

The Kamakura Shōgun

A Guide to the Historical Figures

The Kamakura Shōgun Translation Project
Department of English Language and Literature, Ferris University



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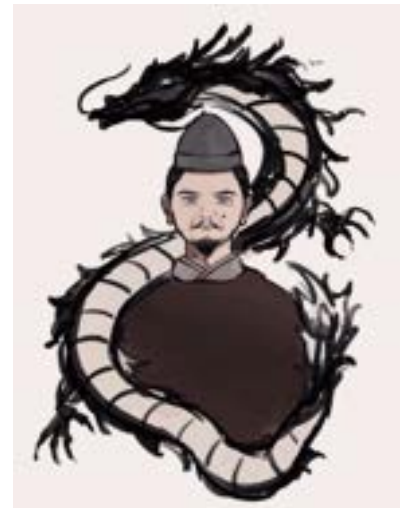
HŌJŌ Yoshitoki (1163-1224)

Yoshitoki was the second son of HŌJŌ Tokimasa and a younger brother of Masako. He was one of the samurai trusted by MINAMOTO no Yoritomo, and later became one of the “Thirteen Lords of the Kamakura Shōgun.” In 1205 he became Regent. In 1221 when Retired Emperor Go-Toba rebelled against the Kamakura shōgunate, Yoshitoki suppressed it (the Jōkyū War). He was a cultured swordsman and sometimes held poetry parties at his home. It was he who built the Yakushi shrine of Kakuon Temple.



HŌJŌ Tokimasa (1138-1215)

Tokimasa was the father of HŌJŌ Masako and Yoshitoki. He was appointed a guard when MINAMOTO no Yoritomo was exiled in Izu. He worked with Yoritomo to build the Kamakura shōgunate. Tokimasa was one of the Thirteen Lords and the first Regent. A dragon reportedly appeared while he was praying in Enoshima and dropped its scales. That is why HŌJŌ family coat of arms had “three scales.” In 1205, he conspired with his wife to dethrone MINAMOTO no Sanetomo. The plot failed and Tokimasa became a Buddhist priest.



ADACHI Morinaga (1135-1200)

ADACHI Morinaga married HIKI no Ama, Yoritomo’s wet nurse. He was the first samurai to serve him and was later appointed one of the Thirteen Lords. Morinaga once delivered Yoritomo’s love letter to HŌJŌ Masako, which was actually addressed to Masako’s sister. That is how Yoritomo and Masako got married. Amanawa Shrine, probably the oldest in Kamakura, was built where his mansion had been.



KAJIWARA Kagetoki (?-1200)

KAJIWARA Kagetoki gained Yoritomo's trust when he supported him in the Battle of Ishibashi-yama. Kagetoki was rather active in hunting down the TAIRA samurai. On the other hand, he was known for his eloquence as well. In 1195 when Kagetoki presented a horse to Sumiyoshi Shrine by Yoritomo's order, he wrote the following poem.

*Waga-kimi-no tamuke-no koma-wo hiki-tsurete yuku-sue
tōki shirushi-arawase*

Walking with a gift-horse from my lord, I pray to God that his family
would prosper forever.



Kagetoki was one of the Thirteen Lords of the Kamakura Shōgun, but is now often regarded as a villain, because of his eloquent, deceptive speech. In 1199 he was impeached by other swordsmen in power and banished from Kamakura. The following year, he was attacked and killed at Kiyomi-ga-seki, Suruga, on his way to Kyōto.

HIKI Yoshikazu (?-1203)

Yoshikazu was an adopted child of Yoritomo's wet nurse HIKI no Ama. He served Yoritomo from early on. Yoshikazu helped Yoritomo crush the TAIRA clan and subdue the FUJIWARA clan of Ōshū (present-day Fukushima, Miyagi, Iwate, Aomori, and part of Akita). His daughter Wakasa no Tsubone married Yoriie and gave birth to Ichiman. Although Yoshikazu was one of the Thirteen Lords, he was opposed to HŌJŌ Tokimasa, and so all his family members were murdered in 1203.

Myōhon Temple of Kamakura is located on the site of Yoshikazu's mansion. Jakushi-dō ("the shrine to appease snake-curse") is said to be built nearby in order to calm the ghost of Wakasa, who possessed people as a snake.



