



SAMURAI DAYORI



Ohashi souke's words: Mukushin-ryu is the Martial Arts. It is not Martial Dance. Practice slowly to get each technique right. But even when you do kata slowly, you have to have the imaginably enemies who are goin g to attack you.

THE SUCCESSOR AND ADOPTION

In the Samurai society, the family name was very important. If the head of family decided to retire his job and position, or die, his son became the successor to the family and his income. Usually it was the first son. Other boys needed to find their own job. If they are the family of the lord or very high rank retainer, they did not have to worry so much. They were given the job and position by the lord.

If they didn't have any son to succeed, they lost their family income and place to live. Because they were given the house from the government of the domain as an employee's family. If the head of family did some remarkable job or was a favorite person of the lord, they might get some support of finance, but if he wasn't such a special one, they lost everything.

To avoid this and to keep the family name, they adopted the boys or young men from their relatives, the friends' family or find somebody by introduction or recommendation. If they had any daughters, let her marry a man who didn't need to succeed to his family and he keep her family name. That's the way the young men who couldn't be successor to the family were looking for. They didn't need to wait to arrange the adoptions until the last moment. Or instead of adoption, they passed down the position to the brother of the head of family to keep the family line. Often the widow remarried with him if he wasn't married to anybody yet.

Occasionally the lord or government arranged the adoption for a family if that was the family of good lineage or the head of the family was a great worker as a retainer. They showed the respect to the family and avoid to disappear the family line.

This successor system brought a big quarrel and tragedy often. Especially in the family of the lord or very high rank retainers. They could have wives as much as they wanted, (The official wife was only one.) Main reason was they wanted to have their own sons as much as they could. Especially during Sengoku Jidai they had a high possibility to lose their sons during the battles which were constantly going on at that time. Also even the family of the lord, if they didn't have any successor, the Bakufu (the main government) replaced them with another clan. But having many sons became the cause of trouble often. Many mothers wanted their own child to be the next lord. If the official wife had a son, no problem. But if not, women's battle started and the retainers joined this battle with their own political reason.

Or if the second son was smarter, better as a warrior, or popular in the family and retainers, once again, it became a big quarrel. Or simply the retainers made up the reason why the first son wasn't good to be the lord and use that for a factional dispute. Sometimes it brought real battle in Sengoku jidai or the assassinations were done even in the peaceful time...

TRIP TO JAPAN -1

by Pete Campbell

As many of you know, the Campbell family spent several weeks last month in Japan, visiting family and friends. We spent 5 days in Obama with Ohashi souke and his students. I learned a great deal on this visit, more so than the visit 2 years ago. I hope I can pass this on to all of Ohashi souke's students over the coming months.

Training with Ohashi souke, Suzuki shihan, Otsu sensei, and the rest of his students is always great, learning new techniques and refreshing old ones. But for me, the highlight of not just my trips to Japan, but also when they travel here, is the strengthening and deepening of friendships, and the wealth of knowledge beyond technique that Ohashi souke has to pass on.

The most profound moment to me on this visit was when Ohashi souke took us to the Asakura village. As you have read in past Samurai dayori, Ohashi Kageyuzaemon, the founder of Mukushin-ryu, was a retainer of the Asakura clan. Asakura village in Fukui was where Mukushin-ryu began. Although a portion has been rebuilt for guests to see how the people lived at this time, most of the buildings are gone. But the actual stone foundations remain, and you are able to walk through these areas. To actually stand in the same spot where the original students trained in Mukushin-ryu was a very spiritual moment for me.

I realized that we - as students of Mukushin-ryu, are part of something much larger and profound than just learning sword techniques and kata from an old bujutsu. We are an ongoing part of history. One can not truly learn Mukushin-ryu without opening their heart and mind to the history and culture from which it originated.

That is what the Samurai dayori is all about. Every issue contains articles about the history, people, and culture of what we study. Most issues have letters directly from Ohashi souke. All students should consider these newsletters part of class.

If you are interested in Asakura village remains, I have a few booklets with many pictures written in English. Please ask me at Dojo or email me. (I can't give them away so read at Dojo or promise to return to me as soon as possible. (Rie)

POSITIVE MENTAL ATTITUDE

This is about my calligraphy teacher, but I would like to share this story with everybody. I learned a great lesson from her.

