



# United States Martial Artist Association



February 2016  
Newsletter

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### Philosophy and Compassion

Master Richard Kluck – Oregon Director

Much has been said about the word "compassion" in the martial arts, and in any other form of combat.

While it might be in "our nature" to be compassionate when looking down on another man, or woman for that matter, who had, just moments before tried to take your life from you, I'll submit that it is not in our nature to do so, at least not in the way most people define compassion.

I firmly believe that the social media phenomenon, our spiritual beliefs, and the overall condemnation of what used to be called self-defense for a reason, has now eroded our society into a mass of quivering, self-loathing cowards who would much rather die than fight for their own lives.

This is an echo of previous writings from other sources, but my own gut feeling is, these articles, or quips, or whatever other name one would give these things in print, have been read by only those who have

sought out the writing in the first place. The message that was written, from experiences hard earned, and the belief system behind the writings, has been lost, and for most of them, fallen on deafness from society at large.

Why is this? Is it because violence does not exist where these people exist, or is it because they have never been "touched" by violence? My guess is the latter.

When a society exists that now expects that everything bad happens to someone else, it confirms my belief that people, by and large, do not care what happens to any other person who does not occupy their sphere of life.

The wealthy dance with the wealthy, the middle class works with the rest of the middle class, thereby associating within the framework of their own "peer" groups.

The poor? They don't count. Why should they? They cannot help me in any shape or fashion, therefore, they are worthless to me. I have, unfortunately, worked for

people, who actually believe this. I find this rather amusing, and disgusting at the same time, because if they had known me when I was just a few years younger, and they knew how "poor" I had been, I would never have been considered for their retainer.

I have had the fortune, and misfortune, to work in a field that has taken me far and wide, and the body of work that I have done, has formulated my belief system, along with my own spiritual beliefs. Experience comes in many forms. Hands on experience, visual experience, listening experience are all inclusive. What we see and hear can be an experience, and the ultimate experience is the hands on experience. There will never be a book that can duplicate it, nor video replacement, or listening to a lecturer speak of it. Doing it is doing it.

Based on my own experiences, and having done a thing or two in my time, I have ultimately concluded that yes, we, as Americans, have become a cowardly lot, as a whole. We are no longer willing to get involved for fear of civil liability, fear of retribution from the offending party, fear of incarceration by law enforcement entities, etc.

If you are getting angry, there are probably only two reasons for your anger. One is recognizing that you actually fit this description. The other, and probably the one that actually fits, is that you recognize this as well, and you are not happy with our status either. I suspect the only people to ever read this will think somewhat similar thoughts about the current state we find ourselves in.

While the masses will self-medicate the real

world troubles away, because they are too weak to face the world as it is, or themselves as they are, they will ultimately call upon the likes of you to answer the door when the devil comes to call. They will absolutely be willing to serve you up into harm's way, rather than ever putting themselves in the mix of anything that has risk to it. Hence, your existence.

But why do you exist in the first place? Because all of the aforementioned people, whose table you would never occupy as a friend, all of a sudden need you to protect them from the world they helped create through their own existence. They wanted to be wealthy, so they climbed over all of their dead relatives, cheated and connived their way to the top of whatever heap they roost upon, and, when trouble comes to their door, they want you to answer it, because they are more absorbed in their respective livelihoods than their respective lives.

They have forgotten how to deal with things on their own. They want no confrontations to confuse a business decision that needs to be made so the shareholders gain a point before the fiscal quarter comes to an end. They want you to put yourself in harm's way, because there is no possibility the world will still continue on it's axis if they are hurt. This world only exists because they are in it. They will send their children to answer the door instead, because they have forgotten who they were meant to be, not what they have become. And they will do this without one ounce of remorse or shame, because they are lost as men.

Compassion is what we have for the people we work for, but not the enemy we fight.

When put in harm's way, paycheck or no paycheck, you are men and women who have chosen to be exactly what we were meant to be, and that is a warrior clan. We are men, and we are all descendants from the original sinners of this world. We have fought for food, shelter, land, and honor.

