

## Advanced Aikido

The origin of silent stillness that gives birth to explosive speed and rhythmic timing in exponentials, gives uke little to conflict with early on in an exponential transition. It is only in the moments just past the exponential break that uke may find definition of form sufficient to provide a means by which he might wrest control from nage. But by then it is too late.

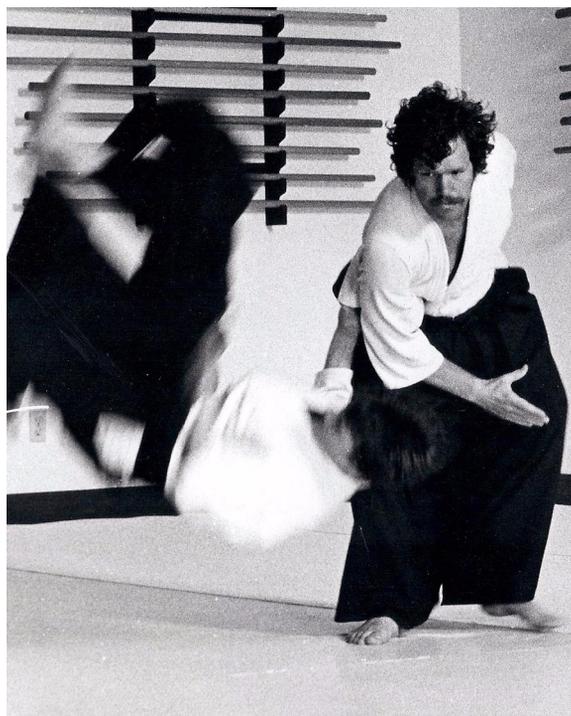
In the developing exponential of Kotegaeshi, uke might well have resisted successfully if nage were to have run the technique linearly. But when Kotegaeshi is run as an exponential, uke's attempt to resist will be far too little, far too late. It is pure exponential transformation that causes this, not effort on nage's part.

The shockwave that develops through an exponential Nikkyo, passes through uke's bodily tissues at a speed beyond uke's ability to perceive it, much less deal with it. Uke's body, bound by inertial reactance, simply can't respond to the shockwave in time. The entire energy of the technique comes and goes before uke can accommodate the throw, and if nage allows any significant amount of energy to actually manifest, uke's arm and wrist and perhaps even his body, will likely be severely injured.

In the move to technical exponentials, energies become high in previously relatively innocuous techniques. Run as an exponential, a whiplash injury in uke in the basic technique of Tai-no-Henko, is a real possibility. Neither nage nor uke can be fully prepared for the innate power of exponential transition, and the presence of danger in innocuous techniques comes as a surprise: Who could have anticipated a whiplash injury in Tai-no-Henko? As one works with technical exponentials, protection of uke goes far beyond a theoretical goal. It becomes a practical imperative.

The Aikidoist has spent years attempting to achieve consistency in manifestation of powerful techniques. Success finally comes. But then what? Further attempts toward power over uke are essen-

tially pointless, absurd. The entire thrust of a practitioner's training therefore begins to undergo a sweeping change. The years of effort made to be able to throw and pin uke, which seemed to extend into the future forever, suddenly come to an unanticipated end.



Aikido technique Koshinage by the Author, 1978  
(Dan Caslin Sensei, uke)

A practitioner reaching this point will experience uncertainty regarding the future of his training. It will take time to come to understand what has happened. But it is a distinct turning point wherein it is possible to move to another level of Aikido altogether, one which is not focused particularly on dealings with uke.

Although one might believe that one has already been working with the energy of compassion, because one believes in the *ideals* of Aikido, it is altogether different to come to a point where the energy of compassion must be *central* to technique. In Aikido, the energy of compassion is not an ideal, it is a powerful imperative.

The advanced Aikidoist steps into a world of far higher power when the energy of protection is

the foundation of technique. Energy not only exists for control of uke, but is energy unlimited. It is as if the whole universe begins to participate in the techniques of Aiki.

Compassion comes with the ending of self-worship, and embracement of a global view in which the aims of all beings are supported as much as possible. There is no longer desire for the Self to win exclusively, replaced by a general desire for all beings to succeed in their efforts to survive and prosper.

Compassion is a unique state of energy, a sweeping love for all of Creation. It is a love that is not sentimental because it recognizes the necessity of death. But it is an energy that supports the efforts of living beings to the degree possible given everything participating in the moment.

Nage's ground is the ground of this stupendously powerful and incredible Universe, a Universe imbued with unimaginably vast potential. Nage works with uke in a manner that is protective, but at its heart, nage's nature is wild, fierce, absolutely explosive, inexpressibly intense like the fire in the center of the sun.

It is truly unfortunate that non-resistance is misunderstood, because it leads people to false conclusions regarding non-violence. People like to believe in non-violence, but in this world it has come to look like the non-violent position has no chance against the violent one. Non-violence as a principle has been fatally weakened by poor understanding of the true nature of non-resistance.

In truth, non-resistance is the *only* unassailable position, its base the ground of the infinity of the Absolute. In the profound, absolutely pure non-resistance of Aiki, nage is the Witness, standing at the birthplace of space and time.

Exploration of the meaning of compassion as a source of power is very rare in the world. But it represents the obvious step that humanity must take in order to save itself, and save the world from a dark and terribly dangerous future.

We are running out of time. We no longer can afford to be stupid self-indulgent ignorant beings.

Serious human beings know this intuitively, and although the bonds of ignorance are strong, we must persevere. In this critically important endeavor, Aikido is an unbelievably valuable gift to humanity. We should not waste it.



















