

志道館

Tadashiku, tanoshiku, nakayoku...

I appreciate this opportunity to say a few words following the very special practice that we shared on October 12, 2011.

First, I would like to thank Santoso Hanitijo-sensei for allowing this special, extended practice to take place and to offer us an open invitation to return. I would equally like to thank Yutaro Matsuura-sensei for making time in his personal schedule to fly to Montreal for this special occasion.

Yutaro and I had been talking about doing a joint visit for a long time, and it was great that we could finally make it a reality. The very warm welcome by Santoso and by the Shidokan members were very much appreciated. I was again very happy to see and feel the strong dojo spirit. It is wonderful that Funamoto-sensei's legacy is continuing in such a strong and positive manner.

Everyone worked very hard at practice. Please don't lose that spirit of learning and always doing your best. That is how you will continue to improve. Basics are important to lay a strong foundation upon which your kendo can grow, and it is something we all need to revisit time and time again. During ji-geiko, please remember to play with some purpose or goals so that it does not become just about trying to score and avoid getting hit. For that, you can have shiai-geiko or incorporate a quick ippon-shobu where you can play "to win". Ji-geiko is where you have the opportunity to practice your understanding of distance, seme and striking so be creative in the way you play.

On a personal note, I enjoyed having ji-geiko with both Santoso and Yutaro in one rotation like that. I think it has been at least 15 years since the last time we did that.

To all the Shidokan members, I would like to say thank you for helping to make the event so special. It is as much about Yutaro and I visiting as it is about all the Shidokan members being fully engaged and giving their best. Thanks also for the after-practice get-together. It was very nice to enjoy the meal, drinks and conversation (just as important as the practice itself!). This brings me to my final note: I will repeat what I had said at the end of the practice, which was to continue to practice kendo following these three principles:

tadashiku (correctly/properly), tanoshiku (with fun/enjoyment) and nakayoku (in harmony with others).

I look forward to practicing with you again.

Lawrence Tsuji



Santoso Sensei, Matsuura Sensei and Tsuji Sensei trained together under Funamoto Sensei, Shidokan founder.



Wonderful Kendo Summer with Shidokan Legends: Tsuji Sensei and Matsuura Sensei Oct. 15th 2011