

Hello everyone.

On September 27, 2017, I came back to Japan from Nicaragua. I had been living in Managua, Nicaragua for 2 years, Now that I am living in Japan, I want to send my articles about what is happening around me. Please enjoy my article. My English is not very good, though.



October 23, 2017, Typhoon No.21 has passed over this area this morning. Yesterday, I went to Meiji University to take the English TOEIC examination on the rainy day. Then, the rain lasted until this morning. But stopped this morning around 8:00 am. However, the weather forecast said that it would rain a lot around the Kanto area. I wondered how the Tamagawa river was doing, so I went to see. Wow, the water level in the river was unusual. Usually, we can see the dried riverbed on both sides of the river, but today the riverbed was flooded and the current of water was very fast. Some homeless people built their own houses on the riverbed but now these houses were swept away by the swollen river. I saw some homeless people who were standing, stunned, on the river bank.



October 28, 2017. I went to the Tamagawa riverbed again. Then, I started weapons practice (*jo* and *bokken*) again. It was the first time since I came back from Nicaragua. I saw homeless people at the riverbed. One man collected waste cans and carried them on his bicycle. He may put them in his own house, which is a temporary tent on riverbed again, because his house had been swept away by the last typhoon. In Japan, citizens put the waste cans and bottles in the specific place and on specific days. Usually, garbage trucks come by to pick up these wastes. However, before the truck comes homeless people collect them and sell them to the recycle company. Building tents on the riverbed is prohibited but they build their tents again whenever the typhoon let it up. They rebuild their house, then typhoon destroys their house again.



October 29, 2017. I went to Kamakura to see the Daibutsu (The Buddha) with friends in the rain. Today was a day just after Typhoon No. 22 had passed through Japan. Friends came from the Oakland *dojo*. Last year, I went to the Oakland dojo where I used to practice Aikido in the late 1970s. Those Aikido friends (David, Simona, Jacob, Vu, and Meagan) practiced at Iwama for almost 10 days. Then, after Iwama training, they came to Tokyo. Since they wanted to see the Daibutsu in Kamakura I went there to see it with them. Even though it rained, a lot of tourists visited this temple. I do not remember seeing this Daibutsu last time, Whenever I see the face of the Daibutsu, it makes me feel a sense of graciousness and peace.



This temple, actually, is called Koutokuin temple. There is a gate in front of the big Buddha statue and there are two statues in the gate. These two statues are named Nio, the guardian deva kings. What is most interesting about these statues is that they are standing with *hanmi*. When I showed this stance to my Aikido friends, they are surprised and laughed. One of the two statues is Agyo, who is standing in left hanmi with an opened left hand with a closed mouth. The other is Ungyo, and he is standing with a right side hanmi with an opened right hand and open mouth. This is very interesting because it is the same stance as with the Aikido stance. Saito Sensei always told us that hanmi was very important in Aikido, and to open your hand and extend you ki through your hand. That Nio comes from a benevolent king. When I know about Nio in more detail, it seems me that the Aikido stance comes from the Nio stance. It is very interesting.

