

Leaves Of Wisdom



You are an apprentice at Honjo training camp eager to begin your training in the Dark Arts of the Shadow Warrior. For the past 18 months all you have learned would be the ritual of cleaning and maintaining items in perpetration for Prayer at the Kyoto Shrine, which for myself felt had no relevance with studying the disciplines and style of a Shadow Warrior. "I was very young" but began to feel frustrated as I seemed the only student at the camp given this position and without any indication as to when I would begin my training and become a student of the Dark Arts.

I drew up the courage the following day to explain to Sensei my anxiety and impatience in wanting to start training with the other boys in the school, and seem to be the only boy that was given this job of cleaning, and that I felt this was unfair that I was singled out because I was not Japanese.

My Sensei replied:

Please forgive me! but if you hadn't done your duties so well I would have replaced you with another boy a long time ago. Every child at this school has a duty and every duty preformed gives the school balance and purpose. When you started at this school you became a part of all that you See, Hear, and Touch and are a piece of the Jigsaw that completes its image.

Not replying to my Sensei's wisdom, I explained that I see students training in the Arts and have never been given an opportunity myself of training with them in order to learn. I felt I had Mastered the Arts of the polish and brush and am ready to begin my training. I will learn and perform what is asked of me quickly and be better than anyone in your class or even the school Sensei.

Yes! Sensei said, "my apologies" maybe I have been mistaken in choosing this task for you incorrectly, as you seem very impatient and eager to learn. I have a new duty for you!, and if you complete this task you may join the others and begin your training.

I could hardly hold back my excitement in thinking I would be joining the other students after completing one simple task. Seems my attitude and impatience made an impression on Sensei, he seemed very submissive towards my answer, even apologised to me for giving me the wrong things to do. This attitude is something I should encourage in myself more often.

What would you ask of me Sensei?

Please go into the Orchard and gather up the leaves into bags, when you have finished leave the bags at the entrance and wait for my return?. I couldn't move fast enough and after a few hours, and with a smug on my face I placed the bags of leaves at the entrance of the Orchard as was requested. When Sensei returned he said nothing, he just picked up each bag and spread them back all over the Orchard , and said! I had not completed the task to his satisfaction.

My Sensei was not a cruel person and I assumed I must have either missed some areas of the Orchard or a protocol must be implemented, as The Lord Buddhas statue was a focal point. This time I sectioned the Orchard and gathered the leaves into piles, making sure I was always facing the statue and bowing on passing Lord Buddhas face. This indeed took longer to finish, with planned execution and sensitivity towards the Holley figure overlooking the Orchard. This time on Sensei's return the bags would be kicked around the Orchard leaving the bags stuck into the trees like flags. I was indeed confused and scared at my Sensei's actions and had no feelings but of fear and apprehension that I may be joining the bags at some point.

Dilemma:

You need to reason with Sensei 's responses as this must surely be more than just a cleaning exercise. I was lucky this time!, but Sensei's anger deepens so you must find what lesson he intends to teach me?.

Question:

How should I perform this task correctly if clearing the Orchard is a test ?.

- 1/ Pile the leaves first in equal amounts?.
- 2/ Tie the bags first around my belt before piling the leaves?.
- 3/ Perform the task much quicker?.
- 4/ Pray to Lord Buddha before beginning the task?.
- 5/ Fill the bags equally in measure and not over fill?.
- 6/ Use my paddle (Dustpan) to blow the leaves into piles?.
- 7/ Each bag filled must be placed at the entrance first?.
- 8/ Pick each leaf up one at a time?.
- 9/ Use my hands to gather the leaves?.
- 10/ Allow the local children to assist me in this task?.
- 11/ Empty the bags yourself on Sensei's arrival?.
- 12/ Brush the leaves into one big pile and hide inside?.
- 13/ Renounce your task and return to normal duties?.
- 14/ Make a fire with the leaves collected?.
- 15/ Check and remove insects before bagging the leaves?.
- 16/ Tell Sensei that he didn't kick the bags hard enough?.

Explain why you chose this method and reasons for being given this task?. Your test now begins. (Allow 60minutes for this test).

Good Luck!

