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Tsubaki Sanjuro

(Sanjuro)

Tehoscope

Production Company: Toho Co., Ltd.
Director: Akira Kurosawa
Screen Play: Ryuzo Kikushima
Hideo Oguni
Akira Kurosawa
Photography: Fukuzo Koizumi
Starring: Toshiro Mifune
Tatsuya Nakadai
Yuzo Kayama
Takashi Shimura
Reiko Dan

In the middle of the 19th century, a group of nine progressives weary of the corruption rampant within their clan, plan to oust the leaders and particularly Kurofuji. Chief major-domo Mutsuda is basically a good man but weak.

After obtaining the promise of cooperation from Chief Inspector Kikui, they now ponder how to utilize his assistance in a revolution.

Then Sanjuro - unwashed, unshaven, but a samurai without a master intrudes upon the scene, and shocks the young revolutionists by disclosing that Kikui is not their saviour but their most dread enemy.

The samurai also informs them that their secret meeting place has been surrounded by Kikui's troops, under the command of Muroto, the worst blackguard in the entire province.

Sanjuro conceals the revolutionists, swaggers among the attackers, demonstrates his prowess with a sword and comes face-to-face with Muroto who withdraws with his troops after offering Sanjuro employment.

The nine now ask for Sanjuro's help and revisit the head major-domo's mansion, only to find that he has been kidnapped by Kikui's troops and that his wife and lovely daughter are being held in Muroto's house. In a lightning engagement Sanjuro and the nine free them and hide them in a mansion next door to the home of Kurofuji. Muroto is entrusted with finding the two women and the revolutionaries. But it never occurs to him to check the house next to Kurofuji's.

Sanjuro visits Muroto and asks for the job he was offered and Muroto accepts him. He tells Sanjuro of his plan to eventually rule the land by boosting the crooked Kikui to power. Finding that chief major-domo Mutsuda is being held in Kurofuji's mansion, Sanjuro tells Muroto the revolutionaries are hiding in a temple out of town, and believing this Muroto goes to arrest them.

Sanjuro now hastens to the nine and advises them to prepare for a raid on the house next door. Before this can be put into operation Muroto returns. But the nine with Sanjuro as their leader are victorious, and justice prevails.

Running Time. 96 min.

