



NINPO HIBUN is a collection of the original writings of Masaaki Hatsumi Soke and his own master Toshitsugu Takamatsu. In this book, the reader will find the most literal translations possible of these texts in English. In addition, the original texts in Japanese are presented, affording those who wish the opportunity to continue deepening their knowledge by studying the texts in the original language.

For this work to incorporate the widest perspective and most faithful translations of the original texts, we have relied upon a team of eight translators and editors: Dr. Osami Takizawa (Japan), Masako Kawai (Japan), Sean Askew (USA), Alex Meehan (Ireland), Alex Esteve (Spain), Morla Ballesteros (Spain), Neeraj Dhanani (UK/Spain) and Diana Seguí (Spain).

Within these pages, the martial artist and enthusiast alike will discover a thousand years of martial history and philosophy which have come down to us through the lives of the last two true ninja; Masaaki Hatsumi Soke and grand master Toshitsugu Takamatsu. Their own combined lifespans of more than one hundred and thirty years stretch over the last five periods of Japan's history: Meiji, Taisho, Showa, Heisei and the present Reiwa era. This book shows how, throughout all this time, the lives of these great masters have been intensely lived handing down the ancient arts of the samurai and ninja warriors, and we explore how these teachings can be adapted to all aspects of modern life.

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Volume I

NINPO HIBUN

The collected writings of Masaaki Hatsumi and his teacher Toshitsugu Takamatsu

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忍法秘文


CEJAM
Centro de Estudios
Japoneses, Orientales
y Artes Marciales

Director:
Msc. Alex Esteve



忍法秘文

NINPO HIBUN

The collected writings of Masaaki Hatsumi and his teacher Toshitsugu Takamatsu

Volume I

Articles containing interviews with Takamatsu Sensei from the Tokyo Sports newspaper (1963)

Budo Shunju Magazine, Shinden Shura Roppo
"The Autobiography of Takamatsu Sensei" (1965)

BUFU (Text about martial arts philosophy written in a classical Chinese style by Takamatsu Sensei)

Kofuku no shiori, A guide to happiness

Takamatsu Sensei biography by Koyama Ryutaro (1964)

A Chronology of Takamatsu Sensei life

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Calligraphy painted by soke Masaaki Hatsumi in the 2nd year of Reiwa (2020), Kannin Fuku (貫忍不空), one interpretation could be 'If you resist and stay perseverant, dreams will come true'. Hatsumi sensei usually explains that 'If you keep going, dreams will come true'. From the personal collection of Alex Esteve.

A MESSAGE OF GOODWILL CONCERNING 'NINPO HIBUN'

On 13 December 2020, we were fortunate enough to be able to present a mock-up of this book to Soke Masaaki Hatsumi, in order for him to review and give it his seal of approval before it went to print. It was a pleasure to see how, with each delicate turn of the book's pages, he reminisced and then delighted us with anecdotes.

And here we would like to share some of Soke's generous words about this book:

Alex Esteve has studied martial arts for a very long time and he is an excellent martial artist. This work, which he and his team have produced about the writings and the articles of Takamatsu sensei, remind me of all the trainings and conversations we shared. What wonderful memories!

Many thanks to Alex Esteve and all the translators, editors, designers, and musicians who have worked together on this fantastic project. It really is such an incredible book from a historical, cultural and practical point of view.

Please enjoy the timeless life lessons contained here!



INTRODUCTION TO THE “NINJA AND SPORTS” COLLECTION OF ARTICLES FROM THE TOKYO SPORTS NEWSPAPER

There are only two journalists who visited Takamatsu Sensei's home in Nara: the researcher and author of ninjutsu and bujutsu books Koyama Ryutaro, and the journalist Koizumi Shizuo, who at only 24 years of age visited Takamatsu sensei twice between August and September 1963, and published a series of 15 articles entitled 'Ninja and Sports'.

