

# CONTENTS

|                                                                        |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| PREFACE .....                                                          | v  |
| INTRODUCTION .....                                                     | 1  |
| Yamamoto Tsunetomo .....                                               | 2  |
| Historical background .....                                            | 3  |
| “ <i>Bushidō</i> ” of the <i>Hagakure</i> .....                        | 5  |
| Lord-retainer relationship.....                                        | 7  |
| Supreme form of loyalty and “dying with love kept to<br>oneself” ..... | 10 |
| Confucianism and the <i>Hagakure</i> .....                             | 12 |
| Buddhism and the <i>Hagakure</i> .....                                 | 13 |
| Wisdom .....                                                           | 15 |
| Love between man and wife .....                                        | 16 |
| High spirit.....                                                       | 17 |
| The <i>Hagakure</i> today .....                                        | 18 |

## THE HAGAKURE

|                                                         |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----|
| A Quiet Talk at Night .....                             | 27 |
| Volume One .....                                        | 35 |
| 2. Know the meaning of <i>bushidō</i> .....             | 35 |
| 3. Unflinching devotion to one's lord .....             | 35 |
| 4. Cast aside petty subjectivity.....                   | 36 |
| 5. Know the limit of one's wisdom.....                  | 37 |
| 7. A man with his heart in concert with his lord's..... | 37 |
| 9. Resolve to die for your lord .....                   | 38 |
| 12. Lay down your life for the good of your lord .....  | 39 |
| 14. Exercise care in remonstrating with others .....    | 40 |
| 17. Stifle a yawn .....                                 | 41 |
| 18. Be a considerate guest .....                        | 42 |

|                                                            |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 19. Rock-bottom meaning of the Four Pledges.....           | 43 |
| 21. Be prepared for every situation .....                  | 43 |
| 22. Wind up one's drinks properly.....                     | 44 |
| 24. Strict integrity leaves one isolated.....              | 44 |
| 29. Vitality first.....                                    | 44 |
| 35. Ambitions of the retainer .....                        | 45 |
| 36. Feminized men .....                                    | 45 |
| 37. My brief service.....                                  | 47 |
| 39. Virtue of concentration .....                          | 47 |
| 43. Never show off by arguing needlessly with one's lord.. | 48 |
| 44. Lookers-on see more than players .....                 | 49 |
| 45. No end to lifelong training .....                      | 50 |
| 46. Decide on matters of grave importance lightly.....     | 51 |
| 49. Respect the provincial ways of Saga.....               | 51 |
| 50. A man who has never blundered cannot be trusted ..     | 52 |
| 55. How to fight in a street fight .....                   | 53 |
| 59. Think not yourself as established .....                | 55 |
| 60. My father's beliefs .....                              | 55 |
| 61. Live this very moment .....                            | 57 |
| 63. Some changes in values in the last thirty years .....  | 57 |
| 64. Learn by observing another's example .....             | 59 |
| 68. What one has to know when imbibing.....                | 59 |
| 73. Give words of encouragement .....                      | 60 |
| 77. Be kind to visitors even when busy .....               | 60 |
| 79. Fear not the rain .....                                | 60 |
| 83. Be mindful of excelling others.....                    | 61 |
| 85. Raise a samurai's child properly.....                  | 61 |
| 86. Be careful of your words .....                         | 62 |
| 88. Be not an accomplished technician.....                 | 62 |
| 92. Fear not any misfortune.....                           | 63 |
| 95. Know the true nature of good and evil .....            | 63 |
| 106. Show your indomitable resolve.....                    | 64 |
| 107. Look into the mirror .....                            | 64 |

# CONTENTS

ix

|                  |                                                    |    |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----|
| 109.             | Fief inspector's duty .....                        | 65 |
| 110.             | Remonstrate with one's lord prudently.....         | 66 |
| 111.             | Despise calculating cowards .....                  | 67 |
| 112.             | Page service.....                                  | 67 |
| 113.             | Fight desperately .....                            | 68 |
| 116.             | Feel inferior to no man .....                      | 69 |
| 117.             | Watch your language .....                          | 69 |
| 121.             | Be resolute .....                                  | 69 |
| 122.             | A likable man.....                                 | 70 |
| 126.             | Avoid Promotion while young .....                  | 70 |
| 137.             | Surpass others by listening to their comments..... | 71 |
| 138.             | Be pure and simple .....                           | 71 |
| 141.             | The first word one utters .....                    | 72 |
| 143.             | Move heaven and earth .....                        | 72 |
| 150.             | Be friendly with prominent men.....                | 72 |
| 153.             | Be modest and act upon lessons .....               | 72 |
| 159.             | Fear not failure .....                             | 73 |
| 163.             | Be always modest as though first met.....          | 73 |
| 172.             | A "repentance diary" .....                         | 74 |
| 175.             | Loyalty and filial piety .....                     | 74 |
| 180.             | On <i>shūdō</i> .....                              | 75 |
| 185.             | Be bullish .....                                   | 76 |
| 189.             | Charge the foe headlong.....                       | 76 |
| 195.             | Cast away petty logic .....                        | 77 |
| 198.             | Abuse not the dead .....                           | 78 |
| 199.             | Serve the lord as a useful man .....               | 79 |
| Volume Two ..... |                                                    | 81 |
| 3.               | Acting unreasonable in one's old age .....         | 81 |
| 4.               | Know others' nature for settling matters .....     | 81 |
| 7.               | Three principles of the retainer's service .....   | 81 |
| 12.              | How to assist the lord.....                        | 82 |
| 16.              | Utter not a single word against the lord.....      | 83 |