MIURA Yoshizumi (1127-1200)

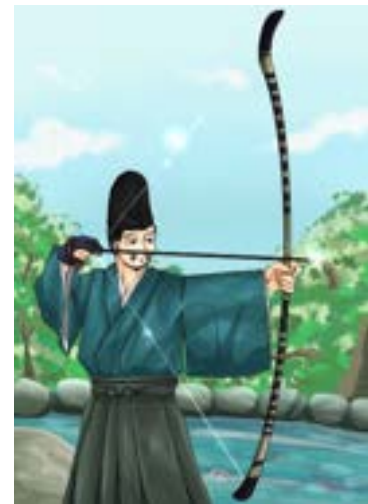
Yoshizumi was from Miura, Sagami (today's Yokosuka City). He helped Yoritomo destroy the TAIRA clan. He was great in the Battles of Dan-no-ura and Ōshū. In 1191, Yoritomo was invited to the residence of Yoshizumi and wrestled Sumo with Yoshizumi's child Yoshimura. They were close friends. Yoshizumi was one of the Thirteen Lords. He was buried in Yokosuka, where Yakuō Temple used to be.



WADA Yoshimori (1147-1213)

Yoshimori joined Yoritomo's force in 1180 and fought in the Battle of Ōshū of 1189. He was the head of the samurai-dokoro (today's police) and was one of the Thirteen Lords. In the Kamakura period, a samurai was a kind of celebrity of the day. When Yoshimori participated in "Yumi-hajime," or an archery competition, held at the residence of his uncle, MIURA Yoshizumi, it was a great honor.

In 1213 Yoshimori started a rebellion against the shōgunate, but it failed, and the WADA clan was destroyed. Now there is a place called Wada-zuka in Yui-ga-hama, Kamakura. In 1892 many human bones were found there; supposedly Yoshimori fought there.



ADACHI Tōmoto (dates of birth and death unknown)

Tōmoto ruled Adachi district of Musashi country. He helped Yoritomo against the TAIRA clan, and fought in the Battle of Uji-gawa, for instance. He had connections with the imperial court of Kyōto, with one of his daughters married to a courtier. Tōmoto was a secretary in the office of letters, doing much political paperwork. He was good at both fighting and writing. He was one of the Thirteen Lords.

The government house of the Kamakura shōgunate was located a short walk to the east from Tsurugaoka Hachiman Shrine. Nothing can be found there now except a small information plaque.



HATTA Tomoie (1142-1217)

Tomoie comes from Hatta, Hitachi (Ibaraki prefecture). He served the four heads of the MINAMOTO clan, from Yoshitomo to Sanetomo. He joined Yoritomo's force early on, and in 1185, in the Battle of Dan-no-ura, he defeated the TAIRA clan. He was another lord of the Thirteen.

On August 15, 1187 Tomoie attended a life-saving party at Tsurugaoka Hachiman Shrine along with Yoritomo, MIURA Yoshizumi, and ADACHI Tōmoto. This event was a traditional Buddhist ceremony based on the philosophy of no killing, in which participants released captured fish and birds to nature. The shrine's annual festival is said to have begun with this party.



NAKAHARA no Chikayoshi (1143-1208)

NAKAHARA no Chikayoshi often went to Kyōto as Yoritomo's ambassador and mediated between the imperial court and the shōgunate. It was he that dealt with the aftermath of the Battle of Ōshū. Chikayoshi served as Lord Deputy for Kyūshū, Commissioner for Public Affairs, and Constable of Kyōto for the shōgunate. He made another of the Thirteen.

Chikayoshi's residence was in Kame-ga-yatsu, Kamakura (today's Ōgi-ga-yatsu). *Azuma-kagami* says that Sanman, Yoritomo's daughter, was buried there. Chikayoshi's wife was Sanman's wet nurse.



ŌE no Hiromoto (1148-1225)

Hiromoto was a wise man who survived the turbulent times with his intellect, and some say that the establishment of the guardians and landowners in 1185 was his idea.

After Yoritomo died, Hiromoto was trusted by HŌJŌ Masako and served her in politics as one of the Thirteen Lords. His contribution in subduing the Rebellion of Jōkyū was significant.

In *Azuma-kagami*, a historical record of Kamakura, it is said that Shōgun Sanetomo visited Hiromoto on May 6, 1210 and held a poetry party. It was then that Hiromoto gave him the three great collections of poetry: *Kokin-waka*, *Gosen*, and *Shūi*. Hiromoto must have been a man of literary taste.



MIYOSHI no Yasunobu (1140-1221)

Though he was an official for the court in Kyōto, Yasunobu sent political intelligence to Yoritomo while in exile in Izu. In June 1184, he told Yoritomo about Mochihito-Ō's order to attack the MINAMOTO clan, and Yoritomo promptly countered the attack with his own. In 1184, Yoritomo invited Yasunobu to Kamakura and gave him political office along with ŌE no Hiromoto and others. He was another of the Thirteen Lords.

