

REVELATIONS OF THE SHINOBI

HISTORY OF THE NINJA THE MYSTERIOUS PEOPLE.

Researchers and those who write about the *Ninja* introduce various opinions and investigative secrets left by the *Ninja* or old literature related to them but I notice that they are concentrated in only one area when I read them. They all seem to be just so much intellectual "brain" work.

A *Ninja* does not believe that the intellect is the only source of knowledge. The *Ninja* knows that the entire body is the source of knowledge.

So, if I honor the idea of *NANA-TOSHIN*, (a theory that states a person's body should be seven times as long as his head) a person who relies only upon intellect tends to describe not only one seventh of the *Ninjas'* history but also uses only one seventh of the knowledge of *Ninjutsu*.

Whether it is *Ninjutsu* or "martial arts" (*Bujutsu*) I call those six of the seven feelings below the neck *NINJA ROKUKAN* (*Ninja's* six feelings). If you study with only one seventh of your total feelings it will be very difficult to catch the truth.

Thinking about the characteristics of the period of the *Ninja* and *Ninjutsu* in general, I would like to comment on the "History of the *Ninja*".

OHKUME NO MIKOTO, a military envoy who served the Emperor *JIMMU* during the founding period

of ancient Japan, is an example of the power of the *Ninja*..

It is said that *SHOTOKU TAISHI* used *OOTOMO SAINYU* of *Shinobi*. *Sainyu* is probably the best description of a *Shinobi*, one who uses any expedient means to achieve an end. *Ootomo Sainyu* was one of the first to demonstrate the skills that would later be called "*Ninjutsu*".

In this sense everyone today, not just the *Ninja*, uses the *Ninja* art of *KYOJUTSU* (the art of creating or presenting falsehood) as TRUTH to improve relations with others. Cannot we say the same about love? Have you ever used almost every imaginable means in order to win the



Ueno in the Province of Iga

attention or favor of a beautiful woman or a handsome man?

From ancient times we humans have used techniques like those of the *Shinobi* without even thinking about it. IF THAT BE THE CASE, THEN WHAT IS *NINJUTSU* ?

I would like you to seek understanding for this by means of a simple answer: a COMPLETE *NINJA* is one who diligently studies the *NINJA HACHIMON* (Eight Gates of the *Ninja*).



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A DIRECT MONTHLY
COMMUNICATION
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The Eight Gates are as follows:

1. *NINJA NO KIAI* - the *Ninja's Kiai*.
2. *NINJA NO TAIJUTSU* - sometimes called *Koppojutsu* or *Koshijutsu*.
3. *NINJA NO KEN* - the *Ninja* sword.
4. *NINJA NO YARI* - the *Ninja* spear.
5. *SHURIKEN* - *Ninja* throwing blades.
6. *KAJUTSU* - fire and explosives.
7. *YUGEI* - polite arts such as singing, dancing or musicianship.
8. *KYOMON* - the art of studying or observation.

A TRUE *Ninja* MASTERS each of these eight areas of skill. I will say more about each area later but for now I will move on.

If we try to explain *Ninjutsu* by means of written words, movies or sounds we will find there are many aspects we cannot truly express because *Ninjutsu* is the art of disappearing into, and reappearing from, the area of shadows secretly and mysteriously.

Therefore, in order to master *Ninjutsu*, one must use the Eight Gates as a fulcrum, using the entire body and all of the SIX senses to practice and strive for perfection.

As part of the historical aspect of the *Ninja*, and for increased understanding from this fulcrum I would like to cite the transmissions of the Nine Schools taught to me by *Takamatsu Sensei*.

