

"KAGEMUSHA."

Screenplay by Akira Kurosawa

Masato Ide

Directed by Akira Kurosawa

Cast of Characters:

Takeda Shingen (53 years old)

His double (a shadow figure)

Takeda Nobukado (45-48 years old)

Takeda Katsuyori (28-31 years old)

Takeda Takemaru (5-8 years old)

--- Samurai Generals ---

Yamagata Masakage (over 60 years old)

Baba Nobuharu (58-61 years old)

Naito Masatoyo (approx. 50 years old)

Kosaka Danjo (46-49 years old)

Hara Masatane (approx. 50 years old)

Atobe O-oinosuke (approx. 45 years old)

Oyamada Nobushige (35-38 years old)

--- Head Attendants ---

Tsuchiya Sohachiro

Zenjiro Amemiya

Jingoro Hara

--- Pages ---

Amari Okura

Tomono Mataichi

--- Shingen's Concubines ---

Oyunokata

Otsuyanokata

Takemaru's wetnurse

Takemaru's attendant

Oda Nobunaga (40-43 years old)

Niwa Nagahide (43-46 years old)

Mori Ranmaru (9-12 years old)

Tokugawa Ieyasu (32-35 years old)

Ishikawa Kazumasa

Honda Heihachi (26-29 years old)

Uesugi Kenshin (44 years old)

Taguchi Gyobu (Nobutora's messenger)

Foreign Priest

Head servant of Takeda

Head guard of Takeda

Guard A

Guard B

Guard C

Messenger

Soldier A

Soldier B

Soldier C

Soldier D

Soldier E

Doctor

Scout

Mounted messenger A

Mounted messenger B

Mounted messenger C

Recruited soldier A

Recruited soldier B

----- Spies -----

Puppeteer

Salt vendor

Begging monk

Farmer

Apprentice monk

Gun-armed soldier of the Noda Castle

Takigi Noh performers (main and support)

Takigi musicians (instrumental and vocal)

Takeda's retainers

Oda's retainers

Tokugawa's retainers

--- At Takeda's House ---

Relatives

Head footmen

Soldier with rank A

Soldier with rank B

Jailers

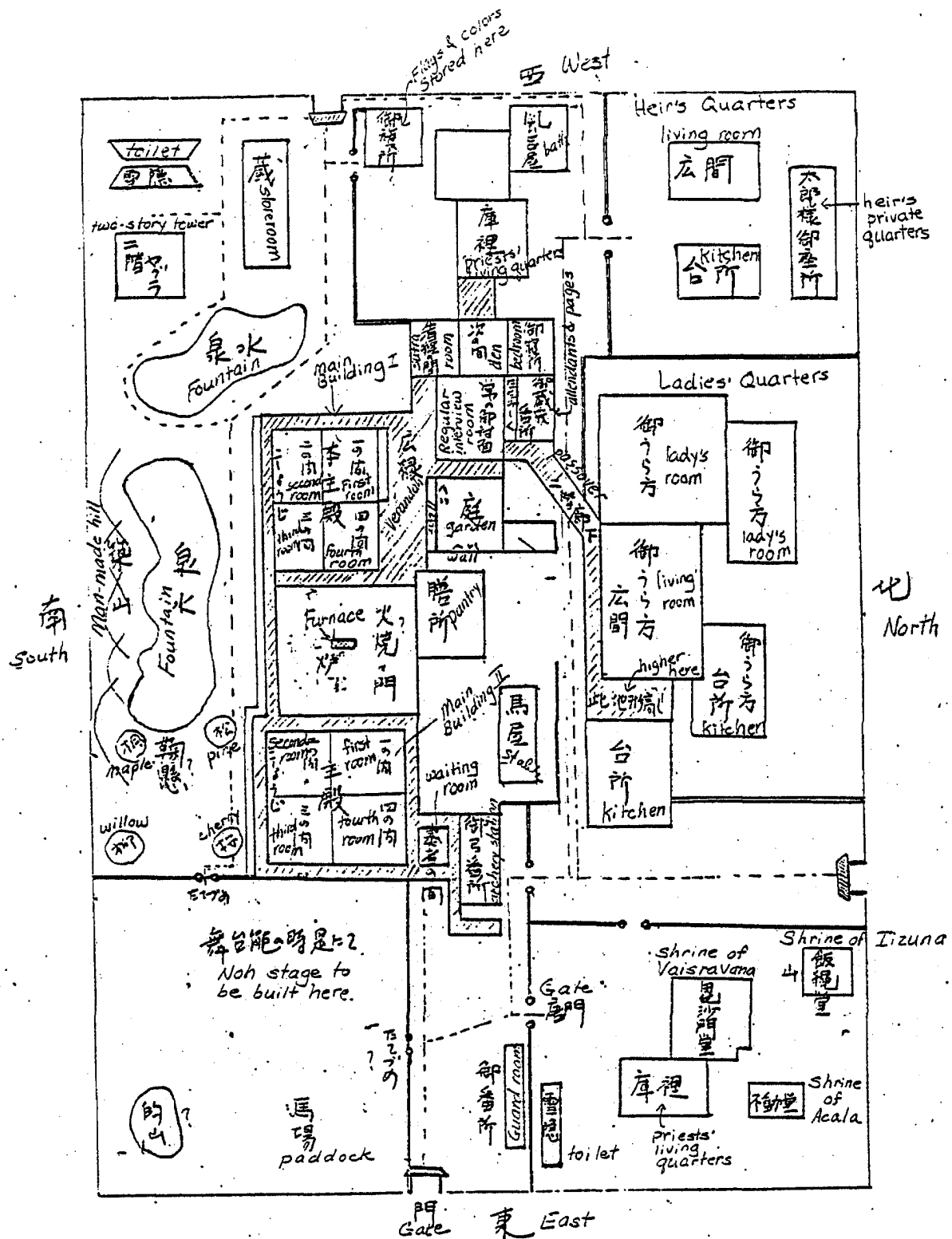
Maids

Craftsman

Buddhist priests in a funeral procession.

Others: Farmers and merchants

Note: Ages given represent Japanese method of counting,
sometimes a full year more than Western ages.



古絵圖 躑躅崎武田屋形平面圖

Antiquated drawing of the layout of the Takeda household at Tsutsujigasaki

PROLOGUE

* TAKEDA HOUSEHOLD IN TSUTSUJIGASAKI, DRAWING ROOM

Same person is seen in three positions.
One is seated on the elevated center place, another on a round pillow and yet another in a lower position on the wooden area. The three are identical in physical appearance, including costume and posture. Aura of the mysterious.

One on the elevation (Shingen) gazes at one on the wooden area.

"The resemblance is strong."

MAN ON THE ROUND PILLOW:

"No, it is more than that . . . It is like having an alter ego, my brother. I, who have acted as your double for so many years, cannot pass as you in daily attire. I can only be your double in armor."

SHINGEN:

(pointing with his chin to the man on the wooden area) "Where did you find him?"

NOBUKADO (on the round pillow):

"The dry river bed of River Kamanashi."

SHINGEN:

"River bed of the Kamanashi?"

NOBUKADO:

"Yes, he was to be crucified upside down when I happened on him. I thought he would be handy as your double and thus asked them to release him in my custody."

SHINGEN:

"Who is this man?"

NOBUKADO:

"A thief notorious all over our domain. Torture has failed to part his lips, but prosecutors surmise he must have killed some people."

SHINGEN:

"What did the prosecutors say about this man who looks so much like me?"

NOBUKADO:

"Nothing. Because I share your blood, I saw the resemblance. The way this man is dressed, this unattended face and hair, his rough speech, nobody would have ever thought he is like you. Even I was surprised at the remarkable resemblance when we dressed him up."

SHINGEN:

(gazing at the man for a moment) "What is he?"

NOBUKADO:

"Yes, he is too much like you. Maybe he is one of our father Nobutora's illegitimates . . . "

SHINGEN:

(eyes brighten)

NOBUKADO:

" . . . But this man is a drifter from the O-shu area. He must have nothing to do with father."

SHINGEN:

"Despite everything, Nobukado, do you not consider it rather absurd to pick up a condemned criminal for my double, even with this resemblance?"

Nobukado starts to say something, but the man on the wooden area laughs mockingly.

"Ha . . . I'm a petty thief stealing five here and ten there. I don't deserve to be damned by a great thief who has killed hundreds to rob others of their domains."

NOBUKADO:

"Quiet! You impolite imbecile!"

THIEF:

"I was to be killed anyway. With one foot in hell's boiling water, your yelling doesn't hurt me a bit. You can broil me or boil me, as you please!"

He tucks up his garment and crosses his legs in front of him in an informal manner. Nobukado, fuming at the thief's remarks, starts at his sword.

Shingen stops him and laughs quietly.

"You said it, you boor. It's alright. You can say anything you wish."

Impressed by Shingen's dignified and generous attitude, the thief falls silent.

SHINGEN:

"If you can't, I will. Yes. I am the biggest thief under this sun. Greedy and immoral. I will do anything to own this world. But know this: blood washes blood in this world. Unless someone takes charge and puts an order to things, the flow of blood on this land will be ceaseless and the earth will be covered by corpses. You understand that, boor?"

The thief sits correctly again. Shingen, glancing at the thief, speaks to Nobukado.

"This man spoke up to me without hesitation. We may have use for him. You will be in charge."

Stands up.
Nobukado bows low and the thief does the same.

* MAIN TITLE

K A G E M U S H A

* NODA CASTLE

Under a falling stone wall, an entrance to an excavation site is seen.

Men are carrying out excavated soil in baskets on their backs. Some men are entering with empty baskets. The two lines are long, reminiscent of processions of ants. There are men in armor giving orders. Suddenly, from the hole, water gushes out. Laborers are swept out and away from the hole.

They are covered by mud and almost at the point of death as they are swept up in the gushing water. All rejoice and cry out.

Foreman in armor notices this and ^{with} light, dance-like steps, descends the stone steps.

* INTERIOR OF NODA CASTLE. PATH LEADING TO NI-NO-MARU

Foreman runs. On the cobblestone path, there are

traces of excavation and on top of the soil and stones, soldiers are resting. They notice the foreman running and start yelling.

"What happened?"

"What is it?"

FOREMAN:

"Water! We hit the main building's water supply!"

Exclamations from all present.

* ENTRANCE OF NI-NO-MARU

Heavily guarded by men.
Foreman comes running.
A warrior on guard lowers his lance.

"What is it?"

* INTERIOR OF NI-NO-MARU

Wooden floor with exposed beams on ceiling.
Many flags including Shingen's coat-of-arms. In front of the one on the higher position, Nobukado is seated in the center with Takeda Katsuyori, head samurai, Baba, Yamagata, Kosaka, Naito, Oyamada, etc. All are attired in armor and studying a drawing of the layout of Noda Castle.

"I have something to report."
Messenger is seen with lowered head at entrance.

NOBUKADO:

"Proceed."

MESSENGER:

"The Kanayama group has hit upon the waterway to the Main Building."

All look at each other.

NOBUKADO:

"You are dismissed."

Messenger takes his leave.
Nobukado glances at all present.

"Well, then this is the end of that castle."

BABA:

"It will be good if it works out that way . . ."

YAMAGATA:

"We thought it was an easy prey and surrounded it. But 20 days have already passed. Even if we cut off their water supply, Suganuma will not surrender that easily."

KOSAKA:

"That is right. We hired the gold miners to dig to Ni-No-Maru, San-No-Maru and now to the Main Building. But they are all cooped up in the Main Building, keeping quiet."

Looks away.

* NI-NO-MARU, YUMI-HAZAMA ROOM

Quiet Main Building can be seen through the opening.

* NI-NO-MARU, LARGE ROOM

All present look up at the Main Building, shown in the last frame.

HARA:

"And what's more, they play a flute for us every night. Even though they are the enemy, I must admit they are very talented."

OYAMADA:

"The flute is played by an expert. Even our people are so impressed, they look forward to it when night falls."

Katsuyori listens with irritation.

"Gentlemen, I suppose we should report to my father that the water supply of the main building has been sabotaged."

YAMAGATA:

"Your father, the Honorable Shingen, is here."

Looks at Nobukado in front of the main flag.

"Besides ourselves, who have been yours for generations, and some retainers, all - including our soldiers - have been led to believe he is here with us. We cannot send a courier to your father now."

Katsuyori grimaces.

* DAIEN TEMPLE, GATE LEADING UP A SLOPE

Over the roof, Noda Castle is seen. Yamagata dismounts from his horse at the gate and a gaunt soldier runs out to take the bridle.

