

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,000

In ancient Japan, a sword was forged with mystical powers.

2

00:00:06,000 --> 00:00:08,000

Whoever had it was the ruler of Japan.

3

00:00:08,000 --> 00:00:10,000

It has been lost to time.

4

00:00:10,000 --> 00:00:13,000

I think there's a strong possibility it's still hidden somewhere in Japan.

5

00:00:13,000 --> 00:00:15,000

But can it be found?

6

00:00:19,000 --> 00:00:21,000

Swords have a spirit.

7

00:00:22,000 --> 00:00:25,000

I don't know what I'm going to find at the top of the shrine.

8

00:00:26,000 --> 00:00:27,000

Yeah!

9

00:00:27,000 --> 00:00:30,000

I've come this far, and I'm not turning back.

10

00:00:32,000 --> 00:00:34,000

Oh, you don't f*** with a snow monkey.

11

00:00:44,000 --> 00:00:47,000

In Japan, there is a legend of a magic sword,

12

00:00:47,000 --> 00:00:50,000

a blade so perfect, so powerful,

13

00:00:50,000 --> 00:00:53,000

that whoever possessed it could control a nation.

14

00:00:54,000 --> 00:00:56,000

But this is no fairytale.

15

00:00:56,000 --> 00:00:58,000

The sword is real.

16

00:00:58,000 --> 00:01:01,000

The only question is, where is it?

17

00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:05,000

It is the 13th century.

18

00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:09,000

Goro Nyudo Masamune is the finest swordsmith in Japan.

19

00:01:09,000 --> 00:01:13,000

And the Hanzo Masamune is considered his crowning achievement.

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00:01:13,000 --> 00:01:17,000

Along with its lethal edge, it is said the blade has supernatural powers

21

00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:20,000

and cannot be used to kill an innocent person.

22

00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:26,000

In time, the Hanzo Masamune becomes Japan's greatest national treasure.

23

00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:30,000

But in the chaos at the end of World War II, it vanishes.

24

00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:35,000

While it was long believed that the missing sword was smuggled to America after the war,

25

00:01:35,000 --> 00:01:39,000

experts now believe that it may never have left Japan.

26

00:01:39,000 --> 00:01:43,000

There is new evidence that it may have been concealed in a sacred shrine,

27

00:01:43,000 --> 00:01:47,000

in wartime tunnels, or that it's circulating on the black market.

28

00:01:48,000 --> 00:01:52,000

The Hanzo Masamune is considered the greatest sword ever made,

29

00:01:52,000 --> 00:01:55,000

and an object of intense spiritual power.

30

00:01:55,000 --> 00:01:57,000

Is it about to be found?

31

00:01:58,000 --> 00:02:02,000

I'm joining the search in the land of the Rising Sun.

32

00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:09,000

My name is Josh Gates.

33

00:02:10,000 --> 00:02:13,000

With a degree in archaeology and a passion for exploration.

34

00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:18,000

I have a tendency to end up in some very strange situations.

35

00:02:18,000 --> 00:02:21,000

There has got to be a better way to make a living.

36

00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:24,000

My travels have taken me to the ends of the Earth,

37

00:02:24,000 --> 00:02:27,000

as I investigate the greatest legends in history.

38

00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:29,000

We're going to try, let's go.

39

00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:31,000

This is Expedition Unknown.

40

00:02:31,000 --> 00:02:35,000

Tokyo, Japan, home to nearly 40 million people.

41

00:02:35,000 --> 00:02:38,000

It is, quite simply, the biggest city in the world.

42

00:02:52,000 --> 00:02:55,000

But any adjective you can think of probably applies here.

43

00:02:55,000 --> 00:02:58,000

It is chaotic, and it is serene.

44

00:03:01,000 --> 00:03:04,000

It is modern, it is also ancient.

45

00:03:04,000 --> 00:03:09,000

And one thing is for sure, there is nowhere else in the world like Tokyo.

46

00:03:11,000 --> 00:03:16,000

The city is, at all hours of the day, absolutely a buzz, a sea of humanity.

47

00:03:16,000 --> 00:03:20,000

But what jumps out at me is the Japanese fascination with cuteness.

48

00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:24,000

They call it kawaii, and it's everywhere.

49

00:03:24,000 --> 00:03:28,000

Fashion, billboards, street signs, and of course, toys.

50

00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:33,000

Totally unexpected, the Hange Masamune is right here in this shop,

51

00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:35,000

and it is a dollar twenty.

52

00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:38,000

Worth a lot less than I thought.

53

00:03:40,000 --> 00:03:41,000

Hello?

54

00:03:41,000 --> 00:03:44,000

Oh my god, this bear is alive.

55

00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:49,000

It's repeating me.

56

00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:50,000

Bear?

57

00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:56,000

You heard the bear people?

58

00:03:56,000 --> 00:03:57,000

Okay, okay.

59

00:04:00,000 --> 00:04:03,000

Across town, I'm kicking off my hunt for the Hange Masamune

60

00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:05,000

at the last place it was ever seen.

61

00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:08,000

So the real mystery of the Hange Masamune sword starts right here.

62

00:04:08,000 --> 00:04:12,000

Pretty unlikely spot, this is the Majiro police station here in Tokyo.

63

00:04:12,000 --> 00:04:16,000

And it was right here that maybe the finest sword ever made was lost.

64

00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:20,000

Forged in the 13th century by the great Masamune,

65

00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:23,000

the sword passes down through the ages,

66

00:04:23,000 --> 00:04:27,000

until a fearsome warrior wields the blade in a brazen attack,

67

00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:32,000

on General Hange Shigenaga, and his samurai warriors.

68

00:04:34,000 --> 00:04:37,000

But despite splitting Hange's helmet,

69

00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:40,000

the blade spares his life

70

00:04:41,000 --> 00:04:43,000

and chooses a new master.

71

00:04:44,000 --> 00:04:47,000

The sword becomes known as the Hange Masamune,

72

00:04:47,000 --> 00:04:51,000

and eventually finds its way into the hands of the noble Tokugawa clan,

73

00:04:51,000 --> 00:04:53,000

who rule in peace for hundreds of years.

74

00:04:55,000 --> 00:04:58,000

But at the end of World War II with Japan and Tatters,

75

00:04:58,000 --> 00:05:00,000

the allies call for complete disarmament.

76

00:05:00,000 --> 00:05:02,000

In a final act of submission,

77

00:05:02,000 --> 00:05:06,000

every Japanese citizen is required to turn in all small arms,

78

00:05:06,000 --> 00:05:08,000

including cherished family swords.

79

00:05:09,000 --> 00:05:12,000

Aya Masa, the last Tokugawa to inherit the blade,

80

00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:16,000

is forced to hand over the Hange Masamune at the Majiro police station.

81

00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:18,000

It is never seen again.

82

00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:23,000

Now, supposedly, the sword was then handed over to a U.S. sergeant named Kuldi Bymore.

83

00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:25,000

But there's just one problem.

84

00:05:25,000 --> 00:05:27,000

He doesn't seem to exist.

85

00:05:28,000 --> 00:05:32,000

Many Japanese swords were given away to allied soldiers as trophies of war.

86

00:05:32,000 --> 00:05:34,000

A record shows the sword being turned in,

87

00:05:34,000 --> 00:05:37,000

and then being signed over to Sergeant Kuldi Bymore.

88

00:05:37,000 --> 00:05:40,000

But nobody with that name, or any variation of it,

89

00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:42,000

ever served in the U.S. armed forces.

90

00:05:43,000 --> 00:05:47,000

So if the Hange Masamune isn't in the police station, where did it go?

91

00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:51,000

To find out, I'm seeking out the man who the sword should have passed to.

92

00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:54,000

And he's agreed to meet me at his family's grave,

93

00:05:54,000 --> 00:05:56,000

which isn't exactly a simple tombstone.

94

00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:10,000

Here it is with you. Very nice to meet you as well.

95

00:06:10,000 --> 00:06:11,000

Here you go.

96

00:06:11,000 --> 00:06:17,000

Tsunenari Tokugawa is the 18th generation head of the family who once ruled Japan.

