

**SHINOBI STICK:  
PEOPLES' SYMPATHY &  
THE WIDE WORLD  
OF COMPASSION OF  
THOSE WHO PRACTICE  
NINJUTSU.**

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Just as man disguises himself, the Jojutsu (skill of the stick) also has it's own forms of disguise. In the Tokashi sect, the Ninjas have their unique way of disguising the Shinobi Jojutsu ( the skill of Shinobi stick). Since the Jojutsu is for travelers to protect themselves when they are on the road, it is therefore said to be one of the self-defensive skills of using the Shinobi stick.

Surrounding the Shinobi stick are numerous mysterious legends that have been handed down from ancient times. The magical power held by the stick is what people have been hoping and dreaming for; the kind of power that people have been trying so hard to make believe in.

Some good examples may be cited from history. Moses changed his stick into a serpent by throwing it in front of the Pharoah. By merely waving high his stick while saying a prayer, he split the Red Sea in two creating a path walled by the sea water. In addition, Cinderella's God mother changed a pumpkin into a beautiful horse carriage also by a mere wave of the "magic stick".

Nowadays, in a symphony, beautiful music is produced under the supervisory wavings of a small, short stick. Talking about music, let me take the opportunity to introduce to you the words of the Manga (comic) writer Osamu Tezuka. At the working place of Osamu Tezuka, a young boy who aspired to be a manga writer came visiting alone, with his drawn manga pads held in one hand. He asked, "Sensei Tezuka, please take a look at my work."

Mr. Tezuka politely took the boy's manga pads in his hand, looked at them and said, " If you really want to draw manga, you should listen to the music!"

To the young boy, this was a very puzzling answer that made him wonder to himself if the teacher meant that he had no talent in his work at all. To this youth who had not yet developed a full ability of analysis, the true meaning of such teaching as "—listen to the music!"— was obviously a bit too profound for him to analyze.

Then the conversation continued. " Tell me, Boy, what kind of music do you like ? "

" Sensei, I like the 'Third Man' of Carol Read the most. " he answered.

" Ah, is that so ? " said the teacher, and as he was saying



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A DIRECT MONTHLY  
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FROM  
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Skill of the Human.”

H”

“Yes, the skill of humans and of all living things.”

Y:

“One of the distinctive examples of such skills is the *Neko No Me No Jutsu*—The Skill, or knowledge, of the Cat’s Eyes. Six of them are round—four to eight of them persimmon shaped—nine of them needle shaped.”

“What do you think they are, Masanari?”

“They are like ciphers which change shape with the changing light in the iris of a cat’s eye. A type of code often used in Ninjutsu.”

“Also, the cat can tell the coming of rain.”

H:

“Well, then, what is *Rokkai*?”

Y:

“*Rokkai*, also called the *Shinobi Rokkai*, are the bodily tools and equipment that the Ninja use in the practice of Ninjutsu.”

“They are not the so-called tools used to earn a living.

For instance, the *Amigasa* (a kind of braided hat) was usually used to hide one’s face. The *Kaginawa* is another such tool. It is a kind of rope made from womens’ hair. When utilized with hooks it can be used to climb up to high places or down to low ones.”

“There was another kind of weapon which was used when fleeing. It is called *Ishisao* which means, stone rod. Not only could it be used as a weapon, but it could be used to write secret codes due to it’s whiteness. Moreover, this white stone was also used to make medicine for curing illness. It could even be combined with other materials and made into sleeping potions and a lethal poison.”

“Amazingly, the *Donohi* was not used as a source of fire. Some time ago it was used in life-saving and resuscitation. It was used for moxibustion and maintaining body temperature and as a stimulant to revive those who were about

to die.”

“Next there was the *Sanjaku Tenugi*—the three *Shaku* hand towel, which was used to cover one’s face. It could also be used to filter muddy water for drinking after first soaking it in vinegar.”

H:

“Father, thank you very much. I have learned a great deal from your instruction.”

