



AIKIDO CENTER OF LOS ANGELES

NEWSLETTER

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Message from Sensei:

BAMBOO CHILDREN The World of Truths

The other day, I was having lunch with the other priests and an American member of Zenshuji during a work break. We were all having a Japanese style box lunch ordered from outside. While eating our lunches, one of the members asked: "What is this?" pointing to one strange looking thing in her own lunch. "Oh," said one of the priests, "those are bamboo children." The questioner looked rather surprised. As for myself, the image of this lady munching on little children for lunch immediately leaped to my mind and shocked me as well as made me laugh out loud.

I quickly explained the situation to her. She was eating a boiled bamboo shoot which in Japanese is called, "takenoko." This literally means "bamboo children" in Japanese but it is proper to say "bamboo shoot" in English.

This incident was very interesting to me and made me think. The Japanese priest was perfectly right in his explanation. For him, it is the truth and we cannot say that he is wrong in his answer. However, for that particular situation, that particular truth does not work and does not resolve the situation. Indeed, it leads to a kind of misunderstanding and kind of funny situation.

We spend most of our lives trying to figure out what is "Truth." We believe that understanding "Truth" or "truth" in general will bring meaning to our lives. At the same time, what we decide is "not the truth" we quickly label as "false" or "untrue." As we search for the "Truth," I think we also struggle greatly between what we believe is "true" and what we decide is "false."

In order to see "Truth," we have to be able to see it from an infinite number of sides at the same time. I think it is most difficult for us as human beings. I think that what most of us think is "true" is simply a matter of personal convenience or personal inclination. Ultimately, we make our own truths to fit or justify our own

needs and situation.

Another person's truth may appear as false to ourselves. And, at the same time, what we believe to be true may appear as a falsehood to someone else. As we all know, it is futile to argue who is right (although this seems to be a popular pastime for mankind throughout the ages.) We see it in politics, economics and religion as well.

In Aikido, there is no shape to Truth. According to O-Sensei, it is constantly changing and evolving. We must understand Truth from one moment to the next. But, according to him, Truth has a kind of order and this is what he refers to as God.

As we create our own world, perhaps we must create our own truths. Probably what decides truth for ourselves is whether it is out of self-centered, personal convenience or out of our sincere faith and conviction. In our Aikido practice, I see many people who become confused as to what is responsibility and what is selfishness. When we can establish and clearly see our own beliefs and live by them from day to day, moment to moment, I believe that we have finally come to understand what is "Truth."

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Through our Aikido training, we begin to see ourselves very well. One the mats, we can clearly see what we can do and cannot do. We can clearly see our own failings and where we excell. At the same time, we see how we are so connected with everyone else.

I hope everyone continues to practice hard and understands that we progress only when everyone around us progress. When we practice, we are truly practicing when everyone else is practicing together. When we are cleaning, we are truly cleaning when everyone is working together and cleaning together as well.

I see many people naturally taking on more responsibility and more duties in the dojo. Perhaps, I have become more lazy, I don't know. Maybe I am getting older. But to see everyone working together in harmony and taking on duties for themselves for everyone's benefit is a beautiful thing to see for me. Thank you very much. Indeed, I believe this is true Aikido practice.

Kensho Furuya

DOJO SCHEDULE

Aug. 1.	Dojo Fees change.
Aug. 13.	Douglas Firestone's Birthday.
Aug. 15.	Demo. New Otani Hotel 5:00pm.
Aug. 18.	Yaohan Plaza Demo. 1:00pm.
Aug. 23.	Battodo Group arrives from Japan.
Aug. 26.	Nisei Week Demo Japan America Theater.
Aug. 28.	Battodo Group returns to Japan.
Sept. 1.	Black belt examination.

DUES INCREASE

As of August 1, 1990, the monthly dues have been increased to \$75.00 per month. If this creates a financial hardship, please contact one of the Assistant Instructors.

Adults - \$75.00/month.

Children - \$30.00/month.

Iaido - \$75.00/month.

Family rates are also available. Six months and one year rates also have a special discount.

DOJO T-SHIRTS

We are in the process of ordering new T-shirts for the dojo. They will be in three colors and the cost is a \$15.00 donation each. They will only come in XL (two dozen), L (two dozen) and M (one dozen) sizes.

Please put in your orders now.

NISEI WEEK DEMONSTRATION

Please sell your tickets and turn in the money as soon as possible. We need to know how many tickets are unsold before the demonstration date.

We have twenty guests from Japan and we will need lots of help from the dojo membership. Please volunteer your time to help in transporting the group here and there.

Itinerary for our Guests:

Aug. 23rd. Arrival to LAX. Shuttle to Hotel Tokyo. Evening: Prepare for demonstration at the dojo. Dinner.

Aug. 24th. Depart to Las Vegas for one night.

Aug. 25th. Arrival to LA in the morning. Shopping at the Glendale Galleria or Beverly Center. Need drivers. Lunch and dinner.

Aug. 26th. Demonstration at the Japan America Theatre. Thank You Dinner at Chinese Restaurant.

Aug. 27th. Universal Studios. Need several drivers.

Aug. 28th. To LAX by Shuttle.

Aug. 29th. Regular practice.

BLACK BELT EXAMINATION

A Black Belt Examination will be held on September 1, 1990. Candidates are Mr. Ken Watanabe and Mr. William Gillespie.

