

SAMURAI DAYORI

HISTORY OF TOYAMA-RYU AND KENSHIN'S ENCOUNTER WITH TOYAMA-RYU

In *Taishou* 14 (1924), in the day of high military honor, *Toyama-ryu* was born at *Toyama Army Academy*. It was created by *Nakayama Hakudou sensei* who was famous as the best swordsman in Japan at that time, and many other martial arts instructors. It was based on Army *Guntou Jutsu* (gun-military, *tou- katana, jutsu-technique*). Later on *Koshiba, Izumi* and *Mori* captains unified *Kata* that we learn now.

There were 5 *Kata* in the beginning. They added 2 more and it became 7. The 5th *Kata*, '*Choikuzen no teki* (the enemy of right in front)' was removed from the list because they thought it would never happened to use this. However, they re-considered and put it back in around *Shouwa* 14~15 (1939-40).

Toyama-ryu became popular by *Nakamura Taizaburou sensei*'s hard work. He was the founder of *Nakamura-ryu Battou-dou*(International *Battou-dou* association). *Nakamura sensei* was called '*Shouwa no hitokiri* (the man slayer of *Shouwa*). (*Kenshin* has *Nakamura-ryu Battou dou 6 dan, Renshi*)

Probably you realized from reading above, *Toyama-ryu* is *Gun tou Jutsu* but not true *Iai*.

I, *Kenshin*, joined '*Zen Nihon Toyama-ryu Iai-dou Kyoukai* (All Japan *Toyama-ryu Iai-dou* association) *Ayabe* branch' whose director was *Isikawa Kiyoshi sensei*, who was the first top student of *Morinaga Kiyoshi sensei*. My rank is '*Toyama-ryu 6 dan, Renshi*'. After about 2 years training, I started having doubts about *Toyama-ryu* technique, then I visited a *Dojo* of *Nakamura-ryu Battou-jutsu* and ask to take me as a disciple. Then after another 2 years, I joined *Toyama-ryu Minowa Dojo* and I learned on the substance of 'cutting'.

Minowa Dojo regards 'cutting' as important. However the association doesn't give priority to 'cutting. With that reason there are not so many people who are good at cutting. I would rather say they don't like cutting because they don't know the right way to cut.

The instruction of *Nakamura sensei* and *Minowa Hitoshi sensei* who was *Morinaga sensei*'s second top student, is the very reason I could be the martial artist that I am now.

I have kept learning in the mainstream of *Toyama-ryu*. However, in these days *Toyama-ryu* broke up to several groups and each group and individual person have a different way of sword techniques and principles. It is hard to specify which one is original way. I don't even know what is original because techniques were often changed during my training. I think each group and individual person are real *Toyama-ryu* and the difference does not matter.

One thing I am sure is *Toyama-ryu* is easy to learn for the beginners of *Kenjutsu* and *Iai*. I teach *Toyama-ryu* first to beginner students to learn A,B,Cs of how to use the sword in my *Mukushin-ryu* class because *Toyama-ryu* way is easy and simple.

However, I feel the way to control the sword and technique of *Toyama-ryu* is too naive when I consider the purpose of *Iai* in old traditional styles like ours, which is 'attack the opponent with 'first quick draw'. I can't agree with the roughness of drawing and cutting (*Toyama-ryu* that I teach in my class is arranged with my own ideas and techniques.). Also, the way that the sword doesn't go through *Sei chuu sen** (*Jin chuu ro**) and the inaccuracy of *Hasuji* are not following the basic principals of *Kenjutsu*.

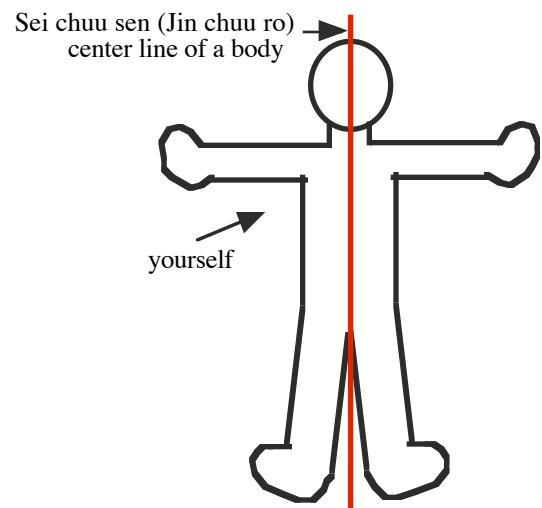
I think it is better to practice to be able to perfect one *Chokugiri* than learn 100 techniques to be good at *Iai*. If you can let your sword go through *Sei chuu sen* precisely, it is easy to master other martial arts like *Yari, Naginata, Yumi* etc..

