

It is my great pleasure to welcome everyone to the 9th Annual Shin Shin Ryu Iaijutsu Tai Kai.

During hard times many martial arts organizations are faced with difficult circumstances, are not able to survive and simply fall apart. During difficult times it is important that we return to a “zero point”. We need to concern ourselves with living within our nature as mankind and try to coexist with other cultures and countries. I think we will have to find a way through these current difficult times.

During these hard times, what should we do?

We can find the answer in traditional Japanese Budo (Kobudo). Japanese Kobudo has been passed down over a thousand years and is inherently a part of nature. The samurai spirit was developed within a unique Japanese spiritual culture (Shintoism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism and other Far East Asian Philosophies. It is named Bushido. As the Soke of Shin Shin Ryu Iai, I decided to continue our Iai tradition by living, training and teaching in a small mountain village, high in the Takayama mountains. I have devoted my life to training and teaching Iai within nature. Throughout training, in this setting, we can feel the spirit of nature and mankind, that is expressed by Tenchi Banbutu.

What is the expression of Tenchi Banbutu?

Through nature and the Kobudo technique inherited by us, you see the edge of Batto. There is a theory of natural movement and natural phenomena that you can feel. With us it is the “Shin Shin Ryu Okuden” (Suigetsu No Kurai) that is the particular movement we are searching for. Humans have a hidden wisdom and capacity which activates the vision of movement and the intellectual ability for risk. Through these I believe the people of the world will have the idea of coexistence.

What is the Principle of Kobudo?

It is a spiritual code which is connected to natural energy that comes from the base of the universe. This is an art of special Japanese spiritual culture. Throughout the thousand year history of Japan there is the way of Budo, Chado, Kado and other cultivated arts. Each ends in “Do”. This marks and shows the dignity of these arts.

Other Bushido have become modern sports. All they think about is whether they are better than other styles. Their only focus is on Dojo training, that is very disappointing. On this occasion, to all the Kenshi attending, I would like to remind you that this Tai Kai is not a fight against each other nor whether you win or lose. This will be a significant occasion for us to show our great samurai spirit.

Now all over the world we hear about all kinds of political and financial corruption. This is because of the lack of understanding of the samurai spirit in our world. Through your Kobudo training I will expect to see the samurai spirit (Bushido) revived. I would like to search for civilization and Budo and, with the help of all the Kenshi assembled here, try to spread it through training.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to each teacher of the different Japanese sword styles for their cooperation and participation. I wish all the best and hope that this Tai Kai will be a success without incident.

Shin Shin Ryu Iaijutsu 11th Soke
Yamada Yoshitaka 