At that time, Mr. Koizumi met Mr. Masaaki Hatsumi, who was Master Takamatsu's only student, and they became good friends. In fact, they became such good friends that Mr. Koizumi even invited Mr. Hatsumi to his wedding.

These articles were published around the time of the 'ninja-boom' and the great box-office success of the film Shinobi no mono (ninja) in 1962, starring the famous actor Raizo Ichikawa. Both Takamatsu sensei and Hatsumi sensei worked with the film-makers as advisors on martial arts techniques and history for this film.

Alex Esteve (Bujinkan Daishihan), a direct student of soke Masaaki Hatsumi recalls:

“I remember one afternoon in August 2013, Hatsumi sensei and I were talking at his house. He was showing me his photo albums, and unexpectedly we came across some fantastic photographs of Mr. Koizumi's wedding. That afternoon, Hatsumi sensei also showed me some of the original clippings from the 1963 Tokyo Sports newspaper. And he told me:

“Alex, I was thirty-two years old in these interviews and that was only fifty years ago...it's gone very fast, yet I remember it as if it were yesterday..., now I don't have all the articles from 'Ninja and Sports', but they are really very interesting, I published them in the late nineties in Tetsuzan magazine”.

“Yes, sensei,” I replied, “I have the original book, and I've read them many times... I would love to see the original newspaper articles!”. And so, Hatsumi Sensei



THE SECRETS OF NINJUTSU: WITH ONE STRIKE, HE CAN DEFEAT EVEN RIKIDOZAN

Togakure Ryu 33rd master, Mr. Takamatsu Toshitsugu

Secrets revealed
by the modern
ninja

(Koizumi reporting from Kashihara City, Nara Prefecture)

Speaking of ninjutsu, long ago and still now this is one of the most popular themes for dramas and period novels. Everybody longs to hear stories of the heroic ninja and many people dream of actually becoming a ninja themselves. But the ninja of this dream actually exists.

A visit to the ninja's
hometown

It is said that the birthplace of ninjutsu was Koga in Shiga Prefecture and Iga in Mie Prefecture but there is one person who is a Togakure Ryu ninjutsu 33rd generation master near here in Kashihara City, Nara Prefecture and he is aged 74.

Ran right up a ladder of
swords



Recent photograph of the family home of the famous ninja Sandayu Momochi, in Mie Prefecture.



Koga Ryu ninja residence/museum, located in Shiga Prefecture

One day, I went to visit Kashihara to capture the truth about this modern ninja and his secrets and report on all of them. The Kinki region is a place where the temperature is routinely thirty-seven or eight degrees every day. On this day though the heat in the Nara Basin has not yet begun.

Kashihara is about 20 km south of Nara, 26 square km in area and has a population of about 50,000. The number of tourists visiting Kashihara Shrine, where Emperor Jinmu is enshrined, is increasing year by year. It is said there are over 100 inns alone in the area. From here, Kawachi is to the south, Kyoto to the west, Kishu to the east and Iga to the north. Mt. Unebi is seen in the south.

Aerial view of the Kashihara temple at the foot of Unebi yama mountain, in the city of Kashihara, Nara Prefecture



Pre series Ninja and Sports article 22

BIOGRAPHY OF THE NINJA MR TAKAMATSU

Studied at an English academy

Born January 10, 1889 in Akashi City, he was raised by his grandmother and spent his childhood in Kobe City in Hyogo Prefecture. After Kusunoki Elementary School in Kobe he would go to the George Bandow English Academy. Then after that he would attend a private Chinese literature school.



