



SAMURAI DAYORI



BEGINNING OF KENJUTSU AND MUKUSHIN-RYU

CHAPTER 2 -2: BIRTH OF MUKUSHIN-RYU AND BUJUTSU, THE FEATURE OF WEAPONS

Now, I would like to talk about [*Katana* (swords); *Nihon tou* (Japanese swords)] a little. Generally the sword which is called *Katana* means *Uchi-gatana*. The word of '*Katana*' 刀 came from '*Kataha* (one side blade) 片刃'. *Tsurugi* (or *Ken*) 剣 has the edge on both sides and *Katana* has it on only one side. Originally *Katana* was a short knife. The long sword is called '*Tachi*' 太刀. This name must be from the word '*Tachi*' 断ち which means 'cutting'.

The sword which you hung from the belt (*haku*) with the edge facing down is called *Tachi* and the one put which you put into the belt (*sasu* or *obiru*) with the edge facing up is called *Uchi-gatana*. Also, if you wear the sword on your left side with the edge facing up, *Mei* (the signature of a swordsmith) on *Habaki* of *Uchi-gatana* comes outside (*Sasi omote*), and if you hung the sword on your left side with the edge facing down, *Mei* of *Tachi* comes outside (*Haki omote*). **sasu* turns to *sasi* and *haku* turns to *haki* by the next word.

Tachi is longer than *2shaku* (2ft). The average length is *2 shaku 7* or *8sun* (about 2ft 9-10in.) but there are some records of *4shaku* (4ft), *5shaku* (5ft), and even *7shaku 3sun* (7ft 3.5in.).

Why *Uchi-gatana* became more common than *Tachi* in the history? The reasons was the way of battle was changed from the fight on the horse to the fight on the foot. *Yari* (spear) became the main weapon. The way of battle changing by the introduction of firearms too. The heavy armor suits became lighter and easier to move, and the weapons became shorter that is easier to use.

I had explained about *Kenjutsu*, *Kodachi*, *Shuriken* and *Iai*. These explanations are not enough but I hope everybody understood most of the things about those. (vol.12 and 13).

I believe if you can swing the sword down strongly and correctly in a straight line following *Seichuusen* (vol.10) and do *shibori* well, you will be able to master other weapons like *Yari* or *Jou* easily. Especially about *shuriken*, you just need to think that is same as the sword and throw it. In the other words, it is not too much to say that the basic of all *Bujutsu* with weapons is in *Kenjutsu*.

In our *Mukushin-ryu* class we learn and master *Kenjutsu* and *Iai* first, then we start to learn other weapons.

If you always care about each single swing of the sword and keep in mind about the footwork and sifting the weight, you will be able to improve other categories quicker. I would like to ask you to train yourself thoughtfully with putting your spirit on each movement.

At the end I introduce the formal name of our style.

[*Nihon heihou** *Mukushin-ryu Kobujutsu Buyuu-kai*]
Buyuu means 'meet the people and built the friendship through the martial arts'. These words are from Chinese old saying. (Kai is a group, a club or an association)

*hehou--see vol.12

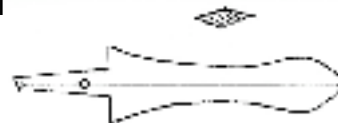
I finish my writing with the belief that anybody who set their hearts on the martial arts are friends without border of nationalities, races, genders or ages.

Sincerely,

Mukushin-ryu 15th souoke, re-founder 1st
Ohashi Kenshin

NAME AND SHAPES OF SWORDS

Moroha-zukuri



Shinogi-zukuri



Kiriha-zukuri



Kataha-zukuri



hira-zukuri



INTERESTING FACTS

Tokugawa Ieyasu, the first *Tokugawa Shogun* who settled down Japan after *Sengoku Jidai* and set the government in *Edo*(*Tokyo* now) is famous as a very thrifty person saved a huge amount of property.

He always wore the cheap clothes and did not wear *tabi* even for everyday life even on freezing cold winter day. He had the simple and poor meals daily.