97

00:06:17,000 --> 00:06:22,000

Their sprawling ancestral temple in the middle of modern Tokyo is a testament to their power,

98

00:06:22,000 --> 00:06:24,000

and to the sword they once wielded.

99

00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:26,000

It's an incredible, incredible place.

100

00:06:28,000 --> 00:06:33,000

Mr. Tokugawa and his grandson have agreed to take me to a sacred part of the temple

101

00:06:33,000 --> 00:06:35,000

that strictly off limits to outsiders.

102

00:06:35,000 --> 00:06:37,000

This is our family, Maslil.

103

00:06:42,000 --> 00:06:44,000

This is beautiful.

104

00:06:45,000 --> 00:06:53,000

These are the tombs of the Tokugawa Shogun, military generals that govern from 1603 until 1867.

105

00:06:53,000 --> 00:06:55,000

So these are the graves.

106

00:06:55,000 --> 00:06:57,000

Six different shoguns.

107

00:06:57,000 --> 00:06:58,000

Right.

108

00:06:58,000 --> 00:06:59,000

Very good.

109

00:06:59,000 --> 00:07:04,000

So as each Tokugawa shogun ascended the throne, the sword was passed.

110

00:07:04,000 --> 00:07:06,000

And this went on for how long?

111

00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:09,000

Well actually right up until your father.

112

00:07:09,000 --> 00:07:11,000

Well, to end the world or two.

113

00:07:11,000 --> 00:07:12,000

Yes.

114

00:07:12,000 --> 00:07:16,000

Some people would be surprised that your father simply turned it in.

115

00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:20,000

Why do you think he chose to do that instead of hiding the sword somewhere?

116

00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:27,000

My father was the last minister chairman of the House of Lord.

117

00:07:27,000 --> 00:07:28,000

Yes.

118

00:07:28,000 --> 00:07:31,000

And he was a good ambassador before then.

119

00:07:32,000 --> 00:07:38,000

To hide something in, I think never came up to his brain.

120

00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:40,000

It's the rule order.

121

00:07:40,000 --> 00:07:41,000

So he did the right thing.

122

00:07:41,000 --> 00:07:42,000

Yes.

123

00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:47,000

Why do you think this particular sword is so well regarded?

124

00:07:47,000 --> 00:07:49,000

It's a half sword, half scepter.

125

00:07:49,000 --> 00:07:51,000

Whoever had it, it was the shogun.

126

00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:53,000

It was the ruler of Japan.

127

00:07:54,000 --> 00:07:56,000

So it's not just the sword, it's a symbol.

128

00:07:56,000 --> 00:07:57,000

Right.

129

00:07:57,000 --> 00:08:02,000

If the Hange Masamune is still in Japan, where do you think it might be?

130

00:08:02,000 --> 00:08:07,000

Very clever sword lover.

131

00:08:07,000 --> 00:08:13,000

Want to keep it in his place like this and nobody would see it.

132

00:08:13,000 --> 00:08:17,000

If I find the sword, I will call you Mr Tokugawa.

133

00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:19,000

I'll be waiting for you.

134

00:08:19,000 --> 00:08:20,000

Thank you very much for your time.

135

00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:21,000

Anytime.

136

00:08:21,000 --> 00:08:22,000

Yes, thank you very much.

137

00:08:22,000 --> 00:08:23,000

Thank you.

138

00:08:23,000 --> 00:08:24,000

Thank you.

139

00:08:24,000 --> 00:08:25,000

And good luck with your search.

140

00:08:25,000 --> 00:08:26,000

Thanks very much.

141

00:08:26,000 --> 00:08:30,000

I believe the sword could be hidden in a private collection, so I'm off to meet a noted sword

142

00:08:30,000 --> 00:08:33,000

expert who believes he may know where.

143

00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:38,000

To get there, I'll have to brave the wild world of the Japanese subway.

144

00:08:38,000 --> 00:08:45,000

All told, there are almost 300 different stations and multiple lines overlapping one another.

145

00:08:45,000 --> 00:08:51,000

Every day, over 8 million people ride these rails, and today, I'm one of them.

146

00:08:51,000 --> 00:09:00,000

Central to Japanese culture are honor and respect, which are on full display in the world's most polite subway car.

147

00:09:00,000 --> 00:09:02,000

Sorry.

148

00:09:02,000 --> 00:09:03,000

Sorry.

149

00:09:03,000 --> 00:09:07,000

Sorry to everybody.

150

00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:15,000

I just want to make clear how quiet it is in this train.

151

00:09:15,000 --> 00:09:30,000

If this were New York City, there'd be three guys drumming, two dudes panhandling, someone screaming, somebody talking a lot about Jesus.

152

00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:41,000

Confession, the next 12 and a half minutes of complete silence may be the longest I've ever gone without speaking.

153

00:09:41,000 --> 00:09:43,000

Good Lord.

154

00:09:43,000 --> 00:09:52,000

At the nearby Haramari-Kyu Gardens, I'm meeting Adrian Schlemmer, a sword connoisseur and expert who has been collecting and studying Japanese blades for 30 years.

155

00:09:52,000 --> 00:09:55,000

What's your opinion about the Hanzo Masamune?

156

00:09:55,000 --> 00:09:57,000

Where do you think it went?

157

00:09:57,000 --> 00:10:02,000

As 68 years have passed, it comes less and less likely that it's up in America.

158

00:10:02,000 --> 00:10:08,000

So that not being the case, there's a good chance that it's ended up somewhere in Japan.

159

00:10:08,000 --> 00:10:16,000

At the time of the confiscation, museums were exempt, shrines were exempt, and quite legally even.

160

00:10:16,000 --> 00:10:23,000

If they donated to a shrine before they were confiscated, then they belonged to the shrine.

161

00:10:23,000 --> 00:10:27,000

Do you think that the Hanzo Masamune is going to resurface at some point?

162

00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:32,000

Well, it could well be that the Hanzo Masamune will resurface when it wants to resurface.

163

00:10:32,000 --> 00:10:41,000

Swords have a spirit. If that's the case, then it could well be that its spirits has decided it's not time for it to show its face.

164

00:10:41,000 --> 00:10:49,000

Adrian and others are convinced the sword is still here on Japanese soil, perhaps stowed in a shrine or illegally sold to a collector.

165

00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:58,000

To follow up on that lead, Adrian has put me in touch with a black market sword expert who has agreed to be interviewed anonymously in a local bar.

166

00:10:58,000 --> 00:11:02,000

Time for me to descend into the world of Tokyo Nightlife.

167

00:11:15,000 --> 00:11:20,000

This is Kabukicho, the red-light district of Tokyo. It is called the Sleepless Town.

168

00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:25,000

Hey! How are you? Hi! How are you?

169

00:11:25,000 --> 00:11:29,000

Oh my God! Where are we drinking? Where are we going?

170

00:11:29,000 --> 00:11:37,000

The city glows like a neon microchip, powered by endless bars, entertainment, and one-of-a-kind lounge acts.

171

00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:46,000

Is that a robot playing a saxophone? You may be asking yourself? Answer? You bet it is.

172

00:11:46,000 --> 00:11:50,000

We don't know where this elevator goes, but I assume it's the future.

173

00:11:50,000 --> 00:11:56,000

Japan is confounding because it strives to maintain ancient traditions while also embracing modernity.

174

00:11:56,000 --> 00:12:00,000

And Tokyo is, in many ways, a city obsessed with the future.

175

00:12:00,000 --> 00:12:05,000

And at Robot Restaurant, that future feels like a full-on 23rd century acid trip.

176

00:12:05,000 --> 00:12:09,000

Are you ready? Yes!

177

00:12:20,000 --> 00:12:38,000

Music playing

178

00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:41,000

Good Lord, was that real?

179

00:12:41,000 --> 00:12:44,000

Great lesson, sir.

180

00:12:45,000 --> 00:12:52,000

Before I lose my sanity completely, I eject back out onto the streets for my meeting with a black market sword dealer.