Tokyo Sports Newspaper
August 8, 1963

忍術高松氏の略歴

英学校に学ぶ

昭和十二年一月十日

「忍術は体術なり、体の強生はスポーツなり」と高松氏はしたためる

九歳の年から須田貞徳先生に師事し、各種柔術を習得し、四、五年後、百種勝負の権威となり、また、新聞記者の大会など、谷松大蔵、先生が、鶴岡、津浦、白雲、藤原、八二一、八二二、八二七、八二八、八二九、八三〇、八三一、八三二、八三三、八三四、八三五、八三六、八三七、八三八、八三九、八四〇、八四一、八四二、八四三、八四四、八四五、八四六、八四七、八四八、八四九、八五〇、八五一、八五二、八五三、八五四、八五五、八五六、八五七、八五八、八五九、八六〇、八六一、八六二、八六三、八六四、八六五、八六六、八六七、八六八、八六九、八七〇、八七一、八七二、八七三、八七四、八七五、八七六、八七七、八七八、八七九、八八〇、八八一、八八二、八八三、八八四、八八五、八八六、八八七、八八八、八八九、八九〇、八九一、八九二、八九三、八九四、八九五、八九六、八九七、八九八、八九九、九〇〇、九〇一、九〇二、九〇三、九〇四、九〇五、九〇六、九〇七、九〇八、九〇九、九一〇、九一一、九一二、九一三、九一四、九一五、九一六、九一七、九一八、九一九、九二〇、九二一、九二二、九二三、九二四、九二五、九二六、九二七、九二八、九二九、九三〇、九三一、九三二、九三三、九三四、九三五、九三六、九三七、九三八、九三九、九四〇、九四一、九四二、九四三、九四四、九四五、九四六、九四七、九四八、九四九、九五〇、九五二、九五三、九五四、九五五、九五六、九五七、九五八、九五九、九六〇、九六一、九六二、九六三、九六四、九六五、九六六、九六七、九六八、九六九、九七〇、九七一、九七二、九七三、九七四、九七五、九七六、九七七、九七八、九七九、九八〇、九八一、九八二、九八三、九八四、九八五、九八六、九八七、九八八、九八九、九九〇、九九一、九九二、九九三、九九四、九九五、九九六、九九七、九九八、九九九、一〇〇〇

74歳で実力九段

花文の百五十年間、金々長、先生に師事し、各種柔術を習得し、四、五年後、百種勝負の権威となり、また、新聞記者の大会など、谷松大蔵、先生が、鶴岡、津浦、白雲、藤原、八二一、八二二、八二七、八二八、八二九、八三〇、八三一、八三二、八三三、八三四、八三五、八三六、八三七、八三八、八三九、八四〇、八四一、八四二、八四三、八四四、八四五、八四六、八四七、八四八、八四九、八五〇、八五一、八五二、八五三、八五四、八五五、八五六、八五七、八五八、八五九、八六〇、八六一、八六二、八六三、八六四、八六五、八六六、八六七、八六八、八六九、八七〇、八七一、八七二、八七三、八七四、八七五、八七六、八七七、八七八、八七九、八八〇、八八一、八八二、八八三、八八四、八八五、八八六、八八七、八八八、八八九、八九〇、八九一、八九二、八九三、八九四、八九五、八九六、八九七、八九八、八九九、九〇〇、九〇一、九〇二、九〇三、九〇四、九〇五、九〇六、九〇七、九〇八、九〇九、九一〇、九一一、九一二、九一三、九一四、九一五、九一六、九一七、九一八、九一九、九二〇、九二一、九二二、九二三、九二四、九二五、九二六、九二七、九二八、九二九、九三〇、九三一、九三二、九三三、九三四、九三五、九三六、九三七、九三八、九三九、九四〇、九四一、九四二、九四三、九四四、九四五、九四六、九四七、九四八、九四九、九五〇、九五二、九五三、九五四、九五五、九五六、九五七、九五八、九五九、九六〇、九六一、九六二、九六三、九六四、九六五、九六六、九六七、九六八、九六九、九七〇、九七一、九七二、九七三、九七四、九七五、九七六、九七七、九七八、九七九、九八〇、九八一、九八二、九八三、九八四、九八五、九八六、九八七、九八八、九八九、九九〇、九九一、九九二、九九三、九九四、九九五、九九六、九九七、九九八、九九九、一〇〇〇

Ninjutsu is Taijutsu, the nourishment of the body is sports.

