

FULL METAL DAEMON MURAMASA: APPENDIX

Thank you for reading Muramasa.

This appendix was planned and written by the translation team, which takes full responsibility for its content.

NOTE: This appendix contains spoilers, particularly in Parts Two and Three. We recommend reading those sections after completing the game.



PART ONE: GLOSSARY

This section provides a reference to terminology as it is used in the world of Muramasa, together with literal translations and the matching English terminology used by GHQ and the Western Powers, where applicable. See "Cultural and Historical Notes" for how some of this terminology is or was used in our world. The entries are listed in **alphabetical order**.

Chudan (mid-level) - The middle hold. A stance where the point of the sword is held above the waist, point toward the enemy.

Futawa-gakari (clash of the figure-eight) - A term for aerial combat between musha, so called because when two musha are evenly matched, the exhaust from their engines forms a figure-eight in the sky.

Gattari - A tsurugi's engine or engines. Most shin'uchi use rocket propulsion, while most kazu'uchi use bladed propellers.

Gedan (low-level) - The low hold. A stance where the point of the sword is held below the waist. On the ground, the point will be facing the enemy. In the air, the point will face downward.

Habaki - On a sword, the piece of metal at the base of the blade that locks the guard to the hilt. When sheathed, it also serves to keep the sword in place.

Hasso (eight directions) - A stance where the sword is held parallel to the body. In aerial combat, this stance is used to thrust.

Horo - A tsurugi's wings, required to remain in the air.

Iai - The art of drawing your sword and striking in a single motion.

Jittejutsu - The art of wielding a jitte, a weapon with a hooked guard used to trap the opponent's blade. Jitte were carried by police during the Edo period.

Jodan (high-level) - The high hold. A stance where the point of the sword is held above the head. For musha, the standard jodan places the sword over the shoulder.

Kazu'uchi (forged-in-quantity) - English: Red crux. A tsurugi forged by the modern method, where a cloned human takes the place of the smith. Although these tsurugi lack the power and intelligence the smith's soul provides, they are much less costly to produce.

Kabuto-wari (helmet-splitting) - The act of cutting a helmet in half with a sword. Considered the ultimate test of strength and skill as a swordsman.



Kinchojo (metallic voice) - English: Metal echo. The method by which tsurugi communicate, and by which musha communicate over distance.

Ma'ken (demonic/magical sword) - A technique which seems to exceed the limit of what is possible. Such techniques often depend on qualities unique to a particular martial artist.

Mono-uchi (striking-part) - The part of a blade where the striking force is greatest. On a sword of standard length, this is located between ten and thirty centimeters below the tip.

Muga (absence of self) - The state of mind achieved by abandoning one's identity. This is a path to enlightenment, and to perceiving the world on a level beyond the mundane.

Musha (warrior, being of might) - English: Knight. The master of a tsurugi.

Muso (absence of thought) - The state of mind achieved by abandoning attachment and desire. This is also a path to enlightenment.

Shingane (heart-metal) - The core of a tsurugi. This is where the smith's soul resides, and is the source of the tsurugi's power.

Shinogi (shadow rite) - English: Lawbreaker. A supernatural power unique to a specific tsurugi. Only shin'uchi possess shinogi.

Shin'uchi (true-forged) - English: Blood crux. A tsurugi forged by the traditional method, where the smith sacrifices himself to become one with the armor. These tsurugi are capable of independent thought and action, and on a one-to-one basis, are significantly more powerful than kazu'uchi.

Tsurugi (sword-armor) - English: Crux. A suit of armor imbued with supernatural power. Tsurugi greatly enhance their masters' physical abilities, and also provide the means to fly. This has made tsurugi the ultimate weapon for all of recorded history.

Waki-gamae (side-stance) - A stance where the sword is held against the side, point facing rearward.

Yawara (softness) - Another name for jujutsu, a martial art that teaches practitioners to control their opponent's strength and use it against them.

