

Seminar notes

We live in a world of violence, immersed in violence like fish in water. As fish don't feel wet, we don't often sense the medium we swim in. We fear violence on the one hand and use it for entertainment on the other. We denounce it as inhumane and then employ it to "solve" are human problems. Fascination or revulsion, what is the proper response to violence?

Warrior societies have traditional been the subgroups within our cultures that have authorized the legitimate use of violence. They have almost always been men's societies. Perhaps it has been thought that by shielding women from the role of warrior that we do them a service, we protect them from the harsh reality of combat. But women have not been shielded from a world of violence. They have been victims of physical abuse for as long as memory can whisper.

By barring women from the warrior society we remove choice as an option. If you can not fight back then not fighting is not a choice, it is forced upon you. When confronted with aggression the choice to fight or not is itself what is empowering, weather action is taken or not.

Our goal in this seminar is to create a warrior society, to explore the components of the warrior path. We will of course identify the weapons of the warrior as well as their tactical and strategic use but we will perhaps even more importantly delve into the phenomenon of the Warrior Spirit and the Warrior Ethic. From ancient times until the present martial teacher did not just give his young apprentice a sword or rifle, show him how to use it and then point him to the battle field. A code of ethics, a warrior's code if you will has always accompanied the legitimate use of a weapon. The Samurai called it Bushido the medieval Knight called it chivalry and the modern Marine simply calls it 'The Code'.

Our seminar is organized around the following four ethical components.

- When if every is violence appropriate?
- When should the fight begin?
- How far are you prepared to go in the fight?
- When is the fight over?

By exploring these issues in advance we reduce the likelihood that we will find ourselves in a threatening situation in which we are frozen in indecision and doubt. We reduce the chance that will fight inappropriately and injure or kill someone accidentally. If action is required the warrior knows when to spring into action without hesitation. If injury or death results the warrior kills or incapacitates intentional and not by accident.