181

00:12:52,000 --> 00:13:01,000

Just a few blocks away is an area known as Golden Guy, a warren of narrow alleys crammed with more than 200 bars.

182

00:13:04,000 --> 00:13:10,000

Golden Guy doesn't feel quite as welcoming as the Robot Restaurant, and supposedly it's run by the Yakuza.

183

00:13:11,000 --> 00:13:13,000

The Japanese mob.

184

00:13:13,000 --> 00:13:19,000

Music playing

185

00:13:25,000 --> 00:13:32,000

I'm on the trail of the Hanzo Masamune, a mystical 13th century Japanese sword that disappeared at the end of World War II.

186

00:13:32,000 --> 00:13:40,000

This is Golden Guy, a neighborhood of Tokyo where I'm supposed to rendezvous with an expert who specializes in black market sword trading.

187

00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:47,000

I duck into a local bar where my contact has agreed to an interview on the condition that I conceal his identity.

188

00:13:47,000 --> 00:13:57,000

So, I'm very, very interested in the Hanzo Masamune, but also in understanding these valuable swords in general.

189

00:13:57,000 --> 00:13:59,000

Are they allowed to be traded?

190

00:13:59,000 --> 00:14:07,000

Yes, but of course, the buyer and the seller has to leap over to the authority.

191

00:14:08,000 --> 00:14:18,000

By law, every Japanese sword is given papers of authentication, but if a sword is unsigned by the artist or without documentation like the Hanzo Masamune, there's no way to track it.

192

00:14:18,000 --> 00:14:23,000

And what about underground trading? Is that something that happens?

193

00:14:23,000 --> 00:14:33,000

Well, if one person gets a precious sword and sells it to a hunting shop or the internet option, nobody will know.

194

00:14:33,000 --> 00:14:38,000

So, if the sword shows up and it has no authentication papers, how do you know that it's the Hanzo Masamune?

195

00:14:38,000 --> 00:14:43,000

What we have to do is to match to the figures left today.

196

00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:52,000

Okay, this is the most accurate figure I think of the Hanzo Masamune. This gravy shape here is called Hamon.

197

00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:53,000

What is the Hamon?

198

00:14:53,000 --> 00:14:57,000

Hamon is a pattern of the sword's actually edge.

199

00:14:57,000 --> 00:14:58,000

So, it's like a fingerprint?

200

00:14:58,000 --> 00:14:59,000

Oh, yes.

201

00:14:59,000 --> 00:15:04,000

If somebody tomorrow said they found the Hanzo Masamune, this is the way that we would tell, right?

202

00:15:04,000 --> 00:15:05,000

Yes.

203

00:15:05,000 --> 00:15:10,000

Where could that sword have been kept safe at a time when the allies were trying to find every sword in Japan?

204

00:15:10,000 --> 00:15:20,000

They actually created huge tunnels and they moved functions of the government and of course precious materials from Tokyo.

205

00:15:20,000 --> 00:15:26,000

And so, you think it's possible that the sword could have been hidden away in one of those imperial tunnels?

206

00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:35,000

There is one guy investigating this issue right now and he's got a newer information and he's researching in Nagano right now.

207

00:15:38,000 --> 00:15:42,000

By the light of a new day, I'm eager to follow up on this promising lead.

208

00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:47,000

On the way to the tunnels, I plan to stop in Kamakura, the city where the Hanzo Masamune was forged.

209

00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:55,000

From Tokyo, it's about a 40-minute train ride south, in complete silence, of course.

210

00:15:57,000 --> 00:16:03,000

This was once the center of Japan's power and home to samurai and warlords known as Shoga.

211

00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:08,000

It is somewhere in this ancient city where Masamune forged his legendary sword.

212

00:16:10,000 --> 00:16:16,000

There is a myth that the blade was tested against an evil sword, crafted by the swordsmith Morimasa.

213

00:16:16,000 --> 00:16:22,000

The two katanas were placed in a river and while the Morimasa sliced everything that crossed its path,

214

00:16:22,000 --> 00:16:25,000

the Masamune spared every branch, leaf and fish.

215

00:16:25,000 --> 00:16:29,000

It was as though the sword had a conscience and a mind of its own.

216

00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:33,000

Little is known about Masamune the man.

217

00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:37,000

He crafted his blades between 1288 and 1328.

218

00:16:37,000 --> 00:16:41,000

His grave in Kamakura is simple and modest.

219

00:16:44,000 --> 00:16:48,000

So how did Masamune craft a weapon of such power and perfection?

220

00:16:48,000 --> 00:16:52,000

While he isn't around to tell me, astonishingly, his descendant is.

221

00:16:53,000 --> 00:16:57,000

Sunihiro Yamamura is the 24th generation of Masamune

222

00:16:57,000 --> 00:17:01,000

and has been making swords like his grand ancestor for 40 years.

223

00:17:01,000 --> 00:17:04,000

What is the secret, Mr. Yamamura, to making a great sword?

224

00:17:06,000 --> 00:17:08,000

It takes patience and great tradition.

225

00:17:09,000 --> 00:17:13,000

A true samurai sword is not just a weapon, it's alive.

226

00:17:15,000 --> 00:17:18,000

The secret to forging a sword is heat.

227

00:17:18,000 --> 00:17:23,000

In 1300 degrees of red hot coals, 15 pounds of Tamahagani Japanese steel

228

00:17:23,000 --> 00:17:28,000

is thrust into the furnace to soften the metal and remove impurities.

229

00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:32,000

Then, for weeks, the steel is hammered, shaped and folded

230

00:17:32,000 --> 00:17:35,000

until all that's left is the essence of a blade.

231

00:17:40,000 --> 00:17:43,000

But the forge is also a holy place.

232

00:17:43,000 --> 00:17:45,000

The walls covered in prayers and offerings

233

00:17:45,000 --> 00:17:49,000

to summon the gods and imbue the weapon with the soul of the swordsmith.

234

00:17:49,000 --> 00:17:51,000

The craftsmen wear ceremonial robes.

235

00:17:51,000 --> 00:17:54,000

Lucky for me, they come in to excel.

236

00:17:55,000 --> 00:17:57,000

Amazingly, this kind of fits me.

237

00:17:57,000 --> 00:17:59,000

I don't know how that's possible.

238

00:17:59,000 --> 00:18:01,000

I am the biggest person in Japan.

239

00:18:02,000 --> 00:18:03,000

I look like Sumotori.

240

00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:04,000

I look like what?

241

00:18:04,000 --> 00:18:05,000

Sumotori.

242

00:18:05,000 --> 00:18:06,000

Sumotori?

243

00:18:06,000 --> 00:18:07,000

Sumo fighter.

244

00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:08,000

I look like a sumo wrestler.

245

00:18:08,000 --> 00:18:09,000

Sumo wrestler.

246

00:18:09,000 --> 00:18:11,000

Very nice, sir. Thank you.

247

00:18:12,000 --> 00:18:16,000

I'm allowed the honor of hammering Sunehiro's latest masterpiece,

248

00:18:16,000 --> 00:18:20,000

which, while very kind of him, might not be a great idea.

249

00:18:20,000 --> 00:18:21,000

Be careful.

250

00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:22,000

Be careful.

251

00:18:22,000 --> 00:18:23,000

And slow.

252

00:18:23,000 --> 00:18:25,000

You memorize timing.

253

00:18:25,000 --> 00:18:26,000

I memorize the timing.

254

00:18:26,000 --> 00:18:27,000

One, one, one, one.

255

00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:28,000

One, one, one.

256

00:18:28,000 --> 00:18:29,000

Okay.

257

00:18:29,000 --> 00:18:32,000

Thousands of years of Japanese tradition.

258

00:18:32,000 --> 00:18:34,000

We've had a four-second prep course.

259

00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:35,000

I'm sure I'm going to nail this.

260

00:18:35,000 --> 00:18:36,000

Okay, here we go.

261

00:18:36,000 --> 00:18:38,000

First you, yep.

262

00:18:41,000 --> 00:18:42,000

Good lord.

263

00:18:57,000 --> 00:19:00,000

I'm in Kamakura, Japan, where I've been invited to try my hand

264

00:19:00,000 --> 00:19:02,000

at forging a samurai sword.