* DAIEN TEMPLE, GARDEN

Pervasive silence.

Yamagata climbs the cobbled steps towards the temple. His eyes are very sharp and watchful. Here and there hiding behind trees and bushes are armed soldiers. They drop to their knees as Yamagata passes. Somewhere in the distance, a horse neighs and sneezes. The temple is heavily guarded.

* TEMPLE, CORRIDOR LEADING TO READING ROOM

Several soldiers guard a corridor facing an inner garden.

* TEMPLE, READING ROOM

Shingen reads papers at a desk in front of a low window. He is not wearing armor, but he looks exactly like Nobukado, who was seen at Noda Castle.

VOICE:

"Yamagata Masakage is here."

SHINGEN:

"Send him in."

Yamagata enters and bows deeply on the floor.

"I am pleased to see you in good health . . ."

SHINGEN:

(interrupting) ". . . I'm not!"

Scornfully. Pushes a letter toward Yamagata.

"Asakura Yoshikage writes that he wishes to pull his army out of the campaign. 'My men are exhausted and the winter is severe. We are not well-equipped . . . ' Hah! These are the same hardships Nobunaga is facing. If Yoshikage pulls out, it will delight Nobunaga. No, Ieyasu will be joyous. Nobunaga will send a part of his army to aid Ieyasu and they will jointly oppose me. Yoshikage is treasonous."

Shingen speaks heatedly.

Yamagata, listening to him, reads the letter. He looks up.

"How old are you, my lord?"

SHINGEN:

" ? ? "

YAMAGATA:

"I believe you are 53 years old."

SHINGEN:

"What of it?"

YAMAGATA:

"At your age, you shouldn't act like a spoiled five-year-old brat."

[Relationships between Shingen and his top aides are not structured vertically like master and servants. Instead, they speak frankly to each other. The Takeda household is characterized by the union of the master and his men and in this, the greatness of Shingen can be witnessed.]

YAMAGATA:

"This is an age in which people come and go. It's a human trait to go left today and right tomorrow because of the promise of personal gain. So I am surprised that you, of all people, should be angered about this. No, I am saddened. With such a narrow mind, you can't take over the world and rule from the capital. You should recall all your men and pack up for home. You are, after all, a mountain monkey from Kai. You should be picking chestnuts in the Kai mountains."

SHINGEN:

"Alright. I get your point. Stop it . . . Well, what do you want?"

YAMAGATA:

"We cut off the water supply to the Main Building of Noda Castle."

SHINGEN:

"Hmmm. And do you think the Castle will surrender now?"

YAMAGATA:

"Well . . . rain and snow will fall. It will hold on for a while . . . Sukanuma Sadamitsu, who is in charge of the Castle, has guts. He listens to the flute played nightly."

SHINGEN:

"I've heard about the flute . . . Do you think he'll listen to it tonight, even after the water main has been destroyed?"

YAMAGATA:

"Yes, if we hear the flute tonight, it means the people in there are still at ease and the Castle will not fall yet. If there is no sound of a flute? Yes, the fall is very near."

SHINGEN:

"Alright . . . I want to be there to see if the flute is played tonight. Prepare for my arrival."

* SKY

Winter moon shines very brightly.

* NODA CASTLE, MAIN BUILDING

Stands tall in the dark night sky. Here and there, bonfires are seen. Under the stone wall, Takeda's army swarms. They are seated here and there waiting for something.

Lance heads, bows, guns and flag poles carrying the Takeda insignia are reflected in the blue moonlight and the red flames of the bonfires. Otherwise, an all-pervasive dark and quiet. After some time, the sound of a flute wafts from the main building. It sounds as though it is descending from the dark winter sky with the blue moon - clear and melodious.

The Takeda army men listen intently. Reflected in the bonfire, their faces bear the wear and tear of the long, hard battles they have experienced. Traces of nostalgia for their homes are seen.

Suddenly, a report of gunfire tears through this group listening quietly to the flute.

The report rips through the frozen air, echoes on the walls and cobbled steps and the quiet group erupts into cries and quick movements.

* TITLE:

January 1573

* MOUNTED COURIER RUSHES ON HIS WAY

The Tokugawa household insignia is seen on his back.

* ENTRANCE TO HAMAMATSU CASTLE

Courier hurries in.

* A ROOM IN THE CASTLE

Tokugawa Ieyasu leans forward.

"What? Lord Shingen?"

COURIER:

"Yes. He was shot at Noda Castle and it is reported that he was badly wounded."

IEYASU:

"It is not known if he is dead or alive?"

COURIER:

"No, my lord."

Sakai Tadatsugu is seated among Ieyasu's aides.

"My lord, at any rate, it is a god's assistance to the Tokugawa clan . . ."

IEYASU:

"Silence. It is true I was defeated in the Battle of Sambogawara. But I am not desperate enough to rejoice in our enemy's misfortune."

[Ieyasu is 32 years old at this time. However, he possesses maturity far beyond his age and being a very cautious man, nobody is privy to his real thoughts.]

IEYASU:

"Shingen possesses excellent skill in archery and he is just over 50. If the message is true, it is regrettable."

Ishikawa Kazumasa interrupts to moderate between Ieyasu and Sakai.

"My lord, you cannot censure a member of the Tokugawa clan for being joyous about Shingen's misfortune. We are allies with Nobunaga, who is now fighting a very difficult war with Asai of Kotani, Asakura, Shogun Yoshiaki of the capital, uprising in Ishiyama, and Shingen in Mikawa. My lord, this news must be relayed to Nobunaga."

IEYASU:

"I don't think it's necessary. It is an important event and Nobunaga must have heard of it already. Nobunaga is keeping a sharp eye on Shingen's every movement."

* GIFU CASTLE, GATE

Mounted courier with insignia of Kiri (Nobunaga's) rushes in.

* GIFU CASTLE, PADDOCK

Nobunaga is naked and training a horse. Stops the horse.

"What? Shingen is dead?"

In front of him, Niwa Nagahida kneels.

"Yes. Just now we have received a message from our spy that it is rumored that Shingen was shot at Noda Castle and died . . ."

NOBUNAGA:

"Fools! I don't have ears for rumors. Is Shingen with us on this earth or not? That is the question."

Jumps off the horse.

"O-ran, bring me a stool."

Mori Ranmaru, a page, who has been in the corner of the paddock, runs forward with a stool.

"Wipe my sweat off."

Nobunaga sits down and turns to Niwa.

"Listen carefully. For this Nobunaga, there is one source of fear in this world. That is the mountain monkey from Kai."

[Nobunaga is 40 years old, reaching the age when one's mind is mature. However, he is an open man with a daredevil temperament. What he says and does are violently active. He is a thundering man, quite the opposite from Ieyasu.]

NOBUNAGA:

"That monk. He's an obstacle. It'll help me if he's eliminated. We can go to the capital and have a good nap. Use every means to find out if Shingen is dead or alive!"

Speaking these words to Niwa, he turns back to Ranmaru,

wiping his back, and yells.

"Hey you! Use some more strength. More!"

* KASUGAYAMA CASTLE

In deep snow.

* KASUGAYAMA CASTLE, A ROOM

Kenshin, eating green tea-covered rice, looks shocked and throws down his chopsticks.

"What? Shingen dead?"

Puts down his bowl and falls silent.
Tears roll down his cheeks onto the floor.

"He was my worthy enemy . . . it is a loss of a great warrior. He was a real hero, a real man."

[Kenshin is 44 years old. He has the reputation of being a moral general and his character is straight and emotional. He is almost naive and idealistic. It can be assumed he mourned the death of Shingen most.]

KENSHIN:

"Let this be relayed to the entire household. There will be no merriment or music for the next three days. We will mourn the death of Shingen and hold a ritual for the god of war and weaponry."

Kenshin quietly stands up and opens the window. Silently gazes at the scenery from the window.

* FROM THE WINDOW

Snow falls silently.

* SANSHU KAIDO ROAD

Takeda's armies make their way despite a cold wind. It is a retreat, as can be deduced from the sad expressions on the faces of the soldiers and their heavy steps.

First army: Black-garment horsemen . . . Wind Corps
Second army: Foot soldiers with long lances . . . Wood Corps
Third army: Red-garment horsemen . . . Fire Corps

Flags bearing the Takeda squares on black, green and red backgrounds, billow in the icy wind.

Private talk among soldiers:

"We came a long, long way and surrounded a castle. Why retreat now?"

"The Castle was going to fall at any moment and they started peace talks which saved the lives of all in the Castle. That's no tough war. Too soft."

"I guess there's more to it."

"Then there's the rumor. Our master was shot at . . ."

"Stop! That's what the enemy spy is trying to spread."

"That's right. You saw the notice about that. You'll lose your neck if you talk like that, serving the enemy's purpose."

"Hey, hey. Open your sleepy eyes and look carefully. Our master's over there."

Far in the rear behind the Wind, Wood and Fire Corps is the Mountain Corps. Shingen is surrounded by several bright-colored flags and aides and is advancing on his horse.

Actually it is not Shingen, but Nobukado. He looks back worriedly and views the mountains.

* IN THE FAR MOUNTAINS, A TEMPLE

* HORAI TEMPLE, IOIN, EXTERIOR

Carriage. Soldiers stand guard.

* A ROOM IN THE TEMPLE

Arm rest on bedding. Shingen, with white bandage on chest, sits and leans on the arm rest. From his posture and expression, it can be seen that his condition is far from good.

Darkened expressions on faces of Katsuyori, Baba, Yamagata, Kosaka, Oyamada and others surrounding Shingen.

SHINGEN:

"It is regrettable. I guess I will not see the Takeda flag fly in the capital."

KATSUYORI:

(impatiently) "Father, what are you saying . . ."

SHINGEN:

"Don't get excited. It has been my lifelong dream to place the Takeda flag in the capital. But, if I should die now, do not dwell on this dream of mine. If it is known that I've departed, Oda, Tokugawa and other enemies will

rush into our domain. Do not reveal my demise for three years and guard the domain well. Do not make a false move. If my orders are not observed and you move our soldiers in vain, it will mean the end of the Takeda clan. Listen well, all. This is my last will."

Nobody speaks.

Shingen, with extreme exhaustion and changed face, laughs deliriously and with bright eyes.

"This Shingen is not dead yet. I've spoken as I did because of the one in the a million chance that I should go. No, I won't die."

But these words give an impression of impending death to all present. Heavy air sets in.

* HAMAMATSU CASTLE, FRONT OF MAIN BUILDING

Ieyasu, his top aides Ishikawa and Sakai, and footman arrive. One part of the main castle is a gunnery and various loopholes for guns are seen. Footman-like man stops at a loophole.

"At Noda Castle, the loophole was just like this one."

ISHIKAWA:

"And in which direction did you aim?"

MAN:

"A corner of Ninomaru stone wall, a few steps up from Sannomaru . . . Yes, if I locate similarly here, the distance and direction is equivalent to the small pine tree at the foot of that watch tower."

SAKAI:

"You say that during the day, you saw Takeda men construct a seat there."

MAN:

"Yes. They tied three bamboo poles with white paper and put up a three-legged place. If I may be permitted to be proud, I thought that would be the spot where the enemy lord would come to listen to the flute . . . So, I set up my gun and waited until nightfall."

IEYASU:

"Do as you did then."

MAN:

"Yes, my lord."

Sakai gives the man the gun and a fuse he was carrying. Man puts the gun into the hole.

"If I set it up like this, the enemy can't see it."

Picks up a stone and steadies the gun.

"Of course I couldn't see anything at night because there was no bonfire or other light source . . ."

Man lights the fuse and approaches the gun.

" . . . The sound of the flute started and after a while . . . I did this."

Extends his hand to the trigger. (the)
Ieyasu and others intently watch a small pine tree.
The man pulls the trigger.
Bang!!

* UNDER THE WATCH TOWER

Top of the small pine tree is blown off.

* BACK TO GUN GALLEY

Ieyasu, Ishikawa and Sakai look at each other.

SAKAI:

"Well, I guess we can assume that Shingen is badly wounded."

ISHIKAWA:

"Wait. If that's true, the Takedas would have killed all in Noda Castle. No, they would at least have searched for the man who shot and killed Shingen."

IEYASU:

"Wait, wait. They can't act because they have to make it look like nothing has happened to Shingen. Takeda made peace with Noda Castle, which was on the verge of collapse, and withdrew their men. It is a strange move. There's something more to it."

