

## Staff Introduction

# The profile of Katsuyoshi Hashimoto



Name: Katsuyoshi Hashimoto  
 Date of Birth: November 27, 1983 (41 Y. O.)  
 Zodiac Sign: Sagittarius  
 Family: I live with my wife and our twins — a boy and a girl. My wife and I have known each other since elementary school. She's dependable and has a beautiful smile. Our son is a gentle soul (though a bit of a crybaby!) and a little insect expert. Our daughter is full of energy and great at sports. They both give me strength every day.

**Strengths:** People often say I'm kind, reliable, and a little clumsy in an endearing, natural way (laughs:-)).

**Weaknesses:** I sometimes charge ahead without thinking things through.

**Hometown:** Amagasaki City, Hyogo Prefecture

**Hobbies:** I love to cook for my wife and kids on my days off. With a beer in one hand, I often start cooking... but by the time the food is ready, I'm already full (laughs).

**Evaporite** Japanese swords. I recently tried laigiri (a form of sword-cutting practice). Feeling the weight and sharpness of a real sword gave me a glimpse into the fear and resolve of the samurai who once risked their lives in battle.



## We received a message from one of our overseas readers:

Thank you always for the newsletter. I really enjoy reading it — the historical stories are fascinating and make it such a fun read. I have a deep interest in Japanese culture and currently practice Aikido in my home country. Someday, I hope to visit Japan and go to the Daimyo, your company. When that time comes, I would greatly appreciate your support. - Mr./Ms. O

Thank you so much — we truly appreciate your continued support. Thank you also for always reading our newsletter. We would be absolutely delighted to welcome you to Daimyo someday, and we look forward to seeing you from the bottom of our hearts!

## We also received a message from a first-time customer:

Hello. I'm very happy with this transaction — the prompt response and careful packaging made it a very pleasant experience. Thank you so much! Also, the 'thank-you coupon'? It's a really nice bonus. I'd love to collect more of them. But since I have to send them back, it's a bit of a hassle. Is there any way to make it easier? - Mr./Ms. T

Thank you for your message. We appreciate your feedback regarding the thank-you coupons. We'll consider ways to make the process easier for you. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy collecting many of them!



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.

Hello, This is Akemi Nakabori. It has been hot every day, how are you all doing?

Since the Onomichi Seven Buddhas Tour (Vol. 59), I have been attracted to visiting temples and shrines and have found time to go and pay my respects. This time, I went to the 'Taki-Inata-Kisaya-Futsu Shrine'! It is deep in the mountains and only selected people allegedly can reach it... I got a little lost and was in trouble, but I was able to arrive safely. The smell of the soil, the temperature, the cool and pleasant breeze, and the feeling of nature were very moving.

## Inside the massive Rock... stands the main sanctuary! How incredibly mystical it is!



The entrance Torii Gate approaching to the shrine.



Le's go!

## Deity

Shimotsumichi no Kuni-no-Miyatsuko

## Origin

An old shrine that retains vestiges of primitive nature worship, with an unknown date of foundation.

According to the Nihon Sandai Jitsuroku, an official historical record from the Heian Period, this shrine had a lineage stretching back over 1,500 years. It was listed in the Engishiki Jinmyōchō (Register of Deities) and was said to have received offerings from the imperial government during the Kinensai (Festival of Prayers for a Good Harvest). Due to changes in the line of Shinto priests and disasters such as fires, the shrine's status as a Shikinaisha (governmental recognised shrine) had been forgotten for a time. However, just before the Meiji Era, it was once again officially recognised as a Shikinaisha. It was said that Lord Abe Masanori, the governor of the domain, visited the shrine and dedicated many weapons and banners. There was also a legend that the sword used by Susanoo-no-Mikoto to slay the eight-headed serpent Yamata-no-Orochi was once enshrined here.

Taki: means brave, wonderful or great.

Inata: or Mr. Inada (proper name), which was a person's (family name) or God's name.

Kisaya: wooden sheath or sword.

Futsu: divine sword, onomatopoeic sound of sharp cutting.

Kisaya Futsu: is said to mean a sword in a wooden scabbard.

