

**MASTER
HISATSUGU
TAKAMATSU**

**A PERSON WITH
ULTIMATE
ATTAINMENT**

The following is an interview which I conducted at the home of Ryotaro Koyama, one of Japan's most well known writers and a Ninja Historian. We discussed our individual relationships with Master Takamatsu: Dr. Masaaki Hatsumi.

**There is a word;
"Witness of history".**

This applies in my own case, for example, as successor to the principal lineage of the nine martial arts schools founded by Master Toshitsugu Takamatsu, as I periodically recall the things that were taught by Master Takamatsu or read again from tangible relics such as the Book of Teachings handed down the line of succession and the letters which I received from the Master.

Also I have opportunities to meet and talk with other persons who knew Master Takamatsu.

On such occasions some things are revealed as if the hands of a clock overlap each other. As an example of this I wish to share with you a recent discussion with Mr. Ryotaro Koyama, a writer. Since this is a conversational

exchange I have indicated who is speaking with our initials.

MH

"I believe it was twice that you, Mr. Koyama, met Master Takamatsu. Wasn't it 26 years ago when the second meeting took place?"

RK

"That's right. It is already 26 years, indeed. Expecting your visit today, I opened the cabinet under that bookshelf and instantly found my notebook with the record of that meeting."

MH

"Is that true? There must be some karma working for us since you found the correct notebook right away among such a large number of books. Or, it seems to me that Master Takamatsu, in the other world, let the notebook come out by way of telling you to show the record to Hatsumi since I am a fellow who tends to forget things....(laughter)..."

RK

"Parents continue to worry and feel uneasy over their child, no matter how great the child becomes. Master Takamatsu must be feeling the same things for you."

MH

"Do you really think so? Then, if that is so I must feel grateful for it..."

RK

"According to my record on Thursday March 27, 1963; ...the



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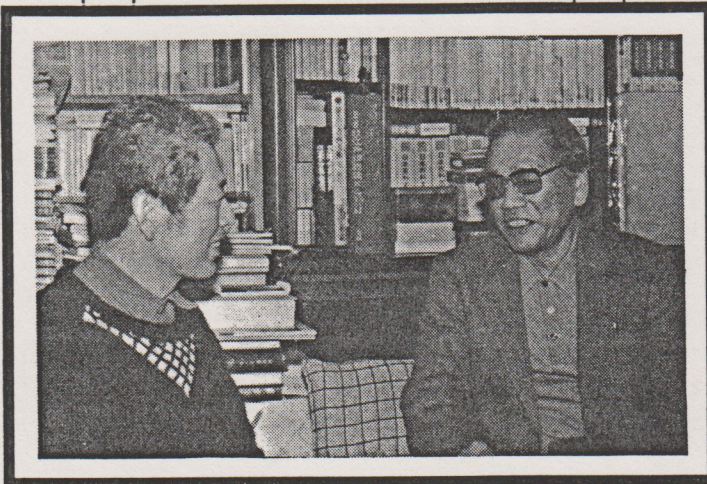
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weather is fine and clear.”

“First I visited the Kashihara Shrine where Emperor Jinmu, the first Emperor of Japan is enshrined, then visited Master Takamatsu at his home.”

“I began by asking his age, to which the Master replied, ‘I was born in Meiji 22 (1898) but it is my practice not to tell anybody how old I am. Some people die soon after they are born while some people live long without counting their age, as I do. There are those who live long and those who live only a short time; all have their own allotment of years to live and there is no age in the allotment itself. So I don’t see myself putting on age.’ With this pithy remark the Master beat me by one point already at the beginning of our meeting.”



Here I am with Mr. Koyama

MH
“Was that so? He also used to tell me that in his 50’s and 60’s a man is still only a greenhorn, and the prime time of manhood comes only in the late 70’s and 80’s. Then sometimes a little playful boasting to demonstrate his endearment towards his wife would follow as he would say, ‘When I leave the house for a trip, my wife puts a lot of money in my wallet saying to me, ‘At your age, unless you have lots of money, you wouldn’t be welcomed by Geisha girls’ “...(laughter)...”