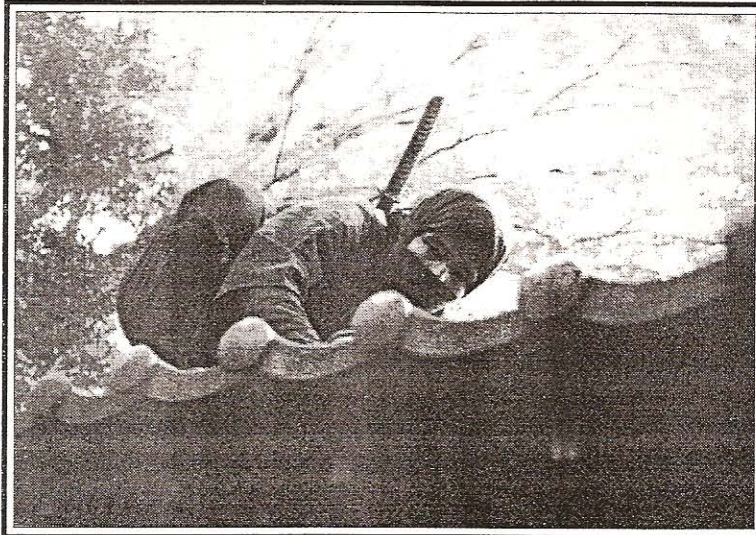
According to it, the *BUSHI* (warriors) adapted their specific arts according to their individual environments, creating the hidden arts for surviving in the age of Civil Wars during the 50 years following the period of *MANJU* (1024 - 1027 A.D.)

This is why the ways of the *Ninja* are counted 73 ways, 75 ways, 103 ways or are said to be so numerous that they cannot be counted.

I would like to tell you about MY

school, *TOGAKURE RYU*.

As a boy, *Minamoto No Kanesada* followed *Kiso Yoshinaka* and went into battle under his banner. Despite the desperate resistance of his side in the battle he witnessed the death of the *Shogun, Yoshinaka* and was himself wounded. *Kanesada* sought refuge in the remote mountains of *Iga* so that he might care for the grave and family of his Master.



Shinobi technique of Revelation

He was taught *SHINOBI BUJUTSU* (hidden *Bujutsu*) by *Kain Doshi*. *Togakure Ryu* has survived from that ancient time until the present day.

Togakure Ryu teaches that violence is to be avoided and says that *Ninpo* is the *Bujutsu* view of the beauty of *Nin* (endurance), sworn to hide peacefully and protect Country, Family and Nature.

We see this same kind of dedication in the stories of "Robin Hood of Sherwood Forest", "Tarzan", and the wonderful picture starring Gary Cooper and Ingrid Bergman, "For Whom the Bells Toll".

I would like you to think of the *Ninja* in the same way as you do the heroes of these stories and to view the

history of the *Ninja* in the same kind of light.

I will tell you how I, myself, found the way of *Ninjutsu*.

As a young boy I was a gymnast and boxer in Junior High School and a Captain and center forward of the soccer team in Senior High School.

I also learned *Budo* such as *Judo*, *Kendo* and *Karate* while I was still young. Moreover I studied social dancing and noticed that it helped me with my *Budo* footwork. In my college years I continued to practice *Judo* and boxing, belonged to the *Judo* and Drama Clubs and studied Theater Arts.

During my studies at medical school I taught *Judo* to American soldiers at the *Yakota Army Base*. Even though it is now over 30 years I still remember the pleasure of training with James Enrus, Robert Totan, Billy Joe Wales and others.

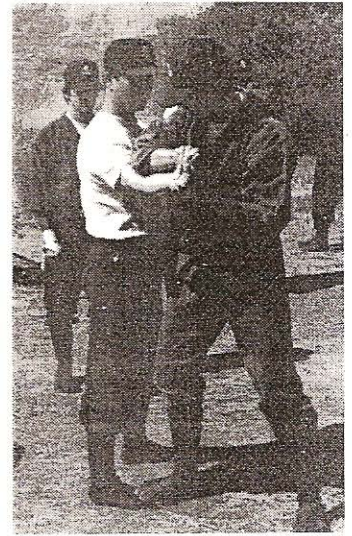
I also trained in *KOBUDO* (the old martial arts) because I wished to learn every manner of practical fighting technique. I paid a teacher of *Kobudo* 300,000 *Yen* each month to come to the *Dojo* at my home to teach me *KOBUJUTSU TO HAPPAN* (the eighteen categories of *Kobujutsu*). I completed this training in 3 years and then was introduced by the teacher of *Kobudo* to *TAKAMATSU TOSHITSUGU* and he became my teacher.