'Taki Inata Kisaya Futsu' was said to mean 'the divine sword housed in a wooden scabbard held by the valiant Inata'. Also known as 'Iwanagu', 'Iwaya Gongen', 'Haratani Gongen'.

The Kamiharatani Giant Limestone Boulder has been designated as a Natural Monument of Hiroshima Prefecture. It stands approximately 30 meters tall, 33 meters wide, and 35 meters deep. I was once again struck by how amazing it was that, for thousands of years, visiting shrines and temples has been such an integral part of Japanese culture. By expressing daily gratitude to the Gods, we can take a moment to reflect on ourselves — and perhaps that's what gives us the strength to move forward with a positive mindset.

I also spent some time feeling truly awed by the power of nature.

If there are any shrines or temples in your prefecture that you recommend visiting, please let me know! I'd love to add them to my list of places to visit someday.



Limestone cave



Feel nature's powerful energy



Hello. this is Shimatani. The hot weather is continuing, are you OK? In this issue, I would like to talk about Yari Goshirae (spear mountings), as mentioned in a customer's comment.



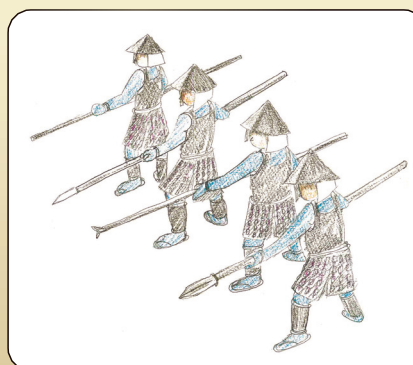
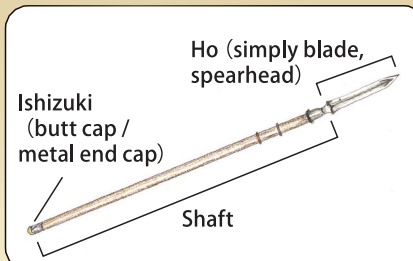
What are the different types?

The Yari Koshirae, made up of a scabbard and shaft, can be categorised into roughly seven types according to its function. In this issue, I will talk about three types of spear mountings: **'Suyari Goshirae' (plain spear mounting)**, **'Omi Yari Goshirae' (large-bladed spear mounting)**, and **'Kazari Yari Goshirae' (decorative spear mounting)**.

### The Suyari Goshirae that was mass-produced

In the Sengoku Period, mass warfare by infantrymen became the mainstay of warfare.

The troops were equipped as a unit and fought against mounted warriors. In addition to bows and swords, long-handled spear weapons became the main armament of the infantry, and mass production became necessary. Simple, utility-oriented 'Suyari' were manufactured in large quantities, with little or no decoration such as Maki-e (sprinkled picture lacquerware) on the handle, Habaki (blade collar), Ishizuki (butt cap or end cap of a spear), etc., and the handle was simply attached to the blade. Although simple, they were made from hard oak wood and reinforced with black lacquer or rattan wrapping to make them more resistant to breakage. They were then coated with persimmon tannin to make them waterproof and antiseptic and improve their durability. During the Sengoku Period, Oda Nobunaga's gun and spear teams actually fought mainly with Suyari. As practical use was prioritised over preservation, the number of surviving spears is small. In the Edo Period, the number of battles was decreased and the Suyari gradually disappeared.



### Omi Yari Goshirae designed for a long spear

Spears with a blade length of over 30 cm were classified as Omi (large-bladed), and the Koshirae made for such spears had shafts measuring approximately 2.5 to 4.5 meters in length. The shaft was decorated with lacquer and maki-e, reinforced with rattan wrapping, and fitted with silver or brass hardware, along with a scabbard—making it a truly elaborate Koshirae. It was used during the Sengoku Period as a symbol of military prowess and valour, and was used by skilled and highly skilled warriors with outstanding valour. Tonbogiri, the famed spear of Tadakatsu Honda with a blade length of about 43 cm, was also classified as an Omi-Yari Goshirae (mounting for a large-bladed spear).

### Decorative Kazari-Yari Goshirae

During the Edo period, these spears were not used in actual combat, but rather carried by high-ranking Samurai such as Daimyō and Hatamoto (direct retainers of the Shogun) during Sankin-Kōtai (the system of alternate attendance requiring lords to travel regularly to Edo) and feudal processions as symbols of their family's prestige. They were lavishly adorned with ornate metal fittings, maki-e lacquerwork, and vivid scarlet cords (Sageo).