We are derived from a warrior class, and that class used to be men. Men who were willing to don the armor, saddle up and ride to the sound of the gun, and who would, without hesitation, stand up for someone who was being wronged, even if that person were a total stranger to us. Because that's what we were.....men of compassion, and men of compassion knew the difference between good and evil, and would set out to conquer it at all costs, even making the ultimate sacrifice, because that's what we were.....men and women who would fight for those who could not, but now we fight for those who will not.

Compassion. Compassion is killing your aggressors swiftly, and with precision. Compassion is killing the man, brutally, who just sexually abused your six year old neighbor child and beat her with a ball peen hammer so severely, she could not resist. She has the misfortune of surviving this traumatic event, and the medical world, will keep her properly diagnosed, medicated, and alive for the next thirty six years until she passes. She will never know love from a man she might have one day met. Her condition drains every available cent from the family that raises her. The psychological damage to the parents cause them to separate, and eventually divorce. The father, who is tormented hourly by the event, takes his own life, because he can never reconcile his own grief over the horror his daughter had to endure, and he

was not available to help her.

The mother becomes hooked on the daughter's pain medication, and continually drinks to buffer the pain and anguish she experiences on a daily basis. She loses all financial support, because life insurance policies do not cover those who take their own life. She had the toughest job in the world, and excelled at it. She was a mother, and now she is reduced to being a needy child herself. The state they reside in will eventually pick up the tab, or more pointedly, the taxpayer will.

She will be arrested several times over the next two years, and eventually be committed into the mental health system. This is where she will die, having forgotten any memory of a daughter being borne to her.

Compassion for a murderer, by a judge, is what set these events in motion. It occurs as I am writing, and you are reading.....tick, tick, tick.

The most compassionate thing we can do for the world we live in is right the wrongs when we are present, regardless of outcome or fear of harm to ourselves.

**Compassion.** I think I understand the word, but I have studied it for nearly forty years, and have in the past, looked at it several different ways. The courts have compassion for the accused, not the abused. The media has compassion for the murderer who was executed with a botched attempt at lethal injection, instead of the family whose lives this murderer ruined twenty five years previously by brutally killing two members of that family.

Where is the compassion for them?

We know, and that is why we exist.

To be continued, as experience is gained. ★

### **Martial Art Titles (Reprint)**

#### **Kyoshi Prince Sagoe – Ghana Director**

##### **About Titles:**

Becoming shodan is somewhat equivalent to graduating from high school. One still has college to endure if one wishes to learn more about the art.

Two years of college would perhaps be like "Nidan" or second level student. If one complete college, one might be "sandan". With that level of skill and knowledge one can begin to teach, but there is still graduate school ahead if one means to truly master the art.

At "Godan" level one is awarded the title of Shihan. The title loosely translated means Master. A Shihan is usually 5th Degree and above and is usually in charge of the technical proficiency of several Sensei's in a given area. But there are those for whom even the Doctorate is not the end of their studies.

They serve internships, go on to post-doctoral studies, do research and make new discoveries about their art. They contribute to their art by their wisdom.

These are the "Kyoshi" grades, the Grandmaster grades of Roku Dan and higher. Another title which is awarded is that of "Hanshi". This is granted to recognize outstanding dedication and leadership.

- **Advanced Martial Arts Titles:**

- a. **RENSHI**

- The Renshi is a soldier who leads other soldiers through training.

According to old documents on ethical theory, Renshi refers to a member of a discipline which is recognized for his expertise in that discipline. The Title is conferred to practitioners above 4th Dan who display excellence in both technical and mental on the road towards Kyoshi, Hanshi, and possibly Meiji.

- b. **KYOSHI**

- A person who trains group of soldiers is "Kyoshi" or "Kanshi". In traditional Budo, Bujustu, Kendo, Judo, and other Budo circles, the Butokukai grades this rank for deserving participants above 6th Dan who pass a physical and mental examination.

- c. **HANSHI**

- The Hanshi is the highest in the active budoka, granted by license to a Martial Artist from a high authority, such as a government body or some other remarkable organization.

