



Hanaemon's

I am going to make you back in the times about Japanese history! At the Kurihara Elementary School Part 2

Hello! This is Takashi Hanamoto, also known as Hanaemon. The other day, just like the last year, I gave a history lesson to the 6th grade children at Kurihara Elementary School in Onomichi City, Hiroshima Prefecture. This Kurihara Elementary School is, as a matter of fact, my alma mater. My son currently goes to this school as well. In addition, the children of all the staff working at Daimyo are the students at this elementary school. Taking advantage of last years' experience, I spent more time in history quizzes this year.



'When it comes to armour, it comes in many shapes, colours, and materials.' 'Swords also have different lengths and shapes.' 'Do you know by what motif this helmet was made?'

When I made these questions, all students actively raised their hands and showed their opinions, which made me so happy. After I finished explaining about the armour and swords, I immediately let them directly touch the armour, helmets, and Japanese swords. When I help one student to hold the Koshirae(mounting) with the sword in it, he got excited and said, 'It is heavy! Was Samurai swinging this sword?' Then, I found a huge line at the corner where the students could wear the replica helmet. Even during the break, they were very excited and enjoyed looking at and touching the helmets and swords.

The next was the question time from the children.

Do you have any episodes about the weapons military commanders used regularly?

How much does one piece of armour cost?

What kind of person was the first to make weapons and armour?

Who was the first person to become a military commander?

I got many questions like those.

At the end of the class, I said, 'You can see and touch antique works of art and historical buildings that were made possible by our many predecessors. Next, I expect all of you to pass them on to the next generation'. I also told them, 'You and I are here because of my predecessors, so please take care of yourself and your friends.'

Going further, I held a history quiz, which was very popular last year as well. I asked questions ranging from easy to enthusiastic and five children remained until the end.

The kids were making a big noise trying to move between the answers 'A' and 'B'. All five of the surviving children were girls, but when I presented them with Japanese Tenugui towels with their family crests on them, they had indescribable expressions



These girls are the next candidates for my company! We are looking forward to seeing you at Daimyo Co., Ltd.

'Why do I do this job?' -I thought about this about 10 years ago. I felt it would be great if I could someday give children a history lesson that would be an 'opportunity' for them to become interested in and love Japanese history. On the day of this event, I was so happy to see the students' eyes sparkling as they looked at and touched the armour. I would be happy if I could make a class like this again next year and at different elementary schools.



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

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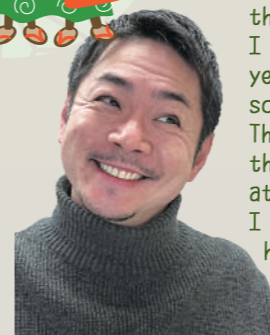
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The Philosophy of Daimyou Ltd.

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.

We would like to express our deepest sympathies to the victim affected by the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake. We sincerely pray that they will be able to get the safety and return to a peaceful life as soon as possible.

Greetings with One Chinese letter this year



Hello&Happy New Year! This is Hanamoto Takashi. I would like to make the slogan of Chinese letter, '愉' (enjoyment, fun) in 2024. I felt I had been pressed for time as I started something new last year. I found that I had no spare time to enjoy my busy schedule. This year, I want to be able to enjoy my life with a lot of things to do. So, I need to spend my days with an active attitude of 'enjoyment'. I expect not only myself but also those around me to make happy and to be able to consider even less enjoyable situations to be lessons for myself. For that, I am going to make more enjoyable situations and time in this year.

愉

(Enjoyment, Fun)



柔

(Flexible/Gentle)

Hello! This is Nakabori Akemi. Happy new year! My slogan using a Chinese letter in 2024 is '柔' (flexible/gentle). The slogan of this year is to have a 'flexible' mind and heart. Last year, I thought too much and things did not go well. So, I would like to run through this year with a 'flexible' mind honestly. I will make efforts to be able to treat my children in a 'gentle' way as well. At work, it would be great if I could think and act 'flexibly' in my behaviour and attitude toward customers. I am look forward to your continued support in 2024 as well.



Hello. This is Shimatani Takako. Happy new year! I enjoyed playing sports with elementary school girls last year, but this year I decided to make a volleyball team with middle school girls and am starting the team. I have never experienced such things. However, I am likely to keep moving forward. Also, I think about what the customer is looking for, never stop thinking, and am willing to provide services that will make the customer happy. I am looking forward to your continued support in 2024, too.

