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AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Dojo: <http://yoshinkan.info>

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May Report

New members 4

Total number of adults training 65

Total number of children training 46

Results of Getsurei Shinsa on 29th May

Jun-Shodan	Mark Davies Matthew Ryan	5Y9 step	Emmanuel Economidis	2Y4 step	Joseph Stuart
		4Y9 step	Lee Stemm	2Y2 step	Robert Austin
5th Kyu	Roger Yang	2Y10 step	Lawrence Monforte	S5 step	Oliver Bradshaw
7th Kyu	Ira Seidenstein		Francis Hollingworth	S2 step	Murray Booth
8th Kyu	Peter Nilsson	2Y8 step	Mark Coleman	S 1 step	Choi, Sukchul
9th Kyu	Sergey Kinchin Priscilla Liew	2Y5 step	Dennies Delos Santos Kaido Mori		

Results of Teens' class Shinsa on 15th May

2nd Kyu	Zhian Johnston Coby Stegman Alex Sargent	4th Kyu	Bradley Cornell Selina Lim William Austin	6th Kyu	Helena Chapman Alison Goepfert
3rd Kyu	Louis Hanley Bailey Evans-Huf Sage Springett Luqman Nul Hakim Tor Brooks Nicolas Margarit	5th Kyu	Chanice Evans-Huf Thomas Oldham Mackenzie Lange Martin Vu	7th Kyu	Mariah Reid Halle Evans
		6th Kyu	Izaiah Fergusson Jacob Evans	8th Kyu	Ryan Padget Ginger Conquest Django Stegman Bridget Felstein

Events in June

1. Sogo Shinsa

- Training starts, Friday 11th 7:15pm~
- Steps, Friday 25th 7:15pm~
- Shinsa, Saturday 26th 1:00pm~

2. This Month's Holiday

- Queen's Birthday 14th Monday
- Dojo's Holiday 28th Monday

Coffee Break

I heard this episode from Master Gozo Shioda directly. When he met the master of Daitoryu Aikijujutsu, Sokaku Takeda (the master of Morihei Ueshiba, the founder of Aikido,) Shioda Sensei was very impressed with Master Takeda's dagger skill. He pulled out his dagger from a sheath and put it back in so that Shioda Sensei could not even see but heard the sound of a strong, deep wind cut.

I do hold the title of Shihan with 7th dan rank and I tried this movement with my imitation dagger. No matter how many times I tried I heard no sound. I did not even feel any possibility of making a sound at all. I admit that there must be an enormous gap in the ability of martial arts skills between the modern age martial artists and ancient age martial artists. I bet they who went through the real battles of killing had incredibly amazing skills.

The founder of Aikido, Morihei Ueshiba, was said to have the power to foresee the future. He was able to say which angle either right, left or middle, a bokken (wooden sword) was aiming to strike



him without looking at it. We all have heard of his famous episode where Master Gozo Shioda saw Ueshiba Sensei teasing a soldier to induce him to fire at him and he dodged the bullets. He reached the soldier at lightning speed and threw him before the soldier knew what happened. He definitely carried lots of superhuman legends.

Master Gozo Shioda, the top disciple of Master Morihei Ueshiba, was amazing for me too. When I saw his demonstration for the first time the old and skinny guy (like a dead tree, sorry) who was close to seventy was smashing several sturdy youngsters powerfully in springy movements with his cheeky smile. I was astonished at the scene thinking that an old man that appeared only in books truly existed in the real world. The demonstration made me believe that there were many of those super old-men in ancient days.

The males from the family line of great swordsmen (the duties were set in each family line and a swordsman family was always swordsman) in Edo era (1600-1800, roughly) seemed to die young. That was because the boys in the family were forced to go through extremely severe training and not many young bodies were able to take it and they died prematurely. Although Senshusei-geiko (riot policemen course with uchi-deshies at the Yoshinkan Headquarters) was tough and strict for me it was not so hard that a death would occur. Probably, there is a world that only the people who trained desperately daring one's life can reach.

Around the time after the WW2, there was a male student training aikido in Yoshinkan Headquarters who was born in the family line of ninja duty. He said that he was the last generation of ninja and his generation in the changing period of the world could not concentrate on their heavy ninja training any more like in the old days. He showed a performance over drinks as entertainment saying shyly, "I can manage only a small skill". He nailed a size of 16cm long nail deep into a wooden table top by his bear thumb with a kiai (shout), leaving all the people around him in great astonishment. They all wondered how skilful and powerful ninjas in old times could have been.

When we read books about ancient Japanese martial arts, we can find some interesting skills and training. 'Tooate (遠当)' skill is the one quite interesting that samurais trained. 'Tooate' was a vibration power produced by a piercing shout that could freeze the opponent temporally. Samurais used the 'tooate' to paralyse the opponent for a moment and then killed him in a single sweep. Say in this modern world, if you can use 'tooate' you can paralyse a sudden attacker in the city and then you can either restrain or escape from him.

The way they mastered the 'tooate' skill was also interesting. They secluded themselves at a mountain for days and days, and seated in a kneeling position (zen) placing a cup of water filled to the top in front of them. They drew their loudest shout from their solar plexus to the cup, hours upon hours. At the beginning of their training nothing particular happened to neither the water nor cup. But as they practiced the shouts dreadfully bleeding from their throats day after day the water in the cup began to wave and then the water began to splash out of the cup. Passing through these stages they finally managed to break the cup, split it in half by their concentrated and piercing shout, and that was when they mastered the 'tooate.' To raise the power of 'tooate' they practiced against a monkey on a tree and if it fell from the tree being unconscious by receiving their 'tooate,' it meant they mastered the 'tooate' skill that it would be effective on people as well. Since ancient days the shouts used for kiai were the same sound of what we use now, "Yay!, Ya!" But the power they used in their kiai was absolutely different to ours and it vibrated air powerfully to produce an air blow strong enough to knock a man out. Maybe you can imagine this if you have ever watched 'Dragon Ball Z,' but in reality.



Well, people can develop mysterious power more than we think looking at the ancient history of martial artists. I've read amazing news about an 82 year old Indian yogi, you might've read too. He claimed that he hadn't been eating or drinking for the last 70 years. So, he was taken to a hospital and was observed closely for two weeks 24/7 with specially installed cameras and 35 doctors examined his body. He surely did not eat or drink at all and never used the toilet through the period. He did not show any signs of weakness or dehydration and did not lose any weight; his body obviously was used to living with an empty stomach. The doctors found that his brain cells are at the level of a 25-year old person, and his body is strong and young. I originally thought he transformed into a plant from the years of yoga practice that needs only air and sun light to perform photosynthesis. But then I realised that the plants actually need water to carry out photosynthesis to produce organic compound. So, if this news is true he transformed into even something beyond animals and plants. How mysterious humans can be.

Well, get the topic back to reality where we live at this modern time. We, being Aikido practitioners, enjoy training Aikido without being in need of facing life-or-death situation. But, it is still our dream to seize or feel even a little something closer to supernatural ability that used to exist. We never know that a moment of being awakened may visit us one day in strange events – ability like being able to foresee the lines of bullets or to see every movement in slow motion. It is just fun to believe in these possibilities along the extended line of our diligent training.

OSU!

Michiharu Mori