265

00:19:02,000 --> 00:19:05,000

This could get really embarrassing really quickly.

266

00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:20,000

I'm killing this.

267

00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:22,000

Come on.

268

00:19:22,000 --> 00:19:23,000

Come on.

269

00:19:23,000 --> 00:19:24,000

That was pretty good.

270

00:19:24,000 --> 00:19:26,000

How would you review my performance?

271

00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:27,000

How did I do?

272

00:19:27,000 --> 00:19:29,000

Mmm, soso.

273

00:19:29,000 --> 00:19:31,000

Mmm, soso.

274

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:33,000

All right, I'll take it.

275

00:19:33,000 --> 00:19:36,000

Okay, I didn't exactly knock it out of the park,

276

00:19:36,000 --> 00:19:38,000

but I've got a shot at redemption.

277

00:19:38,000 --> 00:19:40,000

He's a instructor, Mr. Ohata-san.

278

00:19:40,000 --> 00:19:41,000

Very nice to meet you.

279

00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:42,000

Nice to meet you too.

280

00:19:42,000 --> 00:19:44,000

This is Japanese sword.

281

00:19:44,000 --> 00:19:45,000

Please use this.

282

00:19:45,000 --> 00:19:47,000

You want me to use this?

283

00:19:47,000 --> 00:19:49,000

Thank you very much.

284

00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:50,000

Okay, real Japanese sword.

285

00:19:50,000 --> 00:19:51,000

Real Japanese sword.

286

00:19:51,000 --> 00:19:52,000

You're going to let me hold this?

287

00:19:52,000 --> 00:19:53,000

Yes.

288

00:19:53,000 --> 00:19:54,000

That's a terrible mistake.

289

00:19:54,000 --> 00:19:55,000

Okay.

290

00:19:55,000 --> 00:19:57,000

Hopefully not, hopefully not.

291

00:19:57,000 --> 00:19:58,000

Can you demonstrate first?

292

00:19:58,000 --> 00:19:59,000

Yes, okay.

293

00:19:59,000 --> 00:20:01,000

Okay, I'll stand back.

294

00:20:01,000 --> 00:20:03,000

This is called Tamashigiri.

295

00:20:03,000 --> 00:20:06,000

Samurais sliced through tightly rolled up tatami mats

296

00:20:06,000 --> 00:20:08,000

to test the quality of the sword

297

00:20:08,000 --> 00:20:10,000

and their skills handling it.

298

00:20:13,000 --> 00:20:16,000

And Mr. Ohata is a tough act to follow.

299

00:20:16,000 --> 00:20:17,000

That was very impressive.

300

00:20:17,000 --> 00:20:18,000

Yes.

301

00:20:18,000 --> 00:20:20,000

So I have my left foot forward, right?

302

00:20:20,000 --> 00:20:22,000

And then I go here, and I go...

303

00:20:22,000 --> 00:20:24,000

Yes.

304

00:20:24,000 --> 00:20:26,000

Okay, now you try.

305

00:20:26,000 --> 00:20:29,000

Okay, all right, so let me get in position here.

306

00:20:29,000 --> 00:20:32,000

Pressure is on, a lot of camera phones out.

307

00:20:32,000 --> 00:20:35,000

There's a big white guy in the streets of Kamakura.

308

00:20:35,000 --> 00:20:37,000

Okay, do I need to make that noise?

309

00:20:37,000 --> 00:20:38,000

Yes.

310

00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:39,000

I do?

311

00:20:39,000 --> 00:20:41,000

Voice is concentration, voice.

312

00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:45,000

Okay, you may want to back up now

313

00:20:45,000 --> 00:20:47,000

because I don't know where this sword is going.

314

00:21:04,000 --> 00:21:05,000

Thank you.

315

00:21:05,000 --> 00:21:06,000

Wow.

316

00:21:07,000 --> 00:21:09,000

I got very lucky, I think, but I'll take it.

317

00:21:09,000 --> 00:21:10,000

It's okay?

318

00:21:10,000 --> 00:21:11,000

Okay.

319

00:21:11,000 --> 00:21:12,000

Perfect.

320

00:21:12,000 --> 00:21:14,000

You can cut better than teacher.

321

00:21:14,000 --> 00:21:15,000

I'm better than the teacher?

322

00:21:15,000 --> 00:21:16,000

Yeah.

323

00:21:16,000 --> 00:21:17,000

Somebody get that on camera.

324

00:21:17,000 --> 00:21:19,000

Very clear cut.

325

00:21:19,000 --> 00:21:21,000

You have samurai DNA.

326

00:21:21,000 --> 00:21:22,000

I have samurai DNA.

327

00:21:22,000 --> 00:21:23,000

Yes, yes, I guess.

328

00:21:23,000 --> 00:21:24,000

Thank you, arigato.

329

00:21:24,000 --> 00:21:25,000

Congratulations.

330

00:21:25,000 --> 00:21:26,000

Arigato.

331

00:21:26,000 --> 00:21:27,000

Arigato.

332

00:21:27,000 --> 00:21:28,000

Wow.

333

00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:31,000

It's not every day you find out you were born a samurai

334

00:21:31,000 --> 00:21:33,000

and with a deeper understanding of what it takes

335

00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:35,000

to make these razor sharp swords,

336

00:21:35,000 --> 00:21:38,000

I'm renewing my hunt for the Hanzo Masamune.

337

00:21:38,000 --> 00:21:41,000

My expert in Tokyo believes the government might have hid

338

00:21:41,000 --> 00:21:44,000

the blade in underground tunnels at the end of World War II

339

00:21:44,000 --> 00:21:47,000

and has put me in touch with a modern-day treasure hunter

340

00:21:47,000 --> 00:21:50,000

who believes the blade could be in Nagano.

341

00:21:50,000 --> 00:21:53,000

It's about 170 miles from Kamakura to Nagano,

342

00:21:53,000 --> 00:21:56,000

but it will take less than an hour of Bordish Inconsen,

343

00:21:56,000 --> 00:21:58,000

the Japanese bullet train.

344

00:21:58,000 --> 00:22:06,000

I mean, come on.

345

00:22:06,000 --> 00:22:08,000

This is the future.

346

00:22:08,000 --> 00:22:10,000

This is it right here.

347

00:22:10,000 --> 00:22:12,000

I'm in a spaceship.

348

00:22:12,000 --> 00:22:18,000

The trains are called bullets for a reason.

349

00:22:18,000 --> 00:22:21,000

They effortlessly hit speeds of up to 200 miles an hour,

350

00:22:21,000 --> 00:22:24,000

and their departures are timed to the second.

351

00:22:24,000 --> 00:22:25,000

Their secret?

352

00:22:25,000 --> 00:22:28,000

The trains run on completely independent tracks

353

00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:31,000

and use tunnels and elevated systems to go over or through

354

00:22:31,000 --> 00:22:37,000

any obstacles, including the time-space continuum.

355

00:22:37,000 --> 00:22:39,000

Good night bullet train.

356

00:22:39,000 --> 00:22:41,000

I love you.

357

00:22:41,000 --> 00:22:43,000

An hour later, the love affair is over

358

00:22:43,000 --> 00:22:46,000

and we glide into the station at Nagano.

359

00:22:46,000 --> 00:22:48,000

Just a few miles away, I'm meeting a contact

360

00:22:48,000 --> 00:22:51,000

who's part of a new generation of urban explorers

361

00:22:51,000 --> 00:22:53,000

that the Japanese call Hiiko.

362

00:22:53,000 --> 00:22:56,000

Michael Gakuren may look like he's in a boy band,

363

00:22:56,000 --> 00:22:58,000

but he's part of an international group

364

00:22:58,000 --> 00:23:01,000

dedicated to the investigation of seldom explored ruins

365

00:23:01,000 --> 00:23:02,000

from Japan's past.

366

00:23:02,000 --> 00:23:05,000

He lives for this stuff and believes he may know

367

00:23:05,000 --> 00:23:10,000

where the Hange Masamune is hiding.

