

I believe you begin teaching for the love, and that you end up teaching for the love.

But there is a journey to take in between.

What could have been.....What should have been.....

It is with sorrow and yet perhaps hope that I write these words.

Imagine a School of Martial Arts that grew as you grew, that recognized what you put into it, and gave back the same.

Imagine where the Instructor owed you more for learning than you owed him for teaching, but you saw it the other way around.....and so did he.....

A Martial Art where you felt the money you paidcould never amount to the money you owed.

That is what I joined.

The opposite is what I left.

You....well you deserved more.....I have been silent for 5 years and its time I paid back the students that kept and still keep the faith.

But Apologies first

It is very appropriate for Instructors to be making certain apologies at this time,

I think there will be and should be, many more to come.

When you stand on the front rank of an organization you give silent approval to the things that go on, students look at you and they trust you, they trust the system you are a part of.

What's going through the mind of that Instructor is another matter.

We each had to deal with our doubts, our sorrow and our outrage silently.

To remain honourable we couldn't criticize the school that bound us with the student, so we remained silent and waited for you to realize....

I'm still not sure to this day which the best way was for you, the student.

Stay silent or tell you our thoughts.

Each Instructor came to they're own conclusion about this.

If we got this wrong, and you felt we should have done the opposite, I apologise.

We weren't stupid back then, when we believed whole heartedly in the school we were in, we had devoted our lives to it, at the time it was all we dreamt of, so it was hard to view or accept changes that were bad as they happened.

There was a time we were encouraged, in order to remain "Zenish", to be open minded, to "Question everything".

I couldn't tell you a specific moment when that changed, it happened over time; in the way religions offer salvation by un-questioning following of doctrine.

The word "Heretic" means literally "Someone who thinks for themselves".

So to be accused of Heresy, to the modern mind, is something of a compliment.

Perhaps we who decided to leave were indeed “Heretics”.

There was so much bullying of Instructors to get students to weekends, seminars, day courses, the list was endless.

This led to the Instructors having to apply increasing pressure on students, threaten, intimidate and try to shame them among their colleagues if they didn't attend.

Some Instructors resisted this pressure and took more upon themselves; some passed that pressure down to the student.

Either way it had two effects, it made the Instructor appear to be part of the scam and it began to undermine the relationship between Instructor and student.

A system of oppression turns good people into bad.

It was unfortunate and unforgettable to see the worse brought out in some.

Bullying from the top led to bullying in the ranks.

For those that suffered this I am sorry, we tried.

Those that bullied, you know who you are and perhaps you feel ashamed I hope you are making your apologies to this day.

We made official protests about this, but they were rejected out of hand and the fact that we had the audacity to question served to further worsen our position.

To understand the Instructors position

Go to Wikipedia and type in

Relational aggression

In particular the list...Relational Abuse

In particular

Shunning

It sums up the position of many Instructors you have heard of in the past and the way you have been told about them.

There are now many more people that have left, than stayed.

Don't think you are in the minority for having your own thoughts that lead to your own conclusion.

You may be told you are alone, but you are not, by far.

Do the Cult leaders really realize what they are doing when this takes place?

Personally I think they are fully aware, but they just don't care.

I mean long term, beyond themselves, if they could ever imagine such a thing which I doubt, they don't care.

On Leaving a Martial Art, (or even a cult that disguises itself as such)

When in a prominent position within that school and seen / sensed to be not agreeing you are perceived as a threat, you can't be the one shouting that the emperor wore no clothes.

When you have to leave you're left with only one way to do it, you're not given the chance to leave honorably (despite what you may have been told).

You have to hold your head up high and walk out the door with a dignity

that is trying to be denied to you, knowing full well that those that remain will be told the most appalling lies about you and your character.

Why this is so I have never understood, it works to undermine the fellowship not build it, you begin to wonder what would be said when you go too. My advice on finding yourself in the same position.... Stay as long as you enjoy it. When you don't enjoy it leave. Keep it that simple and don't beat yourself up over anything.

The Tools of Thought, I believe are there to understand oneself and lead to a better understanding, but if you are encouraged to use them to torture yourself with your own self than it can serve no purpose for the good.

What next for us all?

Martial Arts are a unique world in many ways.

At times Medieval in its system of discipline.

But a Medieval world that never really existed. An Arthurian ideal that remains an ideal in our hearts.

Those land owners surrounded by peasant classes by accident of birth, do we want that back?

This can fuel and sustain a fantasy world for those that teach within it.

Not at first, but who can we trust with control?

The answer, I think, is no man, but in the collective hearts of many it is possible. We look for someone who can reflect those collective hearts; I have come to realize that anyone who craves that power should never hold that power.

So this is the paradox.

Whoever wants that power.....does not deserve it?

How do we progress?

Each Instructor that is forced to find his own answer and path has to work this out.

Respect is good, Subservience unacceptable.

Loyalty is good, blind faith surely not respectful to your own intelligence

Honour is good, but earned and paid in equal amounts.

So far I have relayed as an Instructor, which in my heart I will remain always.

But on a personal note....

On Honour.

Good men and women, truly good, have remained our friends.

They remained true to Honour, the concept itself in the heart and not swayed by deception.

We never asked for it, that was its own test. It can't be bought.

Those who stayed friends with us, bless you for understanding honour does not change,

THAT WE DON'T CHOOSE IT, IT CHOOSES US.

Those I still teach have taught me so much on this issue and I thank them from the heart.

Those that looked away from Honour in an attempt at self preservation, we really do understand. But it is a pity.

On an even more personal note

We have never turned away anyone who genuinely wanted to know why we left.

We just never broadcast it.

You can contact us through Murray San, who remains our friend to this day,

Strength

And

Honour

Steve and Tracey Lane