Future candidates are:

Mr. Mark Moore
Mr. Henrique Morimura
Mr. Brigido Anaya
Mr. Kim Smith

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Welcome Back

I would like to welcome back to the dojo, Master Jun Chong. He is a great teacher of Tae-Kwon Do in this country and I would like everyone to treat him with utmost courtesy as another martial arts teacher. Welcome back and thank you.

"Going With the Flow"

We will have several copies left of Rev. Shinetsu Fukushima's book, "Going With the Flow." It is a \$15.00 donation each. Please get your copy now. Edited by Sensei.

DOJO NEWSLETTER

We would like to begin publishing articles by the members of the dojo. Please submit your articles about Aikido and your training in the dojo. You do not have to be an expert, we would like to hear more about yourself and your impressions, experiences, thoughts and what you have learned in the dojo and your practice. Please don't be bashful.

Sensei would also like to answer your questions about Aikido and practice in the Newsletter as well. Please submit your questions as well. Many times, we don't have enough time during practice for lengthy discussions.

Please write clearly but don't worry about grammar or spelling. It will be properly edited and corrected. Thank you.

THANKS

Thanks goes to Mr. David Schweizer of Pasadena for creating our beautiful roll sheets by computer. Also, thanks goes to Ms. Chris Prejean for making more name plates for the roll board. Thanks to master carpenters, Mr. Pat Monahan for fixing molding around the tokonoma and Mr. Mark Moore for finishing the front wall.

50th Annual Nisei Week

AIKIDO AND JAPANESE SWORDSMANSHIP DEMONSTRATION

August 26, 1990 12:00 noon

Japan America Theatre
244 South San Pedro Street
Los Angeles, Little Tokyo

\$10.00/person

featuring:

MEMBERS OF THE AIKIDO CENTER OF LA

**20 MEMBERS OF THE
ALL JAPAN BATTODO SWORDSMANSHIP
FEDERATION, TOKYO, JAPAN**

ZENSHUJI ZENDEKO DRUMMING TROUP

(Japanese Chanting and Sword Dance)

RAFU KOKUFU SHIGIN KAI

RAFU KOKUSEI SHIGIN KAI

HARA BUSEIKAN

BABA SHUSUI SHINTORYU

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REMINDERS FOR AUGUST:

1. Drivers for Battodo members on August 25, 26 and 27th.
2. Selling tickets for the Demonstration.
3. Clean-up dojo by August 22, 1990.
4. Participation for our Nisei Week Demonstration.

UNIFORMS

We are having difficulty getting in uniforms from our suppliers on a timely basis. It is advisable to always keep an extra uniform on hand for demonstration or for an emergency. Recently, it is taking about one month to order a uniform.

NEW SOTO ZEN JOURNAL

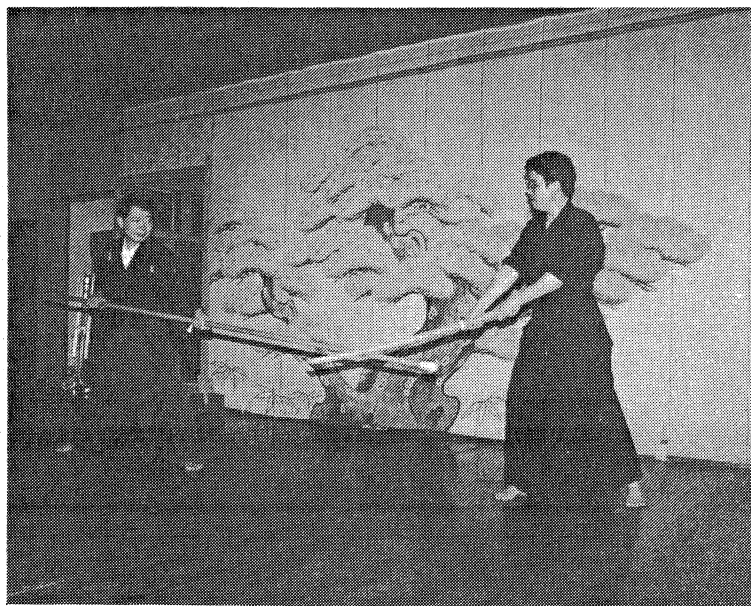
Sensei is currently editing a new publication entitled, Soto Zen Journal, published by the North American Headquarters of Soto Zen Buddhism. It is bi-monthly and costs \$20.00 a year for a subscription. Interested students should subscribe and not miss the first issue. Articles are largely concentrated on Soto Zen teachings. The first issue begins a series of lectures by Reverend Shohaku Okumura on the "Gakudo Yojinshu" or "Points to Watch in Practicing the Way." This is a very interesting and important article. Please subscribe now.

ADDED ATTRACTION Nisei Week Demosntration Fumio Demura Sensei Will Make a Special Guest Appearance

For our Nisei Week Demonstration, Fumio Demura Sensei of Shito Ryu Karate will also make and special guest appearance demonstrating Karate and Weapons. Demura Sensei is one of the most well-known Teachers in the United States for Japanese Karate. He is also the stunt man and fight scene choreographer for the popular Karate Kid movies and plays Pat Morita's double.



There will be demonstrations of naginata (halberd) and spear along with Japanese swordsmanship and Aikido on August 26th at the Japan America Theatre.



Demonstration of spear (yari) against sword.