368

00:23:10,000 --> 00:23:12,000

Wow, look at this place.

369

00:23:12,000 --> 00:23:15,000

Oh, that is foreboding.

370

00:23:15,000 --> 00:23:19,000

Yeah, so these are the tunnels, the Matsushiro tunnels

371

00:23:19,000 --> 00:23:21,000

that were built towards the Second Bode War.

372

00:23:21,000 --> 00:23:24,000

The Japanese built this underground shelter in 1944

373

00:23:24,000 --> 00:23:27,000

to house the Imperial government in the final days

374

00:23:27,000 --> 00:23:29,000

of World War II.

375

00:23:29,000 --> 00:23:31,000

Michael believes the government might have stashed

376

00:23:31,000 --> 00:23:35,000

the Hange Masamune somewhere in the darkness below.

377

00:23:35,000 --> 00:23:37,000

We have permission to go here?

378

00:23:37,000 --> 00:23:38,000

We do, luckily.

379

00:23:38,000 --> 00:23:39,000

Please, after you.

380

00:23:39,000 --> 00:23:40,000

Let's go.

381

00:23:45,000 --> 00:23:47,000

Okay, please.

382

00:23:47,000 --> 00:23:49,000

I'm not sure how confident I am that Michael

383

00:23:49,000 --> 00:23:51,000

is going to lead me straight to the sword,

384

00:23:51,000 --> 00:23:53,000

but what can I say, I'm a glutton

385

00:23:53,000 --> 00:23:56,000

for exploring creepy tunnels.

386

00:23:56,000 --> 00:23:57,000

This is amazing.

387

00:23:57,000 --> 00:23:58,000

Yeah.

388

00:23:58,000 --> 00:24:00,000

Just these, like, roughly blasted tunnels.

389

00:24:00,000 --> 00:24:01,000

They do.

390

00:24:01,000 --> 00:24:03,000

They use just dynamite to blast, blast, blast

391

00:24:03,000 --> 00:24:04,000

really deep into the mountain.

392

00:24:04,000 --> 00:24:05,000

Incredible.

393

00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:10,000

Is Hange Masamune a national treasure

394

00:24:10,000 --> 00:24:12,000

that is worst slated to come into these tunnels?

395

00:24:12,000 --> 00:24:14,000

Yes, if these tunnels were probably completed

396

00:24:14,000 --> 00:24:16,000

and they moved the Imperial family down here,

397

00:24:16,000 --> 00:24:18,000

probably would have been taken and stored here.

398

00:24:18,000 --> 00:24:20,000

So, you think they would have been widely explored?

399

00:24:20,000 --> 00:24:21,000

Well, certain sections have,

400

00:24:21,000 --> 00:24:23,000

but there's also many, many kilometers of tunnels

401

00:24:23,000 --> 00:24:25,000

that haven't been properly excavated.

402

00:24:29,000 --> 00:24:31,000

So, what's the general plan of attack here?

403

00:24:31,000 --> 00:24:33,000

Well, I've got a metal detector and some digging equipment,

404

00:24:33,000 --> 00:24:35,000

so I'm thinking we can go into some of the tunnels

405

00:24:35,000 --> 00:24:37,000

that haven't been properly excavated

406

00:24:37,000 --> 00:24:38,000

and see if we've got any hits.

407

00:24:38,000 --> 00:24:40,000

See if we can find the Hange.

408

00:24:41,000 --> 00:24:45,000

We begin to scour the seven miles of serpentine passages,

409

00:24:45,000 --> 00:24:47,000

and after a few hours in the chilly darkness,

410

00:24:47,000 --> 00:24:49,000

we finally get a hit.

411

00:24:58,000 --> 00:25:00,000

Oh, big hit, big hit.

412

00:25:04,000 --> 00:25:06,000

I'm in Japan exploring Imperial tunnels

413

00:25:06,000 --> 00:25:08,000

and I'm looking for a place to go.

414

00:25:08,000 --> 00:25:11,000

I'm in Japan exploring Imperial tunnels from World War II,

415

00:25:11,000 --> 00:25:14,000

looking for any signs of the world's finest sword.

416

00:25:14,000 --> 00:25:17,000

And we might just have found something.

417

00:25:17,000 --> 00:25:19,000

Oh, big hit, big hit.

418

00:25:26,000 --> 00:25:27,000

Something there?

419

00:25:27,000 --> 00:25:29,000

Yeah, something's in there, isn't it?

420

00:25:29,000 --> 00:25:31,000

It might just be some ore.

421

00:25:33,000 --> 00:25:34,000

Oh, there's a coin.

422

00:25:34,000 --> 00:25:35,000

Oh, look at that coin.

423

00:25:35,000 --> 00:25:36,000

Look at that.

424

00:25:36,000 --> 00:25:37,000

Look at that.

425

00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:38,000

Something of value.

426

00:25:39,000 --> 00:25:41,000

We got 10 yen.

427

00:25:41,000 --> 00:25:42,000

10 yen.

428

00:25:43,000 --> 00:25:44,000

There it is.

429

00:25:44,000 --> 00:25:46,000

I mean, I'm finding treasure.

430

00:25:46,000 --> 00:25:49,000

I think the Hange Masamune is worth more than 10 yen.

431

00:25:49,000 --> 00:25:50,000

You heard official treasure hunting out there.

432

00:25:50,000 --> 00:25:52,000

But I'm not leaving here empty-handed.

433

00:25:52,000 --> 00:25:53,000

Right.

434

00:25:53,000 --> 00:25:54,000

Right, it's something.

435

00:25:54,000 --> 00:25:55,000

All right, I'm claiming this.

436

00:25:55,000 --> 00:25:56,000

We can split it.

437

00:25:56,000 --> 00:25:58,000

5 yen for you, 5 yen for me.

438

00:25:58,000 --> 00:25:59,000

Okay.

439

00:26:00,000 --> 00:26:03,000

Hours of searching leads us through incredible tunnels,

440

00:26:03,000 --> 00:26:05,000

but we find no sign of the Hange Masamune.

441

00:26:05,000 --> 00:26:08,000

As we ascend to the surface, I'm reminded that the legend says

442

00:26:08,000 --> 00:26:12,000

the sword will only appear to someone worthy of its righteous powers,

443

00:26:12,000 --> 00:26:14,000

like a samurai.

444

00:26:16,000 --> 00:26:20,000

In feudal Japan, Ushido was a set of moral principles

445

00:26:20,000 --> 00:26:21,000

followed by these soldiers.

446

00:26:21,000 --> 00:26:24,000

It means the way of the warrior,

447

00:26:24,000 --> 00:26:28,000

an unwritten code that permeated every aspect of the samurai's life.

448

00:26:28,000 --> 00:26:31,000

This culture is something I know almost nothing about,

449

00:26:31,000 --> 00:26:34,000

and yet it's a critical part of the sword's history.

450

00:26:34,000 --> 00:26:38,000

I really want to understand more about the world of the samurai.

451

00:26:38,000 --> 00:26:41,000

All I need now is someone willing to teach me.

452

00:26:46,000 --> 00:26:53,000

This is Tetsuro Shimoguchi, a Japanese sensei with 25 years of relentless training.

453

00:26:53,000 --> 00:26:55,000

Not a guy you want to mess with,

454

00:26:55,000 --> 00:26:58,000

but he has agreed to give me a crash course in samurai training,

455

00:26:58,000 --> 00:27:00,000

and kimonos.

456

00:27:00,000 --> 00:27:01,000

So this first.

457

00:27:01,000 --> 00:27:02,000

Yeah.

458

00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:04,000

This is already going well.

459

00:27:05,000 --> 00:27:07,000

How do you do this by yourself?

460

00:27:07,000 --> 00:27:09,000

It's a two-person job.

461

00:27:10,000 --> 00:27:12,000

Oh, come on.

462

00:27:14,000 --> 00:27:15,000

But wait, there's more.

463

00:27:15,000 --> 00:27:17,000

You can protect your ears.

464

00:27:17,000 --> 00:27:19,000

Am I going to need my ears protected, sensei?