|                                                           |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 17. Fervent zeal at every moment.....                     | 84  |
| 18. The trend of the times .....                          | 85  |
| 19. Come back to the fundamentals .....                   | 85  |
| 25. Hesitate not to ask the lord for financial help ..... | 86  |
| 27. Never be slain in the back .....                      | 87  |
| 33. Love in its supreme form .....                        | 87  |
| 44. This empty world .....                                | 88  |
| 47. Every moment is the crucial moment .....              | 89  |
| 55. Be prepared for death .....                           | 89  |
| 56. Encouragement rather than sympathy .....              | 90  |
| 60. A retainer who can see through things too far .....   | 90  |
| 61. Lord-retainer relationships are like love .....       | 92  |
| 63. What moves a retainer most.....                       | 93  |
| 71. How to settle disputes.....                           | 94  |
| 81. Gods and impurity.....                                | 95  |
| 85. Brief life of man .....                               | 95  |
| 89. Appearance .....                                      | 95  |
| 92. A humble-born in a prominent position .....           | 96  |
| 94. To be kept at a respectful distance .....             | 96  |
| 98. Personal favor of the superior .....                  | 97  |
| 102. Keep your mouth shut.....                            | 97  |
| 110. Never mind one's estate.....                         | 97  |
| 112. When calling upon somebody .....                     | 98  |
| 123. Stay not tongue-tied.....                            | 99  |
| 128. Selfish wishes ingrained in remonstrance.....        | 100 |
| 130. Never be hasty in life.....                          | 101 |
| 137. We live and die in this fief .....                   | 102 |
| 139. Saigyō and Kenkō are cowards .....                   | 104 |
| 140. Story of my life.....                                | 105 |
| Volume Three .....                                        | 109 |
| 9. Envious senior retainers .....                         | 109 |
| 16. A valiant retainer turned robber.....                 | 109 |

# CONTENTS

xi

|                                                                         |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 17. Arrogance of an old campaigner.....                                 | 111 |
| 21. Naoshige to Dispell ghosts.....                                     | 113 |
| 27. Let your fief fall with a good grace .....                          | 113 |
| 46. Weakened thrust of spears .....                                     | 114 |
| 53. An oath to die retracted.....                                       | 115 |
| Volume Four.....                                                        | 117 |
| 18. Ever on guard.....                                                  | 117 |
| 42. Not to see the disgraceful act of men .....                         | 117 |
| 50. Four types of retainers .....                                       | 118 |
| 55. How to acquire men of talent .....                                  | 118 |
| Volume Five .....                                                       | 120 |
| 81. Never think yourself as worthy of reverence .....                   | 120 |
| Volume Six .....                                                        | 121 |
| 18. Mercy and courage .....                                             | 121 |
| 49. How ineffective one's dying wishes are .....                        | 122 |
| 66. Daizen separated from his wife by his lord .....                    | 123 |
| Volume Seven .....                                                      | 124 |
| 1. To conquer .....                                                     | 124 |
| 38. Ushijima Shingorō who would never divorce his wife..                | 124 |
| 40. Courage enhanced .....                                              | 125 |
| 42. Tactful excuse .....                                                | 125 |
| 43. Tact to save the lord's face .....                                  | 126 |
| 46. When given dull work.....                                           | 127 |
| Volume Eight .....                                                      | 128 |
| 14. Have vitality above everything else .....                           | 128 |
| 22. To keep the young prince from being infected with<br>Buddhism ..... | 128 |
| 29. Shouldering the executed superior's blame.....                      | 130 |
| 40. Not a word to incriminate one's master .....                        | 131 |
| 42. Be ready for the fall of the Nabeshima rule .....                   | 132 |

|                                                           |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 47. Oibara forced on a retainer .....                     | 133 |
| 58. Rely not upon gods .....                              | 134 |
| 76. To suppress the conceit of an able man .....          | 135 |
| 87. A brave man at his last moments .....                 | 136 |
| Volume Nine.....                                          | 139 |
| 20. To slay one's wife committing adultery .....          | 139 |
| 21. A samurai dissuaded from a fight .....                | 139 |
| 24. True retainer service .....                           | 140 |
| 27. Wife wooed by a servant .....                         | 141 |
| 36. This age is not to blame .....                        | 141 |
| 39. Wife urges husband to vindicate his honor.....        | 142 |
| Volume Ten .....                                          | 144 |
| 65. Bedrock call of <i>bushidō</i> .....                  | 144 |
| 139. How to win in disputes .....                         | 145 |
| Volume Eleven.....                                        | 147 |
| 26. No need of studying academic tactics and strategy.... | 147 |
| 28. Promotion for the sake of the lord .....              | 147 |
| 36. The wife of a valiant warrior .....                   | 148 |
| 55. Turn not your back to the enemy .....                 | 148 |
| 77. Circumstantial evidence .....                         | 149 |
| 96. A bright-looking man has nothing to gain.....         | 149 |
| 134. Die every morning .....                              | 150 |
| 138. Beyond and within one's means .....                  | 150 |
| 141. Swift promotions and stipend increases .....         | 151 |
| 147. Comfort a man in diversity .....                     | 152 |
| 168. Mind not trifles .....                               | 152 |
| 169. Fundamentals of administering the country .....      | 153 |
| CHRONOLOGY .....                                          | 154 |
| SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY.....                                | 164 |
| INDEX .....                                               | 165 |