RK
“The Master was indeed robust and full of pep at that age, wasn’t he? He also told me stories about the time he served as the Head Priest of the Tendai Sect Temple, how he energetically engaged in activities on the Continent of China and an episode where he knocked down 60 rogues all by himself when he was just 13 years old.”

MH
“True! I hear that the title of ‘Full Mastership’ (the rank of Instructor) in Shinden-Fudo School, Koto School and others was conferred upon Master Takamatsu by Master Toda and Master Ishitani when he was still only 13 years old.”

“On another subject, Mr. Koyama. You published a book titled, ‘This is Ninjutsu (The art of making oneself invisible)’ on July 2nd of that same year (1963), didn’t you?”

RK
“Was it so? I no longer have any copies myself. I have given them all away.”

MH
“Oh, have you? I still have some copies and will send you one right away.”

RK
“Thank you. I owe you a great deal for helping me on that book. The Master also told me about an episode when he was at the peak of his physical prowess. He was about 26 years old and serving as the President of Butoku-Kai in Northern China. In those days he never perspired, even when giving vigorous lessons to 60 disciples.”

MH
“That was true. I have here a calling card reminding me of those days. Master Takamatsu gave it to me over 30 years ago and I still carry it with me all the time as my amulet.”

RK
“It was then, I learned from the Master, that he once had a match with a military man of over 30-kan (about 248 lbs.) in weight by the name of Zhang Zi Liang who was a prominent expert of Shorinji Kenpo. Although the Master was reluctant to engage this person, he had no choice but to accept after being challenged three times.

"He mentioned a dream that he had experienced."

"In the dream an ogre tried to strike a butterfly with an iron club and the butterfly parried the attack by flying around swiftly. Seeing this in the dream the Master felt that he had been given the solution to his problem. "

This is it', he said to himself, and decide to confront the opponent."

"The match was held in the Butoku-Kai's arena. There the massive body of Zhang Zi Liang leaped to dropkick in a fierce attack like a Dragon breathing fire from it's mouth and at the same time assaulted with the fists as if a ferocious Tiger was reaching for prey by stretching out sharp clawed paws."

"The Master dodged these attacks by springing lightly, from side to side and forward or backward, for distances as great as 2-ken (about 11.93 feet)."

"After an hour or so Zhang Zi Liang, with his weighty body, became so soaked with sweat that it was falling like a waterfall and his movements became slow. In the meantime Master Takamatsu, thanks to his training, remained completely free from breaking into a sweat."

MH

"That is what I heard, also. At that time, Mr Lian, an Uncle of the Emperor, offered to act as intermediary to stop the match

at that point. The Master honored the offer for he believed it is not the primary purpose of Martial Arts to determine who wins or loses, and shook hands with Zhang Zi Liang. Then Zhang Zi Liang, even though older than Master Takamatsu, asked the Master to take him as his disciple and they became sworn brothers."

RK

"Yes, I heard that also. Obviously, Zhang Zi Liang must have been impressed by Master Takamatsu's competence and personality. It is said that Zhang Zi Liang told the Master that if anything harmful should happen to the Master he would come to his aid no matter how far away the place might be. In fact later, when the Master fell into danger by failing to fully exert the power of the Henso art, Zhang Zi Liang rushed to the scene for the sake of the Master."

"In addition to these episodes the Master related various other stories to me over a 4 hour period. He said that the greatest difference between man and animal lies in a smiling face."

"In another story he mentioned that one day, in the dormitory for the workers of a match factory run by his father in Kobe, a fire broke out. The workers panicked screaming, 'Fire, fire'. At the same time the Master watched, while puffing a cigar, and thought out how to handle the fire. Finally, he put on his

martial art practice suit...as you know, the practice suit is hard to burn...and poured water over himself. Then he knocked down the fusuma (sliding paper partitions) and the ceilings at stunning speed with a stick of about three shaku long (appx. 3 feet) extinguishing the fire instantaneously...(laughter)...

"Looking at the feat, Master Ishitani, Master Takamatsu's mentor, praised him saying, 'He is every bit what I believed him to be!'. "

MH

"The Master frequently emphasized the importance of serene courage and bravery and that episode demonstrates the point very clearly.

