



Welcome Speech

By Tetsuro Nariyama Shihan
The Chairman of the Tournament's Organising Committee

On behalf of the Tournament's organising committee I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you.

This tournament is something of a landmark tournament for us. Firstly this year marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Tomiki Kenji Shihan, the founder of competitive Aikido. Secondly this is the first international tournament of the new millennium. We are moreover very pleased to be holding this event in Osaka, the city where Tomiki Shihan opened his

first purpose built Dojo ; The Shodokan Honbu Dojo.

Tomiki Shihan's dream was to promote international friendship and understanding through the pursuit of competitive Aikido, whilst at the same time contributing to the development and perfecting of Aikido practice in the world.

Just before his death Tomiki Shihan again and again stressed the importance and necessity

of teaching Aikido abroad. He made it clear to me that this was his wish. So starting in 1982, three years after his death, I have traveled abroad every year teaching his Aikido system in various countries.



At first it was not easy and we encountered a lot of problems and certain

misunderstandings arose; most of which were due to language barriers. Regardless of the problems encountered I always carried one of Tomiki Shihan's favorite sayings with me; and it helped me to keep going. In English it is equivalent to "you can't hide a candle under a bushel" meaning that you can't stop a good thing from spreading. At this point I would like to say how much I appreciate the various foreign instructors who were so helpful and supportive in those difficult early days.

This is the 4th International competition, and with each successive competition we have seen increases in the numbers of participants, participating countries and the levels of performance. The numbers and levels have increased so much that I can really say that we have a truly international tournament. Also I can see Tomiki Shihan's desire of Aikido joining Judo as an official Olympic sport drawing nearer.

In this year's event we

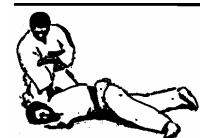
have included things which I find particularly apt considering this event commemorates the 100th anniversary of Tomiki Shihan's birth. Firstly we have officially adopted the "Syumokubetsu Kongo Dantaisen" which is a mixed team event including the Goshin no Kata which Tomiki Shihan spent so much of his time and thought on, as well as various important aspects of our training system. Second we have invited leading exponents to demonstrate the Kodokan Goshinjutsu Kata and the Nippon Kendo Kata, which Tomiki Shihan thought so valuable to the

fundamental essence of Budo.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all those people who helped to make this tournament possible. I would like to thank the tournament staff, the judges and referees for their hard work and preparation day and night. Thank you also to all those people from overseas who have made the trip to join us here and a special thanks to our guest instructors for their demonstrations.

To conclude my welcome

speech I would like to say that in the future I intend to continue my promise to Tomiki Shihan of working with all of you towards the development of Aikido around the world and trying to move us closer towards realizing Tomiki Shihan's Olympic dream. Always keeping in mind Tomiki Shihan's precept of "Waza no shinri wa hitotsu" which basically means "The truth is in the technique." Thank you.



Congratulations on the centenary of Tomiki sensei's birth.

By Masaharu Uchiyama
Shodokan Rojicho (The chief director)

Vice chairman of Nihon Aikido Kyokai

There are so many memories during his lifetime.

Sensei used to come to Osaka and gave us training whenever he had time to spare after he had finished teaching at Waseda University.

The reason why he started the dojo at Osaka was that one of his best friends, Shutaro Nishimura sensei who was doing Judo at Kodokan, introduced him to me and at the same time he consulted with another good friend, Shohei Hamano. Tomiki sensei said that he would leave all his

wazas (techniques) that he had created, to Shodokan as his main dojo. That was the start of Shodokan. In the beginning practical training was taught by Oba sensei, university club members and Kobayashi sensei from Aikikai.

Nariyama sensei taught as well, as Kobayashi sensei's apprentice for 6 years after he graduated from university.

When Tomiki sensei was in Osaka he stayed at our house and used the dojo (Shodokan). While eating meals and until he went to bed he

just talked about Aikido. He made endlessly reminiscent talk about when he was invited by General Hideki Tojo to teach Aikido to the Kantogun as a Manchuria Kenkoku University professor until the war ended. He had a notebook at his bedside and when he went to bed he took notes as he thought of new wazas or any idea when awake and from midnight when he was asleep. I thought Sensei was like a god, thinking of Aikido even when he was asleep.

The seeds Tomiki sensei sowed, have sprouted and flowered

and have born fruits in many countries in the world.

I hope this Kyougi Aikido (competitive aikido) will develop increasingly, more and more.



This year, 2001, is a very important time for Aikido. First of all, 2001 marks the 100th anniversary of Kenjiro Tomiki sensei's birth. What's more, in October, the 4th International Aikido Tournament will be held at Maishima Arena in Osaka. Because of these two momentous occasions, I feel that this is a great opportunity to convey to everyone Tomiki sensei's desire concerning Aikido.

THE NAME OF OUR AIKIDO

By Tetsuro Nariyama Shihan

Compared to the start of the JAA, the number of members has increased greatly. This is true not only in Japan, but in many other countries as well. With the advent of the internet and other forms of communication, the possibility to reach out and inform people about Aikido is now greater than ever.

However, when looking through these sources of information, it is not uncommon to see the terms Tomiki Aikido or Tomiki Style Aikido being used. These terms are used not only by the general public, but by members of the JAA as well.

However, Tomiki sensei possessed a wide range of ideas concerning Aikido and Budo, and made it clear to me that he did not wish to have his name used to represent any particular style of Aikido.

