

## Lecture 25

How were peasants portrayed in Musui's story?

- selfish, stingy, greedy
- thought of themselves as good, but were somewhat like the peasants in 7 Samurai

How does Katsu get them to pay up?

- he impresses them a lot
- has friends in high places; this is also impressive
- also uses religion to impress them; exhibits his "powers"
- threatens to kill himself

He still punishes them though, as well as rewards the ones who cooperated; this is another example of the stricture of Tokugawa society.

He's constantly expanding his social network, and justifies it to himself; is this a valid way of being a samurai, at the time?

- he claims that knowing the real world, and real people in it, is a good thing for a samurai to know
- it kind of "goes both ways"

Why did he write this? The autobiography didn't really exist in early 19<sup>th</sup> century Japan.

- he claims to be writing it to warn people away from the mistakes he made in his life
- yet he also clearly takes pleasure in the things he did

[film: *Kagemusha*]