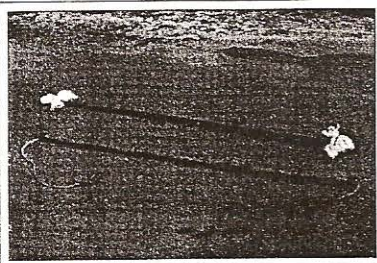
Y:

“You should learn all these things well and use them to serve your Lord and uphold justice. For justice and your Clan.....”

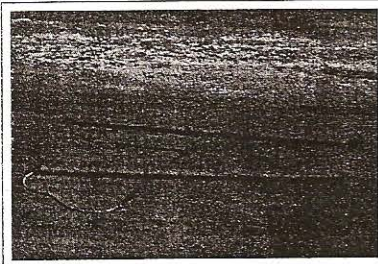


Well, my friends and readers, have you learned a little bit more about the history of the Ninja from this portion of —

**"Understanding The History Of The Ninja?"**



The Shinobi Stick, made from hollowed bamboo stalk. Bamboo is known to endure cold winters. At the time of frost bamboo that has endured the bitterest cold will be cut to a length of 4 Shaku (30.3 cm) 5 Sun (3.03 cm). Just as one says about man, the bamboo that can endure the harshest of the harsh bitterness are said to be strong and greatly durable.



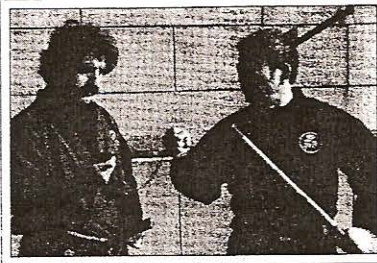
Hooks and solid copper are attached to both ends of the rope and chain. In order to hide the hooks and copper when walking on the road, cloth or leather is used to cover them. This is called the "Fukumen"(veiling). Pondering it in detail can all of you feel the relationship between US and the Shinobi Stick?



Covering the solid copper with cloth one is able to use it to strike the vital spots of enemies. Of course, if one takes off the cover there are other ways to use it efficiently. One is to utilize it as a fire starting stone.

In the picture that follows we see the length of chain pulled out of the hollowed end of the Shinobi Stick. Doron holds the solid copper ending.

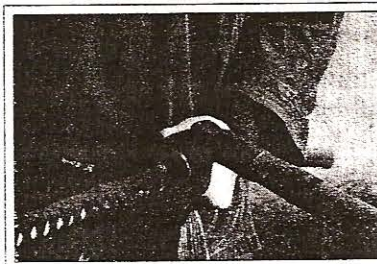
The Shinobi stick is divided into three parts. Using it with the consciousness that each of the three has a separate heart and thoughts will provide outstanding efficiency.



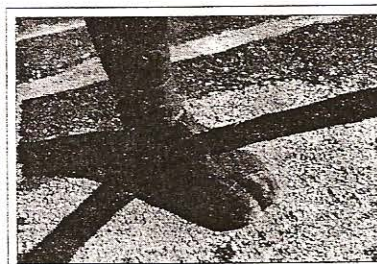
### STRIKING THE VITAL SPOTS OF THE ENEMIES!



"KASUMI UCHI"  
The strike to the temple



"GO KOKU UCHI"  
The strike to the hand



"TOKI NO UCHI"  
The strike time.

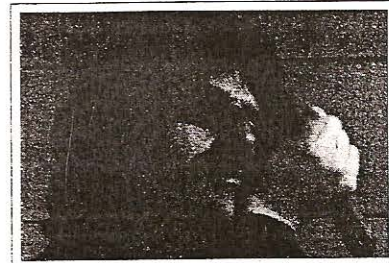


The use of the hook is not limited to merely hanging onto things. It can be shot or swung out to attack enemies. It is used to hang onto high places for climbing or moving about in the air.

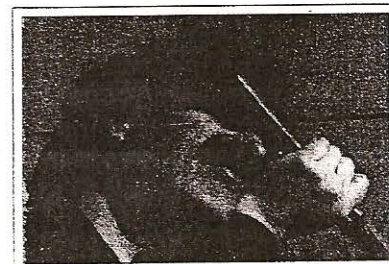
If one chooses to use it contrarily, it can be used to facilitate the "angling skill" that inflicts extreme harm upon enemies.

