



TAKEMUSU AIKIDO ASSOCIATION  
ITALY

# THE ENLIGHTENED WARRIOR

In building temples human beings have used arts such as geometry, astronomy, arithmetic, maths and alchemy that were called "holy" simply because of their application.

Since the beginning man has been trying to elevate himself, to obtain new faculties, specializations and capabilities, looking for a way to get in contact with "the High". The construction of temples is a very clear example of man's yearning to raising monuments paying honour to Gods in order to propitiate and thank them, but man realised that he should also raise his own inner temple, purify himself and try to be like Gods.

The knight or the Enlightened Warrior of each time and origin explains this concept well and embodies this longing for purification, devotion to Gods and protection of the Sacred. To obtain a higher spirituality, the warrior must be courageous, generous, altruistic, true, sincere and fit for fighting towards noble aims. Spiritual elevation then requires the annihilation of the ego.

The knightly Way or the Warrior Way (*Bushido*) is an initiatic, mystic-ascetic path, following which the initiate devotes himself to the destruction of the false idols, the most fearful idol being our own ego.

Only he who can fight against his own ego can elevate towards higher levels and find the keys to rejoin the Divine (Morihei Ueshiba called this *Chinkon Kishin*).

Man is the angel who has fallen into the material world, so he must remain conscious that this situation is not in accordance with his nature and that it can only be temporary. He must make his profane covering perish and be burned again into a new life; he must operate the spiritual apocalypse.

The man who enters a martial way trains resolutely in fighting and unceasingly strengthens his will in order to prepare for his holy war that should be fought against himself, his passions and instincts. The true warrior is ready to sacrifice his life

in the name of a higher aim: to realise a better world ruled by love, brotherhood and harmony.

Morihei Ueshiba was an "alive awoken man". Using a Plato's expression: he had fought the irascibility and concupiscence and he could dominate over them. The mastery and continuous practice of Aikido guides the initiate to a vigilant condition from which he can feel the emotions, instinct and even the thoughts of his opponent. The enemy who attacks is a man who is afraid; he is in the darkness of his own fury and is blinded by this confusion.

The skilled aikidoka becomes aware of this limbo which his opponent is living in and he can then receive his attack with an invisible but effective action of love and compassion, saving him from the gravest danger: himself.

One of the oral teachings (*kuden*) of the Founder of Aikido states that "when the enemy attacks you, wrap him up with a spiral of love and put him down as if he were a baby, in order to avoid hurting him". A great mastery of technique is obviously required to behave in this way and, above all, we need a solid control over our own instinct.

We should first fight our own ego and destroy it if we want to be able to transform others. This work is not easy, but rather titanic and to bring it to an end it is necessary to first of all look into ourselves, determine what the obstacles to our energetic circuits are and then open our heart to others, seeing them not as foreign entities, but as an integral part of a universe we also belong to. This outlook will help us to understand that our aim is not to destroy, but to preserve, to protect and to bring order back into disorder.

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