

Timeline according to the four stories and characters in Rashomon  
 By Sareesh Sudhakaram / wblrow.com

	Woodcutter	Monk	Police	Bandit	Wife	Husband	What's Left
Couple walks in forest, passes Monk		Afternoon, on the day of the murder					Couple walks in forest, passes Monk
Horse		Monk confirms horse					Wife rides on horse
Husband's sword		Monk confirms he had a sword and bow and arrows. She had a veil.					Husband has a sword, bow and arrows.
Bandit's sword			Last time he almost caught him, and he carried the same sword.	He hands over the sword to the husband, so could sell one-for cheap.			Bandit's sword is his own.
Encounters Bandit				He saw them in the afternoon, it was hot.			They encounter the bandit in the forest shortly after passing the priest
Bandit's motive				He claims he didn't want to kill the husband, wanted to avoid killing if possible. Sun is obscured.			Bandit wanted to rape the wife.
Woman's Hat	Woodcutter saw it at the scene He finds it						She is wearing the hat, it is later found discarded in the forest by the Woodcutter
Husband's cap	Trampled on, on the ground						Trampled on the ground
Bandit intercepts the couple				On the road, with the motive to take them away from it.			No evidence
The two go up the hill to find the mound				Wife waits down, while they go up the hill. They carry their respective swords.			No evidence of how the husband was rendered immobile
Shiny amulet case with red lining	Woodcutter finds it.						Woodcutter finds it - where's the amulet?
Bandit ties up Husband				Husband's greed makes him forget his instinct. Bandit attacks from behind and ties him up.			No evidence of how the husband was rendered immobile
Bandit runs back to the wife				She plays in the stream of water. He approaches her and tells her, her husband is sick.			No evidence of how the husband was rendered immobile
They go to her husband				Her face turns pale at the news. Seeing it he felt jealous and hated the man. He wanted to show her his incapacity to protect her. On the way her hat gets stuck in a bush.			It is possible the bandit tricks the husband into letting his guard down, and the wife finds out a bit later. When she runs, she loses the hat.
Bandit rapes Wife				She attacks him with her dagger. Sunlight through the trees. She looks at the sky. Her fierce spirit attracts him - Sky			She attacks him with her dagger. Sunlight through the trees. She looks at the sky. Her fierce spirit attracts him - Sky
She responds to him				She responds to him. He maintains he still had no intention of killing him.	After forcing me to yield to him...she shows sympathy to her husband		Bandit rapes wife.
Wife's Dagger				Falls to the ground.	Falls to the ground.	Falls to the ground.	The dagger falls to the ground
Wife talks to Bandit	She is crying behind a bush. Man tied up, she was crying. The bandit was there. Bandit was asking her forgiveness.			Either you die or my husband dies	She claims she tried to run back to him but was stopped by the bandit. He takes the left over rope and runs away, laughing.	Bandit tries to console her and asks her to marry him. She agrees.	Bandit tries to console her and asks her to marry him. She agrees - probably to set her husband loose.
Rope was cut	Woodcutter saw cut up rope near the body. She cuts the rope with her dagger, taken from the ground.			Bandit cuts rope to give him a fair fight. He hands him back his sword.	She cuts rope with dagger. She finds it where she dropped it.	She asks the bandit to kill her husband (Sky). He refuses (No Sky). He is ready to kill her, but she runs. The bandit follows her. The bandit returns with rope in his hand (where did that come from?). He cuts the knot and frees the husband.	She cuts rope with dagger. She finds it where she dropped it.
The Duel	Husband doesn't want to fight. He'd rather lose her than the horse. She mocks them both, inflames their egos, and they fight. She watches silently.			Happens, bandit is always in control	Never happened	Never happened	Never happened
Husband Dies	He is killed by the sword. It is thrown at him.			Bandit kills him with the sword. It is thrown at him.	She cries and looks at her husband. He shows contempt and loathing. She cuts the rope, but he doesn't move. She claims to have fainted. Dagger in his chest.	Husband is alone. He cries. He finds the dagger on the ground where it fell. He kills himself.	Husband responds with contempt and loathing. She runs away in shame. Bandit chases her but she faints and he loses her. Husband kills himself in shame. Dagger is in his chest.
