

# WHY LEARN A MARTIAL ART?



*Because this is the future we must deal with!*

**L**ike a proud Veteran that stands alone ... we have lost our pride and are slowly losing our borders and freedoms! Overwhelmed ... a Fireman speaks on our behalf as he did his best! The towers are gone and our future is at risk ... Need I Say More! Evil is becoming stronger than the good of man ... learning self-defense will be paramount for a chance to survive. A martial art teaches more than fighting ... it teaches values of good character and disciplined values that once were a great part of our culture.

Despite popular belief from our nightly news, crime is down. They portray a picture of things under control, that government legislation is protecting and safe guarding our lives. If this is so, why are we building more prisons and letting many out early! Crime is more than violence in the streets, it is corruption as well that comes silently and un-noticed from corporate offices of big business, the entertainment industry, the cyber world and the halls of Congress! *We are able to clean out the caves of the world but not the alleys of corruption in our own back yard!*

Thanks to the squeaky wheels of liberal human right activists, the lack of common sensed environmentalist, we now have a constitution of gray matter instead of substance. Committing a crime no matter how brutal or at what age and level of society, one needs not a motive or reason ... only an excuse! Relying on lawyers to defend one's upbringing due to abuse in too many cases is a total cop out! Respect for law and authority is becoming meaningless ... sporting events aren't safe as both participant and spectators are out of control ... *have you been to a T-Ball game lately!* **Martial arts training do not act this way!** In effect, we have become a nation with too many individual ideas of what constitutes freedom, caring not who is offended or affected as long as it fulfills one's objective! As a result we are stepping on each other's freedoms and we are being destroyed from within as a result of all the ideals that have made us free!

Taken for granite the good life that technology has offered and knowing the reality that violent crime of all types is on the increase, we continue to relax our attitude in that bad things won't happen to us! Increasingly, crime and killings are being committed ... in particular, by the younger generation.

In my opinion, we have our priority problems backward in that we first blame the younger generation as being out of control. As adults in the positions of leadership and authority who are viewed for their actions by example, many are failing the test especially by the higher echelon of society and the sport world arena! Violence in video games, movies, sports, macho entertainer's, fraud in big businesses and abuse in the trust by high officials! In addition, domestic violence and out of control substance abuse are all controlled in most cases by adults and for the purpose of power, greed and the almighty dollar! Convictions for outrageous behavior again is controlled by the power of money resulting in little more than a slap on the hand and business goes on as usual.

## *It must start from the top!*

This being viewed by the young has influenced their thoughts as normal and acceptable! I feel most parents are doing their best, but with the constant bombardment of advertisement being thrown at them from all directions and by ridiculous societal rules and regulations plus peer pressure ... **what do, you expect!** As adults we are the educators that must set a good example and it must start from the top! As greed has consumed our souls, we must stop this madness as we are reaching the point of no return!

*Like an Iceberg, the problem lies hidden!*

**T**oday with domestic and international terrorist within our own backyard, there really is no safe haven and simply being at the wrong place at the wrong time can get you killed without cause or purpose. Leading up to and including 9-11, we blew it but we will recover by staying strong, united and focused. If not, we are finished as a people, a nation and a world for these terrorists will make Hitler look like a choirboy! When a one-tracked death-tuned individual is released on the innocent and unknown private public ... who needs to make expensive weapons of mass destruction! One madman is bad enough, 18 are disastrous ... what will 1,000 or more of these crazies worldwide do if un-checked!

One could go on about the woes of the world but what's the point if all of society doesn't get back on path with the laws and values of the creator whom all life and things are possible. Call him what you may but we have lost the fear of our creator and face it ... our existence is controlled by a snap of a finger! Although weapons of war are tremendously powerful and destructive, they are tinker toys compared to the power of Mother Nature! Like an iceberg, most of what we see is only at the waters surface and this is a small one ... think what is possible from outer space and beyond!

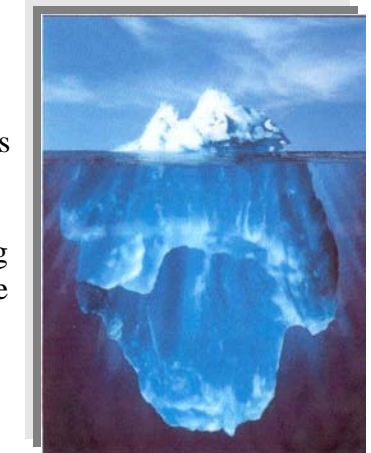
*Don't count on the police for protection!*

Worldwide and unavoidably, things are going to get worse before they get better as we are at the point of no return and unable to straighten out the world's problems. Natural disasters and terrorist attacks both here and abroad are going to increase. As the economy falls and jobs are lost ... crime will increase even by good abiding citizens, simply out of desperation to survive ... so don't count on your local police for protection! Just like the iceberg, stealth lies hidden beneath the surface of all crime and corruption. We don't realize we've been hit until it's too late. Learn something, as the worst is yet to come!

*Shobudo and objects of opportunity!*

Now is the time to start shaping up and learning self-protection for yourself and your family. Don't rely totally on the Armed Forces, the police, your neighbor or friends, as they will be busy taking care of their own. Learn how to use weapons but remember, *you will not always have them cocked and at the ready!* Training your body as a weapon, with alertness to your surroundings, conditioning your mind and body in a positive attitude and knowing how to use common objects of opportunity for weapons as taught in Shobudo. *Although Shobudo may not be available, many other good arts are within reach ... learning something is better than nothing!*

Of course you've heard this all before and are aware of our predicament, hoping everything will just solve itself and go away ... **but it won't.** Hopefully as a world, we can come to our senses and avoid the day of self-destruction, the click of the finger or worse yet ... both! *In the mean time, lay down the burgers and pick up the barbells especially the younger generation... for you are the future!* If we don't straighten out, count on bad times ahead as it's destined to happen!



In Budo,  
Robert Morton  
Kaicho

*Shobudo Bujitsu Kai*