Yasunobu exchanged songs with NIJŌIN Sanuki and they were included in the *Gyokuyō* songbook. Yasunobu was very good at poetry.

The stone monument of the Kamakura Law Court, where Yasunobu served as manager, stands near the main gate of Onari Elementary School.



NIKAIDŌ Yukimasa (dates of birth and death unknown)

Yukimasa (with MIYOSHI no Yasunobu) was in charge of the building-ritual when the house for the Kamakura office of letters was constructed. He was also responsible for the repair of temples and shrines, and for the records of the Battle of Ōshū. Among the Thirteen Lords, Yukimasa was a prudent leader.

Yoritomo planned to build Eifuku Temple in Kamakura for those who lost their lives at Ōshū. It was modeled on the two-story hall of Chūson Temple in Hiraizumi. Yoritomo appointed Yukimasa (together with MIYOSHI no Yoshinobu and FUJIWARA no Toshikane) as the overseer. Since Yukimasa's residence was located near Eifuku Temple, the family took the family name Nikaidō. In *Azuma-kagami* it is recorded that Yoritomo came to see the temple just before completion and had a drinking party at Yukimasa's house.



MINAMOTO no Yoritomo (1147-1199)

Yoritomo was MINAMOTO no Yoshitomo's third son, and his mother was a daughter of the chief priest of Atsuta, FUJIWARA no Suenori. Yoritomo's half-brother was Yoshitsune. Yoriie and Sanetomo, Yoritomo's sons by HŌJŌ Masako, became Kamakura shōguns after him.

Yoshitomo was defeated in the Battle of Heiji, and Yoritomo was exiled to Izu. He spent twenty years there under guard, watched by HŌJŌ Tokimasa and others. It is in the Izu period that Yoritomo married Tokimasa's daughter, Masako. Eventually he rose with his army, destroyed the TAIRA clan, and was appointed the Great Shōgun.

Yoritomo loved poetry, and ten of his poems were included in the poetry collection the *Shin-kokin* and other imperial anthologies. In fact, Yoritomo had a strong respect for the court culture of Kyōto.

The following piece was written when he traveled the Tōkai Highway.

Michi-sugara Fuji-no-kemuri-mo wakazariki haruru-ma-mo-naki sora-no-keshiki-ni

Along the way, the smoke of Fuji was indistinguishable from the clouds.

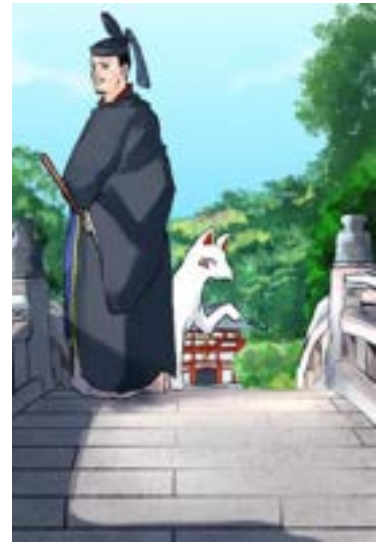
Yoritomo wanted to see Mt. Fuji's smoke. (At that time, the fumes from Fuji could sometimes be seen.) The image of Yoritomo gazing hard at the mountain top is disarming.

Tsurugaoka Hachiman Shrine cannot be missed when one visits Kamakura. Yoritomo's ancestors transferred their clan-deity Iwashimizu Hachiman Shrine to Yui-ga-hama from Kyōto, and Yoritomo moved the shrine to the current location. Yoritomo's tomb is twenty minutes' walk from Kamakura Station.

HŌJŌ Masako (1157-1225)

Masako was a daughter of HŌJŌ Tokimasa, and her younger brother was Yoshitoki. She married Yoritomo while in exile in Izu and gave birth to the second Shōgun Yoriie and the third Sanetomo. After Yoritomo died in 1199, she became a Buddhist nun. It was Masako that established the council system of thirteen senior statesmen, or the Thirteen Lords, in order to prevent Yoriie from becoming a dictator. She remained at the center of politics, even when her younger brother Yoshitoki was in power. During the Jōkyū Rebellion (1221), she gave an impassioned speech to the samurai before they headed toward Kyōto.

Jufuku Temple of Kamakura was built for MYŌAN Eisai by Masako on the site of the former residence of Yoritomo's father Yoshitomo. Now in back of the temple, there are cave tombs hollowed out in the side of a hill known as Mt. Genji. In one of them is set the five-ringed tower for Masako and Sanetomo.