忍術

Ninja and Sports, article 22

TOGAKURE RYU NINJUTSU 33RD GENERATION
KOTO RYU KOPPOJUTSU 17H GENERATION

Vol. 1 The tales of Mr. Hisatsugu Takamatsu

「忍術は体術なり」

「忍術は体術なり、体の養生はスポーツにあり」といふ文章が誌に記された。これは、神皇正統記に記された文章である。高松義隆氏が、この文章が記された文章を、神皇正統記に記された文章から取り出した。高松義隆氏は、この文章が記された文章を、神皇正統記に記された文章から取り出した。

機に臨み変じ応ずる



現代忍者、高松義隆氏の自筆で
奈良県東大寺町の自宅で

心やましければ破門

「忍術は体術なり、体の養生はスポーツにあり」といふ文章が誌に記された。これは、神皇正統記に記された文章である。高松義隆氏が、この文章が記された文章を、神皇正統記に記された文章から取り出した。

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The modern ninja, Mr. Takamatsu, at his home in Nara prefecture, Kashihara City.



Tokyo Sports Newspaper
August 29, 1963

“A relationship between ninjutsu and sports? Wait a minute...,” said the strong-legged Mr Takamatsu, hardly looking his age of 74 years as he left the room. And when he came back into the room, he extended a long and narrow paper that he had in his hand.

There he had brushed the kanji characters for “Ninjutsu is Taijutsu, care of the body lies in sports (忍術は体術なり、体の養生はスポーツにあり)”. He had painted the phrase before and had it stored away.

Mr Takamatsu Toshitsugu runs a dining hall in front of Nara’s Kashihara Jingu shrine dedicated to Emperor Jimmu, the legendary first Emperor of Japan. This man of many titles is a modern day Ninja. He is Togakure Ryu Ninjutsu 33rd generation headmaster, Koto Ryu Koppojutsu 33th generation headmaster, Hontai Takagi Yoshin Ryu 20th generation headmaster, Shinden Fudo Ryu 21th generation headmaster and Happo Bikenjutsu 20th generation headmaster.

“I am troubled when this happens, for young children are sensitive during this time, even if they are mistaken their interest takes over and they try to imitate ninja. I write to these children in detail to explain, but the numbers are quite large...” he said with a bitter smile.

As this is the last episode for this series, we will feature the ninja tools exhibited at the ninjutsu exhibition.

Soke Masaaki Hatsumi showing different types of weapons used by the ninja.



**THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF
TAKAMATSU SENSEI**
BUDO SHUNJU MAGAZINE, 1965



Shura (修羅), also Asura (阿修羅), is a demigod, anti-god or titan, which fights against the devas (gods) in Hindu mythology. Asura, in Buddhism, is the name of the lowest ranks of the deities or demigods in Kamadhatu. They are described as having four heads with four faces, and four or six arms.

Article

神伝修羅六法

SHINDEN SHURA ROPPO

“The divine transmission of the six teachings of Shura”

Living in the three eras of Meiji, Taisho and Showa.