For fifteen years I studied with *Takamatsu Sensei*, and it was not easy.

The journey from my home in *Noda-Shi* to *Takamatsu's* home in *Nara* (just East of *Osaka*) took fifteen hours by train, one way, but it was a pleasure for me because I found TRUE *BUDO*.

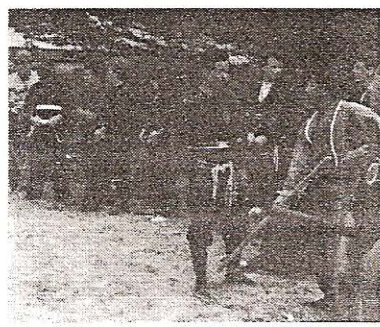


TAI



KAI





My impression of *Takamatsu Sensei* was that he was a frightening, powerful teacher but he did not criticize me even once in our long years together. I feel he taught me with the same strong love a Grandfather uses with a Grandson.

When I think back on the training sessions I remember I was able to feel, and become part of, the history of *Ninjutsu* and to be involved with the infinite teachings in each single word spoken to me by *Takamatsu Sensei*.

I ALSO REALIZED THAT THE TEACHINGS OF NINPO CONTAINED LESSONS WHICH I WOULD BE ABLE TO USE THROUGHOUT MY LIFETIME!

Takamatsu Sensei once told me, "Hatsumi, take the sword from me with your bare hands as I attack you". Then we went to a park after dark with me following behind the scabbard carried by *Takamatsu Sensei*.

"Well, are you ready?" he asked. "Don't THINK of anything, just catch the sword when I swing it at you".

"Yes", I answered.

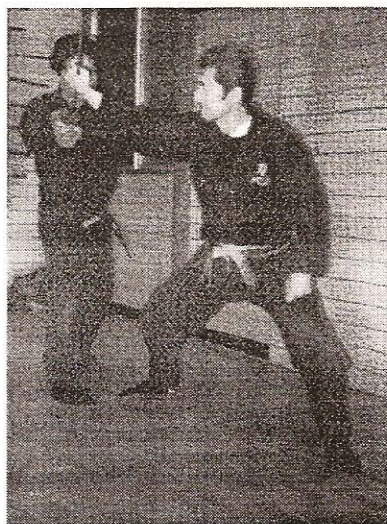
The *KATANA* glittered pale blue above *Takamatsu Sensei's* head as he stood in *JODANNO KAMAE* amid the natural beauty of the park at night.

A memory flashed across my mind. "Don't think of my *Katana* as a *Katana*, think of it as a flash of light". I repeated his words in my mind.

I was successful in catching his sword as a result of trying to catch a flash of light (*KOMYO*). IN THAT MOMENT, I FELT THE POWER OF *SHIKIN HARA MITSU DAIKOMYO!*

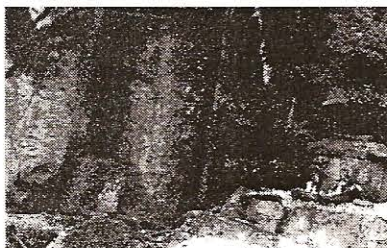
The flash showed me that in the future, after a *SHINOBU SAGYO* (hidden work) is ended it still exists.

The *Shinobi's* spoken instructions, passed down to a true and faithful person, will continue to live in the future.

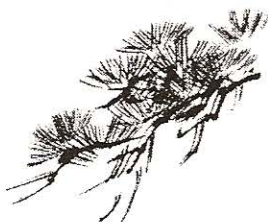


Catching the Light

THE HISTORY OF THE NINJA WILL CONTINUE TO PRESENT ITSELF OVER AND OVER, THROUGH THE AGES.