Yoshino-onryu (venerable Yoshino school) - A school of musha combat employed during the Nanbokuchō Period by the Southern Court, which was based in Yoshino (located in modern-day Nara Prefecture).



PART TWO: TECHNIQUES

This section provides literal translations for the techniques and stances named in Muramasa. Descriptions are omitted to minimize spoilers. The entries are separated by chapter and listed in order of appearance.

CHAPTER ONE: THE CRIMSON

Seigan - “Eye Centered”

Raito - “Lightning Sword”

Korobashi - “Roll”

Byakka Rantan Shan Kala - “Calamitous Net of White Flowers and Bright Red Chaos”

Note: The trigger phrases Shinkai uses (Kurui Kuru, Kurui Kuruwa, etc.) all describe “warped”, “twisted” entities.

Jinrai - “Swift Lightning”

Magatsu - “Calamity”

CHAPTER TWO: THE PROMISED

Tagai - “To Disobey”

Nadare - “The Thunder Before Snow”

Odoshi - “Strength”

CHAPTER THREE: THE AVENGER

Hiko - “Locust”

Kashiri - “Curse”

CHAPTER FOUR: THE MIGHTY

Kasumi-gaeshi - “Mist Reversal”

Kiri-otoshi - “To Cut Down”

Myo-ken - “Sublime Sword”

Zetsumyo-ken - “Incomparably Sublime Sword”

Shin-ken - “True Sword”

Dokumyo-ken - “Singular Sword”

Konjicho'o-ken - “Sword of Garuda”

Tsukikake - “Slice of the Moon”



CHAPTER FIVE: THE FATED

Uchishio - “Beating Waves”

Karan - “Scattered Blossoms”

THE HERO

Saru-gakure - “Monkey’s Hide”

Shuku-chi - “To Shrink the Land”

Kodama-uchi - “Echo Strike”

Sakanagare - “Reversed Flow”

Garyu - “Crouching Dragon”

Shoryu - “Rising Dragon”

Harai-goshi - “Hip Sweep”

Tsubame-uchi - “Swallow Strike”

Koenshaku - “Arcing Flame Metal”

Gasshi - “The Strike That Meets”

Onken - “Hidden Sword”

Oboro - “Mirage”

Mugen - “Stringless”

Kappuku - “Evisceration”

THE NEMESIS

Kogan - “Tiger’s Eye”

Tori-no-Gaku - “Bird at Play”

Yume-makura - “Dream Pillow”

THE CONQUEROR

Haimushi - “Crawling Insect”

Sakawaki - “Reversed Waist Stance”

Tekketsu - “To Carve Out”

Note: As with a chisel. Also, to expose misdeeds or one’s true nature.

Hanagushi - "Flower Hairpiece"

Kagachi - "Winter Cherry"

Shakusho - "Enlightening Palm"

Ugachi - "To Carve Out"

Enju - "Pagoda Tree"

Tsubame-gaeshi - "Swallow Reversal"

Hiyoku - "Paired Wings"

Sakagami - "Standing Hair"

Kanazuki - "Anvil"

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PART THREE: CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL NOTES

This section provides real-world context for terms and references used in Muramasa. It includes terms whose real-world meaning differs from that used in the story. The entries are separated by chapter and listed in **order of appearance**.



CHAPTER ONE: THE CRIMSON

Shingane - In Japanese swordsmithing, shingane refers to the core of the blade, forged of the hardest steel.

Kazu'uchi and Shin'uchi - These terms are also used in Japanese swordsmithing. Kazu'uchi were weapons forged quickly and in quantity to meet the demands of war. A shin'uchi was the work that, when a smith was commissioned to forge a weapon, he ultimately chose to present to the client. This usually meant forging several blades and selecting the best among them.

"Where there are saints, I slay them." - This is in part a reference to a teaching of the Rinzi (Linji) school of Zen Buddhism, which says: "If you meet the Buddha, slay him. If you meet your ancestors, slay them." This means that disciples should seek their own path to enlightenment with an open mind, rather than follow blindly what they have been taught.