Takamatsu Toshitsugu

27th generation Kuki Hoppo Hikenjutsu

七十八星霜

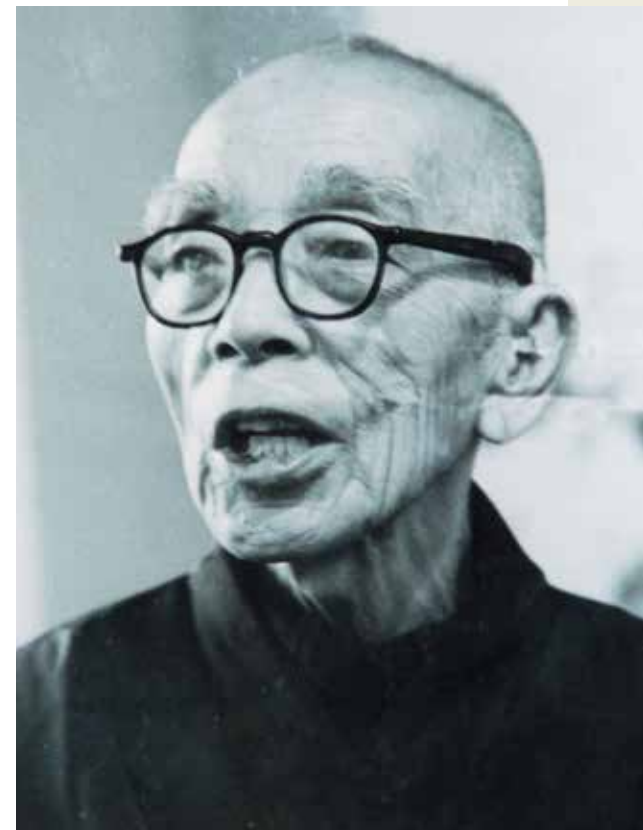
78 YEARS

It seems that this year, 1966 (41st year of Showa), I am seventy-eight years old. The reason I say this is because, for about two or three years, I stopped counting my age because I did not want to know it.

However, I know that I was born on the 23rd lunar new year of the Meiji era (Chinese calendar), in fact it was the 22nd year of the Meiji era (1889); which means that I am currently about seventy-eight years old.

I have not looked in the mirror for thirty years, I do not even know what I look like; if I looked in the mirror, poor me, I would ask myself “who are you?”

However, I feel strong and healthy, even more so than most people. Most people walk about 3.9km (1 ri “里”) an hour, but I can walk 3.9km in half an hour. I always go to bed at nine o'clock at night. Mr. Ichiro Kobe (神戸一郎) gave me a Siamese cat



て、一間ほど後方にハッと飛びすきり、「まいりました！」と頭をさげています。

勝負あったので、戸田先生が関口流の人に、「どうしましたか？」と訊ねますと、「いやどうも、恐れいりました。実はもう少し下座の、弱い人をだされるのかと思っていましたところ、いきなり上座の、見るからに恐ろしい人を出されましたので、どうにも手が出ませんでした。」

と白状しました。この人は、最初から精神力で負けていたのです。武道はこんな心構えでは駄目なので、武人は常に変化不驚といって、刻々にかわってゆく技なり形なりの外界に驚かず、恐れず屈せず、自然の一本の道をただ一筋に、一貫不動の精神を養成することが肝心であります。これを錬成するところに、武道の真髄があらとおもいます。

私が十七歳のときでした。私の家の隣り製造工場に、石谷松太郎という老人が、木刀を杖について訪ねてきました。この人は一かどの武道家なので、武道では生活ができないので、何が、仕事はないものかと、いわば求職にやってきました。

九鬼八方秘剣の術

そこで私の家では、とりあえは守衛

というところで雇い入れてまして、倉庫の中に道場をつくり、私をはじめ有志のものが、この先生から九鬼八方秘剣の術、つまり剣とか棒とか手裏剣とかの総合武術と、別に忍術の教導を受けました。しかし何分にも老齢で、二年ほどして、私の膝の上で永眠されたのであります。

二十一歳の徴兵検査は、前にいったとおり、右の鼓膜が破れているので不合格でしたが、力は人並以上あったとおもいます。たとえば、家の工場で寸の軸木に加工するのに、良質の真水が必要なのですが、明石の人麿神社の下に、亀の水といって、清らかな水が湧いてでる、それを使っているのです。そこから私の家まで、約十町はあるでしょう。私はこの水を、水桶に一度に四荷ずつ運びました。

水桶一荷が十六貫ですから、四荷で六十四貫、これを肩にかついで、一日に十回ずつ、毎日水くみをいたしました。これを一か月ほどつづけたのであります。まあ、三、四人力はあったようです。