* SANSHU KAIDO ROAD, Kambara Toge Pass

About 50 soldiers surround a carriage and hurry along a mountain road. Carriage is transported by sturdy soldiers and four more pull it with ropes.

In command is Yamagata, who is mounted.

Beside him are doctors carrying medicine boxes.
Doctor speaks to Yamagata.

"If you hurry so, the patient will suffer. Let us have
a rest here. . . ."

Yamagata raises his hand and stops the procession.
Carriage is put down softly.
Yamagata dismounts and orders the others away. Kneels at
the side of the carriage.

"My lord."

No answer. Yamagata raises his voice. "My lord." No
answer yet. He opens the door to the carriage.
Shingen's head is slumped down, his eyes closed.
Yamagata is astonished.

"My lord!"

Shingen opens his eyes suddenly and looks around.

"Oh, we passed Seta Bridge . . . This is Yamashina . . . Oh,
I can see Kyoto."

Yamagata, aghast, gazes at Shingen.

SHINGEN:

"One more push . . . the capital . . . my flag
in the capital!"

With an eerie obsession, Shingen, as though becoming a ghost,
tries to rise and falls on his face.

Yamagata still gazes.
A doctor approaches.

"May I take his pulse"

He is frightened after looking in the carriage.

YAMAGATA:

(looks sharply at doctor) "Leave him alone
now. He's having a good rest."

Shuts door of carriage.

* SANSHU KAIDO, JIBUZAKA

Retreating Takeda armies.
A sudden gust of wind carries sand, which envelops the men.
The sand is blown into the sky and although it is high noon,
it becomes semi-dark.

The Takeda men stop their procession and frightened, look up into the sky. A strange purplish sun can be seen over the Takeda flags, blowing in the strong wind.

* TAKEDA ARMIES CAMPING AT NIGHT, HEADQUARTERS

Surrounding curtains with Takeda insignias blow in the strong wind, reflecting the bonfire. They signify the perturbed minds of the Takeda generals and the difficult future of the Takeda clan.

The generals converse in low tones and their faces, lined and shadowed with the moving flames of the bonfire, show the importance of the conference.

KATSUYORI:

"I know it is his last will. But I fear that we cannot hide the fact for three long years. Then, there are some who saw his body in the carriage."

YAMAGATA:

"I have done the needful. The ones I cannot trust, I have done away with. The rest can be trusted. They will never talk."

KATSUYORI:

"But Oda and Tokugawa also have spies and they cannot be prevented from reporting."

YAMAGATA:

(violently) "Can or cannot. That doesn't matter. We must do everything possible to allow the late master's will to prevail."

BABA:

"Yes. Furthermore, Nobukado has been the late master's double on many occasions and has never been suspected by the enemies. I think the young master's worries are unfounded as long as we have Nobukado."

KATSUYORI:

"Many of our people, especially retainers, know that Nobukado has been my father's double. To trick the enemies, we must first make our own people believe my father is alive. Even with Nobukado here, I don't believe our people can be deceived."

OYAMADA:

"That is right. Remember we had to circulate

a harsh notice because rumor of the master dying was spreading among our people at Noda Castle."

NOBUKADO:

"I see. With only myself, the fact of my brother's death cannot be suppressed. But, if we have another double, of course, it is an entirely different story."

KATSUYORI:

"Another double . . . "

NOBUKADO:

"Yes. I have one which I have prepared for this kind of exigency. Please see him first."

Nobukado stands up, goes to the outer curtain and calls out.

"Come in."

A warrior with cheek-guards enters and stands on one side. Nobukado points to a stool where he had been seated.

"Here."

The warrior sits down.

NOBUKADO:

"Take your cheek-guards off and show your face."

The warrior takes off the piece of armor. All present involuntarily start to kneel. The warrior resembles Shingen strikingly. While the generals gaze at him, the double - as introduced in the prologue - sits in a pose very similar to Shingen.

On the insignia on the curtain, his shadow is doubled and both wave in the wind.

* SANSHU KAIDO, KOMANBA

Crowd gathers on the road to a nearby village. Notice board.

THIS IS A SPY OF THE TOKUGAWA CLAN.
BECAUSE HE SPREAD A FALSE RUMOR REGARDING
THE HEALTH OF LORD SHINGEN, HE HAS
BEEN TREATED IN THIS MANNER.

MILITARY PROSECUTORS OF THE TAKEDA CLAN OF KAI

Under the board is a naked man, who has been cruelly executed. The man is a doctor who was with Shingen's entourage when he died.

In the crowd, a puppeteer speaks to a farmer.

"It's a terrible thing to do. Did the Takeda armies pass through here already?"

FARMER:

"Yeah. Day before yesterday."

PUPPETEER:

"And you saw Lord Shingen?"

FARMER:

"You must be kidding. I was trembling in my house. So many soldiers. For about half a day, thundering hoofs and clanging armor. It was like a river overflowing."

PUPPETEER:

"Where did they stay last night?"

FARMER:

(alarmed) "I don't know anything."

Farmers disperse into the village.
Puppeteer and salt vendor remain near the board.

PUPPETEER:

(whispering) "At the end of this village, to the right of the mountain, there's a temple called Chogakuji."

SALT VENDOR:

"They must have camped there last night."

PUPPETEER:

"I'll hurry through the mountains . . ."

SALT VENDOR:

"Okay."

The two part as though they are simple travelers who met by chance.

* ROAD IN THE MOUNTAINS

Abandoning his puppeteer's gear, the puppeteer runs. His agility is that of professional spies and resembles some kind of animal.

* CHOGAKUJI TEMPLE, KITCHEN

Salt vendor enters.

"You want to buy some salt."

Saying this, he looks around the kitchen sharply. The kitchen is in the tell-tale condition of a large encampment the previous night - many empty rice sacks, numerous soiled utensils, etc.

Salt vendor, after taking all this in, cries out again.

"Is anybody here?"

"Yees."

With a surprisingly big voice, a small apprentice monk comes out.

"Oh, it's the salt vendor. . . We still have some."

SALT VENDOR:

"I came in vain then . . . I heard in the village that the Takeda men camped here and thus thought you might have run out of salt."

Sits down on the wooden area.

"And you saw Lord Shingen?"

APPRENTICE MONK:

"See him! All of us at the temple were crammed into a barn all night. We trembled with fear and the cold."

* MOUNTAIN OF ROCKS

Spy (puppeteer) comes running and looks down as he hears shouts from below.

* AT FOOT OF MOUNTAIN

River runs through at the foot of the mountain and another mountain opposite. On the dry riverbed, the Takeda men are taking a rest. They shout cheers as Shingen, mounted and with all his flags and generals, proceeds.

Some soldiers try to approach Shingen as they shout.

* MOUNTAIN OF ROCKS

Spy is flat on his stomach and concentrates on the scene below.

* ROAD AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN

Shingen's double is astride the horse with dignity. Right behind him is Nobukado on horseback. Since Nobukado is known as Shingen's double, their appearance together proves that the double is the real Shingen.

Shingen's retainers are also deceived. Their morale is high. However, this Shingen does not seem to be used to the horse and his lack of poise sometimes betrays his horsemanship. Nobukado looks worried about this.

* MOUNTAIN OF ROCKS

Spy, who had been studying the occurrences, starts to climb and notices another man flat on his stomach nearby. Surprise. The other man is in the attire of a begging monk. With dangerous eyes, gazes at the puppeteer spy and

"You from the Tokugawa clan?"

PUPPETEER SPY:

(nods)

BEGGING MONK:

"I'm from Oda's . . . I don't understand . . . I saw a carriage rushing to the north with heavy guard and thought it was Shingen's. I followed it . . . The entourage included doctors so I was sure Shingen was shot (looks down) . . . Then this."

PUPPETEER SPY:

"Well, I guess the carriage didn't contain Shingen."

BEGGING MONK:

"Did you see the executed man at Komanba?"

PUPPETEER SPY:

"Yes."

BEGGING MONK:

"That's one of the doctors who was with the carriage."

PUPPETEER SPY:

" ? "

BEGGING MONK:

"Strange, isn't it? Why did the doctor get killed?"

They look at each other and then down again.

* PATH AT FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN

Shingen and his aides advance.
Soldiers stop and kneel.
Nobukado draws close to Shingen's double on the horse and whispers.

"Don't lower your head. Just raise your whip."

Shingen's double obeys.

* GIFU CASTLE

Cherry trees.

* A ROOM IN GIFU CASTLE

Nobunaga yells at Niwa in one of his bursts of temper.

NOBUNAGA:

" . . . Imbecile! In the morning he was dying. In the evening you tell me he is alive and kicking. And, now at night, it might not be true. Are they all dummies - these spies? The old dogs can't even smell . . . Shingen must have had a good reason to pull back his soldiers after pushing hard through Mikawa . . . Dead . . . sick . . . one or the other. If he is well, he will push towards the capital and now be attacking us in this castle."

* INA TAKATO, KENPUKUJI TEMPLE, MAIN HALL

In front of the altar, a carriage. On top of the carriage is a large cargo wrapped in a brocade cloth. A Buddha figure is seen in the dim light. A thief with a half-covered face emerges from the darkness. He picks up and wraps precious-looking objects.

He looks around and notices the cargo in brocade. Opens wrapping. A large pot is revealed. On the side it is marked "lacquer from Kai," but the thief cannot read. Taking a candle holder in one hand and muffling the sound with a softer object, he starts to break the side of the pot. He seems to be an expert and when the pot finally breaks into two, a complete set of armor is revealed.

It is as though the warrior is seated in the pot. The thief takes up a light and places it nearby. Frightened. Under the head piece, a man's face. It is the death mask of Shingen,

cleaned and mummified by lacquer . . . it is a terrifying face with the lacquer and the dim light flickering on it. The thief jumps back and kicks a gong nearby, which rings.

The door opens and a guard runs in.

"Thief!"

Soldier captures the thief.

"Who are you? A spy?"

Takes off the cloth covering the thief's face. Surprised, jumps back. The thief is Shingen. But, the soldier is astonished when he looks in the direction of the thief's gaze, because it is the lacquered Shingen. The soldier is one of the attendants, Tsuchiya Sohachiro. He is agape, looking from one Shingen to the other.

* LARGE HALL OF THE TEMPLE

Shingen's double is bound up with ropes. Beside him is Tsuchiya, the soldier who arrested the double. On higher seats are Katsuyori, Nobukado, Baba, Kosaka, Naito, Oyamada, etc.

KATSUYORI:

"I want to hear from Nobukado first. It is astonishing to use such a thief, who was to be executed, as my father's double."

NOBUKADO:

"Your father knew who this double was and approved. He was placed under my custody."

KATSUYORI:

" . . . "

NOBUKADO:

"Since then I had him by my side and did my best to train him . . . But, bad is always bad. Trying to steal and escape . . . "

KATSUYORI:

"We can't continue using him."

NOBUKADO:

"But there's no other way . . . Because of this man, all our people thought that Lord Shingen is alive and never even doubted it."

YAMAGATA:

"We must obey the late Shingen's will to hide his demise for three years. That is the most important thing. We cannot be choosy about the means."

KATSUYORI:

"However, how can we use him if he deploras the role and tries to escape?"

Nobukado turns to Shingen's double.

"You realize that you cannot continue living since you saw the corpse of the late Shingen . . . But if you agree to play the part of the double well for the next three years, you will be rewarded lavishly.

Double studies Nobukado with sly eyes.

NOBUKADO:

"How about it? You want to die here . . . or live and look forward to your dream of becoming rich. Think about it. You'll be pampered for the next three years as our master. How about it?"

DOUBLE:

"It's not bad . . . but . . . I can't be sure when the time comes."

NOBUKADO:

"A warrior has no double tongue."

DOUBLE:

"Well, I wonder. Servants kill their masters . . . parents their children brothers their brothers . . . in such a world, warriors do betray. I will be pampered alright while I'm needed, but after that, my head rolls and that's the end."

NOBUKADO:

"You think that of me? I, who nursed you along intimately for the entire year?"

DOUBLE:

"Wait a minute. I'm not saying that you'd let me down. After all, you saved me from being executed and I haven't forgotten that. But the others, I'm not so sure of them."

NOBUKADO:

"Silence! These are the famous warriors of the Takeda clan. Before all gods of war and weaponry, we swear we do not make false promises."

YAMAGATA:

"That's enough. A louse can only have a louse's thoughts. He will never understand our feelings, even if you talked at much greater length. Remove the ropes and let him go."

KATSUYORI:

"What? He saw the body of my father. If you set him free, my father's death will be known immediately."