In addition to the uses mentioned above the Shinobi stick can be used as a handy tool for hooking into the flesh of fish, fowl or animals for barbecuing.

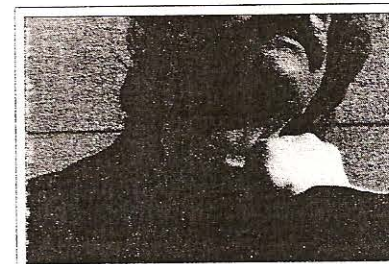
### THE ANGLING SKILLS



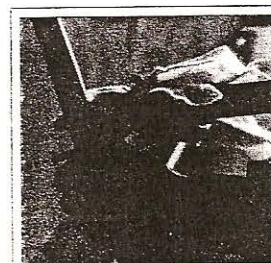
THE EYE ANGLING



"ZUKASUMI"  
The head angling



THE SILENT ANGLING



THE FUKUME UCHI  
The veiling strike

Without the cover the hook is used to hook onto the sword. (Photo above)



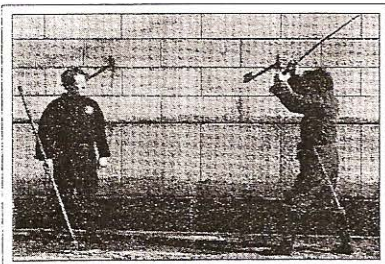
Next, using Taijutsu (skills of body movement) maneuver and change your body so you are in an attack posture.



Now, with the enemy's sword totally immobilized I am in complete control to inflict whatever harm I wish.



With hook covered, if the enemy tries to pull out his sword by placing his hand on the sword handle, one can use the solid copper to strike and break the forearm.

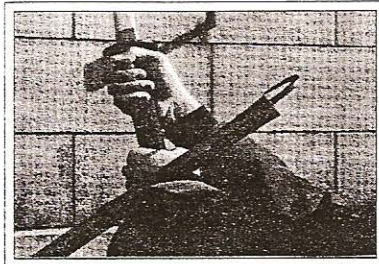


**THE "KOTE AGE"  
(Raising of the forearm)**

Above the enemy initiates an overhand strike from the Jodan.



Utilizing the hooked end of the Shinobi stick to strike the opponent's forearm first, then pull the hook back to pierce the exposed flesh of the opponent's face.



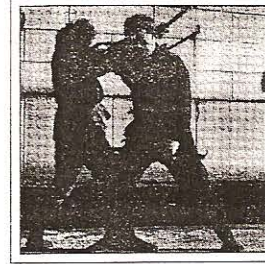
A most effective technique. Strike across the forearm then quickly pull the hook into flesh of the wrist or forearm.



Here I maneuver my body in such a way as to raise both arms of my opponent.

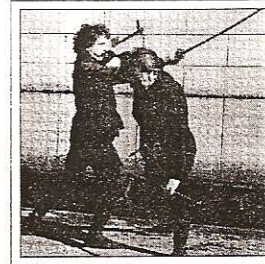


While turning my body back toward the opponent I reverse ends of the Shinobi stick to strike him a harmful blow on the back of his head.

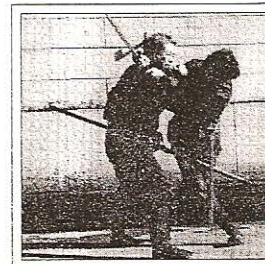


**THE "TATSUMAKI"  
The Whirlwind.**

Beginning with the photo above Doron and I demonstrate Tatsumaki. Without grasping his sword I am able to stop his strike and move to disrupt his stance.



Here I increase my hold on the captured sword arm of my opponent and begin to turn back in order to crumble his attack.



Now, using the Shinobi stick as a fulcrum, I maneuver and force a twisting of the opponent's body



Next I roll around the opponent and apply strong pressure on the arm lock to force him downward.