進

(Forward)



Our field trip in Matsuyama Castle, Ehime Prefecture

Hello. We are Shimatani Takako and Nakabori Akemi. On Daimyo's eventful journey-the field trip to study the Japanese history-last summer, our destination was the **Yamanami Route**, but this time we went to Matsuyama Castle in Ehime Prefecture via the **Shimanami Route!!**

Why did we decide to visit Matsuyama Castle?

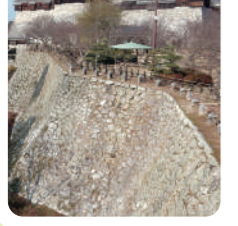
- President:** 'Well, last time we climbed Gassan Toda Castle. So, I need to go to a castle that feels like climbing up a mountain'
- Nakabori:** 'I would do anything but that.'
- Shimatani:** 'then let's look for a nearby place right away.'
- Nakabori:** 'I expect an easy place.'

Let's go to Matsuyama Castle

Well, let's do our best this time!

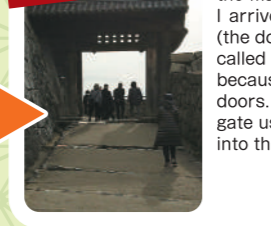
Hang in there! Hold on!

The stone wall of folding screen



The maze-like stone walls were one of the characteristics of main enclosure in Matsuyama Castle. The walls were called the 'stone wall of folding screen'. They were strategic points that played an important role in defending the castle because their zigzag structure increased their strength and allowed the defence team to attack enemies from two directions.

Tonashi gate (the doorless gate)



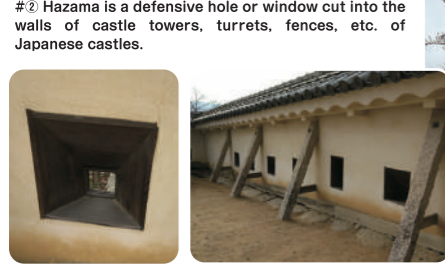
I passed through the maze-like stone walls. I arrived at Tonashi gate (the doorless gate). It was called Tonashi gate because there were no doors. It was said to be a gate used to lure enemies into the next gate.

Tsutsui gate



The gate that lines up with Tonashi gate is 'Tsutsui gate'. It is the largest gate in the Honmaru (the centre of castle), which plays an important role to guard #1 Ote. And it was a solid line of defence.

There were booby-traps at the secret gate for surprise attacks. Many places for dropping stones were set up at the Taiko cypress, Taiko gate, Tatsumi turret, etc. These traps were waiting for the enemy. The 24.41m-long fence has 21 #2 Hazama (booby-traps) and 2 places for dropping big stones.



#1 Ote refers to the main entrance of a castle and was originally written as 'Ote Oite' (おておて 進手-following and hunting down the enemy to a gate). A gate called Ote gate was placed at Ote-guchi. It was also sometimes written as Oite-guchi, using the character 'Oite' (進手), which meant the direction to corner the enemy. This is because when a castle was attacked and surrounded, in order to fight efficiently, the structure had an intention that lured the enemy near the gate and the enemy that was going to leave the castle was cornered. Castles were often fortified with stone walls or set up in a square shape so that enemies trying to enter the castle were unable to escape easily.

I love mandarin oranges!! So, this is irresistible.

On my long way to the castle tower, there is orange juice flowing from the tap!!!



Somehow, I manage to reach the castle tower while sweating.

Iyokan (mandarin oranges) soft ice cream is the best!



The mascot character of Matsuyama castle, 'Yoshiaki-kun', welcomes us.

Matsuyama Castle is one of only '12 remaining castle towers' in Japan. The castle tower was destroyed by lightning in 1784 but was rebuilt in 1852 by Kato Yoshiaki. Kato Yoshiaki, who rebuilt this castle, participated in the Battle of Shizugatake as a vassal of Shibata Hideyoshi and achieved the greatest success of arms with a spear. Finally, he became well-known as one of 'The Seven Spears of Shizugatake'. He served on the side of Tokugawa Ieyasu in the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600 and was awarded 200,000 koku in recognition of his military exploits. He moved his castle from Masaki Castle to Katsuyama, and named the area 'Matsuyama.' So, in order to build a castle in Katsuyama where located in the centre of the Dogo Plain, Yoshiaki ordered Adachi Shigenobu, Fushin Bugyo- the Minister of Civil Engineering and Construction Office, to allocate land and began construction in 1602. Construction continued after that, and it was finally completed a quarter of a century later.