YAMAGATA:

"I said that's enough. Tomorrow morning we will arrive at Suwa and as was also willed, your father's body will be sunk in Lake Suwa. After that, we will inform the Takeda clan of what has occurred."

Everybody is quiet.

YAMAGATA:

"Therefore, we do not bother to kill this man."

Nobukado turns to double.

"You have served well until now. I thank you."

Even the thief is moved by the sincerity in Nobukado's words and as his ropes are removed by Tsuchiya, he looks at everyone's downhearted and suffering faces.

* SHORE OF LAKE SUWA

A boat carrying a large pot goes out on the lake, thick with morning mist. Katsuyori, Yamagata, Baba, Kosaka and Naito accompany the pot. Tsuchiya is handling the oars.

Melancholy sound of oars.

On the shore where the sound is heard, Nobukado and others kneel with hands on the ground, seeing the boat off.

A little distance away, a dilapidated fisherman's shack is seen. Hiding behind the shack is the double in cheap soldier's attire. He stands there looking from the boat to the men on shore. For those who know what has transpired, it is a touching scene.

From the double's face and poise, it is seen he is much moved. Finally the boat melts into the mist and the sound of something heavy being lowered into the water is heard.

Nobukado and others on the shore bow low and the mist envelops their figures. The double also kneels and puts his hands together, still looking at the lake.

From the mist on the lake, the boat emerges. It is not carrying the pot any longer.

Double gazes at it.
Then voices.

"Now I understand."

Double, surprised, peeks into the shack.

* INTERIOR OF THE SHACK

Puppeteer spy from Tokugawa and the begging monk spy from Oda are in the corner talking in low voices. They look from the boat to Nobukado and the others.

"We thought the contents of the pot were war loot, but they wouldn't dispose of loot in a lake."

"And those Takeda men. It means something."

"Right. It's Shingen's body in the pot."

"So the Shingen we saw in Komanba was a double."

"That's it."

The two get up and go outside.

* EXTERIOR OF THE SHACK

The double hides and seeing that the two have gone, runs towards Nobukado and the others.

* SHORE OF THE LAKE

Nobukado and others turn around, surprised by the running footsteps.

Double comes running.

"Look out! Two spies observed everything that happened here. They know what was in the pot. Hurry and kill them . . . or . . ."

NOBUKADO:

"Go away . . . We are going to announce to the whole clan about the master's death . . . We know it will be revealed to the enemy sooner or later."

The double gazes at Nobukado peevishly . . . he is reminiscent of a dog which has been treated coolly after coming forward with a wagging tail.

NOBUKADO:

"I told you to go away."

Double starts to depart but notices the boat on the lake and stops. He runs back to Nobukado and gets down on the ground, both hands on the soil.

NOBUKADO:

"What's the matter? Do you want to be paid for your services?"

DOUBLE:

"No . . . Please use me . . . I don't want any reward . . . I just want you to use me (points at the surface of the lake) I just want to be useful to him!"

The double's eyes, as he looks up at Nobukado, contain no hint of deception. Nobukado also looks into the double's face. Two study each other.

* SUWA SHRINE, PATH LEADING TO BUILDING

Notice board

NOTICE

- A LARGE BOTTLE OF WINE HAS BEEN DONATED TO THE WATER DRAGON GOD OF SUWA THIS MORNING.

- A NOH PLAY WILL BE DEDICATED TO THE GREAT GOD OF SUWA THIS EVENING.

THESE ARE IN DIRECT ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORDERS OF LORD SHINGEN, WHO BELIEVES THAT ALL GODS OF WARS HAVE FAVORED OUR CLAN IN THE VICTORIOUS BATTLE FROM WHICH WE ARE NOW RETURNING.

FURTHERMORE, SHINGEN HAS GRANTED OFF-DUTY MEN PERMISSION TO VIEW THE NOH PLAY.

April 30, 1573

Military Affairs Officer of the Takeda Clan of Kai

Gathered crowds study the notice.

SOLDIER A:

"I was so sure that the pot contained treasures gained in the war, but it was wine . . . what a pity."

SOLDIER B:

"I wish I were a fish . . . The fish of Suwa are feasting tonight on the Dragon God's leftovers."

In the crowd are the puppeteer spy and begging monk spy. They look at each other.

* SUWA SHRINE, GARDEN

Takigi Noh is being performed.

'Tamura,' Katsu Shura - dance of the brave.

In the light from the burning logs, the mask with white at the head and the gold and silver-threaded half-coat are brilliant.

In the garden among cedar trees, which must have been there for ages, soldiers crowd to enjoy the excellent performance. Behind them are farmers and merchants viewing the play. Among them are the two spies, intent on gazing at one spot. They are studying the front middle seat of the Noh stage for Shingen's double is seated there.

The double sits there with proper dignity and at his sides are Takeda's top aides. His poise and the aides' presence adds credence to the existence of Shingen. It is hard to believe it is a double.

But when the Noh play progresses to the point when the lyrics say:

"Cross Seta Karahashi with a clammering sound . . . "

Yamagata involuntarily wipes away tears. He was reminded of his late master who, just before his death, said that he thought he had crossed Seta bridge. Thinking of the late master's untimely death, his tears run.

* OLD DRAWING OF LAYOUT OF TAKEDA HOUSE IN TSUTSUJIGASAKI

In Yamato-e fashion, the drawing attached here will be shown as a bird's eye view.

Focus on a northwest corner of this drawing.

* A ROOF, KIRIZUMA STYLE

Carp ornaments for the annual boys' festival blows on the rooftop.

* TAKEDA HOUSE, ROOM OF THE HEIR, INTERIOR

Armor and iris flowers decorate an elevated portion. In front of it, Takemaru is being dressed in ceremonial clothes. [Takemaru is a son of Katsuyori, now five years old, and Shingen's heir apparent.]

WETNURSE:

"This is a very good day. It is the day for boys to celebrate and it also marks the return of our Lord Shingen to the household. It is a double commemoration."

TAKEMARU:

"Has my father returned, too?"

WETNURSE:

"Yes, but you are heir to your grandfather. You must greet him first."

TAKEMARU:

"I know. Grandfather is the greatest here."

WETNURSE:

"And you are the next."

TAKEMARU:

"Why? Why do I come before my father?"

WETNURSE:

"Oh, we don't know why . . . Your father Katsuyori is entrusted with holding your position until you are grown up . . ."

* EXTERIOR OF TAKEMARU'S ROOM

Attendant comes running and kneels outside in the corridor.

"Please hurry . . . the Lord's retainers have already arrived."

* INTERIOR OF THE ROOM

"Yes, right now."

Wetnurse checks Takemaru's garments and

"Now, please go."

* EXTERIOR OF THE ROOM

Takemaru steps into footwear on the stepping stone and asks the attendant

"At the east gate?"

ATTENDANT:

"No. You will be received in the main palace . . ."

Without hearing him out, Takemaru runs off.
Attendant rushes after him.

* CORNER WITH EAST GATE ON THE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED DRAWING
OF LAYOUT

* EAST GATE

Retainers are on their knees and guards keep their heads low.
Shingen's double enters on horseback.

Nobukado follows him and to lead the double, he hurries to
the gate at right.

Double follows suit.

* GATE

A portion inside the gate has three shrines. It is very
quiet like a temple.

Shrines are respectively dedicated to Vaisravana, Acala and
Iizuna.

Double and Nobukado enter this area. Nobody else dare enter
this place.

Taking this opportunity, Nobukado coaches the double.

"First go into the Shrine of Vaisravana."

* VAISRAVANA SHRINE, INTERIOR

Double and Nobukado enter. Nobukado pays respect to the
altar of Vairavana. Double does the same.

NOBUKADO:

"Next to Acala and then to Iizuna and say your
prayers . . . then go into the main palace
and receive greetings of safe return . . .
alright? If you do as I taught you without
fail for a few days, everything will be alright."

* PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED DRAWING OF LAYOUT, SHOWING A CORNER
OF THE MAIN PALACE

* MAIN PALACE, SPECIAL INTERVIEW ROOM

Takemaru on the floor, hands and head down, looks up.

"Permit me to congratulate you on the success of your
campaign. May I also say that I am happy to see my
grandfather in good health . . . "

Stops, gazes inquisitively at the double and shouts.

"No, it's not my grandfather."

Nobukado and others are taken aback.
But Nobukado regains his composure and says quickly

"What are you saying? . . . Do not forget your grandfather spent five hard long months in war. Of course he changes. Also, you must remember he has been ill. Malady even changes a man's thoughts at times . . . Well, go on . . . go near him and look at him well."

Takemaru stands up and walks up to the double. He gazes again at his face. Double, embarrassed, draws Takemaru close to him and puts him on his lap. Takemaru starts smiling and

"It's really grandfather! (to Katsuyori) Father, grandfather has really changed though! He never held me before and now he even puts me on his lap!"

NOBUKADO:

(relieved) "Ha, ha, ha, all is well."

Everyone is relieved and breaks out in noisy laughter. Only Katsuyori does not laugh and looks sunk in private thoughts.

* DRAWING OF LAYOUT, SHOWING THE NORMAL INTERVIEW ROOM

* INTERVIEW ROOM

This is a smaller-scale copy of the special interview room. By a window facing a small inner garden, the double sits. In front of him is Nobukado.

NOBUKADO:

"Well, it was very close. I thought he was only a child and didn't take the necessary precautions. It's hard to fool children . . . but you did well in that emergency. Yes, you did alright."

DOUBLE:

"Alright or not, that was the only thing I could do."

NOBUKADO:

"That's alright. The late master was an aggressive man. He always advanced into the hearts of others. Note well. You should act aggressively and that will do."

He stands up and opens the sliding door on the side.

Beyond, Tsuchiya and two others are seated, guarding with swords in hand.

Nobukado turns to double.

"That room is called a hidden guard room and when the master sees others here, the guards are only a shout away. Also, guards are here all the time, even at night."

Nobukado opens the sliding door on the other side. Beyond, there is a painting of Buddha and in front of it, a simple shrine with flowers, incense burner, candelabra, etc.

NOBUKADO:

"This is a sutra room. The late master said the sutra and read Buddhist scripture here."

Nobukado opens yet another sliding door. There sit two pages.

NOBUKADO:

"This is the room to relax in. The late mater's den. Beyond this room is his bedroom."

Nobukado returns in front of the double.

"Now these three attendants and two pages know about you being the double. They have been told that one of them should be with you at all times. So if you act as they suggest, you will not be doubted. Since these five know about you, think of them as your family. Relax with them, talk to them frankly. I have chosen good men with wits."

Then Nobukado relaxes also.

"I know how it is because I was my brother's double for a long time. It isn't easy. You have to kill yourself to be someone else's shadow. At times you long to be yourself and act as you want. But, then, the shadow of a man cannot exist without the man."

Nobukado breaks off and gazes into the air.

"No. I was selfish at times, I suppose . . . With my brother gone, I am lost."

Nobukado's poignant monologue has made all present thoughtful. Everyone just watches Nobukado.

Two pages suppress tears. Nobukado, regaining his composure, looks around at everyone.

"Now . . . (turning to double) Tonight you will have to see your ladies. You will have to learn that ritual from these people here and also study the layout of the household until you know it by heart. You can't get lost in your own house."

Nobukado finishes and changes his attitude completely. He bows formally to the double and exits.

Attendants and pages see him off with bowed heads. Then they come forward to the double and introduce themselves.

"Chief attendant Tsuchiya Sohachiro"

"Chief attendant Amemiya Zenjiro"

"Chief attendant Hara Jingoro"

"Page Amari Okura"

"Page Tomono Mataichi"

Double nods to each with dignity.

SOHACHIRO:

"Don't be impudent, double."

* DRAWING OF LAYOUT, THE FIRST ROOM IN THE MAIN PALACE

* FIRST ROOM

This is the room where close aides of the master gather. Nobukado enters.

Yamagata, Baba, Takasaka, Naito, Oyamada, Atobe and others in the room are all looking in one direction. Nobukado also faces that way.

* INNER GARDEN FACING THE ROOM

A little further away in front of the stables, a fine horse is running wild and trainers are having problems.

* THE FIRST ROOM

YAMAGATA:

(turning to Nobukado) "We solved the problem of little Takemaru somehow, but that horse Kurokumo will be more difficult. Horses know their masters. The late master was the only one who could ride Kurokumo."

BABA:

"That is right. If the double tries it and if he should fall, others will suspect."

NOBUKADO:

"The master was ill. He shouldn't mount a horse for a long while."

KOSAKA:

"That's a good idea."