MINAMOTO no Yoriie (1182-1204)

Yoriie was Yoritomo and Masako's eldest son. After his father died, a council system was instituted as "the Thirteen Lords" in order to restrict Yoriie's power and authority. In 1202, he was appointed as the second Shōgun, but was soon defeated in politics and exiled to Shuzen Temple in Izu. In 1204, Yoriie was assassinated while bathing. He was just twenty-three years old at that time. It is said that the murder was ordered by his grandfather, HŌJŌ Tokimasa. A monument for Yoriie stands in the Shuzen Temple yard. The temple also has Shigetsu House, a small shrine built by his mother Masako in order to appease Yoriie's soul.



MINAMOTO no Sanetomo (1192-1219)

Sanetomo's father was Yoritomo, and his mother HŌJŌ Masako. His elder siblings included Yoriie and Ōhime. Sanetomo became the third Shōgun in 1203.

He married a daughter of BŌMON Nobukiyo, the closest aide of Retired Emperor Go-Toba. So Sanetomo was familiar with the culture of the Kyōto nobility and was fond of waka poetry.

*Yononaka-wa tsune-ni-mogamo-na nagisa-kogu
ama-no-kobune-no tsunade kanashi-mo*
(*Kinkai-waka-shū; The Hundred Poems by One Hundred Poets*)

I hope this world would last forever. How lovely it is to see a fisherman's boat pulled along on the edge of the surf.



The scene might be Yuigahama, Kamakura and is an adaptation of an anonymous piece from Mutsu --- "*Michinoku-wa izuku-wa-aredo Shiogama-no ura-kogu fune-no tsunade kanashi-mo*" --- in the *Kokin-waka* collection. Sanetomo wrote the poem when he saw a fisherman on the Kamakura beach. It is interesting to see the peaceful contrast between a monarch on the top of society and a lowly laborer.

Sanetomo was politically very active, and he attempted to secure shōgun's power. That is why he clashed with HŌJŌ Yoshitoki and ŌE no Hiromoto, and gradually became isolated.

In 1219, Sanetomo was killed by Kugyō at Tsurugaoka Hachiman Shrine. Kugyō was a son of his elder brother Yoriie. Sanetomo was twenty-eight years old then.

MINAMOTO no Yoshitsune (1159-1189)

Yoshitsune was the ninth son of MINAMOTO no Yoshitomo and a half-brother of Yoritomo. His mother was Tokiwa Gozen. When young he was called Ushiwaka-maru, Shanaō-maru, and Kurō.

After the Heiji Rebellion, he was raised at Kurama Temple in Kyōto, and later lived in Ōshū, at FUJIWARA no Hidehira's mansion. In 1180 he was reunited with his brother Yoritomo and joined the MINAMOTO force. As "Deputy of the Kamakura Shōgun," Yoshitsune was the leader in the wars against the TAIRA clan. After suppressing KISO Yoshinaka, Yoshitsune defeated the TAIRA force at Ichi-no-tani, Yashima, and Dan-no-ura. He fought gloriously, but later fell out with Yoritomo and was not allowed to enter Kamakura. Asking for reconciliation, Yoshitsune sent the so-called Koshigoe letter from Manpuku Temple to his brother Shōgun, but it was in vain.



Eventually Yoshitsune rose against Yoritomo with the help of Retired Emperor Go-Shirakawa. The attempt failed, and Yoshitsune found refuge at FUJIWARA's residence in Ōshū. After FUJIWARA no Hidehira died, Hidehira's son Yasuhira attacked Yoshitsune, who killed himself at Koromogawa. He was thirty-one years old.

There remains no poem that was definitively written by Yoshitsune, but a few are believed to be his. One of them is this piece:

Isogedomo yuki-mo-yararezu kusa-makura Shizuka-ni-nareshi kokoro-naraini (Gikei-ki)
I try to hurry, but I cannot, because it has become my habit to travel and sleep quietly and to be with
Shizuka.

It is said that Yoshitsune wrote this sad poem at Mt. Yoshino, Nara, when he decided to part ways with his beloved Shizuka.

Shizuka Gozen (dates of birth and death unknown)

Shizuka was a daughter of Iso no Zenji, a shirabyōshi (i.e., female performer in male dress). Shizuka was Yoshitsune's concubine. Her life is detailed in *Azuma-kagami* and *Gikei-ki*.

When the conflict arose between Yoshitsune and his brother Yoritomo, Shizuka left Kyōto with Yoshitsune, but they parted ways at Yoshino. She was caught on her way back to Kyōto and sent to Kamakura instead.

When Yoritomo ordered her to dance at Tsurugaoka Hachiman Shrine, she sang a love song for Yoshitsune. Enraged Yoritomo threatened her life, but HŌJŌ Masako saved her.



