

Midori Yama Budokai: *Hanshi's* Corner Written by Ron Rogers *Hanshi Meiyokyoju*

Ed Parker said it this way, "To hear is to doubt, to see is to be deceived, but to feel is to believe."

History Trivia

In a previous *Hanshi's* Corner, I spoke of a book co-authored by Jack Dempsey, *How to Fight Tough*. Gene Tunney defeated Dempsey in a world heavyweight match in 1926. When asked how he lost, Dempsey replied, "I forgot to duck." In 1981, President Ronald Reagan quoted Dempsey after being shot by John W. Hinckley Jr. Please note that neither Dempsey nor Reagan blamed anyone else. It was they who "forgot to duck." This is the character that sports in general and martial arts in particular were noted for building. President Reagan excelled at football, basketball and track while in high school. Later, in college he was the captain of the swim team.

YUDANSHA

The question has been asked: What does *Yudansha* mean?

Yu refers to having something, or something that is measured.

Dan means grade, class, rank, level or degree; literally, a step as a step in a flight of stairs.

Sha means a person

Yudansha is a person who has a degree. It may also mean someone who has attained a step in advancement in a given area.

It is usually translated as having a graded belt.

Mu, as in *mudansha*, means not; that is, a person not graded. This refers to what is usually referred to as *kyu* or *gup* in either Japanese or Korean.

Caveat Emptor

For those of you who collect martial arts books/self-defense/etc, be aware that the following four books are the same:

1. *Jiu-Jitsu the Japanese Method of Attack and Self Defense* by Capt. H. B. Skinner is the original title and author. Inside, the book was titled: *Jiu-Jitsu: A Comprehensive and Copiously Illustrated Treatise on The Wonderful Japanese Method of Attack and Self-Defense in One Volume*. Copyright 1904 by the Japan Publishing Company.
2. *Jiu-jitsu the Japanese Method of Attack and Self Defence* by the Kara Ashikaga School (in four volumes). The photographs of the original are reproduced as line drawings (actually tracings) in these four volumes. Inside the title was: *Jiu-Jitsu: A Comprehensive and Copiously Illustrated Treatise on The Wonderful Japanese Method of Attack and Self-Defence and Physical Culture*. Arranged by Mr. Kara Ashikaga. Published by the Kara Ashikaga School of Ju-jitsu in Liverpool, England. No publishing date is given.
3. *How to Stop Attack: Wrestling and Self-Defense, Jiu-Jitsu, A Superior Leverage Force; Muscle Science or Tricks of Jiu-Jitsu*. Edited and copyrighted MCMXL [1940] by Max Stein. No publisher given.
4. *Jiu-Jitsu, A Superior Leverage Force Illustrated. The Original Method Muscle Science or Tricks of Jiu-Jitsu Wrestling and Self-Defense*. Inside, the title was:

The Japanese Art of Wrestling and Self-Defense Jiu-Jitsu, A Superior Leverage Force Muscle Science Tricks of Jiu-Jitsu Illustrated. This was also edited and copyrighted MCMXL by Max Stein. The distributor was Johnson, Smith & Company.

If all you require is the information, the 4th version is the cheapest. Any of the four books (or multiple books) contain the same text. The second (multiple) version is the most expensive – and hardest to obtain.

Shi-Ki-Chikara

In this formula, we are informed that the thought must precede the energy necessary for the physical act. Buddha stated: “We are the sum total of our thoughts, everything we are we have thought first.” In the classic poem, “Ulysses,” author James Joyce has Ulysses make the statement, “I am a part of all that I have seen and done.” An old Chinese proverb states, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step.” All of these are statements confirming that we must begin with a conscious effort. Later, the energy directed toward the goal becomes embedded within us, so that minimal use of energy is used to create maximum power. This last is embodied in Kano Jigoro’s maximum: “*Seiryoku Zen’yo*.” The process and implementation of *shi-ki-chikara* is found from a philosopher, an author/poet, Chinese proverbs and an educator. Great thoughts are universal.

Fukyugata Sandan

For MYB’s *Shorin-ryu* practitioners (*Matsubayashi*), did you know of this *kata*? It was developed by Ueshiro Ansei in 1960 and has only 17 movements. However, there are multiple moves done from a single stance and consecutive moves done with stepping. For example, movement one is to the left, and consists of a down block followed immediately by a reverse punch. One is told they must be performed simultaneously – that is, so quickly they seem simultaneous. This is considered movement one. The pattern is a “plus” or “cross.” Very low stances are used to get under the attacker and invade his or her space as the defender upsets the attacker’s balance. Low stances, speed and combinations characterize the *kata*. *Fukyugata Sandan* was designed to illustrate *Shorin-ryu*’s philosophy: “When faced with an opponent, move forward, never retreat.”