Gattari - In medieval Japan, the gattari was a tube fixed to the back of a warrior's armor. The tube's purpose was to hold sashimono, the flags used to identify warriors in battle.

Sei'i Taishogun - "Great Barbarian Subduing General"
The full title for the historical office of shogun.

Sengo Uemon-no-Jo Muramasa of Seishu

Applies to both Yamatoan and Japanese versions of Muramasa.

Sengo: An appellation whose source and meaning are uncertain. A popular theory holds that it means "child of the Senju Kannon."

Uemon-no-Jo: A court rank situated between the Low Sixth and High Seventh ranks. See "jusanmi" below for more on court ranks.

Seishu: The region where Muramasa lived. Also known as Ise Province. Corresponds largely to modern-day Mie Prefecture.

CHAPTER TWO: THE PROMISED

Horo - In medieval Japan, horo were billowing silk cloaks worn by cavalry in battle. These cloaks were a form of identification, and also served to protect against arrows.

Restoration - The Meiji Restoration of 1868, which overthrew the Tokugawa shogunate and restored the emperor to power.

Fuma Kotaro - A hereditary name for the leader of the Fuma clan, which served the Hojo clan during the Sengoku period as specialists in espionage and guerrilla warfare. His epithets, "Wolf of Seisho" and "Outlaw of Soshu", both refer to Sagami Province, the clan's ancestral home

Jusanmi - A court rank. The Low Third Rank.

Imperial court ranks ascended from Ninth to First, with each subdivided into Low (ju) and High (sho), or even further with Ranks Four and below. Only those of Rank Five and above were considered members of the nobility.

During the Kamakura shogunate, the shogun was traditionally granted the High Third Rank (sho-zanmi).

Bizen - One of the five great schools of Japanese swordsmithing, with roots in Bizen Province (modern-day Okayama Prefecture).

Seki - One of the five great schools of Japanese swordsmithing, with roots in Mino Province (modern-day Gifu Prefecture).

“Though once the flowers bloomed so bright...” - A translation of the Iroha Song, a 10th or 11th-century poem that was written to use each of the 47 kana (Japanese syllables) only once.

Higan - A Buddhist holiday centered around the veneration of dead ancestors.

CHAPTER THREE: THE AVENGER

Shogunate Ranks and Titles - The structure of Yamato's Rokuhara shogunate derives in part from the historical Muromachi (or Ashikaga) shogunate, which was founded in Kyoto by Ashikaga Takauji in 1336. The imperial court bestowed upon the Ashikaga shoguns the title of “kubo”, which denotes a person who wields authority over the affairs of state. After Ashikaga Motouji, leader of the Kamakura branch of the Ashikaga family, became Kanto kanrei (deputy shogun; in Muramasa, Kanto Governor-General) he also claimed the title of kubo for himself (Kamakura kubo). Later, the position of Kamakura kubo split into the hereditary positions of Horigoe kubo, Koga kubo, Oyumi kubo, and Sasagawa kubo, which in Muramasa are the governorships (also lordships) held by the Four Kanto Generals.

Horigoe - Izu Province. A region comprising the Izu Peninsula, now located in Shizuoka Prefecture.

Koga - The northern part of Shimosa Province, now located in Ibaraki Prefecture.

Oyumi - The southern part of Shimosa Province, now located in Chiba Prefecture.

Sasagawa - The southernmost end of Mutsu Province, now located in Fukushima Prefecture. This region is also known as Aizu.

Karakuni - An old name for China.

Mito Komon - An appellation for Tokugawa Mitsukuni, a powerful daimyo (feudal lord) from the late 17th Century. Legends have him wandering Japan in disguise, righting wrongs with the help of his loyal retainers. These stories were adapted into the longest running jidaigeki (period drama) in Japanese television history, whose episodes would often end with Mito Komon revealing his identity to the villains by presenting his Tokugawa seal.