Kato Yoshiaki => Gamou Tadatomo => Matsudaira Sadayuki => Matsudaira Sadakuni => Matsudaira Katsuyoshi => Matsudaira Katsunari

The castle owner had changed, and the person who rebuilt the current castle tower was Matsudaira Katsuyoshi.

Finally, I entered the castle tower...



The entrance to the large castle tower was called 'Anagura' (cellar), an empty space in the stone wall. I entered the castle tower through this space. The Anagura was not an entrance used by the lord to enter and leave the main castle tower, but a storehouse for storing military and other supplies. This place has now been renovated and shoes boxes for outdoor-shoes are installed here and used. The stairs were steep, as it was an existing wooden castle tower that remained from the Edo period. Although the stairs had a very Japanese atmosphere, I felt scared a little when I went down.



Were the Smurai solders shooting with matchlock guns from here? Or were they stabbing the enemy with spears? If the enemy was surrounded, there would be no space to go. Oh, scary!



This was a style of creating a 'contiguous castle tower', in which a courtyard tower, a small tower, and a turret were arranged in all directions, and connected by a turret. It is said to be the most complex and ultimate form with strong defensive power. The same goes for the Himeji Castle tower.



The slope is steep!



In the castle tower, there were a bow and arrow used in the construction ceremony of Matsuyama Castle. It is said that they were meant to ward off misfortune.



The wind feels good!

And on the way to home, riding a lift let Nakabori smile on her face like this!



Our limited time prevented us from seeing the side of #3 Karamete on our visit. It was very regrettable for us to fail to see the only existing 'watchtower-type double turret' in Japan behind the castle tower. I'm looking forward to the next visit, too.

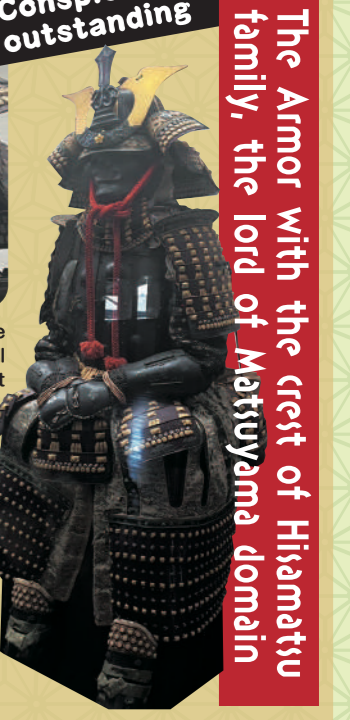
#3 Karamete is the back gate that opens to Ote gate. In case of an emergency, this was an emergency exit for the castle lord and others to escape to the outside of the castle or the outer walls. For this reason, it is said that it was hardly used on a regular basis.

The armour and swords were displayed on each floor.

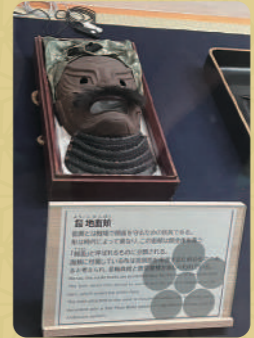


Conspicuously outstanding

It is an embossed Do (torso). The large hinge was attached to three cylindrical gauntlets made of rusty iron. The front ornaments of helmet were carved on the surface made of red copper. In addition, the face mask for protecting in combat had some carvings on the rasped surface. I thought it was a very nice armour.



The armor with the crest of Hisamatsu family, the lord of Matuyama domain



'Yoroiji Menpo' (the face mask made of armour surface) Also called Somen, the face mask covering all over the front. It also had a cloth to protect the front of the head. I was impressed when I saw the complete picture of Somen for the first time.

Extra edition



It's delicious.

When it comes to travel for Daimyo, food, food, food, !!! comes to mind.

'Matcha beer' I found on my way to home. It was beer I could feel the matcha aroma coming from my nose.



Soba noodles



This time, I went to the soba restaurant 'Kubota' that was introduced in 'Omoumai (interesting and tasty) restaurant'-a Japanese TV show to introduce some unique restaurants which served tasty food with some interesting characteristics. It was delicious. The soba noodles were great, but the Oden was the best. I was worried that I might not be able to eat it all, so I had ordered a medium size. So, I will try a large size next time!