During our trip to Japan I visited her calligraphy class as I always do. I saw her sitting at the teacher's desk as usual but an eye patch on her eye wasn't usual. She said she just came back from the hospital the day before after spending 3 weeks there. It was an accident. Something hit her eye. She didn't tell me the details but by listening the conversation between her and other students, I could guess what happened roughly.

She was told that her eyesight of injured eye wouldn't be back completely. It might be a little better later or not at all. It is hard to judge the distance and directions with one eye until you get use to it. But she still wrote some copies for me.

She told us the story of how she was at the hospital, how she felt about this happening and what she thought.

First she was so glad she was a victim. If she was a cause of this accident and hurt somebody like this, she wouldn't be able to enjoy the rest of her life anymore. When she thought about that, she didn't feel to blame anybody. She appreciated that the injury was only on one eye. She didn't lose anything else. She still can be a calligrapher. She even searched through her mind to find if there were any conceit or making a false show of power after those thoughts.

She asked her doctor and the hospital to let her go home for a few hours to get her work done. Of course they didn't allow it, but they let her use a meeting room and allowed her to bring her students and the things that needed to be done. She told us all those stories how she asked to the doctor, how the work was done, what the doctor said and etc. without any negative atmosphere, instead of that, she talked as if it was a funny story mixed with some jokes.

She said "Yagyuu Juubee became the great swordsman with one eye. Why can't I? Your (to her students) existence is my reason to live. As long as you keep following me and supporting me, I am not giving up teaching and challenging to make the great arts."

I was so glad that I could meet such a person in my life and became one of her students. We learn from her many things, not only the calligraphy. She does not complain what she doesn't have. She appreciates what she has. She is always full of energy to accept the next challenge.

She is one old tiny lady but her art works are powerful and energetic, also gentle and soft but never weak, and sometimes even playful like herself.

EVERYDAY JAPANESE

Some colors (*iro*) in Japanese

White --- Shiro	Black --- Kuro	Red --- Aka,
Blue --- Ao	Yellow --- Ki/Ki	Orange --- Orenji/Daidai
Green --- Midori	Purple --- Murasaki	Brown --- Chairo/Cha,
Navy blue --- Kon.	Light blue --- Mizuiri	Pink --- Pinku
Gray --- Haiiro/Nezumiro	Gold --- Kin	Silver --- Gin

INTERESTING FACTS

There is the old cedar called Juubee sugi in Yagyuu village. One day Ohashi souke performed kata under that tree. That night he had a dream of a dragon. The very colorful dragon appeared and jumped into his mouth. He swallowed it. What do you think about this dream?

RECOMMENDED MOVIES

BLACK RAIN ---starring *Michael Douglas*

Nothing related to Samurai or Japanese history. Well, there is the scene of beheading by a sword, but,.,.,. It is an American movie but filmed in Osaka, Japan. Some of the places in the movie are places I worked everyday to go to work and shopping. But that isn't the reason I chose this movie.

I picked this movie just because Suzuki shihan is in this movie! He is one of policeman as he used to be. Can you find him? Don't forget he was much younger than now.

MUKUSHIN-RYU NEWS

Congratulations!

Mr. Pete Campbell passed his 3 *dan* test in Japan. The testing was cutting bamboo with *Mukushin-ryu* dull sword.
The first Mukushin-ryu Florida branch Leader
----**Florida Shibuchou**

Mr. Campbell was appointed to *Mukushin-ryu* Florida branch leader and given the certificate by *Ohashi souke*. It is not because he is the highest rank holder in Florida, but because of his dedication to *Mukushin-ryu* and passion to learn about various things that are not only techniques but also historical and cultural things.

With this position he can run and judge *Kyu* rank testing from 10 *kyu* through 1 *kyu* for all *Mukushin-ryu* students in Florida.

Also *Ohashi souke* gave him a martial artist name - following *souke's* name '*Kenshin*'. His name is "Seishin". *Sei* means sincerity, *shin* is a heart from *Kenshin's shin*.

New curriculum and requirements

Over the next few month, there will be some changes implemented in the curriculum and testing requirements, as well as some changes and additions to our basic *kihon* and some *kata*. ****There will be an open class for all students of Mukushin-ryu on July 22, starting at 2pm at Rising Sun Martial Arts' new location at 2220 E Hwy 192. [All Mukushin-ryu students should plan on attending, as we will be learning some of these changes, and can answer any questions about kyu testing as well.](#)**

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 Shougun instead of Shogun.

Have a questions or request? Contact me at:
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