生米生活一か年

この水汲みが辛かったからではありませんが、家の中にもしろくないことがありましたので、二十一歳の夏、私は家出をしました。そして神戸の摩

耶山中、亀の滝のほとりに籠り、一か年のあいだ、生米だけをたべて生活しました。

その間に、今までに習いおぼえた唐手忍術に、自分自身の工夫を加えて修行をしたほか、天狗ではないけれど、名前も知らず得休もしれぬ老人から、いろいろと教えを受けました。

こうして一年をすごしましたが、つくづく考えますに、何をするにも、金がなくては手も足もありません。とにかく、なんとかして金を握らねばならぬとおもいまして、清国行きを志したのであります。

清国にわたって、満州から北支方面を十年間放浪しました。その間に、清国の唐手、小林派の達人の張四竜と、やむを得ず試合をしなければならぬ仕儀となって立ち合いましたが、試合は互角で引分けとなりましたが、そんなことから私が日本民国青年武徳会の会長に推薦されるなどのこともありました。

清国時代はなにしろ減茶苦茶で、善いこと悪いこと、思いだすのも厭なことも、たくさんあります。首ぎりもしましたし、馬賊との戦いもしましたし、日本独特の忍術もつかいました。思いがけないことに、この忍術が、大へん役にたちましてネ。私は忍術のおかげで、当時の金で二十万円からの

大金をもって、日本に帰ってまいりました。

こころへんのは曖昧ですが、いざれ詳しくお話しすることもありません。

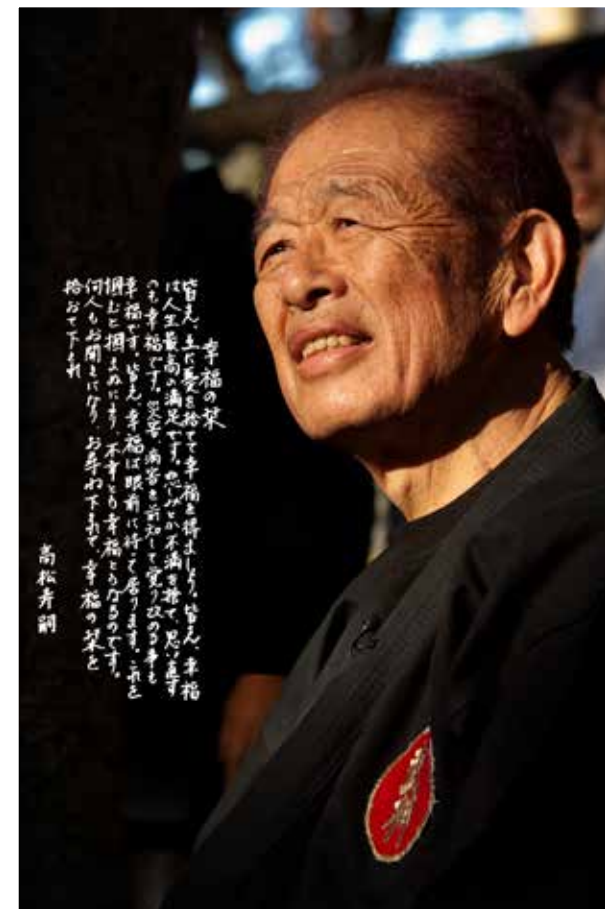
それにしても思うことは、剣はもとより柔道でも相撲でもなんでも、敵と相対した瞬間に、相手の力量・心術を知るといふことが、相手の仕かけを予知するといふことができぬようでは、危険をまぬかれることはできません。人間だれでも、今自分を殺そうとするものがあれば、大感でもってその殺気を感ずるはずのものであります。精密なレーダーのようにそれを受信する。その受信ができないようでは、武道家の資格はないといわねばなりません。私の生死出没の経験から、特にそのことを痛感するのであります。

(九鬼八法秘剣術二十七代)



