

KOBUJUTSU

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JUTSU versus DO

In the June 30, 1986 (Vol.2 No.2) issue of the Okinawa Shorin-Ryu Matsumura Kenpo Karate Kobudo Association Newsletter, Charles Tatum wrote an excellent article on Kobudo versus Kobujutsu; in writing this article (Jutsu versus Do), I have borrowed heavily from Sensei Tatum's article. Therefore, I'm listing him as a co-author of this article. Today's article appears under the "Kobujutsu" column. However, we are not going to stick only to kobujutsu.

We are going to bounce around from karate, to kobujutsu, to kenjutsu and back and forth as we try to explain the difference between a "Jutsu and a "Do".

First of all, let's take a close look at the terminology. The Okinawan attitude toward martial arts draws no clear-cut distinction between a Jutsu and a Do. However, the Japanese clearly have a division between the "Jutsu" Arts and the "Do" Arts. Don Draeger in his three-volume set of books gives us what is mainly a Japanese point of view. Nevertheless, his books titled Classical Bujutsu, Classical Budo, Modern Bujutsu and Budo are excellent and should be a reference source in every martial artist's library. Draeger states "There are very great differences between the bujutsu, or martial arts; and the budo, or martial ways. The bujutsu are combative systems designed by and for warriors to promote self-protection and group solidarity. The Budo are spiritual systems, not necessarily designed by warriors or for warriors, they are for self-perfection of the individual."(D. Draeger, Classical Bujutsu, p. 19)

The word "bu" means martial. The kanji for "jutsu" can also be pronounced "jitsu," and "jitsu" is often the preferred pronunciation used in Okinawa. The Japanese use the pronunciation "jutsu" more often. Both pronunciations are

correct and mean the same thing. The word "jitsu" is pronounced like "jits." The "u" is almost silent. "The sound 'u' as in the English word "put", but spoken without rounding the lips. The vowel 'u' is a weak vowel, which often disappears altogether or is whispered in rapid conversation. This disappearance or whispering usually occurs when this vowel is surrounded by such voiceless consonants as ch, h, k, s, sh, t, and ts." (Living Language Course of Japan, p.5) "Jutsu" or "jitsu" means art or more properly techniques. The word "do" means way, way of life or more spiritual development. Hence, bujutsu means actual martial techniques for combat, whereas budo means martial arts for spiritual development. Their priorities, considered from a three-dimensional view, are as follows:

Classical Bujutsu:

- 1) Combat
- 2) Discipline
- 3) Morals

Classical Budo:..

- 1) Morals
- 2) Discipline...
- 3) Aesthetic Form

(D. Draeger, Classical Budo, p. 36)

Classical Bujutsu only concerns itself with the perfection of form when and if the form is necessary for a combat advantage. Budo on the other hand is concerned mainly in the perfection of form with no thoughts given to combat.

In Japan, Europeans brought firearms into the country in the 1500's. The Japanese soon made use of these in their civil wars. The use of firearms in battle enabled the untrained commoner to defeat the classic samurai warrior. "The disaster that had befallen the classical warriors of Takeda Katsuyori in 1575 in the Battle of Nagashino at the hands of Oda Nobunaga was still fresh in the minds of the