NAITO:

"But, one after the other, there are many obstacles. Unless we take grave precautions, we won't be able to carry out the will of our late master."

ATOBE:

"Yes. Tonight he will have to meet the ladies. There will be plenty of problems with the ladies in the future."

YAMAGATA:

"Well, he's been sick. For the time being, he shouldn't try that kind of mounting either."

All break into loud laughter.

* INNER GARDEN

Horse trainers look toward the room, hearing the laughter.

* FIRST ROOM

NOBUKADO:

(in lower voice) "Now . . . where is Katsuyori?"

KOSAKA:

"He is with Takemaru . . . but there's also a problem."

NAITO:

"No, this is the problem. Katsuyori has been looking very grim since the announcement that Takemaru was to be heir to the master."

OYAMADA:

"It's understandable. He is a brilliant general with an excellent war record. And just to be guardian to his own child . . . he can't be happy."

ATOBE: .

"On top of it, he has to act the role of the revering son to that double . . ."

YAMAGATA:

"That is the same for all of us . . .
However it is not the time to think about
such things . . . we must be united and . . .
that's all."

* TAKEMARU'S QUARTERS

Katsuyori is drinking wine with a dark expression. Takemaru is playing with stilts (with horses' heads on the ends). Katsuyori eyes him.

Katsuyori puts down his cup in disgust and stands up. Attending wetnurse looks up in surprise.

KATSUYORI:

"I am returning to Suwa Castle."

* DRAWING OF LAYOUT, SHOWING PORTION OF LADIES' QUARTERS

* EXPOSED CORRIDOR TO THE LADIES' QUARTERS

Lights on posts burn here and there.
At this end of the corridor, page Okura waits.
From the room for guards, Tsuchiya emerges and talks to Okura

"He's late . . . we can't go any further. I'm worried about him."

OKURA:

"There's the Hon. Nobukado in there . . . besides he's so like the late master that even I couldn't tell . . . I don't think you should worry."

TSUCHIYA:

"But in the bedroom, there are many things."

OKURA:

(blushing) " . . . well . . . about that . . .
couldn't be . . . "

Breaks off.

Corridor in the quarters, maid is seen carrying wine container.

* A ROOM IN THE LADIES' QUARTERS

Room is pervaded with a coquettish atmosphere. Double is fairly well intoxicated and two of Shingen's ladies are with him.

DOUBLE:

(showing face to a lady) "What do you think?
I've changed in appearance, haven't I?"

Nobukado is in the far corner of the room, worrying about him.

OYUNOKATA:

"No, your appearance hasn't changed . . .
But I guess because of your health, your
voice has changed a little."

OTSUYANOKATA:

"And the way you talk . . . "

DOUBLE:

"Malady changes a man's thoughts."

OYUNOKATA:

"Talking about that, you have changed as
though you are another person."

DOUBLE:

"Oh then it's all out now, is it? You see . . . "

Points to himself.

"This isn't Shingen Harunobu . . . I'm a double . . . A
shadow."

OYUNOKATA:

"Oh now, you're joking. . . "

DOUBLE:

"No, it's true . . . You see this Nobukado here
no longer wishes to be a double and I was hired . . .
If you think it's not true, ask Nobukado."

OTSUYANOKATA:

"Ha, ha . . . You are funny . . . "

DOUBLE:

(to Nobukado) "Right? That's the truth,
isn't it?"

TWO LADIES:

(laugh)

Nobukado is surprised and does not know what to say.

DOUBLE:

(winking at Nobukado, laughs)

Offers his cup to a maid who had brought a new bottle of wine.

Nobukado cannot resist.

"Lord, you are drinking entirely too much . . . It's very late now. You must retire."

Two ladies stand up at the same time and grimace at each other.

NOBUKADO:

(to the ladies) "The master will not be staying here for some time . . . The doctors advise that he should not stay with the ladies after the grave illness he has suffered."

He looks at the double harshly.

Double stands up.

Lights from the candelabra creates a large shadow of him on the ceiling.

* A ROOM IN HAMAMATSU CASTLE

Ieyasu, Ishikawa and Honda

ISHIKAWA:

"Our spies all report that Shingen has returned to his household and there's been no change or strange happening whatsoever since."

IEYASU:

"I don't understand it. Now is the best time for Shingen to hit the capital and Oda, who is an obstacle, cannot move at this time because he is surrounded by enemies . . . I don't think Shingen can afford to let this big chance go by. . . ."

Ieyasu, after deep thought.

"Hmmm . . . Let's attack him."

ISHIKAWA:

(surprised) "Hit him? Where? . . ."

IEYASU:

"Takeda in Suruga . . . No just hit a little and see how they react . . . If we observe how Takeda acts, we can tell if Shingen is there or not."

* OKABE IN SURUGA, A CASTLE WITHIN THE TAKEDA CONTROL, NIGHT

Dark skies are made bright red by fire. Beyond the black stone walls and on the cobblestone steps between the walls, smoke congests the air. Takeda soldiers retreat like a landslide. Tokugawa soldiers carrying insignia-bearing flags rush after them.

* SHORE OF LAKE SUWA

Dull gray rainy season sky.
Courier with Takeda insignia flag on his back rushes by like wind astride a horse.

* A ROOM IN SUWA CASTLE

Katsuyori looks down at the lake, misty in the silvery rain.

VOICE:

"The Takeda household cannot exist without you."

Atobe is in the room with Katsuyori. They are alone.

ATOBE:

"You were born of the union between your father and the princess of the Suwa clan, who, after the fall of Suwa Castle, was made by your father into one of his ladies. Your blood is too close to the Suwa clan and aides. Other leaders of the Takeda clan would have objected to appointing you heir. That's why a compromise was reached to make your son Takemaru the heir. But in his heart, your late father always regarded you as his heir."

KATSUYORI:

"No! I was always one of his men. Not even once did he treat me as his son."

ATOBE:

"But I speak the truth. Why do you think the late master chose to be buried in the depths of Lake Suwa? And in his armor? I know he wanted to be near you and aid you, who are in charge of Suwa Castle."

KATSUYORI:

"Then . . . even as Takemaru's guardian, why didn't he permit me to use the main flag of the clan . . . representing the head of the clan . . . "

ATOBE:

"That is an entirely different matter. The flag was the insignia of the late master. He forbade use of it by anyone. He wanted his heirs to fly their own colors, rather than depend on the greatness of their ancestors' flags."

KATSUYORI:

(running out of arguments) "I am not one to live under the glory and protection of my father . . . But I am not too pleased with the lack of respect accorded me by our aides, who use my father's will as a shield."

ATOBE:

"Yes. I can understand how you feel."

KATSUYORI:

"Just think about it. I know the circumstances which led to this, but I am forced to call a thief my father and genuflect before him."

ATOBE:

"But, now, your name Katsuyori of Suwa, is known far and wide. No. Just wait. I will make your name the object of respect and glory in front of all these aides and clan leaders. I am just waiting until the time is ripe."

* SUWA CASTLE AT MAIN GATE

Courier, dirty with sweat and soil, runs in after abandoning his horse. Stumbles into the gate shouting.

"Urgent report . . . Okabe Castle has fallen . . . "

Collapses.

* TAKEDA HOUSEHOLD, MAIN BUILDING, VERANDAH

Very thin sheet of rain falls soundlessly on the dark soil of the garden. The double approaches, carrying Takemaru in one arm. Attendant Hara follows.

TAKEMARU:

"Grandfather, why are you a mountain?"

DOUBLE:

"A mountain?"

TAKEMARU:

"Everybody says you are. They say 'where is the mountain?' 'The mountain is in the main building' and 'the mountain is resting,' like that."

Points toward the garden.

"It may be because we have a mountain in the garden that they call you that."

A small hill created in a corner of the garden is seen in the rain.

Double does not know what to say and putting Takemaru on his lap, he glances toward Hara.

HARA:

"You know your grandfather's flag, master Takemaru. What does it say on it?"

TAKEMARU:

(reciting flatly from memory) "Swift like the wind, quiet like the woods, stealthy like fire and immovable like a mountain."

HARA:

"Your grandfather is that mountain . . . when he is in battle, he is at headquarters and during peacetime, his house is here. He is always on the spot like a big, big mountain . . . when soldiers move, there are first the horse soldiers who hit the enemy with the swiftness of wind, then next come the lancers who are quiet and heavy like the woods, pushing down the enemy camps and third are again horsemen who swallow all enemy camps like fire . . . But behind them all is your grandfather - watching, immovable like a mountain. Only because he is there at the core, all his aides, officers and soldiers can fight well and be at ease . . . Immovable as a mountain . . . He is like that mountain and so we refer to him as the Honorable Mountain."

DOUBLE:

"I see."

Hara looks at him sharply so the double changes the phrase to

"You see now, Takemaru."

Thunder of hoofs at a distance.

* EAST GATE OF THE TAKEDA HOUSEHOLD

Mounted courier rushes in.

"Urgent report from Katsuyori of Suwa . . . !"

* CORNER OF HOUSEHOLD

Where shrines are located.

Guard is sounding a gong located on a shrine.

* EAST GATE

Gong is sounded excitedly. Aides mill around with horses. Nobukado, Yamagata, Baba, Takasaka, etc.

* NORMAL INTERVIEW ROOM

Double and Nobukado.

NOBUKADO:

"Understand? Tonight as soon as Katsuyori arrives, we will have a conference of the entire clan in the main building. But you will only have to sit with dignity and listen to the discussion. The aides and generals will make the decisions as result of the conference. Then I will face you and repeat the decision requesting your direction. Then you will nod gravely and say 'I consent to your decision. I thank all concerned for the earnest discussion' and leave your seat. Alright?"

DOUBLE:

"I consent to your decision. I thank you for the earnest discussion."

Nobukado gives him a nasty look.

DOUBLE:

"Oh I made a mistake. (scratches his head) I consent to your decision. I thank...all concerned...for the earnest discussion. And I stand up."

NOBUKADO:

"That is correct . . . but, please never scratch your head . . . only low-born people do that."

DOUBLE:

(starts to put his hand to his head and stops quickly)

* MAIN BUILDING

Night.

All partitions from four rooms are taken away to make one large room, which is filled with people. Lights shine on their dark heads.

In the First Room, the double with page Mataichi.

In the Second Room, aides and generals.

Katsuyori and Atohe are already in armor.

KATSUYORI:

"Ieyasu hasn't learned from his loss at the Battle of Sambogawara. He's being impudent. I will create my own campaign and beat them to the core."

YAMAGATA:

"I don't think it calls for your campaign when only one remote castle has been taken. We should study Ieyasu's move to see what his real motivation is in attacking us there. That is the main thing."

ATOHE:

"According to later reports, the Tokugawa army has burned up Okabe Castle and is now surrounding Futamata Castle, building fortresses around it. Unless we counterattack now, Futamata will be destroyed."

YAMAGATA:

"Futamata is under the charge of Anayama. He will not give it up easily. No. He will send us a messenger if he feels any danger."

BABA:

"Ieyasu does not move easily. He always uses his underlings and see how we react. Then he seriously considers the outcome . . . That's the way the badger works."

NAITO:

"Yes. We must determine whether Ieyasu really means to wage war with us or is simply creating skirmishes to see how we react. If we move our main army without this information, we will be considered frivolous."

KATSUYORI:

"But it will be too late when we know for sure that Ieyasu means business . . . Now is the

time to hit back or wait for a while longer
to see how they move. . . "

Looks at Atobe.

" . . . I must ask for a decision from my father."

Nobukado, Yamagata, Baba, Kosaka and others all look at
Katsuyori in complete surprise.

Katsuyori, slightly grinning, faces the double in the First
Room and slides down with both hands on the floor.

"Father . . . I beg for your direction."

Aides, attendants and pages, who know about the double,
all wait with abated breaths during this tense moment.

Double looks around at all present.
There he sees the praying eyes of Nobukado, Yamagata, Baba
and Kosaka and speaks gravely.

"Do not move . . . The mountains never move!"

Katsuyori, aghast, looks at the double and then Atobe, but
he too must bow low since everyone is doing so. The double
glances around the room again and stands up. On the ceiling,
his shadow is dark and large.

* A ROAD AT NIGHT

Accompanied by a foot soldier with a burning torch, Katsuyori
and about ten of his men are proceeding. All are in armor.

Katsuyori, on horseback, grits his teeth. His eyes are wild
as they gaze into the air.

Others in the procession are grave and silent, minding
Katsuyori's mood. This gives an impression of a retreat
from a battleground.