Sennan, The Birthplace of Shinobi



Romance of the Ninja in the Taisho Era

I attended a party at the *Tokyo Kaikan* (Tokyo Hall) held in celebration of *Hideki Ozaki* and the publishing of his 100th book, "A History of Popular Literature".

Mr. Ozaki writes about the stories of the "*Tachikawa Bunko*". These are stories taken from spoken folktales and legends and their history dates back to the end of the *Meiji* Period, the years from about 1900 to 1925.

Originally told by *Gyokusai Tamada*, a story teller, his family wrote down and published his stories. Among them "*Sanada Sanyushi*" and "*Sarutobe Sasuke*" were published in 1914 and soon became best sellers of tremendous popularity among young boys.

The overwhelming popularity of *Tachikawa Bunko* inspired many movies about the *Ninja* and their "Truths". The boys of those days have now become rather old adults and they look back on the *Ninja* as those in the West view Superman. *Sarutobe Sasuke* remains as part of their heart rather than part of their mind. This is important.

They take for granted that the tricks and tactics of the *Ninja* are possible just as people in America want to believe in Superman. People in Japan watch the *Ninja* who lives in *Tachikawa Bunko*, movies and the like, with the eyes of their hearts.

Of Mr. *Ozaki's* 100 books he has been described as a person who "explains stories". In 1914 he published a book, "*Ninjutsu*", with *Makiuchi Adashi*, a Poet.

At the Tokyo party people went to the Dais one at a time to make short speeches honoring Mr. *Ozaki*.

A dramatic scene from a famous movie about the *Ninja* entitled, "*Shonen Ninja Sarutobi Sasuke*"



Shigego Kuroiwa, his friend and fellow writer said, "Mr. Ozaki is a well learned man. He also knows the women of every nook and cranny of the *Ginza*. In addition, he knows everything about the tools of the *Ninja* in detail." This is important as many Japanese writers with high reputations have a "*Ninjutsu Complex*" because they do not know about the *Ninja*.

Mr. Ozaki's first book was entitled "Living Judaism" and was written from a hospital bed when he was in his middle twenties.

In the first half of his 7 years as a patient he was almost completely bedridden but pursued his writing diligently. After an operation he could sit up and continued to work on his book for thirty minutes to an hour every day.

Someone once said, "a Genius has a wonderful spirit".

Certainly *Hideki Ozaki* is living proof of that saying.

From the viewpoint of the *Shinobi*, a *Ninja* is one who possesses the remarkable patience, determination and perseverance demonstrated by Mr. Ozaki..



At the party for my honored friend and fellow writer, *Hideke Ozaki* I was privileged to be photographed with him. Can you see the strength of his character in his face? This will always be a treasured photo in my collection.

An Invitation to all!

By now you have received five issues of *BUJIN* including this very one.

It is my great wish that you are able to read and enjoy them time and again as I have read, over and over, the letters that I received from *Takamatsu Sensei* over our long years as Teacher and Student.

But I wish to accomplish more with my letters to you each month .

I want to answer any questions which you may wish to ask me concerning the vast range of things within our common love of *Ninjutsu*

So...if you wish me to answer a question for you, I ask only that it be a question which we may share with all the other readers of *BUJIN*.

Please send your questions to the Editorial Offices of *BUJIN* at the address on the front of each copy.

Mr. Edward Millis will send them to me and I will send him the answer for publication in a future issue of my newsletter.

In this way, all in my family who receive the newsletter will benefit from the questions as well as the answers.

A Word from the publisher

During May and June Hatsumi Sensei conducted Tai Kais in Israel, New Jersey and California. I was privileged to be present at the later two.

For those who attended, the rewards of this precious time with the Soke cannot be measured. SEVERAL dedicated followers attended more than one Tai Kai. THEY are among the most fortunate. For those who were not able to attend we hope the photo insert will clearly show the power and presence of Masaaki Hatsumi, 34th Soke. It is a personal experience which every true follower of *Ninjutsu* MUST find the means to accomplish. We hope you enjoy the pictures. HE IS TRULY, THE GRANDMASTER!