465

00:27:19,000 --> 00:27:21,000

And really, how much protection am I getting?

466

00:27:21,000 --> 00:27:22,000

Okay.

467

00:27:23,000 --> 00:27:24,000

Looks good.

468

00:27:24,000 --> 00:27:25,000

It looks good?

469

00:27:25,000 --> 00:27:28,000

I feel like you look like a very cool samurai.

470

00:27:28,000 --> 00:27:31,000

And I look like a line cook at Benihana.

471

00:27:33,000 --> 00:27:36,000

The key to becoming a samurai?

472

00:27:36,000 --> 00:27:38,000

Practice.

473

00:27:40,000 --> 00:27:42,000

Like this, concentrate.

474

00:27:42,000 --> 00:27:44,000

Left hand like this.

475

00:27:44,000 --> 00:27:47,000

Your posture is very important.

476

00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:48,000

Posture?

477

00:27:48,000 --> 00:27:49,000

Yeah.

478

00:27:49,000 --> 00:27:52,000

Samurai fighting, not only this direction,

479

00:27:52,000 --> 00:27:53,000

all direction.

480

00:27:53,000 --> 00:27:55,000

Like this, like this.

481

00:27:55,000 --> 00:27:57,000

You have to have a wide perspective and see all around.

482

00:27:57,000 --> 00:27:58,000

Yes.

483

00:27:58,000 --> 00:27:59,000

98.

484

00:27:59,000 --> 00:28:00,000

99.

485

00:28:00,000 --> 00:28:04,000

Samurai is quick movement and stop.

486

00:28:04,000 --> 00:28:07,000

Right and keep look.

487

00:28:07,000 --> 00:28:09,000

Sorry, I'm afraid of cutting my hand off.

488

00:28:09,000 --> 00:28:12,000

Two, three, four.

489

00:28:12,000 --> 00:28:14,000

Right hand side, not the enemy.

490

00:28:14,000 --> 00:28:16,000

Left side, enemy.

491

00:28:16,000 --> 00:28:17,000

My enemy attack.

492

00:28:19,000 --> 00:28:20,000

I see.

493

00:28:21,000 --> 00:28:23,000

The sensei throws lesson after lesson at me,

494

00:28:23,000 --> 00:28:25,000

as well as his sword.

495

00:28:25,000 --> 00:28:27,000

Don't move, please.

496

00:28:27,000 --> 00:28:29,000

I think I need a new kimono.

497

00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:31,000

Yes, yes.

498

00:28:31,000 --> 00:28:32,000

Yes.

499

00:28:32,000 --> 00:28:33,000

Excellent.

500

00:28:33,000 --> 00:28:36,000

People saw your enemy's sword.

501

00:28:36,000 --> 00:28:38,000

I'm becoming a baby samurai.

502

00:28:38,000 --> 00:28:39,000

Big baby samurai.

503

00:28:39,000 --> 00:28:41,000

Big baby samurai, that's what they call me.

504

00:28:43,000 --> 00:28:45,000

It's been a whirlwind day of training.

505

00:28:45,000 --> 00:28:47,000

I just didn't realize there was going to be a final exam.

506

00:28:47,000 --> 00:28:51,000

I think you're ready to fight my student.

507

00:28:51,000 --> 00:28:52,000

Okay.

508

00:28:57,000 --> 00:29:17,000

I just want to say that I'm a very nice person,

509

00:29:17,000 --> 00:29:19,000

and I don't want to die here today.

510

00:29:49,000 --> 00:30:00,000

I've been training to become a samurai with an acclaimed sensei.

511

00:30:00,000 --> 00:30:05,000

He's just invited me to spar with his favorite student.

512

00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:07,000

You win.

513

00:30:07,000 --> 00:30:09,000

Okay, let's be honest.

514

00:30:09,000 --> 00:30:11,000

She kicked my ass.

515

00:30:11,000 --> 00:30:12,000

Thank you.

516

00:30:12,000 --> 00:30:14,000

You are a wonderful teacher.

517

00:30:14,000 --> 00:30:16,000

You're an excellent student.

518

00:30:16,000 --> 00:30:18,000

I don't know about that, but you're very, very patient.

519

00:30:18,000 --> 00:30:20,000

Any advice for me in searching for the sword?

520

00:30:20,000 --> 00:30:24,000

Many believe it never left Japan,

521

00:30:24,000 --> 00:30:27,000

and that it is hidden in a shrine.

522

00:30:27,000 --> 00:30:29,000

At the end of World War II,

523

00:30:29,000 --> 00:30:32,000

the Japanese were forced to hand over all ceremonial weapons

524

00:30:32,000 --> 00:30:34,000

to the Japanese.

525

00:30:34,000 --> 00:30:36,000

The Japanese were forced to hand over all ceremonial weapons

526

00:30:36,000 --> 00:30:38,000

to the Japanese.

527

00:30:38,000 --> 00:30:40,000

But some shrines were exempt,

528

00:30:40,000 --> 00:30:44,000

which means one of them could contain the HONJOMASAMUNE.

529

00:30:44,000 --> 00:30:46,000

The mountain-top temple at Togakushi

530

00:30:46,000 --> 00:30:48,000

is rumored to have a great treasure.

531

00:30:48,000 --> 00:30:50,000

Some believe it's the sword.

532

00:30:50,000 --> 00:30:53,000

Maybe you find HONJOMASAMUNE.

533

00:30:53,000 --> 00:30:54,000

I hope so.

534

00:30:54,000 --> 00:30:55,000

Yes.

535

00:30:55,000 --> 00:30:56,000

Thank you.

536

00:30:56,000 --> 00:30:57,000

Thank you.

537

00:30:57,000 --> 00:30:58,000

Thank you.

538

00:30:58,000 --> 00:30:59,000

Thank you.

539

00:30:59,000 --> 00:31:01,000

I'm not sure my crash course in samurai training

540

00:31:01,000 --> 00:31:04,000

means I'm pure of spirit and worthy of finding the MASAMUNE.

541

00:31:04,000 --> 00:31:06,000

I'm sure my crash course in samurai training

542

00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:09,000

means I'm pure of spirit and worthy of finding the MASAMUNE.

543

00:31:09,000 --> 00:31:11,000

But I'm certainly not going to pass up this lead.

544

00:31:11,000 --> 00:31:14,000

There's no bullet train to Togakushi Mountain,

545

00:31:14,000 --> 00:31:16,000

so I'm taking the fastest wheels I can find.

546

00:31:26,000 --> 00:31:29,000

I'm cruising 100 miles north on icy roads.

547

00:31:29,000 --> 00:31:30,000

My destination?

548

00:31:30,000 --> 00:31:34,000

A shrine somewhere on a 6,000-foot frozen volcano.

549

00:31:35,000 --> 00:31:38,000

Here we are, beautiful, the Gano, Japan,

550

00:31:38,000 --> 00:31:40,000

which once hosted the Winter Olympics.

551

00:31:40,000 --> 00:31:42,000

Interesting fact, this year's Winter Olympics

552

00:31:42,000 --> 00:31:44,000

are being held in my pants.

553

00:31:44,000 --> 00:31:46,000

I'm totally frozen from the waist down.

554

00:31:49,000 --> 00:31:52,000

The roads climb higher and are progressively snowier.

555

00:31:52,000 --> 00:31:54,000

Once I reach the mountain, I abandon the bike

556

00:31:54,000 --> 00:31:57,000

and continue on unplowed hiking trails.

557

00:31:57,000 --> 00:32:00,000

Note to self, conduct quests for mystical Japanese swords

558

00:32:00,000 --> 00:32:02,000

in the summer.

559

00:32:05,000 --> 00:32:10,000

It may be cold, but it's also majestic.

560

00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:13,000

The trail is lined with soaring, 400-year-old trees,

561

00:32:13,000 --> 00:32:16,000

caked in fresh fallen snow.

562

00:32:23,000 --> 00:32:25,000

The most amazing part about being up here

563

00:32:25,000 --> 00:32:28,000

is that it is completely silent.

564

00:32:28,000 --> 00:32:31,000

I feel like I am totally alone up here,

565

00:32:31,000 --> 00:32:33,000

but in fact, I'm not.