"Imbecile!"

Katsuyori suddenly spits out the word and lashes cruelly at
his horse. Horse rears back on its hind legs for a moment
and then gallops away at full speed. Others follow hastily.

* TAKEDA HOUSEHOLD, MAIN BUILDING, THE FIRST ROOM

Nobukado, aides and generals.

KOSAKA:

"What do you think of Katsuyori's behavior?
He does not follow the rules. He knew that
he was the double and then . . . "

NOBUKADO:

"But the man is pretty good. Takemaru, the ladies and tonight. He came out of them unscathed."

YAMAGATA:

"We cannot rejoice, though. After all he is a double and he shamed Katsuyori in front of everybody."

Nobukado starts to speak.

NAITO:

(stopping Nobukado) "Well, his wit to stand up to emergencies is valuable. However, sometimes a man with little intelligence goes too far. We don't know what awaits us. Nobukado, please make sure the double stays within the limits of a double. Please see to it."

Everyone nods.

NOBUKADO:

"I understand . . . but I tell you. I know how it is to be the master's double. It's like carrying a mountain on one's back. And I was his brother and felt this way. Even with such a nerve, it is a very big role for a lowly man like he. He must feel as though he is seated on a pillow of needles. That's why he once tried to escape and now he is working without any promise of rewards . . . and he is doing a very good job of it. He is doing this because he once met the late master and was very impressed. He sympathizes with his untimely end. When you think of it this way, I feel a mixture of pity and compassion."

* BEDROOM

The double is asleep . . . he must be having a nightmare as he is growling.

* DOUBLE'S DREAM

A big pot is quietly sinking into the water. The double is hanging on to it. The pot hits the bottom, breaks into two and Shingen in armor emerges.

Frightened by the lacquered face of Shingen, the double starts to run. Shingen turns around and walks away.

The double hurriedly follows him. They are now in a barren field. The double shouts at Shingen. Shingen turns around and starts walking towards the double. The double is frightened and flees.

Then after a while, he turns around to find nobody around. In a scene resembling the end of this world, the double is lost and looks around furtively for Shingen.

The double runs around and his motion becomes slower and slower, heavier and heavier, and finally becomes as though he is tied up by invisible ropes. The double tries hard to escape and cries out loudly.

* BEDROOM

Double, shouting strangely, jumps up from his bed. The sliding doors open and Tsuchiya and another guard rush in with swords.

Double notices them, comes back to reality and tries to mend the situation.

"Oh, it was just a dream. A million enemies were surrounding me!"

Double's face is wet with the sweat of terror.

* GIFU CASTLE, FRONT YARD

Atmosphere of excitement as army leaves on a campaign. Generals, officers and soldiers, carriers of small and large cargo, horses, etc. Nobunaga in informal attire on horseback emerges. To Niwa on his side.

NOBUNAGA:

"Tell Ieyasu this. While I am campaigning against Asai of Omi, Ieyasu himself must ride out and see how Takeda reacts . . . He can't discover the whereabouts of Shingen by simply directing his soldiers."

Notices something and looks up.

In the window of a tower, three foreigners in priest's attire are surveying the commotion. They notice Nobunaga, bow politely and bless him.

Nobunaga raises his hand and shouts.

"Amen."

Then to Niwa.

"Were those foreign monks still here?"

"Yes . . . they are scheduled to return to Sakai today."

NOBUNAGA:

"I have an idea. One of them . . . I think is a doctor . . . Send him to Shingen . . . It's a consolatory visit."

NIWA:

"But, a visitor of consolation from us, the enemy?"

NOBUNAGA:

"Fool. Of course not . . . Use Nobutora . . . that senile man has been going around in circles in Kyoto since Shingen chased him out . . . If he sends the visitor . . . of course it makes sense. Then, there are some around Nobutora who knew Shingen well . . . send one of them with the doctor, then we will know if Shingen is dead or alive . . . (shouting) Be quiet! Don't rush it!"

The last is said to his horse, excited by the surrounding commotion.

* SHORE OF LAKE SUWA

The surface of the lake resembles the high seas, with the strong wind making rough waves.

On the shore, Katsuyori is on horseback, madly driving the animal, followed by five or six attendants.

Katsuyori spots something ahead and takes in the reins. Horse rears up.

From the opposite direction, a mounted courier rushes towards him. Noticing Katsuyori, the courier dismounts and drops to his knees.

"Amari, Okudaira, they both betrayed us . . . Noda and Nagashino Castles are in the hands of the Tokugawa."

Katsuyori eyes open wide. Disquieting surface of the lake in the strong wind.

* TAKEDA HOUSEHOLD, GONG TOWER

The gong is rung agitatedly.

* DEN IN THE HOUSEHOLD

Top revolves on a tatami mat. The double and Takemura watch it. Page Okura on the side. All listen to the gong.

TAKEMARU:

"The war again."

DOUBLE:

"Are you scared of wars?"

TAKEMARU:

"No I'm not. But you will be gone.
I shall miss you."

Top stops and falls on its side.
Takemaru picks it up and gives it to the double.

"You are very good at it, grandfather. Do it again."

Double draws Takemaru close.

* CORRIDOR OF MAIN BUILDING

Yamagata hurries.

"Noda and Nagashino have reportedly fallen and
where is Ieyasu?"

BABA:

"Bringing up the rear, he left Hamamatsu
and is now surrounding Futamata Castle
where Anayama is."

* EAST GATE

Mounted courier hurries in, dismounts and runs . . .

* ARCHERY STATION

. . . runs through . . .

* INNER GARDEN

. . . arrives and drops to his knees in front of the main
building.

"The honorable Katsuyori of Suwa has departed to retaliate. . . "

* MAIN BUILDING, THE FIRST ROOM

Aides and generals gathered there all look at each other.

YAMAGATA:

"What? Without prior consultation with us,
he steals the march on us . . . "

BABA:

" . . . and where to?"

* INNER GARDEN

COURIER:

"Takatenjin Castle, sirs."

* MAIN BUILDING, THE FIRST ROOM

YAMAGATA:

"What? Takatenjin Castle?"

NAITO:

"Hmm. It isn't a bad campaign. If he can get to Takatenjin Castle, he will hit Ieyasu, who is surrounding Futamata Castle, from the rear."

BABA:

"But Takatenjin is a fortress that even the master himself could not manage. I cannot believe Katsuyori alone can accomplish what he has set out to do."

YAMAGATA:

"You are dismissed."

To the courier and

"Well we now have no choice. We must take our army out and make it appear as though Katsuyori is backed by Lord Shingen."

NAITO:

"Yes. Just having his flag around scares the enemy!"

* INNER GARDEN

Head of the guards comes running and drops to his knees.

"Messengers from The Honorable Nobutora are here."

* MAIN BUILDING, FIRST ROOM

All again look at each other.

NOBUKADO:

"Messengers from my father?! And what have they brought?"

* INNER GARDEN

HEAD OF GUARDS:

"Upon learning of the ill health of Lord Shingen, he sends a foreign doctor to be of help."

* EAST GATE

Guards are gazing inquisitively at a foreigner in priest's attire. He is looking around.

An aged warrior and a servant with bags . . . both are in traveling clothes.

Head of guards returns and to the warrior

"Please come this way."

Leads the way.

* MAIN BUILDING, THE FIRST ROOM

All are in earnest discussion.

NOBUKADO:

"It is reported that they are from my father. However, I cannot believe it. I think it is a trick devised by an enemy of the Takeda Clan. Pretending to be visitors of consolation, they are here to spy on us."

NAITO:

"But if we send them away, it will be thought suspicious."

NOBUKADO:

"It's alright. We'll let them see the double. I think they will be convinced that Shingen is healthy after that."

"Alright. We will leave this matter to Nobukado. We must be ready for departure for the front."

They all stand up to leave.

* WAITING ROOM (?)

The priest and warrior are seated.

Corridor in front of it is busy with aides and generals who are leaving. Sound of hoofs, general buzz of excitement.

Tsuchiya enters.

"Permit me to show the way."

Priest and warrior stand up.

TSUCHIYA:

"Your swords should be placed on that rack . . . "

The warrior places both of his swords on the rack on the wall and follows Tsuchiya.

* CORRIDOR FACING INNER GARDEN

Priest and warrior, following Tsuchiya, look at the inner garden.

* INNER GARDEN

Three horses are being saddled and one of them, Kurokumo, is wild and giving trouble to trainers.

Behind the stables, a group of warriors run as they put arm pieces on themselves.

* FRONT GARDEN, CORRIDOR

Tsuchiya, priest and warrior come.

* FRONT YARD

From the storeroom across the water fountain, lowly warriors take out bows, arrows and guns.

On the side of the storeroom, there is ^a two-story tower and soldiers, wearing armor, are gathering there.

The hurried preparation for departure for the battlefield proceeds in order. It reflects the authority of the head of the household, even to the smallest detail.

* MAIN BUILDING, THE SECOND ROOM

TSUCHIYA:

"Please wait here."

Sits down on the verandah.

Priest and warrior enter the room and face the empty first room. They seat themselves.

Nobukado enters the First Room. He views the warrior and speaks in a loud voice.

"Well, well, sir. If this isn't Taguchi . . . It's been a long time . . . Is my father well?"

"Yes."

Nobukado sits down in a lower place in the First Room.

"And it is good of you to travel here. . . but Lord Shingen is now very well. He had a fever for a time after an illness following the Sambogawara campaign, though."

The double enters, taking Takemaru by the hand and followed by page Okura.

The warrior eyes him keenly and then bows very low. Priest does the same.

DOUBLE:

(sitting down at the higher place and settling Takemaru on his lap) Oh, it's you, Taguchi . . . "

TAGUCHI:

"It is a pleasure to see you in good health . . . "

DOUBLE:

(nods with dignity)

NOBUKADO:

"On the lord's lap is Takemaru, the heir to our clan."

TAGUCHI:

"Yes . . . my name is Taguchi Gyobu. I beg your indulgence to introduce myself . . ."

Takemaru is oblivious to Taguchi and looks at the priest with wide eyes.

NOBUKADO:

"Well, as I said, Lord Shingen is well, but he insists that since our father especially sent him . . . (to priest) . . . come closer."

The priest comes forward.

TAGUCHI:

"At the Battle of Kawanakajima, I heard Kenshin's sword nipped Lord Shingen. How is the wound . . . now?"

The double quickly glances at Nobukado, but pets Takemaru on the head to distract attention.

NOBUKADO:

(quickly cuts in) "Oh that. It's an old

story . . . nothing."

PRIEST:

"May I take your pulse . . . "

The double extends his right hand.
The priest takes his pulse.

The warrior Taguchi watches the double very closely.

NOBUKADO:

(to Taguchi) "Under normal circumstances,
we would like to hear about our father and
would want you to rest well here. But,
as you can see, today we must leave on
another campaign. We cannot help it."

TAGUCHI:

"I understand only too well."

Bowing, sets keen eyes in one direction.

* CORNER OF THE PROPERTY WHERE STOREHOUSE FOR FLAGS AND
COLORS ARE LOCATED

Many flags and colors including Shingen's flag are blowing
in the wind.

* TITLE

MAY 1754

* TAKATENJIN CASTLE, SUTE KURUWA

[Sute Kuruwa refers to the portion of the property of a
castle which will be abandoned for the enemy force before
the defense army takes strong hold of the castle. This
particular castle, Takatenjin, is a mountainous castle and
thus this portion is located on a hill, facing the main
castle over a valley.]

Now the Kuruwa was been burned up. Only the stone walls
remain. Amidst the smoldering ruins, Katsuyori's flag
stands. Katsuyori and Atobe are seated on stools and
gaze at the main castle with their aides.

Takatenjin Castle as we see it is now blending into the dusk.
But one of the corner towers is smoking and even flames can
be seen.

Loopholes on the citadel walls sometimes light up as guns
are fired. Reports of guns can also be heard.

Seen over the top of the walls are the colors of various
retainers, indicating hurried movement.
A battle cry.

Katsuyori and Atobe look down into the valley.

* BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE GATE OF TAKATENJIN CASTLE

The moat is divided into two, reflecting the darkening sky. Lowly soldiers kick up the dust as they run. They carry torches. Many corpses are seen.

Behind them, there is a multitude of colors (flags?) . . . and in the forward section, red lights flicker and smoke rises.

Inside the castle, gunsmoke climbs up the valley and flags of the army on the offensive intertwine. The reports of guns echo and battle cries resemble a tidal wave.

* TAKATENJIN CASTLE, SUTE KURUWA

Katsuyori and Atobe look down into the valley.

