

TREMONT SCHOOL OF JUDO, KARATE, AND JU-JUTSU

535 East Tremont Ave, Bronx NY 10457 Tel: (718) 731-9067

January 27, 2006

Letter from the Soke:

My father first opened the Tremont School of Judo and Ju Jitsu in 1960. From its inception both Judo and Karate were integral parts of the Hombu Dojo. He believed that both of these arts, in their own way, would strengthen and add diversity to our system. They have been featured and celebrated in every ceremony and special occasion sponsored by the school since I can remember. I strongly urge all instructors of the Ryu to introduce Judo as well as Karate into your dojo curriculums. I wish to highlight the accomplishments of our Judo and Karate sections for their dedication, hard work and contribution to the education and motivation of our students. I look forward to working with our Judo and Karate instructors to further grow these specialties within the school.

As I mentioned in my first letter, Channel 68 Bronxnet, will be featuring the Hombu Dojo in its programming beginning the first Friday in February at 8 PM and continuing the following weeks at the same time. It will then be featured the first 2 (two) Fridays of each month through Dec.2006 in that 8 PM time slot. I am sure that these telecasts will both inform and educate the general public as to the uniqueness of Mi Yama Ryu Ju Jutsu and the diversity of the Hombu Dojo.

While watching the filming of these programs I was struck by the logic and progression of the movements that comprise the Mi Yama Ryu system. My father believed that by teaching the simpler and less complex movements first, his students could build on these techniques to learn the more complex movements as they progressed through the ranks. In this way our system is quite different in its approach from the other major Martial Arts systems of Judo, Karate, and Aikido, where all movements are taught to all grades almost simultaneously. While we were created to be an eclectic mix of all of these arts it is important to remember that each step in our training is designed to impart a certain level of skill and understanding in a very specific manner. Our grading system is designed to measure these skills and knowledge levels at regular intervals, one building block on top of another. Our exams measure these skill sets in a manner designed to prepare students for their next level of training and understanding.

Thus each level of training rests firmly on the accumulated skills developed during the students' previous level of training. It is of utmost importance that this instruction be given in a precise and calculated manner. Our promotional procedures have done this quite well in the past and I have every confidence that they will do so in the future. I would encourage all practitioners of the system to take a close look at the promotional procedures from time to time, so as to become acquainted with what is expected of them at each grade level. Adherence to these grading requirements have given us the strength we draw from as a system and as such will be expected of every student or instructor who wishes to advance to his or her next rank.

TREMONT SCHOOL OF JUDO, KARATE, AND JU-JUTSU

535 East Tremont Ave, Bronx NY 10457 Tel: (718) 731-9067

While the Mi Yama Ryu system requires a significant growth in the skill levels of each student after white belt, the students will notice that at each successive level after green belt, both the quality and quantity of their movements and skills required to pass to the next grade level greatly increases. This is done by design, so that the students will be better adept at internalizing these more complex movements. The instructors of the Mi Yama Ryu system and those wishing to become instructors have a particularly difficult task. First, they must possess the ability to demonstrate and teach all of the movements which they themselves have learned throughout their Martial Arts training, and secondly, they are required to have this same level of proficiency and skill with regard to the demonstration and teaching of Katas.

This form of highly stylized combat was included in the system to round out and complete the circle of learning and teaching which every student begins the day they begin their Martial Arts training. This part of the system's training becomes extremely important as it defines the true depth and breadth of an instructor's understanding of the movements and skills which make up the system of Mi Yama Ryu. As such, it becomes a lifelong pursuit and this training is included in the grading requirements of only Okuiri and above.

At this level of Okuiri and above, Kata plays an important role in the development of all who wish to teach the Ryu. Kata teaches the origin of all movement and technique. Kata highlights our strengths and weaknesses and help serious students of the Martial Arts achieve their full potential. The practice, grading and teaching of Kata has been one of the foundations of the Ryu since its beginning some 46 years ago. I, of course, will continue in that tradition.

Finally, Shihan Medina assures me that within the next few days an email address will be set up at our website which will allow those of you who wish to contact me to do so.

In the Spirit of Miyama Ryu,

Soke A. Pereira Jr.

[previous 'Letters from the Soke' archived at www.mi-yamaryu.com]