From: *An Encyclopedia of Judo (Jujutsu)* by Ron Rogers

Preface

I have been involved in the martial arts since 1961. Franklin Thaddeus Booth, *Sensei*, began Athens [AL] *Judo* and *Karate*. Booth *Sensei* taught *Judo* and *Karate* as primary arts. He had also studied yoga and savate. Booth *Sensei* stated that he had a *Yodan* (4th Degree Black Belt) in *Kodokan Judo* and a *Nidan* (2nd Degree Black Belt) in *Shotokan Karate*. When I asked him about his study of yoga he stated that yoga did not have ranks but that if it did he would be “about a *Shodan*” (1st Degree Black Belt).

Booth *Sensei*, when asked about addressing him, said to call him *Sensei*, Mr. Booth, or simply Sarge. Consequently, I still think of him as *Sensei*, although I usually referred to him as “Sarge” when actually speaking to him.

These many years later I believe that Booth *Sensei* should have been called Booth Shibumnim. From what I have learned, and based on terminology he used, I believe he actually learned Korean arts, which – at that time – were registered with Japanese

systems. Specifically, I believe he had rank in Yudo, which was affiliated with *Kodokan*, and Tang Soo Do, which was registered with *Shotokan*.

I base this conclusion on the following: Booth *Sensei* stressed that *kata* was combat, and taught it as such. I asked what I should know for *Shodan* in *Karate*. Booth *Sensei* stated that as a Black Belt I should be able to give four applications for each technique in *kata*, other than those, which seemed apparent. Historically, Tode of Okinawa traveled to Korea, becoming Tang Soo Do. Tang Soo is the Korean pronunciation of Tode. Funakoshi then brought Tode to mainland Japan and changed *Karate*, meaning Tang Hand, to *Karate*, meaning Empty Hand. The characters for “Tang,” and “empty” are written with different characters, but both are pronounced “kara.” The Korean Tang Soo Do still taught the grappling and throwing inherent in the forms, when Booth *Sensei* studied. Fortunately, he passed this on to me. The tode taught by Funakoshi showed the Japanese outward (*omote*) applications only. The inner (*ura*) teachings were generally omitted.

As with his *Karate*, Booth *Sensei* taught *Judo* (Yudo) as combat. He was not opposed to the sporting aspect, but stressed it was to learn the combat principles in as real life situation as possible. In other words, *shiai* was another method of practice, not an end in itself. This is how Yudo is taught in Korea. Booth *Sensei* referred to a two-leg *tomoe nage* as “*tomoe nage dioji*.” The old form of *hane goshi* was Booth *Sensei*’s *tokui waza* (favorite technique). He called it “*hane goshi dioji*.” *Uke*’s legs were brought in line and *tori*’s lower leg was placed across both legs. However, the word, which was most telling, was that for an armlock. The “hammerlock” of wrestling was referred to as “*lihoja*.” Many years later, I came to realize that *lihoja* could not be a Japanese word, as they do not have the sound of “L” in their syllabary.

Just as Booth *Sensei* was recognized in the arts, regardless of culture, so did the Korean Yudo Federation recognize me. I am proud to hold the rank of 9th Degree Black Belt in that prestigious organization. In addition, Leo Daniel Wilson was recognized in three Korean arts. He received 9th Degree Black Belt in Yudo, the highest Yudo rank in Korea. He also received 7th Degree Black Belt in both Tae Kwon Do and Hapkido. The three of us were fortunate to have received instruction in the old ways before their passing into modern sport. We are indebted to Korea for continuing with the martial arts, rather than martial sports.

As a note in synchronicity: Booth once stated he was related to John Wilkes Booth, although he was not especially proud of it. Your *Hanshi*’s grandfather contended that his side of the family was distantly related to Abraham Lincoln, although he (the grandfather) was not especially proud of it. If both statements about lineage were true, then a common ground was established for the two families. As the common ground came from a different culture, the connection seems somewhat ironic, as the original problem was a difference in cultures.

Kyoku – Breathing

Recently, your *Hanshi* was asked what the most important aspect of karate was. His reply was – for any martial art – breathing. He had to explain that he wasn’t joking or making light of the question. Breathing is the most important aspect. Incorrect breathing leads to fatigue, injury and inconclusive techniques. In an interview for publication, the late Masutatsu Oyama (Yong-I Choi, by birth) stated that deep abdominal (diaphragmatic)

breathing would “condition your abdominal muscles, improve your posture, digestion and constitution.” Deep abdominal breathing is at the heart of all Asian martial arts, fine arts and scholarly self-discipline. Oyama went on to say, “Fail to master breath control and you can do nothing in *karate* except possibly a few cute tricks.” For Oyama, correct breathing was Daruma’s (Bodhidharma) greatest gift to the martial arts.

Your Hanshi highly recommends *Zen Combat, a Complete Guide to the Oriental Arts of Attack and Defense* by Jay Gluck.

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