“I believe the expression is ‘useless, useless, useless!’” - A reference to the “Muda muda muda!” line from Jojo's Bizarre Adventure.



CHAPTER FOUR: THE MIGHTY

"The pilgrimage song rose and fell..." - Kanae is reading from Dai Bosatsu Toge, a 41-volume serial novel written by Nakazato Kaizan between 1913 and 1941. When Nakazato passed away in 1944, the novel was left uncompleted.

"Nastier the curse, sharper the blade." - A reference to the kabuki play Kagotsurube, where a cursed sword (the titular Kagotsurube) is revealed to have been forged by Sengo Muramasa.

"Oh, how great my thirst..." - An excerpt from Kagotsurube.

Itto-ryu - The "One Sword" school of swordsmanship. Founded in the Sengoku period by Ito Ittosai. Its Onoha branch was employed by the Tokugawa shogunate.

CHAPTER 5: THE FATED

Shinkage-ryu - The "True Shadow" school of swordsmanship. Founded in the Sengoku period by Kamiizumi Nobutsuna. The Yagyu branch, founded by Yagyu Muneyoshi (grandfather of the legendary Jubei) was also employed by the Tokugawa shogunate.

Yagura defense - In shogi (Japanese chess), a common defense where the king is moved to the corner behind multiple layers of pieces. "Yagura" is the name for a tower in a Japanese castle.

THE HERO

Soshu Goro Masamune

Soshu: Another name for Sagami Province (modern-day Kanagawa Prefecture), as well as one of the five great schools of Japanese swordsmithing.

Goro: "Fifth Son". Masamune was also called Nyudo, a title for a Buddhist monk.

"Too bad, eh, Hideyoshi?" - Chachamaru is comparing Raicho to Toyotomi Hideyoshi, who adopted Oda Nobunaga's fourth son Hidekatsu. When Nobunaga died, Hideyoshi took power. Nobunaga's funeral was held at Daitokuji Temple.

"You're like, my idol, man!" - A reference to the "shibireru akogareru" line from Jojo's Bizarre Adventure.

Kyogen - A brief comedic interlude performed between acts at a Noh exhibition.

Rai - One of the five great schools of Japanese swordsmithing, with roots in Yamashiro Province (modern-day Kyoto).

Enju - A school of swordsmithing that descended from the Rai school.

Kalasutra - The invocation for Dotanuki's shinogi consists of the Sanskrit names of Buddhist hells.

Jugemu - A rakugo sketch about a man whose parents gave him an exceedingly long name in the hope that it would grant him an equally long life. The sketch shows Jugemu forced to introduce himself again and again.

"Though heaven's net is coarsely woven..." - A quote from chapter 73 of the Tao Te Ching by Laozi. Though justice may seem unreliable, it finds everyone in the end.



THE NEMESIS

“But that’s what I love about you, dear.” - A reference to the “shibireru akogareru” line from Jojo’s Bizarre Adventure.

Twilight Lord - An appellation for Matsudaira Sadanobu, who enacted the Kan’ei Reforms of the late 18th Century. The “twilight” part of the name comes from a poem he wrote when he was 16 years old.

THE CONQUERER

“The sala flowers…” - The opening lines of the Tale of Heike, an epic retelling of the 12th-century war between the Minamoto (Genji) and Taira (Heike) clans.

Green Dragon Society - The Order of The Green Dragon was an 20th-century occult order with Tibetan origins and rumored Nazi ties. Its members are said to have included Grigory Rasputin and Karl Haushofer.

“The names of the deities…” - An excerpt from the Kojiki, an early 8th-century compilation of Japanese myths and legends. This text comes from the 1919 translation by Basil Hall Chamberlain.

Issun-boshi - “The One-Sun Boy”. A fable about a one-sun (3 cm) tall boy who wants to become a samurai.

THE DEMON

“Peace is the noblest pursuit.” - The first article of Prince Shotoku’s Seventeen-Article Constitution, which the Nihon Shoki records he wrote in 604 AD.

