



My meeting with Shihan Kenshu Watanabe many years ago has been truly a memorable one. I heard about Shihan through associates of mine over a period of many years. His philosophy and teaching is unique and similar in many ways to what I believe in.

Shihan Kenshu Watanabe is a National treasure to the Karate-do community world wide. He is a wonderful teacher whose knowledge far exceeds any of the teachers I have met in recent times. Many karate enthusiasts are drawn towards the flavour of the times, but not him, he chose the path of "Do" known as the way. To him the path of Do is the traditional answer to karate-do. To him it means the understanding of the physical, mental and spiritual. He sees modern karate as the battle of egos; of who is better, who is faster, who can bring fame and glory.

The difference between him and many others is that they are instructors and he is a teacher. In today's world, the ratio between a teacher and an instructor is that 90% are karate Instructors and only 10% teachers. He belongs to the cream of the 10%. A true teacher shares knowledge of life skills in three domains such as physical, mental and spiritual.

With most Karate Instructors on the other hand, he/she is a Trainer or coach. They instruct on technique only, as this is the limit of their knowledge. A coach does not need a teacher teaching them knowledge; a coach can just learn from books or go to seminars or participate in day/week courses. In

many instances a coach mainly depends on book knowledge and intellectual jargon.

A teacher becomes one by having a proper lineage of teachers through the system who have passed knowledge down and from whom he seeks guidance, and with years of experience, extensive study and hard practice with dedication has mastered the art and in this case Goju ryu karate-do. This is the difference.

Teachers are born with great compassion, empathy, love and a duty to make a difference. Students come to learn karate-do so that they can develop skills to defend themselves, learn discipline and understand themselves better through spiritual understanding. Students do not come to karate to become world champions and win trophies. They come because they trust that whoever is teaching them are taking them on a path to learn to develop their defensive skills, develop confidence and have a disciplined life.

A teacher has chosen the path to guide people on the way "Do" of righteousness. Many coaches see their job as a means to earn a living, and their task to create champions of only the talented. Some coaches are blind to those students who struggle with performance. A true teacher sees all students as champions as long as they are willing to have a go. Shihan, I believe has the true makings of a teacher as it shows in his ability, humility and spiritual quality.

When we got together on this Saturday afternoon for two hours he asked me a number of questions on my belief and understanding of karate-do. He said he knew most of the karate practitioners throughout Australia but does not know me. I said that this is because I have kept a low profile. I remember his final words to me when I addressed him as Shihan. He said "from now do not call me Shihan, as from today I am Kenshu to you as I found my brother in Karate-do." He continued to say, " I have been searching for a long time to find someone like you in Australia and today I have found you and also we have found each other."

We have become great friends and Shihan has taken my students for karate practice many times. His love for the art was clearly demonstrated in his teaching. The intensity of what he shares was always deep and profound. I

have been blessed to meet someone like him in this life time. Maybe I have done something good in a previous life to deserve a friend and brother in karate-do such as Kenshu Watanabe Shihan. I honour this teacher with love and respect. I treasure the moments we speak as he has much wisdom to share. We never have dull conversations and it is always enlightening. Thank you Kenshu for being my brother in this art of Karate-do.
Your Sincerely



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As you think, say or do, so shall it return with a greater impact.