The Supreme title of "Meijin" is very rarely granted by the Nippon Butokukai in Kyo to before and during World war two, the organization awarded the title of Hanshi ( along with Kyoshi, and Renshi, see below) to certain practitioners in Aikido, Kendo, Judo, Karate-do, Kendo, Taido and other Martial Arts, until 1946, the Butokukai also engaged in this practice.

The All Japan Kendo Association conferred the title for a practitioners, Dedication, leadership, facilitation and the development of the art, but only after the practitioner had achieved highest ranking of 8th Dan while being an active practitioner, Gen eki.

- d. **SOKE**

The SOKE is referred to as iemoto in non-martial arts groups. In Budo, the Soke is the Lineal descendent of a Kinsman or family, and is also called Sohhonke or honke. In geido the Soke has obligation and duties to the house in which he was born, and is expected to carry on the founders or Successors knowledge and teachings, and even to expand it for contemporary Soke in the Martial arts, this implies that the Sensei must first develop a system of sensible, understandable concepts, both technical and Spiritual, in order to pass them on. According to an old anecdote, the passing on of knowledge from a teacher to his Successor is like leaves falling on a cradle, that leaves ignite and spread the flame. In the same sense, the Successors imagination becomes like a candle. The important thing is for the Soke to take over his predecessor's teachings and thoughts faithfully.

Source: Kojien, Iwanami Shoten, Tokyo, Japan.

Summary of the definitions in contemporary Budo Shogho concepts.

- Renshi: 4th Dan and above with 2 years after 4th Dan and above 35 years of age
- Kyoshi: 6th Dan and above with 5 years after Renshi and above 45 years of age.
- Hanshi: 8th Dan or above with 10 years after Kyoshi above 55 years of age.

These Titles are granted to deserving individuals within particular disciplines only after a prolonged and severe examination and evaluation. These ranks are highly

dignified, and must be earned rather than lightly granted.

It is during the advanced levels of the Dan grades that one takes on the most demanding of the administrative responsibilities. Administration is both a service and an intense learning period. It supplies the Organization structure to allow students of all levels to continue setting goals and training hard.

### **KENPO KARATE HISTORY**

#### **Grandmaster Paul W. Dyer PhD**

I am the state director of North Dakota in the United States Martial Artist Association. Here is my history travel in Kenpo the road of the evolving science of movement. I have started training in martial arts over 42 years ago. I had first started in Mas Oyama karate and after receiving my first black belt, I soon began my training in Kenpo karate in New York City. The training was under Master Joe Palanzo at the time along with different boys club training in self-defense. The life of a young black boy in New York develops my skills of surviving and staying alive. I soon joined the military and became friends with a person who was 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan under Bill Ryusaki. I had trained with him for years and was able to train with Master Bill Ryusaki and received my 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan. While living in Hawaii I was training with Grandmaster Edmond Louis when I receive my 6<sup>th</sup> Dan. I have been fortunate to be able to train with some of the greatest Kenpoist in the world. So let me name a few Grandmaster Tony Bowel, Grandmaster David Frazier, Grandmaster Ron Peirce, Grandmaster Sam Lonewolf, and Grandmaster Paul Britton. I know I am leaving out so many who have helped me on my road of Kenpo evolution. At the present time I am 8<sup>th</sup> Dan in Kenpo. I have and continue to train and learn in many martial arts styles. My journey is not far from over yet I feel is just beginning. ★

*Upcoming Events*

March 19, 2016 – Providence RI.  
 The Gathering of Styles presented by Eric Caldeira

July 23, 2016, Frederick, MD  
 The USMAA International Martial Arts Hall of Fame, Presented by SGM William Rankin  
 Contact: 301-524-7829 (cell)



March 26, 2016 – Tulsa, OK  
 Oklahoma's Spring Break Karate Challenge,  
 Presented by Bryan Boles

Oklahoma's Spring Break



www.oklahomakarateassociation.com

Karate Challenge

March 26, 2016

Cushing High School Fieldhouse  
 700 E. Walnut St. Cushing, OK

Oklahoma Grappling Regional Events  
 O.G.R.E.



www.rankinmartialarts.com