

## Aiki Meets Ju-jutsu Meets Judo

Many old time judo practitioners know the story of Shiro SHIDA, who later changed his name to Shiro SAIGŌ. Shida met Jigoro Kano when they were both students in Tenshin Shin-yo Ryu Ju-jutsu. When Kano founded his Kodokan, he asked Shida, who had studied Oshikiuchi (the precursor to Daito-ryu) under Tanomo Chikanori SAIGŌ, to be an instructor there. Shida learned Kano's curriculum easily and became Kano's first shodan, and in 5 years earned godan. He is most famous for defeating much bigger men with his *yama-arashi* (mountain storm) throw, allegedly from Oshikiuchi. Shida was therefore a link between aiki-ju-jutsu, ju-jutsu, and judo. However in a fight with a sumotori, Shida dealt a fatal blow. This regrettable act and the growing internal conflict between his loyalty to Oshikiuchi and Judo led him to forsake combative martial arts altogether and move to Nagasaki where he became a master of archery.

Unfortunately, his story has become somewhat contorted in the retelling. In 1886, the Kodokan entered a contest held by the Metropolitan Police supposedly to determine the best style of combat ju-jutsu. Shida won his match, but in the retelling, he won several matches and thus solidified Judo's reputation by using "Daito-ryu" techniques. His *tokui-waza* (favorite technique), *yama-arashi* (mountain storm), does not look like modern day Daito-ryu because Sokaku Takeda, Daito's most famous headmaster, actually modified Oshikiuchi so that it no longer looked like the throws that would be seen in Judo. (Shida's version of *yama-arashi* is a modified *harai-goshi* still taught in Judo schools).

The uninvestigated elements, to my knowledge, are these:

- (1) How and why would Shida allow himself to be wooed away from Oshikiuchi and his teacher Saigō when he had married Saigō's daughter in 1885 and had been adopted into the family (explaining the name change to Shiro SAIGŌ)?
- (2) Kano made Shida/ Saigō director of the Kodokan in 1888, which suggests that even after he had married into Saigō's family, he wanted to pull away from Oshikiuchi, despite the fact that he allegedly used Oshikiuchi techniques to gain his Judo reputation. Did he think Oshikiuchi had become too violent for his "modern" age?
- (3) In 1891, when Shida/ Saigō abandoned both Judo and Oshikiuchi, Tanomo Chikanori Saigō was left without a successor, and so in 1898 he began teaching the art to a swordsman named Sōkaku TAKEDA, who became his successor. Takeda supposedly modified the art for police use (a fact that suggests that it may have been too deadly in its older form). If this is the case, one can understand why so many Daitō techniques have to do with controlling the attacker, rather than dealing a fatal blow as Shida dealt to the sumotori, or delivering body throws as Shida delivered in the Municipal Police contest. It would be interesting to see comparisons of the older

Oshikiuchi, Takeda's early Daitō -ryu, and modern hombu Daitō-ryu. I suspect that there would be quite a difference between them.

After Shida Shirō, Aiki and Judo did not seem to unify in one person until Kenji TOMIKI, founder of Tomiki Aikido) and later Minoru MOCHIZUKI, founder of Yoseikan Budo, both of whom studied under Kano and Ueshiba. Tomiki tried to blend the self-defense aspect of Aikido with the contest aspect of Judo, while Mochizuki, who had also studied Shotokan karate, added blows back into the mix in his attempt to create a well-balanced hard-soft art.