One day he saw young people playing *sumo* wrestling for fun in *tatami* room in the castle during their break. Ieyasu said to them “ It is OK to play *sumo*, but don't forget to turn over *tatami* and use other side. Because if you use right side of *tatami* they will be worn away.”

He was saving gold and silver in *Fushimi* castle in *Kyoto* before he became *Shogun*. The floor of that room collapsed by the weight of them. There are no record left how much he had at this time, but when he died he had about 2,786,000,000 Japanese Yen and if you convert into gold, it was about over 17 tons of gold.

EVERYDAY JAPANESE

Ohayou gozaimasu --- Good morning

It is right if you say in the morning when you talk to somebody the first time on that day.

Ohayou gozaimasu is not direct translation of Good morning. It means ‘It is early of the day’. I said ‘in the morning’ but usually we don't use this after around 11am. Because it is not early any more. Around that time, we start saying *Konnichiwa*.

Konnichiwa -- Good afternoon.

Konbanwa -- Good evening

Same as *Ohayou gozaimasu*. Use only when you see or talk to somebody the first time on that day.

Konnichiwa means ‘Today is,,,’ and *Konbanwa* means ‘This evening is,,,’. I believe these were used be longer with some kind of sentence after these words.

Those three didn't have any mean of ‘Have a good day or evening.’. So do not use those when you leave..

Oyasumi nasai -- Good night

Oyasumi nasai means ‘take a rest’ or ‘have a good sleep’ but not only before the bed. We use this instead of good-bye when we leave in the night time and we know we don't see each other on that day anymore.

On the other hand, we say this word to somebody who are going to take a nap or need rest even in the morning or early afternoon. Time is not matter at all.

Sometimes I am asked if *Konnichiwa* or *Konbanwa* are only for the time when you meet people at first time on that day how we say ‘Have a good day’ in Japanese. I always have a hard time to answer this. Because we don't say such a thing usually, and it is hard to find the word with an exact same mean.. There are many words for leaving. I will write about those on next issue.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

TAIKO---by *Yoshikawa Eiji*

It is the story about *Toyotomi Hideyoshi* who started his life as a poor farmer boy and ended as a ruler of Japan in *Sengoku Jidai*. He is the one built *Osaka* Castle and made *Osaka* as a capital of business. It is the same author of ‘*MUSASHI*’(vol.3). Like ‘*MUSASHI*’, this is not academic biography, but based on real history. There are many famous people in the history like *Oda Nobunaga*, *Tokugawa Ieyasu* etc.. There is a part of *Nobunaga* and *Asakura*'s battle too. (vol.7 and 11)

**If you have any interest in recommended books and movies to read or watch, please contact me. I don't put on this newsletter anything I don't have.

LET'S READ BOOKS!

It is not enough being able to do techniques well to be a good martial artist. Especially for *Mukushin-ryu*.

When you reach some higher rank of *Mukushin-ryu*, the writing report is required for the test. You need to have the knowledge about weapons, specially about *Nihon-tou*, *Mukushin-ryu* history, about any other styles related *Mukushin-ryu*, about any other famous styles and swordsmen, the history of *Bujutsu*, and the historical and cultural backgrounds. Also you need to have your own idea of what *Bujutsu* and *Budou* are.

Please read this *Samurai dayori* carefully. There are many good information related above. *Ohashi souke* consider he is giving lessons about those things through this newsletter. Of course as you know he is not writing all articles, but I hope my own articles help to understand his writing and share my knowledge with everybody.

Also there is *Mukushin-ryu* meditation (vol.2), you need to train your mind and be matured mentally too. Forget about being cool or fancy looking techniques. Following instructions and the steady and step by step training is the shortest way to improve yourself like *Ohashi souke* always says. That makes you look great at the end.

Please read the books to gain your knowledge. Even from the fictional samurai stories or historical novels, you can learn many things about the historical and cultural background and great spirits. Or watch the movies. Not so many people asked me about the recommended books or movies yet, but I wish everyone starts to think about it from now. Please feel free to contact me. They are fun to read or watch!

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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