



TAIKAI
DEUTSCHLAND
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Openings words by Sveneric Bogsäter for the Taikai Germany 2008

As you all may know, in the early 70's a martial art called Ninjutsu was presented to the western world. The full name was Togakure ryu Ninjutsu and it was practiced in Japan within something named Bujinkan Dojo. At that time it was known only by a small number of men and women.

Today – nearly 4 decades later it has travelled around the world – and to use Hatsumi Sensei's own words - with 7 times the speed of light - and is now practiced by 10th of thousands of men and women all over the world.

These nearly 4 decades, if I look back at the western structure of Bujinkan Dojo - held in it hands - a Bujinkan that was rested on individuals, on made up organizations, often driven by personal reasons, and nourished by a quest for personal power.

And an organization within an already existing one - is not the best solution, that's for sure, - since this create walls and borders. And above all – the worst of it, is that it creates separation.

Note, - that I don't talk about to open up a dojo, a place for training, that's very different – as I see it - is each dojo simply a different parts of one and the same body, in our case the Bujinkan - and therefore not separable.

These individually created walls and borders have to be defended, explained or expanded of various reasons. And in many occasions (as I said) it was simply to accomplishing personal objectives. All this is something that very - very often leads to conflicts between different persons, groups or/and organizations. It makes us act against all and everything that we see as a threat to ourselves, - to our group or our organization.

It also create fear, - a fear to lose the power – a fear to be questioned – a fear of being compeered with others and so forth, the list can be made long – all this is something that always leads to confusion for the members in the different organizations. And when we allow our own thoughts and emotions to dictate, it is all over. I would go so far to say that this kind of separation is one of the most destructive things there is. It is wrong, because we aren't separated, we are all one, in the very essence of our being, we are all connected. I look at the Bujinkan in the same way..

We must understand that separation is something which leave us in the end - with the half of one thing, - and with all of nothing.

This my friends was the past, now, here, today - we are all standing – at a beginning. Yeah, I said a beginning. - If the 70's was the start of it all here in the west – is the real beginning here in our present.

I believe that because I believe the fundamental truth to be unity - and it is a unification that really is happening now - all over the Bujinkan world – it happens in Denmark, in Australia, in Canada, and in Ireland; just to name some places.

And I can see here in this present a unification of Bujinkan Germany, and *hopefully* the beginning of an *All German Bujinkan* in where each dojo *truly* is a different part of one and the same Bujinkan united, not separated.

It is now and here – it is this weekend that you, that we all, have the opportunity to lay out the path for the future, which should - apart from the training and having a good time together of course, - be to unite - and to overcome the reasons of the past.

As Galileo said: the universe cannot be read until you have learned the language in which it is written. Bujinkan Budo is not something to be practised for a short period of time, it has deep meaning, a profound significance that takes time to uncover. So this event - as I see it - is a great leap towards the learning of reading and better understanding the language of the Bujinkan universe. – And it is also something which *can* mark cooperation and coexisting as well as harmony and balance, - even if not always there are - or can be total agreement – since we all have different perspectives on things.

It is something important that you all take part of this weekend - not only for Germany. I say that because Germany with probably the largest numbers of practitioners in the northern Europe can become - with your support - the beacon that send a bright light, a clear signal. So thrust me when I say that you can feel proud to participate, to be a part of something that I believe will leave a large eco behind.

This all German Taikai is as I said - a beginning - *it is the first step toward something greater than what now is!*

Or as Henry Ford put it:

“Coming together is a beginning. - Keeping together is progress. - Working together is success.”

Finally I ask all of you – to enjoy the teaching, to enjoy the training, and above everything – enjoy yourself. And realize that everyone here has many good things to share, - so please share among each other and be friends.

all the best,

Sveneric