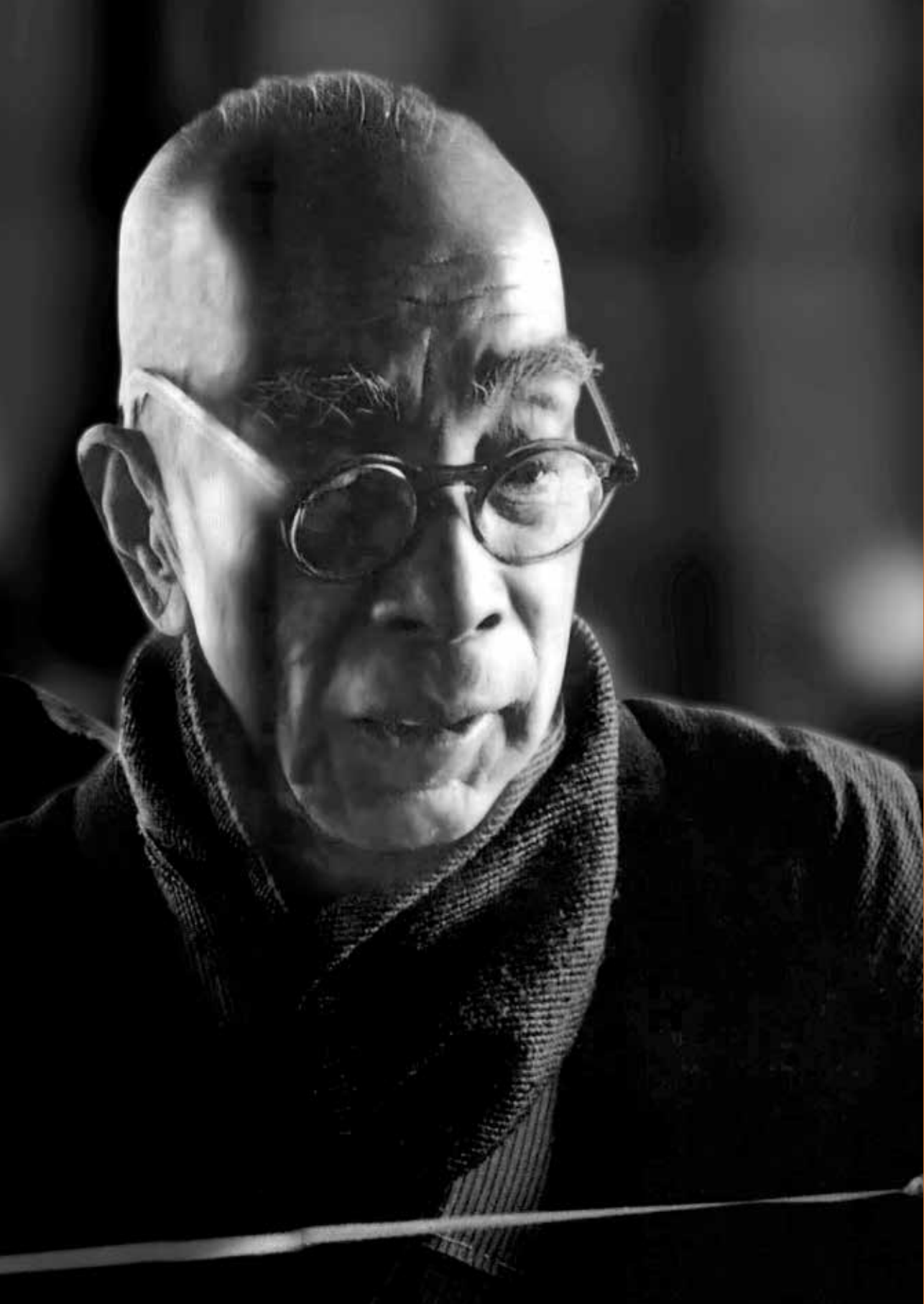
幸福の葉

皆さん、互いに憂を捨てて幸福を得ましょう。皆さん、幸福は人生最高の満足です。悲しみとか不満とかを捨て、思い直すのも幸福です。災害、病害を前知して覚り改めることも幸福です。皆さん、幸福は眼前に持って居ります。これを掴むと掴まぬにより、不幸とも幸福ともなるのです。何人もお聞きになり、お尋ね下されて、幸福の葉を拾おて下され。



