

Lecture 15

Tying up loose ends and beginning the next unit.

On the film, *Rikyu*:

What are some contrasts between Rikyu and Hideyoshi?

Rikyu

- brooding
- mature
- finds beauty in simplicity/imperfection

Hideyoshi

- reactive
- not as mature
- impulsive
- selfish
- “showy” aesthetic
- worldly, confined by politics

What does each man like about the tea ceremony?

- Hideyoshi sees the ceremony as a way for him (formerly a commoner) to become more refined. Rikyu, on the other hand, finds beauty in the simplicity of the ceremony itself.

The tea ceremony is political, but also spiritual; in theory, it’s a time to leave material concerns and focus on aesthetics, simplicity, and spirit.

New Unit: will focus largely on Tokugawa Period

What do we know about the Tokugawa period?

- Highly socially stratified: warriors, farmers, merchants, etc.
- Very structural and bureaucratic
- Saw the beginning of urbanization
- “peaceful warriors” (though there was a lot of actual violence)
- cultural development

This unit is called “Worlds of Pleasure / Worlds of Pain,” but it could be called, “Way of the Merchant,” since they were doing so much to change society.

Utamaro Kitagawa: most famous woodblock print artist of Japan; famous for his “Beauties of Edo,” but he also portrayed all different aspects of popular culture at the time.

[Film: *Utamaro and His Five Women*]