Where is the wife when the husband dies?	She is present during the entire duel, and watches her husband die.			She ran away during the duel. She did not see her husband die.	When she wakes up, he is already dead. She sees her dagger in his chest.	She has run away.	She is nearby, unconscious. When she wakes up, she returns to find him dead. She runs away again.
Ghost						He curses everyone who put him in darkness. He blames more than one person.	He blames his wife and the bandit
Bandit takes horse	She refuses to go with the bandit, and runs away. The bandit is too tired to give chase			He returns to the spot and only the horse was present. Her fierce spirit is what attracted her to him - sky			He returns to the spot and takes the horse
Rope	Woodcutter saw cut up rope near the body.						Woodcutter saw cut up rope near the body.
Husband's sword	Bandit takes it			He sold it for liquor	Bandit takes it	Bandit takes it	Bandit takes it, sold it for liquor
Bandit's sword	Bandit removes it from body and takes it			He was caught with it	Bandit takes it	Bandit takes it	Bandit takes it
Dagger	He didn't see any sword, only her hat. Husband's cap had been trampled on. There was cut up rope near the body. The dagger did indeed disappear from the scene, that's a fact.			He remembers it had a pearl inlay. He forgot about it. No reason for him to lie about it.		Someone quietly approached him and withdrew the dagger from his heart.	The Woodcutter, having seen "everything", approaches and steals the dagger.
Wife in Temple		She was hiding in the temple when the police found her. Her story is so different the fierceness he spoke of didn't show up at all.			She wanders through the woods. Ended up at the pond at the foot of a hill. SHOWS WATER. She tries to commit suicide, but failed.		She tries to commit suicide but fails, then hides in the temple.
Bandit drinks from a spring				There are two swords on his back, sky is obscured.			
Bandit Captured			Camera moves in to obscure sky as he proceeds with this testimony. A day after the murder. 17 arrows, a bow, a horse. There's only one sword on display, confirmed to be the bandit's sword.	Rides on open sky, but in his testimony sky is NOT present. Later-camera pulls back again and we see sky. They both know he didn't fall off.			How the bandit was captured is fuzzy. It was a serendipitous success.
Special Notes	What doesn't he understand? If he has seen the murder he shouldn't be confused! Woodcutter never mentions the dagger specifically, and he wasn't asked about it specifically. His testimony at the inquest doesn't cover what he saw, only his discovery. AT THE END: I'm the one who should be ashamed. I don't understand my own soul. WHY DOES HE SAY THAT?	Monk is not suspicious of the woodcutter because he hasn't revealed his version yet.		Looks at the sky in a moment of clarity. Everything is clear to him now. At peace?			The Woodcutter is dying to tell someone about what he has witnessed, but he can't say it without giving away the dagger. He doesn't understand why the wife didn't corroborate his story. At the end, he is ashamed probably because he could have stopped the husband from committing suicide, but didn't. He let him die for honor's sake.
Main motive	Wants to hide the existence of the dagger. Woodcutter can take the baby because he has the dagger, and has the money. It is his penance.			Wants to look good and appear heroic/fierce. He already has a reputation as a womanizer. It doesn't look good a woman fooled him into letting her loose and she runs away.	She's lost everything. Wants to just hide her guilt and shame.	Wants justice. Why else would he return to speak. But doesn't ask for anyone's head.	Everyone blames the woman. Crocodile tears and all that. Even she blames herself.
<b>Elements</b>							
Water	It hides the truth, obscuring it. In the end the rain stops pouring, and it is silent. Maybe water is atonement.						
Sky	Woodcutter enters forest, where the truth is obscured. Husband, wife and bandit all look at the sky at some point, deliberately.						
Wife's Dagger	Whether the husband was killed with the sword or dagger doesn't matter, the dagger should still have been recovered. The Woodcutter insists there wasn't any dagger. The dagger books the story from the moment it falls to its disappearance.						
Wind	Stands for evil.						