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高松青詞



虎倒流

TAKAMATSU SENSEI/BIOGRAPHY

BY KOYAMA RYUTARO

高松寿嗣

が天津にでき、会長をきめる試合があったので、出場し、十二、三人ことごとくを敗って、武得会の会長になって。

のちに、武得会は三千人余の門人を数えるほどの盛況ぶりを見せたが、その頃、大陸で『少林寺拳法』をもって鳴る張四良のいう三十貫を越す大兵の中国武芸家が出て、高松会長に試合を申しこんできた。

なにしろ、二間を上下に飛び、とぶと同時に蹴る、打つの放れ業を持っているおそるべき相手である。

もちろん高松氏は争うことを好まなかったが、ことわり切れなくて試合を承諾することになって。

秘策を練ったが、これという手もうかんでこない。

そのうち、眠ったが、夢中に、胡蝶がヒラリヒラリとかわすのを見て、『よし、これだ』と悟るところがあり、翌日、武得会々場で張四良を迎えた

張がとぶのを、高松氏も同じように二間を上下左右にとんでかわし、激闘は延々一時間以上にも及んだが、いずれも決め技がなく勝負がつかないまま

張四良は玉の汗を全身にかき、びしょぬれになっていたが、高松氏のほうは、多年の修業のせいか、すこしも汗をかいていなかった。

『この勝負、引分けにしよう』

検証役でもあり、仲介の労をとった平野氏が中にはいり、宣告した。

高松氏も、勝敗を決するのが本意ではなかったのに、宣告を諒とし、平野氏の意にしたがって、張四良と握手をした

張四郎も、高松氏の技倆、人格ともにすぐれているのに感銘したらしく、『高松先生に、もしなにかのことがあれば、千里を遠しとせず、必ず応援にまいります』かたく誓って、親友になることをもててきた。

大陸から内地に帰ってきたのは三十歳の明治八年だったが、比叡山にこもって僧籍にやいり、大和郡山の寺をもらい、住職となり、土地の人たちから『生き神さま』とあがめられたこともある。

現在は後進に武道を教えるかたわら、大衆食堂を営んでいるが、壮者をしのぐ元気で、斯道のために万丈の気を吐いている

A CHRONOLOGY OF TAKAMATSU SENSEI LIFE

- 1889** ● Born 10 January 1889, in the city of Akashi. He is raised by his grandmother and spends his childhood in the city of Kobe, in Hyogo prefecture.
'78 years' Budo Shunju magazine, 1965.
Tokyo Sports newspaper. Column before article n.º 22.
Tokyo Sports newspaper. Ninja and Sports, article n.º 23.
- 1889-1890** ● Sensei's mother dies.
Before 1st birthday.
'The crybaby' Budo Shunju magazine, 1965.
- 1898** ● He begins to learn martial arts at his grandfather, Toda Shinryuken Masamitsu's *dojo*, in the city of Kobe.
Age 9
Tokyo Sports newspaper. Column before article n.º 22.
'The start of training at dToda Sensei's dojo' Budo Shunju magazine, 1965.
- 1899** ● In 4th grade of primary school, the teacher makes the students fight in a sumo competition at the Kusunoki school.
Age 10
'The end of the crybaby' Budo Shunju magazine, 1965
- 1901** ● Thanks to intensive training, the young Toshitsugu Takamatsu become stronger. In the *dojo* he runs energetically from one end to the other, which earns him the nickname 'little Tengu'.
Age 12
'The little Tengu' Budo Shunju magazine, 1965.