

KEN SHIN DOJO IAIDO HANDBOOK



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MUSO JIKIDEN EISHIN-RYU



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Bahman Ebrahimi

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UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

The following quotes illustrate the underlying principles of Iaido and reveal it's true nature. It is my hope that they will inspire you and further your understanding. [Bahman Ebrahimi](#)

"I humbly present my thoughts to you on the following matters and pray that you do not think of me as one who would consider himself as wise as you." (page 14)

*Your esteemed servant
Hidetomo Nakadai
The Shogun's Scroll
by Stephen F. Kaufman*

"When a man has accomplished his goal it is easy for him to slip into the morass of three deadly attitudes arrogance, conceit, and false pride.... will show your mettle and not permit self flattery to develop."

*(page 22)
Hidetomo Nakadai
The Shogun's Scroll
by Stephen F. Kaufman*

"There are many things to know, and there many things to learn. It is a never ending process." (page 18)

*The Shogun's Scroll
by Stephen F. Kaufman*

Stepping on the Sword

"The idea of stepping on your opponent's striking sword with your foot is to defeat him the moment he strikes, preventing him from striking a second time. Stepping should not be limited to your feet, but whether doing so with your body, mind, or of course, your sword.....It does not mean attacking at the same time.....It is taking your action immediately upon your opponent's action." (page 104)

The Book of Five Rings
Miyamoto Musashi
William Scott Wilson

"There are other styles that.....put virtue in the length of the sword and think they can win.....because of their weak heart.....There are many examples of small forces defeating large ones. In my martial art, we dislike such one-sidedness and narrowness." (page 127-128)

"The knowledge of many sword techniques is for the sake of impressing the beginners.....In this word, there are no extraordinary ways of cutting someone down." (page 131-132)

"There is no change in your steps in my martial art. It is like your usual walking on a road." (page 137)

The Book of Five Rings
Miyamoto Musashi
William Scott Wilson

The mysterious skills of the old cat "so what is the technique I use?" Mushin _ I naturally respond in a state 'no_mind.' (page 21)

The Samurai Mind
Christopher Hellman

Self Examination and Self Discipline

"A man of mettle should always examine himself and consider where his disposition is underdeveloped, calculate when personal likes and dislikes cause prejudice, and discipline himself to spur himself on where he is underdeveloped." (page 64)

Samurai Wisdom
by Yamaga Soko
Thomas Cleary

"Never lose sight of your own fault." "To be aware of one's faults from moment to moment and to work at this for one's whole life is what is called the "way". (page 67)

Master Konan

The Art of Samurai
by Yamamoto Tsunetomo
Barry D. Steben

*"How can you make this line shorter?" Master Parker said.
Joe Hyams.....concluded cutting the line in many pieces.
Parker nodded. "It is always better to improve and strengthen your
own line or knowledge than to try and cut your opponent's line."
(page 36)*

Zen in the Martial Arts
by Joe Hyams

Bushido the way of the warrior

*"The way of the samurai is found in death. When it comes.....We all
want to live.....but not having attained our aim and continuing to live is
cowardice...if by setting one's heart right every morning and evening,
one is able to live as though his body were already dead, he gains
freedom in the way."
Hagakure (page 53)*

Samurai the Code of the Warrior
by Thomas Louis and Thomas Ito

*"To be purposeless is not the same as being aimless. Your mind origi-
nally has no form, so you should not clutter it with thought.....It is
because we are present that there is an opponent. If we are not there,
there is no opponent...if your mind has no form, it can have no opposi-
tion." (page 23)
(The mysterious skills of the old cat.)*

The Samurai Mind
by Christopher Hellman

*"As you know, those who know do not speak; those who speak do not
know." (page 21)*

The Samurai Mind

*"Once a person is in a state of Mushin/Muga, accomplishing a task is
as easy as thinking it. The state of achieving victory is just to bring out
the single mind." (page 74)*

The Samurai Mind

*"The wise man aims to free himself from the boundaries of skill."
(page 27)*

The Samurai Mind

*"The potential of drawing the sword and cutting down the opponent
is present while the sword is still sheathed. (Saya no Uchi) it is Iaido
spirit." (page 77)*

The Samurai Mind

"Speed ideally comes from within calm." (page 65)

The Samurai Mind
by Christopher Hellman

Your mind and your vision should be perfectly free to flow as water
does. (page 97)

Samurai Strategies by Michihiro Matsumoto
Boye Lafayette De Mente

"Whether you are walking, standing still, sitting down or reclining, in your conduct and manner you carry yourself in a way that exemplifies a genuine warrior." (page 11)

Code of the Samurai
A Modern Translation of Bushido Shoshinshu of Taira Shige suke
Thomas Cleary
Oscar Ratti

"A white jacket, only needs to be washed once or twice a year, but the human heart, even if cleaned constantly twenty four hours a day, whatever you are doing, in all situation, still becomes dirty again easily.....This is the warrior's ultimate secret of cleaning the heart." (page 78)

Code of the Samurai
A Modern Translation of the Bushido Shoshinshu of Taira Shige suke
Thomas Cleary
Oscar Ratti

"In the way of nurturing life, too much self -confidence is taboo...For example, if you are overconfident in the ability of your blade to cut well, your blade may break when you put it to use. If you are overly confident in the strength of your own chi and put unreasonable demands on it. Your chi will lose its force." (page 61)

Yojokun by Kaibara Ekiken
William Scott Willson

"When the mind is inactive, it is empty; when emptiness is active, it is mind. Emptiness goes into action...you should strike emptiness." (page 79)

Soul of the Samurai
Thomas Cleary

Sickness

"To be obsessed even with winning is sickness.

To be obsessed even with using martial arts is sickness.

To be obsessed with showing all one has learned is sickness too.

To be obsessed with offence is sickness; to be obsessed with defence is also sickness.

To become rigidly obsessed with getting rid of sickness is also sickness.

To fix the mind obsessively on anything is considered sickness." (page 46)

Soul of the Samurai
By Thomas Cleary

Where to set the mind?

"If you set your mind on an opponent's physical action, your mind is taken up by the opponent's physical actions. If you set your mind on an opponent's sword, your mind is taken up by the opponent's sword. If you set your mind on the intent to kill an opponent, your mind is taken up by the intent to kill the opponent. If you set your mind on your own sword, your mind is taken up by your sword. If you set your mind on the determination not to get killed, your mind is taken up by the intention not to get killed. If you set your mind on the other's stance, your mind is taken up by the other's stance. The point is that there is nowhere at all to set the mind." (page 117)

Soul of the Samurai
By Thomas Cleary

My wish for you is the peace that comes from a life without ego, and empty mind, and a caring heart. Bahman Ebrahimi

