



The word "Maru" means literally 'Roundness', 'Circle' or 'Completeness' and in old times was added at the end of the names of persons of noble birth, particularly to their precious sons, and also to the strong hold or 'keep' of a castle. With same meaning of preciousness and security, the favourite yachts constructed by Daimyos, were considered to be floating castles, and bore the denomination of "Maru" after their proper name. Later, "Maru" has come to be applied also to all vessels of commercial character from small craft to the largest ocean liner.