

Midori Yama Budokai: *Hanshi's Corner*

Written by Professor Ron Rogers

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Ichi go, ichi e: One life, one meeting

Love is like a friendship caught on fire. In the beginning a flame, very pretty, often hot and fierce, but still only light and flickering. As love grows older, our hearts mature and our love becomes as coals, deep-burning and unquenchable. Bruce Lee

Zulu Weapons

The Zulu tribe of Africa, especially under the leadership of Shaka, was a fearsome and brutal fighting force. Shaka's empire lasted from 1816 to 1879, although he was killed by jealous relatives in 1828. Two of the most famous wars were fought between the Zulu and the British. The first was a surprise attack on the British camp at Isandhlwana, involving 20,000 Zulu and 1800 British soldiers. At the end only fifty-five British remained alive. The second – on the following day – involved 4,000 Zulu warriors and eighty-four soldiers, twenty civilians and thirty-six patients at the British Hospital at Rorke's Drift. Amazingly, the warriors failed to overrun the hospital, although the battle was fought all night. The Zulu history is well told in Donald R. Morris' *The Washing of the Spears*. Below is a list of some of their weapons.

The **assegai** was the Zulu throwing spear, which was thrown from a distance to weaken the enemy lines. Shaka revolutionized warfare with the introduction of the **iklwa**, or shorter stabbing spear, which was used in formation much as the Roman phalanx. The **iklwa** was used in conjunction with the **inawu**, or shield, again as the Roman army used the *gladius* and shield. Mentioned in a previous newsletter was the **knobkerrie**, or **isiwa**, which could be used as missiles or for hand-to-hand combat. A shorter club was used for close-in fighting. The rounded head was made of heavy wood, shaped like a bowling ball (though not as large!). It was heavily weighted and designed for heavy blows.

Derived mainly from *The Way of the Warrior, Martial Arts and Fighting Styles from around the World* by Chris Crudelli

Book of Five Rings by Miyamoto Musashi

Following, for those who are interested, is a list of Musashi's book as translated by different persons. All are interesting, although your professor believes some to be more useful than others. However, I list all of which I know, and you may decide.

The Book of Five Rings: Gorin no Sho translation and commentary by Nihon Services Corporation, Bantam Books. This is, in your professor's opinion, one of the best translations available, giving excellent commentaries and Japanese terms.

The Martial Artist's Book of Five Rings: The Dynamic Interpretation of Miyamoto Musashi's Classic Book of Strategy, "the Definitive Interpretation..." by Steve Kaufman, Hanshi 10th Dan, Charles E. Tuttle Co., Inc. This is interesting due to being addressed to Martial Arts, exclusively. It is a pretty straightforward translation, with emphasis on the difference between warriors and anyone else – that is, it deals with how to destroy the enemy!

The Book of Five Rings, translated by William Scott Wilson, Kodansha International. As the preceding book by Kaufman, this book deals with Musashi's book in terms of victory on the field of combat. Wilson's translation is based on an original copy which Terao

Nobumasa (Musashi's disciple) presented to Yamamoto Gensuke in 1667, just twenty years after Musashi's death. It is considered the most accurate of existing texts. The translation is clear and precise, with excellent endnotes. One unique feature is the inclusion of mon (crests) of Musashi's era.

A Book of Five Rings: The Classic Guide to Strategy, translated by Victor Harris, Grange Books. This too is a straight forward translation of Musashi's text with no commentary, but a few end notes. Also included is a translation of *An Unfettered Mind* by a (Rinzai) Zen Master (Takuan Soho) to a Sword Master Yagyu Munemori of *Yagyu Shinkage Kenjutsu*, also with endnotes, but no commentary.

A Book of Five Rings: The Classic Guide to Strategy, translated by Victor Harris, The Overlook Press. This is the classic text, but with footnotes and without commentary, and is composed of Musashi's book only. Very little (almost none) is given of the Japanese terms

The Book of Five Rings: the Classic Text of Samurai Sword Strategy, translated by Ashikaga Yoshiharu and edited by Rosemary Brant, Barnes and Noble. This book is unique in its inclusion, with each page, of color paintings of the samurai and their accoutrements.

A Way to Victory: the Annotated Book of Five Rings: Miyamoto Musashi's Classic Guide to Strategy, translation and commentary by Hidy Ochiai, The Overlook Press. This text is translated by a martial artist and includes illustrations of paintings and photographs of swords and related items.

The Book of Five Rings and Yagyu Munemori's, The Book of Family Traditions on the Art of War, translated by Thomas Cleary, Barnes and Noble. There is no commentary, but a few endnotes.

The Illustrated Book of Five Rings, translated by Thomas Cleary, Weatherhill. This the same text as above, but – as indicated in the title – illustrated in much the same way as Yoshiharu's translation, but including photographs of sculptures and weapons.