In a split second of time, fast as the tornado, while catching the back of my opponent's right wrist, I use my left hand to lock his elbow thus weakening the very hand that holds the sword.

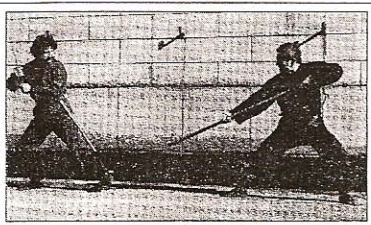


Now, while I capture and take the opponent's sword, my left knee strikes the right side of the opponent in the area of his ribs.

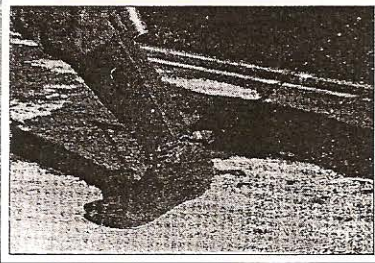


At the finish the captured sword is used to strike the opponent from the chin upward.

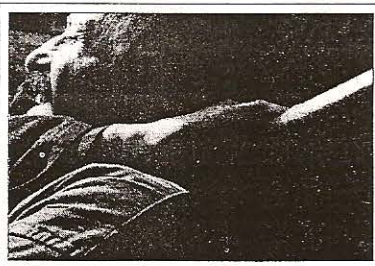
### THE "MAKI TORI" (The coiling catch)



The Shinobi stick is swung so as to catch the enemy by wrapping the chain around his ankle. This can be accomplished because of the solid copper weight on the end of the chain.



The Maki Tori is achieved. Pull rapidly and hard on the chain to tighten the lock on the opponent's ankle.

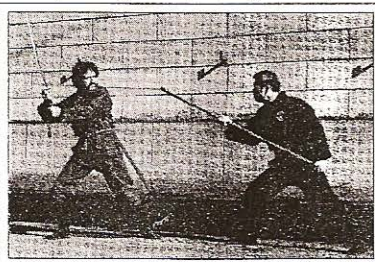


There is also the use of the bamboo stick itself to capture and hold the opponent.

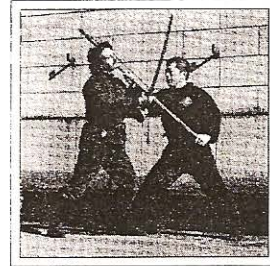


One can also change the capture hold so that the chain is wrapped around the opponent's neck to secure the catch.

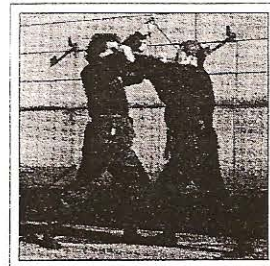
### THE "MAKI UKE" (Taking the winding chain)



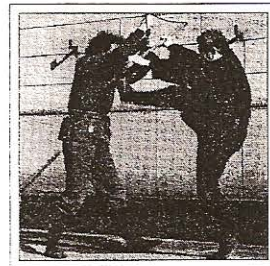
Coil the chain around the forearm or sword of the opponent. The next move changes depending upon what action or maneuver the opponent chooses to take.



If the opponent strikes down diagonally, one can also strike back diagonally to the upper portion of the body or to the head. The opponent's strike is caught and held by the chain.

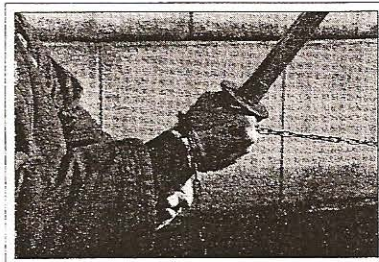


Should the opponent strike down directly to the front, strike the under sides of both wrists of the opponent with the bamboo shaft of the Shinobi stick.



There, with the sword caught in the winding chain, kick a vital spot of the opponent.

