

Patrick McCarthy

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

THE TRUE ORIGINS OF KARATE ARE SHROUDED IN MYTH, MYSTICISM, AND LEGEND. MANY SAY THAT KARATE WAS INVENTED BY OKINAWAN PEASANTS TO FIGHT OFF WELL-ARMED FOREIGN INVADERS, OTHERS CLAIM IT TO BE THE WARRIOR ART OF THE UPPER-CLASS NOBILITY, STILL OTHERS SUGGEST THAT IT WAS INVENTED BY HOLY MEN TO BRING PEACE, HARMONY, AND BALANCE TO ITS PRACTITIONERS SOULS. WHILE ALL OF THOSE EXPLANATIONS UNDOUBTEDLY CONTAIN SOME KERNEL OF TRUTH, THERE IS MUCH MORE—AND MUCH LESS—TO THIS RICH AND COMPLEX MARTIAL ART. PATRICK McCarthy has spent much of his life practicing, studying, researching, and WRITING ABOUT KARATE. A WORLD TRAVELER WHO HAS PERSONALLY SOUGHT OUT THE SECRET KATA OF KARATE'S REMAINING "OLD" MASTERS, McCARTHY IS ALSO GIFTED ACADEMIAN WHO SPENT NINE YEARS TRANSLATING "THE BIBLE OF KARATE," THE BUBISHI, THE MOST IMPORTANT HISTORICAL KARATE DISCOVERY OF OUR TIME, INTO ENGLISH. DRAWING FROM HIS WEALTH OF PERSONAL AND HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE, McCarthy talks about the origins of kata, the differences between Japanese AND OKINAWAN STYLES, AND THE PRACTICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL MEANING OF MOD-ERN FIGHTING SYSTEMS.

MASTERING THE ART OF KARATE REQUIRES MORE THAN DEDICATED TRAINING AND MORE OFFI LOST ALONG ITS ARDUOUS PATH. MCCARTHY'S DILICENT RESEARCH SERVES AS A REMINDER THAT KARATE, OR ANY MARTIAL ART FOR THAT AMATER, CAN NEVER BE MASTERED WITHOUT THE GUIDANCE OF SOMEONE WHO KNOWS THE WAY. AS SIR ISAAC NEWTON SAID, "IF I CAN SEE FURTHER, IT IS ONLY BECAUSE I STOOD ON THE SHOULDERS OF GAINTS."

Q: You are well known in academic circles for your deep research into the traditions of classical karate. What is the most significant discovery you've

A: Discovering the timeless formula for unraveling the ambiguity which has long shrouded the original defensive intentions and application principles of orthodox kata. Described as the interrelated fabric from which all karate is woven, understanding this formula brings an entirely new appreciation to what has long been referred to by competitors as "worthless movements,"



"Karate-do cannot exist without a body of moral philosophy to govern the behavior of those who embrace its empowering practice."

Q: How did you manage to learn some of the rare "lost" kata?

A: I immigrated to Japan and spent nearly ten years researching karate and kobudo there. Field research took me to Okinawa, Fujian, Shanghai, the Shaolin Temple, India, Korea, Southeast Asia, Taiwan and the Philippines. I was able to contact many of the most senior martial arts authorities of our time.



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