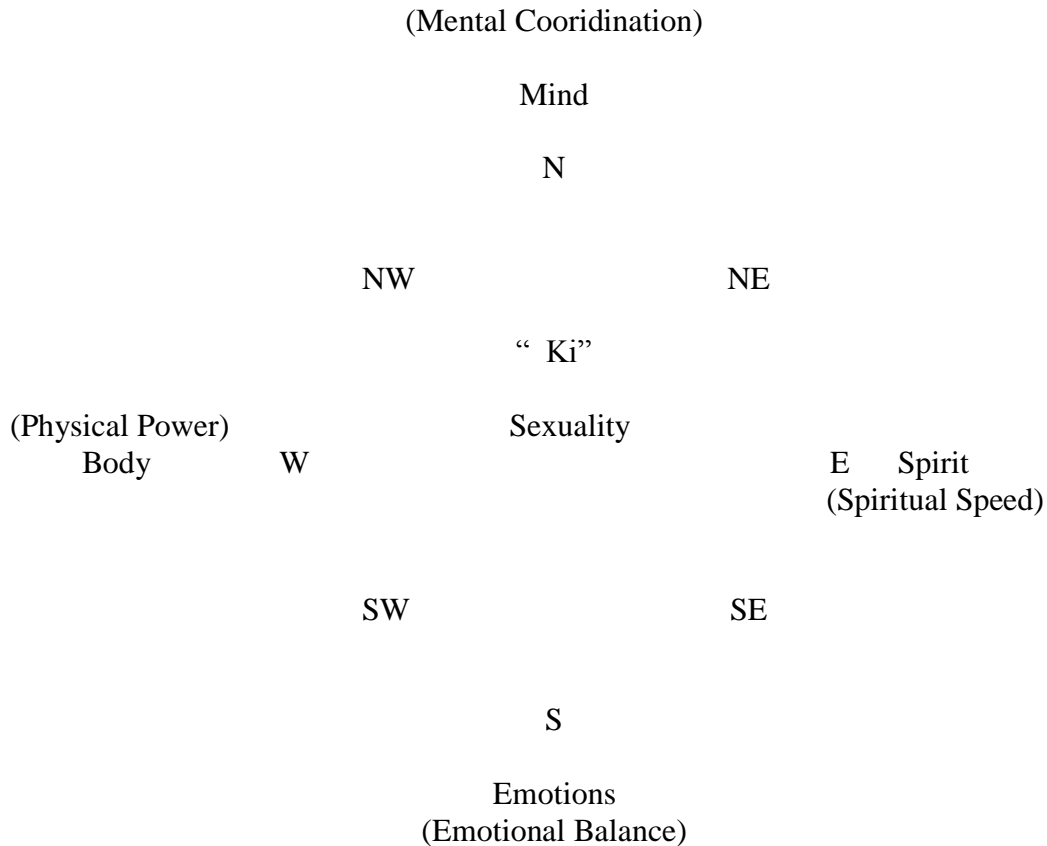
The Book of Five Rings and The Book of Family Traditions on the Art of War by Yagyu Munemori translated by Thomas Cleary, Shambhala Publications. This is a straightforward translation with a few end notes. The book is very small (3" x 4 ½") and can be easily carried in a shirt pocket or purse.

Miyamoto Musashi: His Life and Writings, by Kenji Tokitsu, translated by Sherab Chodzin Kohn, Shambhala Publications. This tome (488 pages) is exactly what it proclaims – a biography of Musashi and his writings. Not only is the text of The Book of Five Rings included, but also his earlier works, including "The Mirror of the Way of Strategy" (*Hyodokyo*), "Thirty-five instructions on Strategy" (*Hyoho sanju go kajo*), "Forty-two Instructions on Strategy" (*Hyoho shiju ni kajo*), which is a revision of the preceding work, deleting some of the original and adding new instructions, and "The Way to Be Followed Alone" (*Dokkodo*). The text also includes notes by Musashi's disciples concerning the practice of his school. Notes, glossary, bibliography and index are included. Although your professor prefers the Nihon Services text, the text given above is the best single text for information on Musashi and his works.

Star Maiden Circle of Chuluku-ryu

The following is a "mandala" of the martial art of chuluku-ryu, allegedly a Native American art taught by Harley "Swiftdeer" Reagan. Reagan has grafted traditional Native

American fighting techniques and the *Shorinji Jujutsu* system. Another alleged Native American art, Cla'shiha, is taught by William Banks and Stephen Alimonda, of Tampa, Florida.



The martial arts outer aspects of the Native Americans are: balance; coordination; power; speed; distance; timing; relaxation; attitude

South relates to survival adaptability. In essence, it is how you feel about yourself and your surroundings.

Southwest is the way you deal with your environment and how you process experience.

West is the way you actualize; your ideal; the way you daydream (visualize).

Northwest contains all your rules and laws, do's and don'ts, morals and ethics; it is how you imagine yourself as a human being.

North is your entire philosophy and belief system, made of your points of view and opinions. It is your perception of the world.

Northeast is how you use your energy. It is where your choices and decisions are made, and how you arrange your priorities, and put everything together.

East is the area of your sacred vision, vision quest or mystery walk (spirit walk). It is where realistic goals are formulated.

Southeast is the starting point and ending point. It is your attitude of the eight movement wheel and your concepts, especially your self-concept.

