

# 本體高木揚心流柔體術

## HON TAI TAKAGI YOSHIN RYU JUTAIJUTSU

### Yagi Ikugoro Hisayashi

### 八木幾五郎久喜

**13<sup>th</sup> Soke:** Yagi Ikugoro Hisayashi 八木幾五郎久喜, a retired Samurai from Akoh castle 赤穂御城 in Hyogo province, became a Ronin sometime around October 1841 (Tempo 11 天保十一年). He was originally a student of the 11<sup>th</sup> Soke Nakayama Kaemon Sadasaka 中山嘉衛門定賢. He became a Ronin 浪人 because he was expelled from the Sekiho domain (the feudal clan) due to some political involvement with Watanabe Kazan 渡辺崋山, Takano (Choei) Nagahide 高野長英, and several others. He later settled down, and opened a Dojo in Akashi 明石, Hyogo 兵庫 teaching Hon Tai Kukishin Ryu Bojutsu 本体九鬼神流棒術 and Takagi Yoshin Ryu Jutaijutsu 高木揚心流柔體術.

On one occasion Yagi killed a large dog with a skewer that had been harassing some passing travellers. Yagi taught many Samurai and passed the next generation to three students giving each the Menkyo Kaiden 免許皆伝. These were Ishitani Takeo Masatsugu 石谷武甥正次 (Hon Tai Yoshin Takagi Ryu 本體楊心高木流), Ishibashi Hon Tai Takagi Yoshin Ryu Ishibashi den 本體高木揚心流石橋伝), and Fujita Togoro 藤田藤五郎 (Hon Tai Takagi Yoshin Ryu Fujita den 本體高木揚心流藤田伝). Fujita taught Mizuta Yoshitaro Tadafusa 水田芳太郎忠房 one of the three teachers of Takamatsu Sensei.

Yagi Ikugorô Hisayoshi 八木幾五郎久喜 opened a school in the fish-shop where he was living at in Akashi 明石, in the province of Hyôgo 兵庫.

When Yagi gave out the Menkyo Kaiden 免許皆伝, he did so first to just two students. These were Ishibashi 石橋, and Mizuta 水田. He waited a while before he gave give one to Ishitani 石谷. One day as Yagi was walking in the Okura valley, he was attacked by Ishitani 石谷 with his Katana 刀 drawn. Yagi ran to a nearby house, removed a piece of wood from it and threw it at Ishitani, so that he could make his escape. The next night Ishitani arrived for training at the dojo as if nothing had happened the night before. Yagi took him to a room at the rear of the dojo, and gave him the Menkyo Kaiden scrolls of the Takagi Yoshin Ryu. As they left the room, Yagi said to him "who would give you your licence if I was dead".

Yagi is known to have been a very sick man. He died around 1898.

Ishitani Takeoi went on to open seven Takagi Yoshin Ryu dojo's in Japan. Some of these were located in Himeji, Okayama, and Kobe. To all of these he was a regular visitor, to help instructor the student, and Sensei of each Dojo. It is also possible that he was a Ronin, and used the Dojo's as a place to stay, and to earn money. He would also have been responsible for awarding Menkyo licenses in these dojo, and these when awarded would have supplied him with a large amount of money per Menkyo. Once when he was in Osaka he was attacked by two Sumo men called "Konishiki, and Yatsuka". They held him down, and invited him to escape. He did so by attacking their legs. It may be the same event or another but he fought a Sumo wrestler called 'Otsutsu'. He held Otsutsu with his left hand while he was using the right hand to rub the mans face into the dirt.

It is not known if Ishibashi opened a Dojo, but Takamatsu once fought a licensed student of his by the name of "The Demon of Okurantani village". Ishibashi was however known to be a little strange, and he owned a "Amazakeya" (sweet sake shop) in Okurantani. It is generally believed that he did not give a Menkyo Kaiden to any of his students, and that all of his scrolls etc, were passed into the possession of his children when he died.

*Footnote*

*Aoki castle is were the 47 Ronin (chushingura) originate from*