

Applying The Practice

By Shihan Paul Jewell

As with all other things in life, you get out of it what you put into it. This art is no different than anything else you apply yourself to.

While training in Hakko Den Shin Ryu Ju Jutsu over the years, I have met some quality people. It was a real honor to train with two of these individuals the week of August 1st - 7th. By invitation from LaMonica Shihan, Sensei Michael Seamark and Sensei Scott Evans were asked to train in the Shihan (Master) techniques. On Friday August 5th , both of these gentlemen were promoted to Shihan, by LaMonica Shihan.

It was through hard work, applied training, and a dedication not only to the art, but to LaMonica Shihan and Shodai Soke, that these gentlemen have achieved the rank of Shihan.

We must all keep in mind the reasons for our training in this art, not only for personal growth, but to carry on the art in the way that Shodai Soke wished. As students to LaMonica Shihan we all need to do our best to adhere to the code of ethics and as instructors, to the instructors guidelines.

I was privy to a conversation regarding the future of the art and our duty as instructors and students. The concept of the family sword was brought to light. We need to look at our roles as students. This is not our art (sword) however we are members of this family. We did not create the art (sword) however we need to protect it and polish it to preserve it for the future members of our family. We need to assist each other and learn to listen and follow proper protocol. If we all work together we will be successful in building a very strong family tree, which will live on forever. With the additions of Shihan Seamark and Shihan Evans we have another branch forming on that tree.

Keep in mind that training in Shihan is by invitation only. It is a privilege to be invited however that will only happen if you demonstrate your dedication to the art. So ask yourself "on your current path, would you be a future candidate for that invitation?"

If you are unsure ask yourself what you need to do to put yourself on the right path.

Once again congratulations to Seamark Shihan and Evans Shihan. Keep up the excellent examples of what it takes to be invited to "the purple haze"