"On the hill behind us, Lord Shingen's flag has been erected."

Hearing this, they look back. On the distant hill are men and flags.

Katsuyori and Atobe stand up and gaze at them.

KATSUYORI:

"Again . . . at every battle, the flag is put up and he is there to back me up . . . What do they take me for? A kid?!"

ATOBE:

"They are only doing their duty . . . The only thing you should do is to take over this castle without their help and show them we can manage alone."

Katsuyori yells to a nearby messenger.

"Tell the advance regiment to push into the castle tonight . . . No, burn the castle tonight!"

Messenger hurriedly leaves astride his horse. On his back is a flag with an insignia. He rushes down the slope.

Katsuyori looks at the hill behind him angrily.

* THE HILL, DISTANT VIEW

In the dusk, men and horses prepare for encampment. Flags are merged into the darkness now.

* HILL

One by one, Shingen's horse insignia, main insignia, etc., are erected.

Corpses of Takeda and Tokugawa soldiers are proof of the severe battle fought recently.

Lowly soldiers clean up the battlefield and a stool is placed.

Double in full dress armor sits down.
Nobukado whispers to the double.

"Don't move. Whatever happens, just remain seated, relaxed and without moving. Understand?"

DOUBLE:

"Immovable as a mountain."

With a military fan in one hand, he sits in a relaxed manner and surveys the scene. But what he sees is the brutality and blood of war at dusk.

Corpses are piled up in a mound.
Grass with splashes of blood; soil darkened by absorbing blood; swords and lances with flesh and blood and heads stuck on lanceheads silhouetted against the darkening sky. The hair on these heads blows softly in the early summer wind.

Sound of hurrying hoofs. Double involuntarily starts to stand up.
Where retainers are setting up headquarters, wounded horses with arrows in their sides madly run by the double. Double views this half standing up.

"Stay calm!"

Hearing this, the double turns around.
Attendants Tsuchiya, Amemiya, Hara and pages Okura, Mataichi stand there. All are in armor.

They now drive stakes into the ground in order to erect the main flag of Shingen, determined not to retreat even if they must face death.

With the subdued light of evening, the gold lettering on a black background stands out.

Aides and generals come up to the hill and seat themselves on stools. Retainers remain with the horses.
The double surveys all this, regains his composure and strikes a relaxed pose.

* TAKATENJIN CASTLE, SUTE KURUWA

Night . . . viewed from the rear.
Takatenjin Castle cannot be seen as it is lower than Sute Kuruwa. The sky is blood red and the ruins smolder. The smoke moves very rapidly and it seems as if the red moon is also in quick motion. Against the red, Katsuyori's flag, Katsuyori, Atobe and their retainers are silhouetted in black. General noises of fire, reports of guns, war cries - all arise from

the infernal happenings in the main castle.

* HILL, HEADQUARTERS OF BACK-UP ARMY

From here, the sky also looks red. Long shot of Sute Kuruwa. Hellish sounds emerging from the main castle of Takatenjin can be heard faintly.

With all the flags erected, the encampment is lighted by a bonfire. At the foot of the hill, soldiers with lances stand guard quietly.

In the center of all, the aides and generals surround the double and all gaze at Katsuyori's encampment. It is an impressive sight, reminiscent of the strength of the Takeda army, trained on many past battlefields.

Thunder of hoofs at a distance.

YAMAGATA:

"What is that?"

Generals strain their eyes in the darkness on one side. The moon emerges from behind a cloud and shines on a tall tree on the middle of the hill. On the treetop is a guard who yells.

"A group of horsemen are approaching . . . "

Yamagata's eyes brighten and he looks at all present, saying

"Why did our side support move?"

BABA:

(to the guard) "What flags?"

GUARD:

"No flags or colors."

Generals all look at each other. Fast-moving clouds hide the moon.

Report of gun.

YAMAGATA:

"Was that ours or theirs?"

GUARD:

"Can't tell!"

Moon emerges.

GUARD:

"Now I can see . . . their gun
soldiers . . . "

Report of gun.

Guard who had been standing watch on the treetop plummets
to the ground.

Suddenly, the sound of hoofs approaches.

Generals stand up.

"Bring my horse!"

"Horses!"

[This is a night battle. Expression of such a battle in
which vision is limited by darkness must be carried out
with thought given to minute details. Consideration is
given that in this way, the battle does not have to be
large-scale. The sequences must project reality, the
strangeness of fighting in the dark and must enable the
audience to imagine what they cannot see with their eyes.]

The hilltop is a site of excitement with movement of people
and horses.

The sound of hoofs gets nearer and nearer.

YAMAGATA:

"Create a wall of lances!"

Shouting this, he joins the others in running in one direction.
Soldiers make a formation with lances down the side.
The lances reflect the bonfire.

In the midst of this wall of lances, the double trembles
and his teeth chatter. Suppressing a desire to stand up,
he looks around. It is pitch black where the bonfire's light
does not extend.

Retainers, attendants and pages, who are guarding headquarters,
train their eyes to the darkness and listen carefully to
the thunder of hoofs, which is now like the sound of the earth.

But none of these faces reflect fear. Instead, they carry
the smiles of daredevils. This calms the double a mite.

Suddenly, following rapid gunfire, three retainers fall and
two horsemen plummet off their mounts. Bullets fly at them.

Tsuchiya and others suddenly kick at the bonfire and stamp
out the fire. Now it is almost pitch black. The sound of
hoofs nearby, another set of hoof sounds and the regular
rhythm of these sounds blend with other noises.

The noises of being hit, metal against metal, cries, battle
shouts, the thuds of falling objects, neighs of horses . . .

Mounted retainers all rush out.
Double half stands up.

VOICE OF TSUCHIYA:

"Don't move!"

Double drops down onto the stool.
In the moonlight, three horsemen carrying flags run up the hill like a black tornado. They swing their lances wildly. Tsuchiya, the pages and others fight these horsemen with their swords. Two of the horsemen fall off their mounts, one hangs on a wounded horse, which runs like mad.

In the dust and smoke from the commotion, Tsuchiya pushes the double down by his head piece. He had involuntarily started to flee, but is now forced onto his stool.

TSUCHIYA:

"Don't move . . . Look!"

Double looks.
At his feet, Amemiya is lying quietly, his head turned to the side. Okura the page is sitting down in an unnatural position surrounded by a pool of blood. His hands and feet twitch. Double looks but does not understand the situation.

Tsuchiya speaks harshly to the double.

"Both died . . . to guard you . . . no, to guard this flag!"

The flag makes a sound as it flutters in the wind.
Shingen's flag . . . its golden lettering reflecting the moonlight.

Immovable as a mountain.
Double looks at the flag and then the two corpses in front of him and does not move any longer.

TSUCHIYA:

"You were going to be crucified. Do not move as if you were bound to a post!"

Double does not move.
He cannot move after seeing Amemiya and Okura.
No, it is more than that. The retainers who were fighting at a distance run back to guard the double. Their unselfish devotion has its effect on the double.

Again the sound of hoofs.

SHOUT OF A WATCH:

"Enemy on the left . . . The first general's flag is Tachiaoi."

ONE OF THE RETAINERS:

"Tachiaoi . . . then the enemy is a retainer of Tokugawa, Honda Heihachiro . . . "

* FIELD AT THE FOOT OF THE HILL

Thundering in the dust, Honda and his group come. They are stopped by the raising of a lance. Honda looks up the hill.

* HILL

On the hill, all is quiet with many flags, including Shingen's main flag, guarded by mounted retainers and foot soldiers, making a wall of lances.

* FIELD

Honda looks up and shouts.

"Enough! Pull back! Pull back!"

Honda and his horsemen turn around and disappear into the darkness.

* HILL

Under the main flag, the now immobile double sits tight on his stool.

The sounds of battle have died away and the moon hides behind a cloud. Black figure of the double and the sound of flags fluttering in the wind.

* CURTAIN

Insignia of Kiri.

On both sides of a curtain-enclosed area, Oda warriors with the Kiri insignia and Tokugawa soldiers with the Aoi insignia are seated.

* INSIDE THE CURTAINS

Nobunaga and Ieyasu are seated on stools. Nobunaga is dressed in an informal hunting costume and Ieyasu is wearing a shoulder piece.

Behind Nobunaga, Ranmaru is seated on a red blanket and making ceremonial tea. At the entrance, Honda, the priest and Taguchi are seated.

NOBUNAGA:

"Hmm. Listening to these three, it seems as if Shingen is not only alive, but is good and healthy."

IEYASU:

"Yes, that is also my conclusion."

NOBUNAGA:

"Hmmm."

Looks up at the sky. Gigantic white columns of clouds decorate the sky.

Ranmaru serves tea to Ieyasu.
Ieyasu nods to Nobunaga and accepts a cup of tea.

NOBUNAGA:

(still looking up at the sky) "But . . .
to me . . . I don't know why but I feel
that Shingen is not alive anymore."

Ieyasu finishes the tea and returns the cup to Ranmaru.

"That is my feeling . . . "

NOBUNAGA:

"Why do you think so?"

IEYASU:

"I don't know . . . just something inside
me tells me . . . "

NOBUNAGA:

"Shingen's death will help us both a
great deal. So we wish he was dead.
We want to think he's dead . . .
perhaps that is all."

The two look at each other and strain to laugh.

NOBUNAGA:

"Ranmaru."

Ranmaru leaves the quarters.
Nobunaga also stands up and

"Now I must depart for Ise Nagashima to take care of an
uprising . . . Busy, busy . . . I will leave Takeda to you . . .
Hope to see you again."

Leaves the quarters.
Ieyasu follows.

* OUTSIDE CURTAINS

Nobunaga and Ieyasu emerge.
Oda and Tokugawa warriors drop to their knees and bow.
Ranmaru leads a horse with two large leather bags on both
sides of its saddle.

NOBUNAGA:

(to Ieyasu) "We came here to aid you but
we were a bit too late. You were more than

polite in taking the trouble to come and thank us. (pats the bags on the saddle) The gold in here is a little remembrance I hope you will accept. (without waiting for Ieyasu's thanks) Get my horse ready!

* LAKE SUWA

Heavy rain falls on the face of the lake.

* A ROOM IN SUWA

Katsuyori and Atohe.

ATOBE:

"Regardless of what others say, you are the one who took Takatenjin Castle . . . the fortress even your father could not capture . . ."

KATSUYORI:

"No! It's true I was responsible for that campaign. But all the praise and the records are not mine. They belong to my late father who made an illusionary encampment behind us. I will never be free from my father's illusion, no matter how I try."

ATOBE:

"It's all because of the clan leaders. I don't know how long they will use that double to place you in a minor role. No, I can't tolerate the double either . . . A common thief and a mere double and he shames you and steals your glory . . . How far can he go . . ."

Rainy wind blows in from the window and the two are getting wet. They look off into space without giving notice to the rain.

Distant thunder.

* TAKEDA HOUSEHOLD, REGULAR INTERVIEW ROOM

Nobukado enters.

He crosses the room and looks into the guard room.

* GUARD ROOM

Tsuchiya, Hara and page Mataichi look back and break up their earnest discussion to sit correctly.

NOBUKADO:

"Where is lord Shingen?"

TSUCHIYA:

"He is with master Takemaru in the garden."

NOBUKADO:

"That won't do. I told you that one of you must be with him at all times."

TSUCHIYA:

"That is correct. However, the double is now very used to being our lord and he knows the household very well. Also, since the campaign at Takatenjin, his behavior has become very sure . . . "

NOBUKADO:

"Hmmm. He's doing alright. It's as though the late master is now living in him. And he has charmed Takemaru entirely."

TSUCHIYA:

"Yes, he loves him and follows him around saying grandfather this and grandfather that. Sometimes it makes our hearts ache knowing that he isn't really his grandfather."

NOBUKADO:

"That is right . . . (sitting down) It is a cruel thing to do, when one stops to think about it. Everything must be revealed at a future date . . . and that time is not too far away. His will was to suppress notice of his death for three years. A half of that period is gone now. Then it's not only Takemaru who has to be pitied. What of the double? A double cannot exist without the original entity."

Suddenly, general noises of confusion, footsteps, shouts, hoofs.

Nobukado and Tsuchiya and the two others glance at each other and run out.

* INNER GARDEN

Nobukado and others come running. In front of the stable, Takemaru stands alone.

From somewhere is heard quickening sounds of a horse's hoofs and excited voices.

NOBUKADO:

(to Takemaru) "Where is your grandfather?"

