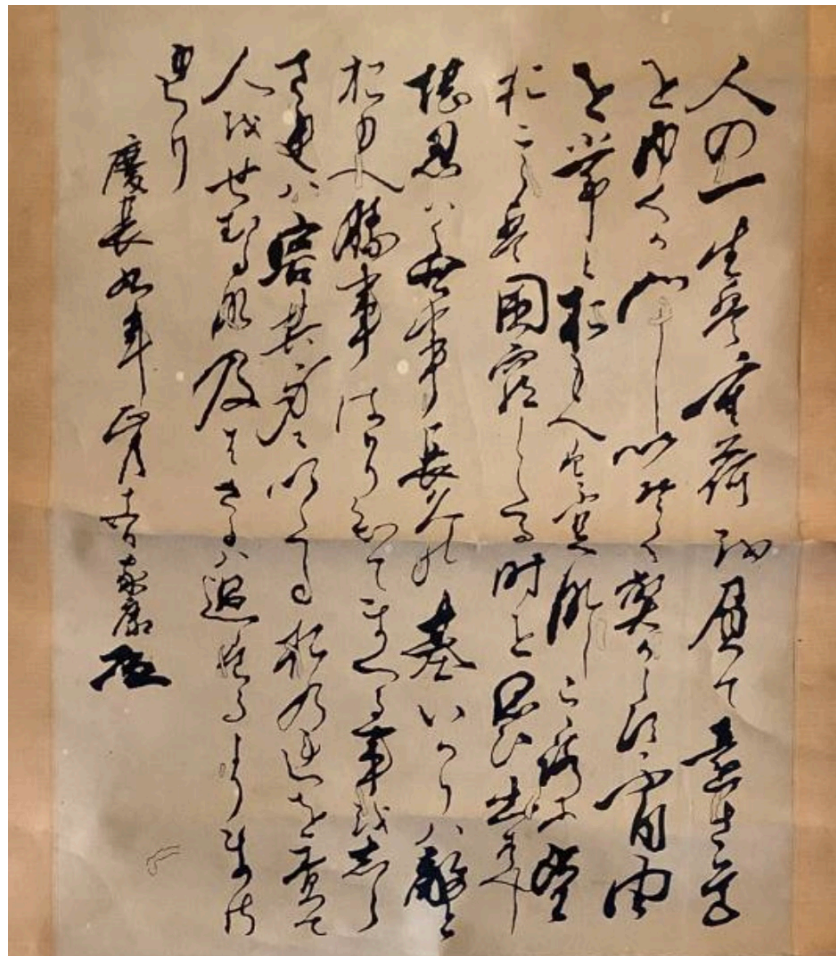


# Tokugawa Ieyasu's Ikun (Last Words)

Tokugawa Ieyasu was the founder of the Tokugawa shogunate, and his 遺訓 (ikun) is a list of principles for life and leadership, intended to guide his successors.

The term “ikun” basically means “last words,” or “final teachings.” It’s what someone leaves behind as advice or important lessons for the next generation, usually written or spoken before their death. It’s not just a will (like how to divide property), but more like a set of guiding principles or life lessons.

In Japanese culture, many famous figures—especially samurai, warlords, and even company founders—are known for their ikun. Their words sometimes become well-known sayings or are taught as part of moral or leadership education.



## Modern Transcription

人の一生は重荷を負て遠き道を行くが如し、急ぐべからず。

不自由を常と思えば不足なし。

心に望みおこらば、困窮したる時を思い出すべし。

堪忍は無事長久の基。怒りは敵と思え。

勝つことばかり知りて負ける事を知らざれば害その身に至る。

己を責めて人を責めるな。

及ばざるは過ぎたるよりまされり。

— 徳川家康遺訓

## English Translation

*Life is like carrying a heavy burden down a long road; one shouldn't rush.*

*If you can accept hardship as a part of life, you will never feel like anything is missing.*

*When you sense yourself wanting something, remember the times when you faced true hardship.*

*Patience is the foundation for long lasting peace. Think of anger as your enemy.*

*If you only know how to win and not how to lose, you will eventually bring harm upon yourself.*

*Blame yourself, not others.*

*Not reaching a goal is better than becoming excessive and going too far.*

— Tokugawa Ieyasu, Last Words