566

00:32:33,000 --> 00:32:35,000

Check this out.

567

00:32:46,000 --> 00:32:48,000

Snow monkeys.

568

00:32:48,000 --> 00:32:50,000

There are more than 100,000 of these guys

569

00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:51,000

scattered throughout Japan,

570

00:32:51,000 --> 00:32:54,000

and after humans, no other primate lives in a colder

571

00:32:54,000 --> 00:32:56,000

or more northerly climate.

572

00:32:56,000 --> 00:32:58,000

They are resilient, they are adaptive,

573

00:32:58,000 --> 00:33:00,000

and most importantly, they are very, very good at hiking.

574

00:33:01,000 --> 00:33:03,000

They are relaxing.

575

00:33:06,000 --> 00:33:09,000

The key to their survival are these volcanic hot tubs,

576

00:33:09,000 --> 00:33:12,000

which the monkeys have turned into a full-time spa.

577

00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:14,000

The water is piping hot, and you don't even have

578

00:33:14,000 --> 00:33:16,000

to rent a locker or tip the towel board.

579

00:33:16,000 --> 00:33:19,000

But they do have a strict monkey's only membership policy.

580

00:33:19,000 --> 00:33:21,000

Hey, buddy.

581

00:33:21,000 --> 00:33:24,000

Oh! You don't f*** with a snow monkey.

582

00:33:24,000 --> 00:33:26,000

I'd rather risk losing my fingers to frostbite

583

00:33:26,000 --> 00:33:29,000

than a snow monkey, so I'm back on the move.

584

00:33:32,000 --> 00:33:37,000

I don't know what I'm going to find at the top of the shrine,

585

00:33:37,000 --> 00:33:40,000

or how receptive the monk is going to be,

586

00:33:40,000 --> 00:33:44,000

but I'll come this far and not turn him back.

587

00:33:51,000 --> 00:33:53,000

After a few hours trudging uphill,

588

00:33:53,000 --> 00:33:56,000

the blanket of snow reveals what I've been searching for,

589

00:33:56,000 --> 00:33:59,000

the entrance to the mountaintop temple of Togakushi.

590

00:34:02,000 --> 00:34:05,000

This is Zushinmon Gate,

591

00:34:05,000 --> 00:34:09,000

a red beacon in an otherwise endless sea of white.

592

00:34:09,000 --> 00:34:11,000

Passing through it signifies that I have stepped

593

00:34:11,000 --> 00:34:14,000

into the domain of the gods.

594

00:34:20,000 --> 00:34:22,000

Okay, here we go.

595

00:34:26,000 --> 00:34:28,000

Togakushi means hidden door.

596

00:34:28,000 --> 00:34:30,000

In Japanese, my name is Zushinmon Gate.

597

00:34:30,000 --> 00:34:32,000

In Japanese mythology, this is where the sun goddess

598

00:34:32,000 --> 00:34:35,000

hid herself at the end of every day.

599

00:34:35,000 --> 00:34:39,000

And now it is one of the most sacred Shinto shrines in Japan.

600

00:34:39,000 --> 00:34:42,000

The high priest lives here alone through the long winter

601

00:34:42,000 --> 00:34:45,000

and has kindly agreed to receive me.

602

00:34:49,000 --> 00:34:51,000

It is extremely uncommon and a great honor

603

00:34:51,000 --> 00:34:54,000

for a visitor to be invited inside.

604

00:34:55,000 --> 00:34:58,000

Patience is a virtue here in Japan,

605

00:34:58,000 --> 00:35:00,000

and before I can speak to the priest,

606

00:35:00,000 --> 00:35:03,000

we must honor the spirits of the mountain.

607

00:35:25,000 --> 00:35:28,000

Misen-san, thank you very much, first of all,

608

00:35:28,000 --> 00:35:30,000

for allowing me to come here.

609

00:35:30,000 --> 00:35:33,000

I have come to Japan because we're very interested

610

00:35:33,000 --> 00:35:36,000

in the story of the Hange Masamune,

611

00:35:36,000 --> 00:35:38,000

the great lost sword of Japan.

612

00:35:38,000 --> 00:35:43,000

And I have been told that this shrine may have a treasure inside of it.

613

00:35:43,000 --> 00:35:45,000

Is there a treasure in this shrine?

614

00:35:45,000 --> 00:35:50,000

Yes, this shrine has a sacred body or a Goshen Tai,

615

00:35:50,000 --> 00:35:52,000

an object that holds the spirit of a god

616

00:35:52,000 --> 00:35:54,000

so that we can see them here on Earth.

617

00:35:54,000 --> 00:35:57,000

Do you think it's possible that swords like this

618

00:35:57,000 --> 00:35:59,000

could be sacred objects in shrines?

619

00:35:59,000 --> 00:36:01,000

It is possible.

620

00:36:01,000 --> 00:36:03,000

Swords can be more than weapons.

621

00:36:03,000 --> 00:36:06,000

They are the essence of great power.

622

00:36:08,000 --> 00:36:10,000

I see.

623

00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:13,000

Is there a treasure here that I can see?

624

00:36:23,000 --> 00:36:27,000

I have come to Japan because of the Hange Masamune,

625

00:36:27,000 --> 00:36:29,000

the great lost sword of Japan.

626

00:36:29,000 --> 00:36:34,000

And I have been told that this shrine may have a treasure inside of it.

627

00:36:34,000 --> 00:36:37,000

Is there a treasure here that I can see?

628

00:36:38,000 --> 00:36:42,000

Yes, this shrine has a sacred body or a Goshen Tai,

629

00:36:42,000 --> 00:36:44,000

an object that holds the spirit of a god

630

00:36:44,000 --> 00:36:47,000

so that we can see them here on Earth.

631

00:36:47,000 --> 00:36:49,000

No sacred treasure in a temple should be seen,

632

00:36:49,000 --> 00:36:52,000

but I can tell you that our treasure is not a sword.

633

00:36:52,000 --> 00:36:55,000

The real treasure here is all around you.

634

00:36:55,000 --> 00:36:59,000

The trees, the snow, the sky, that is why the gods come here.

635

00:36:59,000 --> 00:37:02,000

The trees are sacred, the nature is sacred.

636

00:37:02,000 --> 00:37:05,000

Every bit is valuable and beautiful as a sword.

637

00:37:05,000 --> 00:37:08,000

Yes, that is the real prize.

638

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:10,000

Thank you.

639

00:37:10,000 --> 00:37:13,000

As I leave the temple and begin the trek downhill,

640

00:37:13,000 --> 00:37:16,000

I actually feel a sense of satisfaction,

641

00:37:16,000 --> 00:37:19,000

and I see the landscape around me with fresh eyes.

642

00:37:21,000 --> 00:37:25,000

But it turns out there is also one last chance to discover the sword.

643

00:37:25,000 --> 00:37:29,000

My expert contacts have alerted me that a renowned sword collector in Tokyo

644

00:37:29,000 --> 00:37:33,000

has come into possession of a reportedly sacred blade.

645

00:37:33,000 --> 00:37:36,000

I have been told that the sword is a sacred blade.

646

00:37:36,000 --> 00:37:39,000

I have been told that the sword collector in Tokyo

647

00:37:39,000 --> 00:37:42,000

has come into possession of a reportedly sacred blade.

648

00:37:42,000 --> 00:37:45,000

I have come full circle to where my journey began,

649

00:37:45,000 --> 00:37:48,000

and as rain begins to fall over Tokyo,

650

00:37:48,000 --> 00:37:52,000

I duck into an antique shop to follow one last lead in the mystery.

651

00:37:52,000 --> 00:37:54,000

Hello.

652

00:37:54,000 --> 00:37:56,000

Hello.

653

00:37:56,000 --> 00:37:57,000

Are you Shimizu-san?

654

00:37:57,000 --> 00:37:58,000

Yes.

655

00:37:58,000 --> 00:37:59,000

I am Josh.

656

00:37:59,000 --> 00:38:00,000

Welcome.