Shizu ya, Shizu, Shizu-no odamaki kurikaeshi, mukashi-wo ima-ni nasuyoshi-mogana
(*Gikei-ki*)

I wish I could go back to the days when you called my name again and again, "Shizu, Shizu"!

Odamaki is a roll of hemp thread. It is turned again and again when one makes cloth.

Yoshino-yama, mine-no shirayuki fumi-wakete, irinishi hito-no ato-zo koishiki
(*Gikei-ki*)

I miss Master Yoshitsune; he has gone to the east, leaving footsteps on the white snow over the top of Mt. Yoshino.

Shizuka could never forget the snowy scene on Mt. Yoshino, when she saw Yoshitsune for the last time.

HATAKEYAMA Shigetada (1164-1205)

HATAKEYAMA Shigetada was born in the Musashi province (present-day Fukaya, Saitama). In 1180, when Yoritomo raised an army, Shigetada joined him at the age of seventeen.

Shigetada played an active role in attacking KISO Yoshinaka, defeating the TAIRA, and conquering Ōshū. He also contributed to the establishment of the Kamakura shōgunate. Yoritomo trusted him.

In *Azuma-kagami* and others works, Shigetada is described as a typical Kamakura samurai of courage and honesty. After Yoritomo's death, he was attacked by the HŌJŌ people and died in Futamatagawa (present-day Asahi, Yokohama).

It appears that Shigetada had a talent for music. According to *Azuma-kagami*, he played a bronze percussion when Shizuka Gozen danced at Tsurugaoka Hachiman Shrine.

Shigetada's mansion is said to have been located near the gate of the shōgunate home. Today a stone monument stands in Yuki-no-shita, Kamakura.



KISO Yoshitaka (MINAMOTO no Yoshitaka) (1173-1184)

Yoshitaka was KISO Yoshinaka's son. His mother was a daughter of NAKAHARA no Kanetō. In 1183, when Yoshinaka and Yoritomo were about to fight each other, eleven-year-old Yoshitaka was sent to Kamakura as a future husband of Ōhime, the six-year-old daughter of Yoritomo and Masako. In fact, He was sent to Kamakura as a hostage for the purpose of making peace.

In the following year, when the father Yoshinaka was attacked and killed by Yoritomo's force, there arose a plan to murder Yoshitaka, too. With the help of Ōhime and her mother Masako he escaped from Kamakura, only to be caught and killed at the Hacchō ferry crossing of Iruma River in Musashi province. He was only twelve years old.

The hill behind Jōraku Temple in Ōfuna has a mound said to be Yoshitaka's grave. Now a stone monument stands there.



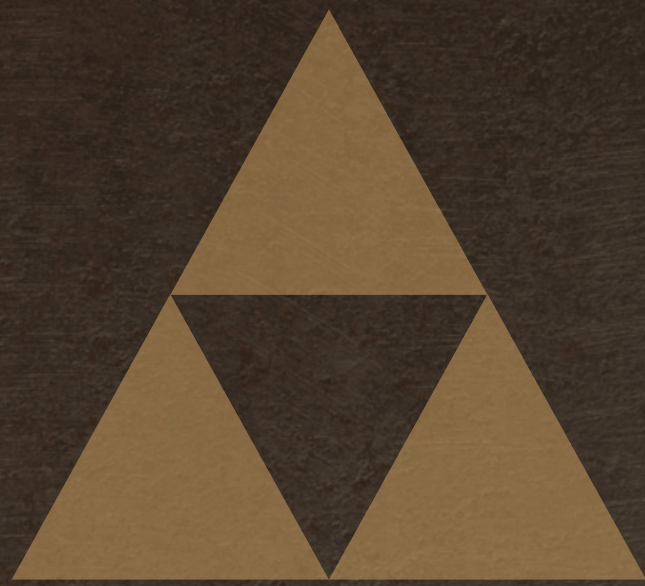
Ōhime (1178?-1197)

Ōhime is Yoritomo and Masako's eldest daughter. She was born when Yoritomo was exiled in Izu.

Yoshitaka, the eldest son of KISO Yoshinaka, was sent to her as her fiancé, but he was killed in a conflict between their fathers. She grieved so severely that she spent the rest of her life sick in bed. Her parents wanted her to marry ICHIJŌ Takayoshi but she refused. There was a plan to send her to the ladies' court of Retired Emperor Go-Toba, but it failed, too. She passed away at the age of twenty.

On a hill behind Jōraku Temple about fifteen minutes' walk from Ōfuna Station, there stands a miniature shrine said to be Ōhime's grave. Further up, there is another miniature shrine for Yoshitaka. Reportedly his head is buried there.





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