

## 1.1. The meaning of *BU*

How to grasp the meaning of *BU*? According to the way of thinking, the methods of training and studying *BUJUTSU* or *BUDO* vary. The word for *BU* has the Chinese character meaning of “*stopping a halberd*” and this indicates the masculine condition of TAKESHI (health, build), TSUYOSHI (robustness, strength), IKIOI (dignity) and ISAMASHII (bravery), but *BU* is often expressed as courage.

Courage is the disposition of not being afraid, even of death, either with a strong spirit of not fearing anything and not being nervous, or with the strong spirit of challenging in a battle. In ancient Japanese language, it says:

*BU* is based on bravery.

The brave are definitely not afraid of death.

If this spirit is emitted, the power is revealed according to this strength and they become one unit. There is a cause for this phenomenon called *KIRYOKU*, but *training BU* is, at the end of the day, training the body and nurturing the psychological power to cope with battle. Herein, tactics and strategy are invented.

*KIRYOKU* and physical power: *KIRYOKU* originates from durability of spirit (mind), but is also deeply linked to training of the body (physical power) which becomes the foundation of power. And in the tension of a battle with life and death at stake, spirit and thought are trained and thus strategy and technique are thought out. This may also be called intellectual power.

*KIRYOKU*, physical power, intellectual power, the connection of the three: Even if the body is in robust health, if there is no will to fight and thus faint-heartedness, lethargy follows and physical power does not come to life. Even if technique and strategy are known, if there is no determination to fight and thus no enthusiasm to use them freely, they are useless. Starting from a strong spirit of certain victory and will to fight, physical power takes effect and intellectual power (thought) is being trained.

Consequently, the training of *BUJUTSU* understands the connection of these three and strives for their synthesis. It comes down to building body, cultivating thought and mastering technique, but in the end it may even be said these are being condensed in psychological power as a combination of mind power, *KIRYOKU* and physical power.

Where do strong will and strong spirit originate from?

It can probably be said that will and strong spirit, when backed by sense of justice, mission and sense of responsibility, become increasingly firm, so that if, resulting from a confrontation between oneself and others, a state has been reached where deciding victory or defeat cannot be avoided, immovable determination materialises.

Then, strategy and tactics of when, where, with whom and how to fight and so forth are produced. Whether it is *BUJUTSU* with the method of one-to-one fighting or whether it

is a large-scale war, this principle does not change. The determination of the core fighters and exactly this power of decisive action become the motivating power of the entire war power.

The ancestors of our country considered the sword the symbol of *BU*. And naming the sword *TACHI* (to cut off), they perceived its psychological meaning as “determination”. This intelligence is infinitely deep.

On what grounds stands the righteousness? Here lies one’s own way of studying (literary arts), one can say. The *MITO school*, which can be said to have been discussing from time immemorial the way of literary and military arts — two ways of literary arts and of military arts versus only one way of literary and military arts together — advocates against the bifurcation of literary and military arts:

The evil of literary arts is weakness,

The evil of military arts is stupidity.

it warns,

Military arts should be a means to cure weakness,

Literary arts should be a means to heal stupidity.

it teaches. Furthermore, *HAYASHI SHIHEI* writes in “*KAIKOKU HEIDAN*”:

Literary arts become the base of military arts.

Differentiating literary and military arts may seem necessary, but perceiving the two detached as separate things results in an evil damage. People should pursue their individual paths while perceiving this connection as indivisible, it seems.

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