I recommend all members of *Mukushin-ryu* in *Obama* and *Florida* to see, experience, and study many other styles instead of leaning only *Toyama-ryu* and *Mukushin-ryu*. Developing having an eye and gaining knowledge about any *Iai* or *Kenjutsu* are very important things to do. If there are any questions that come up, please feel free to ask me. I will answer as much as possible.

I wish everyone's improvement of skill, success and happiness life.

Sincerely,

Mukushin-ryu 15th Souke Ohashi Kenshin



THE MEMBERS WHO WILL COME FROM OBAMA IN NOVEMBER

Ohashi Kenshin	Mukushin-ryu	15th Souke	
	Toyama-ryu	6 dan	Renshi
	Nakamura-ryu	battou-dou	6 dan Renshi
	Eishin-ryu	Iai	Sho dan
	Kendou		3 dan
	Fuuden-ryu	Sou-jutsu(yari)	4 dan
	Juudou		Sho dan
	Aikidou		Sho dan

Suzuki Kiyoshi Shihan (Taijutsu instructor)

Otsu Itaru Sensei

Sakai Kazuaki sensei

Oshima Akiko Sensei

INTERESTING FACTS

82th Emperor *Gotobain*(1179-1139) loved Japanese swords. He invited a famous swordsmith named *Hisakuni* and learned how to make swords from him. Also he organized his own sword making team in his palace and the Emperor himself forged several swords. Those swords were given to hard working samurai around him like guards of Palace as special gifts.

The time was *Kamakura* era. Japan was under the control of the first *samurai* government (*Kamakura bakufu*). Emperor *Gotobain* had a strong passion to get the political power back to the Emperor and his court house. He raised an army against *Bakufu* but failed. *Bakufu* exiled him to a small island on the Sea of Japan. He still couldn't give up his hobby. He summoned his sword making team to the island and kept making Japanese swords..

EVERYDAY JAPANESE

Action(ugoki)

push --- osu

pull --- hiku

swing up over the head --- furikaburu

dash in --- fumikomu

settle the hip --- koshi o sueru

rotate the hip --- koshi o mawasu

lower the hip --- koshi wo otosu

stretch --- nobasu

bend --- mageru

bend body forward --- kagamu/kagameru

bend knees --- hiza wo mageru

knee down on the floor--- hiza o tsuku

one knee down on the floor --- kata hiza o tsuku

SENGOKU JIDAI (THE AGE OF CIVIL WARS)

Sengoku Jidai was also called '*Gun-yuu kakkyo no jidai* (the age of rival war lords) or *Gekokujou no jidai* (the age of the forcible displacement of superiors by their inferiors).

Here are some famous and popular names who became lords by *Gekokujou*.

Asakura Takakage : *Echizen* (*Fukui* prefecture)

Asakura was a retainer of *Shiba* clan in *Echizen*.

Shiba was *Shugo*(the governor who was dispatched from the central government) of *Echizen*.

Asakura Takakage raised an army against *Shiba* and became the lord of *Echizen*.

Houjou Sou-un (1342~1519) :*Izu* (east side of *Sizuoka* prefecture) and *Sagami*(*Kanagawa* prefecture)

His origin is not clear. Generally, he was called

'just one of Rounin'. Somehow he built a good

relationship with *Imagawa* clan of *Suruga* (*Shizuoka* prefecture) and kept gaining his power.

He didn't go against *Imagawa* but he started taking their neighbors land and extended to the east.

Finally *Houjou* became one of the lords of a wide area.

Saitou Douzan : *Mino*(*Gifu* prefecture)

Most people say he was a sesame oil seller, but some historical records say it was his father. This fact is not clear.

He got closer to *Toki* clan which was *Shugo* of *Mino* and became the retainer of *Toki*. Finally he kicked his lord out and took his position.

He was called '*Mamushi no Douzan*' which means '*Douzan*, the pit viper'.

RECOMMENDED MOVIES

Samurai Assassin---Starring :*Mifune Toshirou*

One of the classic samurai movie. Black and white.

The story is a fiction, but it is based on the real history at the end of *Edo* era.

In this newsletter:

Japanese names are written by Japanese way. Family name comes first, then given name.

Japanese words are written close to Japanese

pronunciations and writing,ie. Noutou instead of Noto or Shogun instead of Shogun.

Have a questions or request? Contact me at:

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