

Tori Nirami – Tiger Stare

Tori Nirami is one of those “secret arts” that a student of Judo must wait years to be taught. It is listed as number 24 on the Shinyo list and therefore is not taught unless one is now a 3rd degree black belt. (Unless, of course, you pay someone to teach you “okugi” and hope they get it right.)

If you have taken the time to read my manuscript “These are the keys....” you will note that I have already mentioned several of these “secret arts” in conjunction with personal growth. And, you will note that I wrote these “arts” are not secret, the person who has sacrificed years of study in training and mental development is now prepared to learn these additional techniques so they can “go to the next level”.

Those who are now in charge (and have been for many years) never received the full teaching because they closed their minds to what was being taught. They simply were not interested.

So let us discuss Tori Nirami or the “Eye of the Tiger” (made famous by a song in the Sylvester Stallone “Rocky III” movie). When one begins the Shin In Arts, one first does the Shin In bow and then immediately begins the first Art. It so happens that the Shin In bow has a name - Isami. This is followed by the Art called Tasuki Nage. Isami (from Isameru) means to “become emboldened”. Professor Law taught that one immediately “sprung into action”.

Note the vivid image of “sprung”. Not “jumped” or “went” but “sprung into action”. As a coil is wound tighter and tighter and suddenly released it is called a “sprung coil”. There is a great deal of force and energy released in this action. So to, the beginning of the Black Belt Arts one is to be taught to “spring into action”, to “embolden oneself” and defeat the assailant. Isami also incorporates one of the most important aspects of Black Belt practice – to practice with realism. This means that one must have a Fighting Spirit (Shin Yo) and be totally focused on the opponent. They must have the “Eye of the Tiger”.

Now we have to wonder why Tori Nirami is listed at number 24. We simply do not know and since the lists were compiled by Professor Marion Anderson, Assistant Master Don Carver and Master Okazaki, we may never know.

According to the Shinyo notes, it is nothing more than a simple exercise with one's partner. However, we have already identified how it is part of regular Martial practice at the Black Belt level.

We should also bear in mind that what we have in the notes are the topical teachings. There was more that was taught. But, first an aside. Since Tori Nirami is spoken of as a “form of hypnotism”, the instruction of this Art in the early years led several to pursue the practice of hypnotism. The instruction stimulated an interest in this subject.

There are other forms of Tori Nirami. One technique used frequently by Professor Estes was in questioning someone. He would stare at them while asking questions and determine if they were telling the truth, part truth or lying. Lying was not tolerated and the student was immediately expelled.

Perhaps JRR Tolkien knew of this technique for he relates it in his “Lord of the Rings”. There are several indirect references, however, in one direct instance, Gandalf questions Pippin about what he saw when he looked into the “seeing stone”. “There was no lie or deceit in his eyes. A foolish Hobbit yes, but he remains an Honest Hobbit.” And earlier, there was Faramir questioning Gollum who was unable to keep from answering. The first, Gandalf was a wizard, an immortal. The second, Faramir was one of high birth, a Lord of the Realm. Both possessed the “Eye of the Tiger”.

So we have an “Art” that is little more than suggestions and a student has to wait until they have reached 3rd rank (sandán) before being taught.

At one time progress in the Advanced courses was determined by the seriousness of the practice and the dedication of the student. Today it is determined by length of time in grade by those who did not serve any length in time.

And as we have shown here briefly what is rationed is not knowledge but lack of knowledge. Professor Law incorporated several Shinyo techniques in his beginner class or his self-defense class. The more advanced throwing techniques were reserved for his Brown or Black Belters because they had developed the throwing, falling and control techniques.

Professor Law also called his school "Law's All American Judo and Jujitsu School". One might call it Law's Ryu since he may have been the first to make significant changes for the development of the student and for their ability to defend themselves.

Perhaps Professor Law faced this problem of "Advanced Arts" and dealt with it appropriately. He modified the system into a more sensible Jujutsu school.

Finally, ask yourself this question: How secret is a "tie-up art" (Haya Nawa)? How secret is it to head butt someone (Zoo Kurawasi)? How secret is it to Kiai (Kiai Dori)? Or, how secret is it to meditate (Munen Musow)?

So much of the Original Teachings have been lost.

"A Teaching (Ryu) seldom survives the second generation." This is the current miserable condition of Kodenkan.

I hope to change that.