"Another thing I would like to bring up is that, in spite of the fact that the Master had never visited my home, he sent me a complete floor plan of my house which was as correct in every detail as if I had drawn it, not the Master."

RK

"How interesting! I had an experience with the Master in a similar vein. When I visited the house of Master Takamatsu I arrived sooner than my schedule by a full day. To my astonishment the Master was ready to receive me with full knowledge of my coming."

"While I was talking with him...he must have had extensive training as a Tendai Priest...I

perceived in him the spirit of a High Priest and felt I was purified, physically and spiritually, with a feeling of deep reverence for him welling up within myself."

MH

"Oh, so you, too, had such an experience? To me, the Master was a Father truly to be respected. I always had a feeling of reverence for him and a reliance on his affection. Now, thinking back upon the letter that I mentioned earlier where the Master actually knew the plan of my house without having seen it, I can only presume that was perception born from a teaching of Shinobi (spying and the art of mystification). That is to say, one can be trained to penetrate unfamiliar places in order to gain information about unknown places. For example into other feudal territories, and castles in those territories, even though one does not know the map of those places or the structures of those castles."

RK

"I see!. During my conversation with Master Takamatsu I began to realize the meaning of the phrase...the ultimate attainment... that he had spoken of earlier."

"In my understanding, the supreme importance for a martial art practitioner...is to attain the level that transcends the rank of Master-hand or consummate performer and, I suppose, this may be expressed as the realm of ultimate attainment that is

more vital even than Sainthood, or some such thing."

"Truly, Master Takamatsu was, in an authentic sense, a Master who fully possessed this...Ultimate Attainment!"

MH

"A Person of Ultimate Attainment."

"Mr. Koyama, today I feel as though I have been talking with Master Takamatsu through you...a wonderful feeling!"

"I may never attain the lofty realms of Ultimate Attainment achieved by Master Takamatsu's.....still I am a lucky man to be a disciple of a Mentor so great as Master Takamatsu."

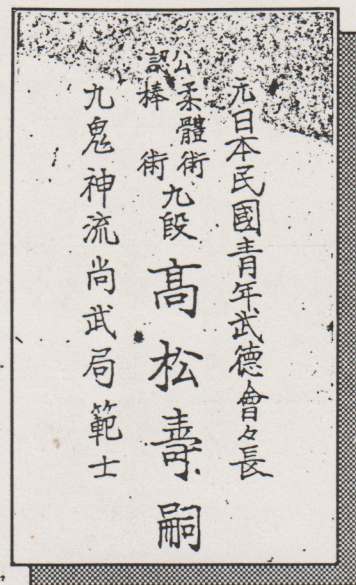
I am able to live with my memories of him for the rest of my life!"



ABOUT MASTER TAKAMATSU

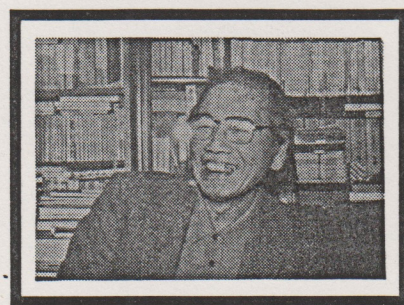
Toshitsugo Takamatsu was the 33rd Soke of Togakure Ryu Ninjutsu and personal Sensei to Dr. Masaaki Hatsumi, 34th Soke. Takamatsu Sensei was an Instructor of the Kukishin School, Shobu Bureau. A former President of Nippon Minkoku Seinen Botoku-Kai (The Association of Martial Arts for Japanese Youth) he was officially recognized as a Master Sensei of Jutaijutsu (the art of self defense) and Bojutsu (the art of using a stick as a weapon)

This is a copy of his calling card from my extensive personal files:



ABOUT MR. RYOTARO KOYAMA

Mr. Ryotaro Koyama is a well known Japanese writer and my close personal friend. He has published many books which include novels and historical works about great swordsman and Ninja (one who has mastered the art of making oneself invisible through skill and ingenuity, and engaged chiefly in espionage activities).



I hope that you have enjoyed this first issue of BUJIN, my personal newsletter. I look forward to the moments we will share through this letter in the months and years ahead. Dr. Masaaki Hatsumi