As methods of warfare and the times changed, so did the styles of spears. Lavish Omi-Yari Goshirae handed down in Daimyo families—such as Kat-Kiyomasa's Katakama-Yari (single-bladed sickle spear) and the Maeda Clan's treasured spear—represent one side of the spectrum. In contrast, the practical Suyari Goshirae were mass-produced. One wonders how many of these utilitarian spears still lie buried and forgotten on ancient battlefields.



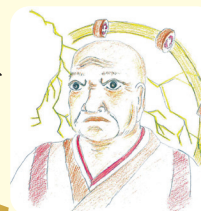
Hanaemon's

I am going to make you back in times!



Now that we have finished with the No. 2 generals of the Japan's past de facto rulers, from this issue we will focus on the No. 2 generals that are of personal interest to us. This issue is a time-slip to Otomo Sorin's No 2, this person!

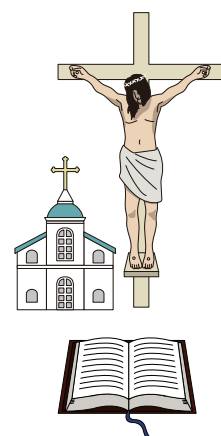
**Bekki Akitsura** (1513 - 1585)



Bekki Akitsura is probably better known by his alias Tachibana Dosetsu than by this name. The Bekki Clan was a powerful local family in Bungo (Oita Prefecture) that served the Otomo family for generations, and Akitsura also served the Otomo family from a young age; from his 20s or 30s he was a prominent figure in the Otomo family, taking credit in many battles under his first lord, Otomo Yoshiaki. For this reason, Akitsura received one Chinese character for AKI (鑑) from his lord Yoshi-AKI (鑑). Later, a family feud broke out between Yoshiaki and his heir, Yoshishige (later Sorin), which resulted in Yoshiaki being killed. Yoshishige became Akitsura's next lord.

### The embodiment of loyalty

Akitsura was known as a military commander who was highly loyal. As a young man, his lord Yoshishige had a very good reputation in the management of his domain and the protection of Buddhism, and had gained the trust of his subjects. However, in later years, Yoshishige became devoted to the Christian faith and art. His Christian beliefs led to the destruction of temples and shrines and the imposition of heavy taxes on the people of the fief in order to collect artworks, leading to growing dissatisfaction among the vassals and the people. Akitsura then said: 'My lord, if you abandon Buddhism, abandon God and lose the human heart, your family and people will eventually leave you. We must keep our faith within ourselves, and our government must be broadly based to save the people. If things continue as they are, the Otomo family will perish.' He admonished them in a letter. Yoshishige temporarily changed his attitude, but continued to basically Put his religious beliefs first. Despite his disappointment, Akitsura did not give up on him and continued to support the family militarily.



The admonition must have come from Akitsura, who was serious about protecting the Otomo family, rather than being an obedient vassal. In addition to his admonitions, he sent his own daughter to the Tachibana family, made her a female lord of the castle, and used his own reputation with the backing of his reputation to strengthen the Otomo family's branch castles, involving his family as well.

### Thunder God of the Otomo family

Akitsura was described as a famous general who was undefeated in his lifetime. He was known as the thunder god of the Otomo family. Akitsura, who was reportedly struck by lightning when he was young and lost the use of one of his legs, regarded this experience as a divine blessing and worshipped the god of thunder as his guardian deity. Despite his illness, he was said to have commanded the front line. He was known as the God of Thunder for his fierce fighting behaviour and his undefeated record, even when struck by lightning. He also defeated the renowned general Kikkawa Motoharu when the Mori family advanced into Kyushu, and played an active role in diplomatic negotiations with Kobayakawa Takakage. A letter from Takakage stated that "Akitsura is a true loyal retainer, and he alone supports the Otomo family".



In fact, it was said that in battles in which Akitsura commanded, the enemy rarely broke through, although it was unlikely that they were ever actually defeated. This novel, in which Akitsura played a leading role, was interesting and we would like to introduce it to you.