657

00:38:00,000 --> 00:38:01,000

Nice to meet you.

658

00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:02,000

Nice to meet you.

659

00:38:02,000 --> 00:38:04,000

Thank you very much.

660

00:38:04,000 --> 00:38:06,000

Nakashimizu is a renowned sword collector,

661

00:38:06,000 --> 00:38:09,000

and Paul Martin is a noted British curator,

662

00:38:09,000 --> 00:38:13,000

here to evaluate the latest addition to Mr. Shimizu's collection.

663

00:38:13,000 --> 00:38:17,000

How long have you been dealing in swords?

664

00:38:17,000 --> 00:38:21,000

My family has been collecting swords since 1874.

665

00:38:21,000 --> 00:38:24,000

Your family has been dealing in swords since 1874.

666

00:38:24,000 --> 00:38:27,000

What is it for you about these objects that makes them so special?

667

00:38:27,000 --> 00:38:30,000

I think that learning about Japanese swords

668

00:38:30,000 --> 00:38:33,000

is one of the fastest ways to understand Japanese culture.

669

00:38:33,000 --> 00:38:36,000

I have a sword that I would like to see.

670

00:38:36,000 --> 00:38:38,000

Would you like to see it?

671

00:38:38,000 --> 00:38:39,000

Would you like to see it?

672

00:38:39,000 --> 00:38:40,000

He's got a very special sword.

673

00:38:40,000 --> 00:38:41,000

Would you like to see it?

674

00:38:41,000 --> 00:38:42,000

A very special sword?

675

00:38:42,000 --> 00:38:43,000

Yeah.

676

00:38:43,000 --> 00:38:44,000

Absolutely, yes.

677

00:38:44,000 --> 00:38:45,000

Terrific.

678

00:38:45,000 --> 00:38:46,000

Thank you.

679

00:38:50,000 --> 00:38:54,000

My journey across Japan has all led to this.

680

00:38:54,000 --> 00:38:56,000

Beautiful box.

681

00:39:03,000 --> 00:39:13,000

This sword came to Mr. Shimizu from an anonymous private collector.

682

00:39:13,000 --> 00:39:16,000

But is it the sacred blade I've been searching for?

683

00:39:28,000 --> 00:39:29,000

It's beautiful.

684

00:39:29,000 --> 00:39:30,000

It really is.

685

00:39:30,000 --> 00:39:35,000

I mean, when you look at it on the edge, it's just impossibly sharp.

686

00:39:35,000 --> 00:39:38,000

Could this be the hanjo?

687

00:39:38,000 --> 00:39:43,000

No, it is not the hanjo, but it is a treasure.

688

00:39:43,000 --> 00:39:45,000

Absolutely stunning.

689

00:39:45,000 --> 00:39:47,000

The edge just vanishes.

690

00:39:47,000 --> 00:39:50,000

I mean, it just goes to nothing, it feels like.

691

00:39:50,000 --> 00:39:51,000

How old is this blade?

692

00:39:51,000 --> 00:39:52,000

None of them.

693

00:39:52,000 --> 00:39:54,000

It's bigger than two thousand.

694

00:39:54,000 --> 00:39:56,000

So just over 600 years old.

695

00:39:56,000 --> 00:39:58,000

Just over 600 years old.

696

00:39:58,000 --> 00:40:00,000

And the sword maker?

697

00:40:01,000 --> 00:40:03,000

Masamune.

698

00:40:03,000 --> 00:40:04,000

This is a Masamune?

699

00:40:04,000 --> 00:40:05,000

Yeah.

700

00:40:05,000 --> 00:40:06,000

This is a Masamune?

701

00:40:06,000 --> 00:40:07,000

Yeah.

702

00:40:07,000 --> 00:40:08,000

Really?

703

00:40:08,000 --> 00:40:09,000

Yeah.

704

00:40:09,000 --> 00:40:10,000

Really?

705

00:40:10,000 --> 00:40:11,000

Yeah.

706

00:40:11,000 --> 00:40:13,000

That's amazing.

707

00:40:13,000 --> 00:40:16,000

That is absolutely incredible.

708

00:40:16,000 --> 00:40:18,000

It is beautiful.

709

00:40:18,000 --> 00:40:22,000

This katana was forged by the hands of Japan's most venerated sword maker.

710

00:40:22,000 --> 00:40:27,000

And although it's not the hanjo, to hold one of the master's creations is more than

711

00:40:27,000 --> 00:40:28,000

I ever expected.

712

00:40:28,000 --> 00:40:31,000

There's something so balanced about it.

713

00:40:31,000 --> 00:40:32,000

Yeah.

714

00:40:32,000 --> 00:40:33,000

Does that make sense?

715

00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:34,000

Yeah, yeah.

716

00:40:34,000 --> 00:40:36,000

It feels sort of...

717

00:40:36,000 --> 00:40:37,000

Live in hand.

718

00:40:37,000 --> 00:40:39,000

Yeah, it feels sort of perfect.

719

00:40:39,000 --> 00:40:41,000

It just looks terrifyingly sharp.

720

00:40:41,000 --> 00:40:43,000

Yeah, very sharp.

721

00:40:43,000 --> 00:40:48,000

The first time I saw a real Japanese sword like this, I was profoundly moved.

722

00:40:48,000 --> 00:40:50,000

They do kind of touch the soul.

723

00:40:50,000 --> 00:40:53,000

You're surprised at their beauty and how deep an object they are.

724

00:40:53,000 --> 00:40:56,000

It's an intrinsically beautiful art object.

725

00:40:56,000 --> 00:40:58,000

They're very cool weapons.

726

00:40:58,000 --> 00:40:59,000

That's what attracts everyone.

727

00:40:59,000 --> 00:41:00,000

Right.

728

00:41:00,000 --> 00:41:04,000

But then once you get past that, you realize it's a spiritual object, a religious object.

729

00:41:04,000 --> 00:41:07,000

And all these different myriad of meanings that they have.

730

00:41:07,000 --> 00:41:09,000

And you hear sattin.

731

00:41:09,000 --> 00:41:11,000

A lot like Japan itself.

732

00:41:11,000 --> 00:41:15,000

Well, not the hanjo Masamune, but a Masamune.

733

00:41:15,000 --> 00:41:16,000

Masamune.

734

00:41:16,000 --> 00:41:17,000

Yeah, I'll certainly settle for that.

735

00:41:17,000 --> 00:41:19,000

It is absolutely stunning.

736

00:41:20,000 --> 00:41:25,000

Japan has always felt to me like a place that exists out of time.

737

00:41:25,000 --> 00:41:30,000

The future is in the present, and the present is filled with the past.

738

00:41:30,000 --> 00:41:35,000

Different eras blending together to create a dizzying and disorienting masterpiece.

739

00:41:35,000 --> 00:41:39,000

And the hanjo drifts between these worlds.

740

00:41:39,000 --> 00:41:43,000

Searching for it felt like grasping at wisps of smoke.

741

00:41:43,000 --> 00:41:46,000

It is everywhere and nowhere.

742

00:41:47,000 --> 00:41:52,000

An object that represents the distant heights of an empire, the humbling of a nation.

743

00:41:52,000 --> 00:41:56,000

And the promise of a future filled with honor and custom.

744

00:41:56,000 --> 00:42:01,000

The truth is, nobody knows where the hanjo is, though many are looking.

745

00:42:01,000 --> 00:42:04,000

But it no longer seems lost to me.

746

00:42:04,000 --> 00:42:07,000

The sword is Japan itself.

747

00:42:07,000 --> 00:42:08,000

Grateful.

748

00:42:08,000 --> 00:42:09,000

Spiritual.

749

00:42:09,000 --> 00:42:12,000

Ancient and eternal.

750

00:42:12,000 --> 00:42:15,000

All balanced on an improbable edge.

751

00:42:15,000 --> 00:42:20,000

For many, the blade has a soul and a conviction to decide its own fate.

752

00:42:20,000 --> 00:42:25,000

I hope that one day soon, the hanjo Masamune will decide to return.

753

00:42:25,000 --> 00:42:28,000

And allow us all to admire it with wonder.