his land taken because of his father's death in action.



Mitsuyoshi had an anecdote as an expert at bow and arrow, which was that he had penetrated the enemy hidden behind a tree with it by his arrow. Another material written by Niwa Clan said Mitsuyoshi had completely hit the windows of Yasaka Tower, the five-storied Pagoda, on the fifth floor with his ten arrows out of ten. It described as 'Mitsuyoshi never missed the mark.' In Sengoku Period, the average length of life was 40's. But Mitsuyoshi was able to be active on the front lines until his 93. Why? After the Battle of Sekigahara, Mitsuyoshi was recommended to be the Lord of Castle at Bungo Province (current Oita Prefecture) with 50,000 goku. However, Mitsuyoshi declined it. In order to come true his dream of retuning his homegrown territory, Mitsuyoshi might have been able to die peacefully in Sengoku Period.