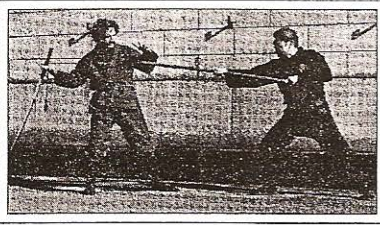
### THE "HACHI WATARI"



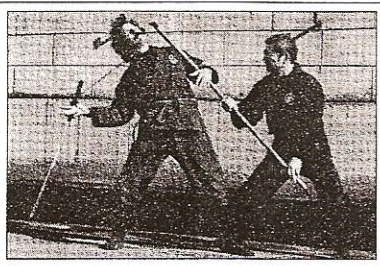
Here the chain is coiled around the opponent's hands. Since the Shinobi stick is hollowed from end to end it allows the chain to move through it freely.



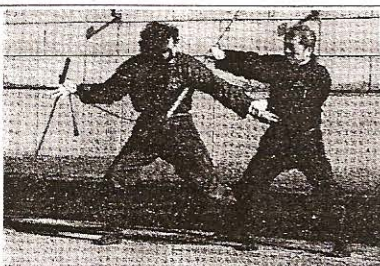
Making use of this mobility, the chain can be shot out from the bamboo stick. Certainly the slackness of the chain can be utilized for manipulation of the stick so that it can be used to strike the opponent without loosening the chain's grasp.



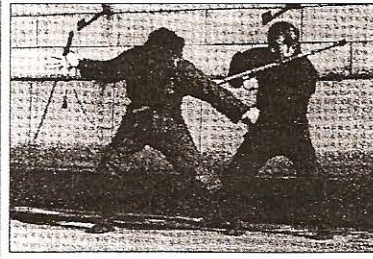
A forearm blow breaks the left hand grip on the sword. The other hand cannot be broken loose from the sword due to the tightly coiled chain which holds it there.



A same time the stick comes piercing in, the chain is used to strike upward under the opponent's chin.



Now, swing the the Shinobi stick up under the left armpit of the opponent with the right hand and catch him on the back of his left arm with the left hand.



At the moment of this change maneuver, the body posture is changed with one arm holding the opponent's left arm and the other holding the end of the Shinobi stick.



There, using my right hand, I am able to catch my opponent's left hand while left hand is still holding onto the Shinobi stick. The opponent's left hand is tightly held in position from the back.

(Continued from column two, page 1)

So, the era where the Shinobi stick was used in self defense skills, was also the era in which the stick inevitably started to become a weapon.

Although this was said to be part of the cultural evolution from the ancient time to the present (present in contrast to the past), there is still a little something that has not changed.

For instance, when people are hurt, the stick still provides help to mankind by serving as a walking cane. In addition, a stick may also save a human life at the time when one is about to drown.

In the Jojutsu, when using a Shinobi stick, the "heart" of the stick is the very real and true heart of the People.

**The true essence is to forever remember people's kindness, and to never forget to value this world of human sympathy.**

I remember the time that Sensei Takamatsu wrote me a letter in which he said, "Nourish one's heart with endurance. Improve and self-encourage with endless perseverance — and that is being a true Ninja!"

## NINJUTSU! WHY?

From time to time I like to ask those who practice Ninjutsu just **WHY** they do. The expression that follows was made by my friend and student, Meredith Martin. She has made a beautiful statement of why she practices in this excerpt from a writing she presented to me.

*Dr. Massaki Hatsumi*

Physically it is very difficult for me to practice Ninjutsu. I can walk much of the time, and I can run. I am always, either consciously or subconsciously, thinking and feeling Ninjutsu. To me Ninjutsu is only a comprehensive, physical reflection of nature. I am always living nature. I believe that if the forest, wind, waters, heavens and wild creatures of this miraculous planet were taken from me I would surely perish in unmerciful hopelessness. As nature is an unseparable part of me, so is Ninjutsu. Having been revealed to me I cannot deny Ninjutsu a place in my life. I practice Ninjutsu because if I refused this gift and the awareness of it, I would eliminate the thing which gives me life—nature. I would die!

*Meredith Martin.*