

HEIHO JUTSU (ART OF STRATEGY)

MINARI NO HEIHO (PART ONE)

兵法術

The warrior's Kokoro (attitude), if correct, will enable him to develop the second most important strategy "Minari no Heiho", the strategy of appearance.

The most difficult and important aspect of minari is learning to see yourself as others see you. Once you have accomplished this, you then change your appearance to have others see you as you wish to be seen. This strategy is as old as the human race. It is basic animal instinct for survival. It is the reason dogs "bristle up" and snarl; they wish to have their opponents see them

as being larger and more vicious than they really are. Women are truly experts on minari. The fashion and cosmetic industries play a key role in assisting women in their mastery of this strategy. Armies of old sought to take advantage of this strategy by wearing brightly colored uniforms, which seemed to increase their numbers and impressed a less spectacular army with their "superiority". Modern weapons and tactics have caused the modern armies to trade their brightly colored uniforms for camouflage.

The study of minari is very complexed; it takes a lifetime of study to understand and master this aspect of the martial arts. Certainly such a study is beyond the scope of this article. Nevertheless, a

UTSURAKASHI NO HEIHO

One might describe utsurakashi as the strategy of appearing weak when you are really strong. You really cannot understand how to look and be strong until you understand how to look weak. This strategy of luring and trapping is very important in combat. During the 1960's the US Army was deeply involved in the Vietnam conflict. The

martial artist must realize the need to think strategically and we must realize how important Minari no Heiho is to the modern martial artist. Perhaps this article can accomplish this goal.

Fredrick J. Lovret's book on strategy "The Way and Power, Secrets of Japanese Strategy" is an excellent resource on this subject and should be of interest to all martial artists. Paladen Press in Boulder, Colorado publishes the book. Mr. Lovret's book is the source for the Japanese terms used in this discussion of minari; however, I explain things as I see them being applicable to Okinawan Karate as well as to over all combat.

Five supporting strategies will be used in our discussion of minari; these are (1) Utsurakashi no Heiho...the strategy of luring and trapping; (2) Obiyakashi no Heiho...the strategy of bluffing; (3) Haragei and (4) Shibumi...these are the strategies that allow us to develop a sixth sense or a gut feeling and to be able to move quickly in response to this feeling and (5) Kochiku no Heiho.... This means a "tall bamboo" and is the study of appearing and being strong. The plan is to discuss all but Kochiku no Heiho in this issue of the Maishin Shorinji. The discussion of Kochiku will be quite long and detailed and will take up more room than can be spared in this issue of the magazine.

communist forces were experts in the use of utsurakashi. The US Army devoted considerable time training its soldiers how to recognize and react to the Vietcong and North Vietnam Army's use of this strategy. One such training mission occurred at the US Army Ranger School. Each successive class faced this same problem and each