Tomiki sensei poured his heart and soul into Aikido, but it was not for his own fame or fortune. Therefore he disapproved of his name being used. Tomiki sensei was Morihei Ueshiba's top deishi (apprentice) and the first person to receive

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an 8th dan from Ueshiba sensei. In spite of this, after Ueshiba's death, Tomiki sensei was criticized for his style and type of practice by the elite members of the Aikido association from the main dojo. The association members felt that Tomiki's methods were so different that they wanted him to refrain from using the term Aikido in regards to what he was teaching. I recall Tomiki sensei's strong reaction to this order. " I have only one master and that is Ueshiba sensei. It is he, and only he, who is capable of excommunicating me." In regards to the idea of using the terms Tomiki Style or Tomiki System, Tomiki sensei was equally adamant. " It is not my aim to create my own specific sport or group."

So why was Tomiki sensei so strongly against having his name used? I think that this was because Tomiki sensei had much more sincere and loftier ideas concerning Aikido and Budo.

During this time of turmoil, Tomiki sensei brought up the name of Kano sensei to use as an example. " Kano sensei created Judo in order to incorporate Budo into the modern era. Although Kano sensei is the founder of Judo, he never used the term Kano

Judo."

By using one's own name to represent a form of Budo you greatly narrow the field of view of those practicing. Budo will cease to modernize. Instead it will return to the old, conservative, unchanging style of the past. Why did Tomiki tell this story. I feel that Tomiki sensei wanted his teachings to help Aikido progress. He was not using his methods for his own personal fame, but rather he truly believed that his teachings were beneficial to Aikido as a whole, and that by creating a sport Aikido, Aikido could then modernize. Therefore placing his name to our training techniques would defeat his intended purpose.

This philosophy of Tomiki sensei must be ours as well and should never be forgotten. I'm sure that there are some who feel "What's in a name?" But in order to keep the true spirit and ideas of Tomiki sensei alive, I think that this is a good chance to ask everyone to remember and respect Tomiki sensei's wishes.

The interviews

--- Interview with member of Shodokan ---

Interview with Ms Etsuko Matsushita

Interview with Matsushita Etsuko, famous Shodokan female member who looks about 28 years old!!

Q. Tell me about the other side of your character !!

A. I have too many sides !!!! But one is that I have 4 sons !!

Q. Why did you start Aikido ?

A. I wanted to do light exercise and learn self-defense because I was over thirty years old and losing my physical strength. At first it felt light.

Q. What is it that you like about Aikido ?

A. It is a relatively quiet indoor sport! And I can get up a sweat without running. If I do it well I don't have to worry about the difference in body size with another person.

Q. Expose someone's secret !!!

A. Too many !!!! but, Ms F (?) who went to Tokyo last year, (she doesn't like ENKA which are Japanese love ballads) !! At a karaoke box after the Shodokan "end of year party", several people sang enka and Ms F slept through all of the songs !!

Q. Last request, have you got any other comments for us ?

A. My apologies to the players when I am a referee in a competition !! I have confidence to say "joogai" and I can signal with the flags that I didn't see a tsukiari !!

Interviewer: Thank you and I'll put an illustration of your face next to this article !!!



My Personal Techniques for Learning Aikido

By Takashi Yasui

20th Century was the era of materialism and so Karate was popular because Karate has the power to destroy. But the 21st Century is the era the spirit and Aikido will become popular. Therefore I would like to discuss my personal way of learning Aikido with you. There is a saying "birds of a feather flock together", the people who have the same interests and line of thinking gather together. If you want to be like someone, a speedy way to do so is to try to be as close to them as possible. If you want to be top of the class try to be close to the top student, for example If you want to be good at gambling you should stay close to the top gambler who is at your table. Being close to your friends is fun but being close to someone to whom you must give total attention, is difficult, but you must do it. In the beginning it is difficult as you can't relax but when you get used to that person you have come halfway to being like that person. If you want to be good at randori you should practice with a randori expert. If you want to learn Aikido deeply the best way to study is by being close to Nariyama Shihan. Not only by being uke for shihan but also by getting together with him outside of the dojo and doing without asking what shihan is expecting from you. By paying constant attention to shihan and dojo members your KI is assimilated with Shihan's KI so you can absorb knowledge about shihan's technique. In reality there are some persons who are instructors who are close to shihan and their technique made rapid progress.

character not just color each other's aikido.

By the way changing the topic, before Deguchi Shinnichi of Omoto Shobukan started learning Aikido Deguchu Naotada Kyoshu (head of the Omoto Ayabe church), usually recommended his own Aikido but this time he recommended the Aikido of Tomiki Kenji. 10 years ago a young group of shinto members came to Shodokan for a short time to learn Aikido. The leader of the group said they had asked their sensei, who was most respected and who they thought was the best psychic medium, where they should study budo. He said to do Karate and Kenpo you need an aggressive character so Aikido is better and he suggested Shodokan because he could see the spirit of Nariyama shihan.

That incident shows that one can say that the members of Shodokan are a fortunate group of people, especially staff of events and tournaments spread the good fortune amongst themselves. We should all try together to make shodokan great.

By teaching or learning you can color each other's

From the editors

To our readers. Every edition of this newsletter will contain an interview of someone within or outside the Honbu dojo. If you have any requests of people you'd like to know more about please let us know. We will also try to answer any questions you may have concerning Aikido waza by going directly to the source, the teachers, in this newsletter so again please let us know what you want to know. If you have any suggestions or ideas as to how to make this newsletter better or if you are interested in lending a hand your help is always welcomed. Contact Kumiko Mantani at mancha@f8.dion.ne.jp, David Graves at daybedoe@hotmail.com, or Alan Higgs at csealan@netscape.net. We eagerly await your messages.