TAKEMARU:

"I dared him to ride that horse Kurokumo and he took off on it."

Nobukado, astonished, looks into the stable. Kurokumo is gone.

TAKEMARU:

"Grandfather is great. He is the only one who can mount Kurokumo."

Nobukado, Tsuchiya and others run off.

* WEST GATE

[It is located in an oblong area with walls to shield a shrine to the south and the ladies' quarters to the west . . . Gates are now closed.]

Kurokumo runs wildly with the double hanging on its back, holding the horse's neck tightly. Stable keepers, trainers, guards and others try to catch up with the horse.

On one side of the wall, a workman repairing the wall toward the ladies' quarters stops his work and gazes in surprise.

Nobukado and others come running. Kurokumo still gallops, trying to shake off the double.

Tsuchiya stands in front of the horse with both arms extended. Kurokumo stops, rears up and changes direction. The trainer stands in that direction. Seeing this, Kurokumo jumps over the wall sideways into the ladies' garden.

* LADIES' QUARTERS GARDEN

Kurokumo is still running wildly with the double on its back. Nobukado and the others, including trainers, etc., run in from an opening in the wall and chase the horse.

Hearing the commotion, two of the ladies and their maids emerge from a room and stand on the porch. Kurokumo rears up and finally shakes off the double. The double hits the ground hard and does not move. Nobukado and the others run to him.

But before they can get to him, the ladies, shrieking and screaming, come down into the garden and advance towards the double.

OYUNOKATA:

"My lord!"

OTSUYANOKATA:

"My lord!"

OYUNOKATA:

"Call the doctor!"

OTSUYANOKATA:

"Doctor . . . "

Maids run inside.

OYUNOKATA:

"Please bring him into my quarters . . . "

OTSUYANOKATA:

"No. To my quarters."

The two ladies quarrel despite the gravity of the situation. Nobukado steps in between them.

"Let us put him on the verandah first."

Tsuchiya, Hara and Mataichi carry him onto the verandah. The double groans with pain from his right shoulder and arm. The two ladies start to uncover the right arm and shoulder and their expression changes. They look at each other.

OYUNOKATA:

"What is this!"

OTSUYANOKATA:

"No wound . . . "

The two look at Nobukado harshly.

OTSUYANOKATA:

"Sir Nobukado . . . there's no trace of a wound. That wound which the master suffered from Kenshin in the Battle of Kawanakajima . . . "

OYUNOKATA:

"Sir Nobukado . . . this is then
really a double . . ."

Nobukado is at a loss.
Tsuchiya, Hara and Mataichi look at each other and towards
the garden. There are stable attendants, trainers, guards
and even a workman on the wall, lined up and listening to
what had been said. They are very quiet but have expressions
of utter astonishment.

Breaking up the group, Takemaru rushes towards the double.

TAKEMARU:

"Grandfather, grandfather!"

OYUNOKATA:

"Master Takemaru. He is not Lord Shingen."

OTSUYANOKATA:

"This is his double."

TAKEMARU:

"But, then, where is my real grandfather?"

Nobukado just gazes at him, speechless.
All others present look at Nobukado harshly.
Behind them all, Kurokumo neighs noisily and runs off.

* STABLE

Kurokumo is now tame, eating hay.

* MAIN BUILDING, THE FIRST ROOM

Nobukado, the aides and generals all look at Kurokumo.

"It is most ironic. We tricked both sides well - ours and
the enemies' - but we couldn't fool a horse!"

"It is not a joking matter. How do you think our people will
react, now that they know they've been fooled. I don't think
we will be forgiven, even if all was done to trick the enemies."

"How do you explain to the people who served him; those who
didn't know he was a double."

"No, I think they will understand our reasons if we explain
everything. But it is inevitable that we can no longer say
that Lord Shingen is alive."

All fall silent with dark expressions.

"Kurokumo . . . Black Cloud . . . That horse has truly
been our clan's black cloud."

* INNER GARDEN

Kurokumo minces his feet quietly in front of the stable. Before him, a guard crosses and drops to his knees in front of the main building.

"Katsuyori of Suwa and Sir Atobe have arrived."

* MAIN BUILDING, THE FIRST ROOM

All the generals and aides look at each other.

"That's it! From today our master is Lord Katsuyori!"

* EAST GATE

Katsuyori and Atobe dismount and enter the gate. Passing by them in the opposite direction is the double, now dressed in the clothes of a servant and with an arm in a sling. Katsuyori and Atobe see this but do not say anything and hurry to the main building.

Guards give the double a very harsh stare as he exits the east gate.

"Wait!"

The double stops and looks back. Tsuchiya comes running.

He approaches the double and extends a small wad of paper to the double.

"From Sir Nobukado . . . he asked me to tell you that he appreciate all you did."

The double gazes at Tsuchiya with sad eyes and does not move.

"Take it!"

Tsuchiya forces the wad into the double's hand.

"Well, then . . . take care!"

He leaves. The double stands still and watches Tsuchiya go.

"Go away!"

"Get away quickly!"

Guards yell abusively.

DOUBLE:

(approaches a guard) "I want to see Takemaru . . . I just want to say goodbye."

GUARD:

"Takemaru . . . How dare you . . . as though you are great!"

GUARD:

"Don't be fresh! Get lost at once!"

Guards start to throw stones at him.
Double is forced to start walking, sadly.
The guards' abuse makes him feel as though he is carrying a cross.

* KAMANASHI RIVER

Execution pole and moon.
The double squats at one side.
He is in the moonlight and he gazes at his own shadow, talking to it.

"What do I do? What should I do now?"

The shadow of the double replies . . . inner voice.

"Nothing you can do now. A shadow can't do anything without the person."

DOUBLE:

"But the person doesn't exist in this world anymore."

The shadow of the double answers.

"Then you leave this world, too."

DOUBLE:

"But I am here now."

The shadow of the double replies.

"Then you are a shadow already executed."

The double looks up at the execution pole.

The pole and the moon.

* TITLE

APRIL 1575

* KEIRINJI TEMPLE, FRONT OF THE GATE

Freshly constructed bamboo fences on both sides . . . tips of the sliced bamboo make a melancholic sound.

Funeral procession advances on the path between them.

(now)
Takemaru (Nobukatsu) carries a mortuary tablet of his grandfather. Monks recite the sutra and lead the procession, followed by Takemaru, Katsuyori, relatives, clan leaders, aides, generals, immediate vassals.

Outside the bamboo fence, more lowly clan members kneel. Behind them are farmers and merchants, genuflecting. Everyone is crying, some loudly, some silently. Sound effects of mourning: sutra, weeping, sniffing, the rustle of bamboo and leaves.

There is only one person who has his face raised among the farmers and merchants. It is the double.

The double is busy wiping his tears and watching the little figure of Takemaru, now entering the temple gate with the tablet.

Wind blows through his unkempt hair and beard. Bamboo sound becomes louder, as though reflecting his thoughts.

* HAMAMATSU CASTLE, A ROOM

"What? They conducted Shingen's funeral?!"

The normally quiet Ieyasu speaks in a loud voice.

* GIFU CASTLE, A ROOM

"Hmmm. . . Indeed it is like Shingen. Even in his death, he fooled this Nobunaga for three long years!"

Saying this, Nobunaga stands up and dances.

"Fifty years of a man's life,
With its changing seasons.
They are like dreams and illusions.
Indeed one is born,
Only to die when his time is up."

Footsteps in the corridor . . . Ranmaru kneels at the entrance.

"Katsuyori of Suwa has departed on a campaign against Nagashino. He has the entire 25,000 members of the Takeda clan with him."

NOBUNAGA:

(opens his eyes wide with surprise) "What!?
Has the mountain moved?!"

* SHORE OF LAKE SUWA

Procession with the main flag of the late Shingen. Katsuyori is in center with retainers, Atobe, other generals and aides. Other flags and colors and a striking horse insignia of Katsuyori is brilliantly outstanding.

Suddenly on the lake in front of them, a horizontal rainbow appears as though closing the path before them.

All stop their horses involuntarily.
Even the faces of battle-trained warriors show fear of
the mysterious occurrence.

YAMAGATA:

"Sir Katsuyori. What do you think this light,
which bars us from proceeding, is meant to
signify?"

KATSUYORI:

"A rainbow."

YAMAGATA:

"No. It is apparent that this is a message
from the late Lord Shingen, who now sleeps
on the bottom of this lake. We are not
to proceed."

BABA:

"Yes. He is telling us not to move our
soldiers in vain and instead to protect
our domain in Kai. Indeed, those were the
late master's last words. We must adhere
to them or our clan will be destroyed."

KATSUYORI:

"Don't mention such an ill omen. Destroyed?
Why? Our clan, from our ancestor Yoshimitsu,
never showed its back to the enemy!"

Raises his military fan.
Flags and colors and soldiers proceed again.

As though pulled by the main flag of the late Shingen, a man
follows the procession, half hiding behind the reeds. It is
the double. His expression resembles that of a man possessed.

* TITLE

MAY 21, 1575

* NAGASHINO, SHIDARAGAHARA

Three generals on horseback are lined up. They are half
standing on their steeds to view the enemy camp.

Baba with his flag with the word "wind" in black and white.
Naito with "woods" in green and white.
Yamagata with "fire" in red and white.

"Wind . . . this is the end."

"Woods . . . I shall be there first."

"Fire . . . so long then and we shall meet at the late master's."

Three bid farewell to each other and rush their horses in three different directions. On the hill after they are gone, the double emerges from the summer weeds. The double looks after them and then views the enemy camp.

* FENCE TO BAR HORSES

Log fence extends like a long, long snake. Gun soldiers stand three deep within in. Nobunaga and Ieyasu, with their respective retainers, arrive on horses and look at the defense line.

IEYASU:

"This will destroy the Takeda clan."

NOBUNAGA:

"All is at an end when the mountain moves."

* HIGHLAND, SAINOJIN

Katsuyori's headquarters. Many flags and colors including that of the late Shingen. Katsuyori is seated on a stool and to his left and right are Nobukado and relatives.

Beyond them, retainers surround them in a circle. Katsuyori raises the military fan high and swings it down in an expansive gesture.

* SHIDARAGAHARA BATTLEFIELD

[From here on, the visuals will resemble a nightmare.]

With the insignia "wind," Baba and his horsemen descend on the enemy camp like a typhoon. They are all in black. Black flags, black armor. But with the sudden report of gunfire, the wind corps is demolished like a black landslide.

* BUSHES

The double's eyes have an astonished expression.

* HIGHLAND, SAINOJIN

Katsuyori, Nobukado and others have wide-open eyes and frozen expressions. Katsuyori bites his lip and gestures with the fan again.

* SHIDARAGAHARA BATTLEFIELD

Led by Naito, who is mounted and with the "woods" insignia flag, the all-green foot soldiers stage an attack.

They advance in perfect order with their lances but with the earth shattering sound of gunfire, they are all mowed down.

* BUSHES

Surveying the scene, the double's eyes seem as though they are bleeding.

* HIGHLAND, SAINOJIN

Katsuyori, Nobukado and others' faces are devoid of color. From the wide-open eyes of Nobukado, tears run down his cheeks. Katsuyori, with a deranged expression, again gestures with the fan.

* SHIDARAGAHARA BATTLEFIELD

Led by Yamagata and the "fire" insignia flag, the horsemen in red charge. Again, with the tearing sound of gunfire, they resemble a red snowslide.

* BUSHES

Seeing this, the double forgets everything and jumps out of his cover, shouting something.

* SHIDARAGAHARA BATTLEFIELD

Horses run wild without riders. The double picks up a lance from a dead soldier and he charges the enemy, shouting insanely. He also gets shot down.

* HIGHLAND, SAINOJIN

No one is spared. Only a stool and abandoned flags remain.

* RIVER

In the depths of the river, the late Shingen's main flag is seen. Someone is trying to reach it. The double.

He is covered with blood and as he extends his hand towards the flag, he slumps forward into the water.

In the depths of the river, the words written on the flag glisten in gold. On it, a shadow, as the double's corpse is carried away by the stream.

How it will be directed . . .

1. Selection of cast members will be "fresh," also giving consideration to ages of characters.
2. Performances should be free and natural.
3. Staff is requested to be creative, bold and innovative in cinematography, lighting, sound and other aspects.
4. There will be minimum construction of outdoor and indoor sets and maximum use of existing buildings.
5. Shooting on a foreign location will be required for sequences involving many horses.
6. Strict historical research and authentication of costume, property, furniture, etc. will be conducted to assure accuracy.