

From the Alps Italian until the seafont (1st Part)

from Guy Sahri ©

When we asks Lubes Lamarca Aldo Nicola Michele, known as Aldo Lubes, to characterize his life through Judo, Karate he learned and he likes to transmit, he thinks for moment... This moment where we appreciate silence. A golden silence. Then comes a light in his eyes, a smile full of extraordinary memories where time runs. This valuable time that is dear to our humanity? He has a story to tell. It is his.

It is that of young man who gives desires of retirement to those who are more than twenty years old. That of a man who brings down the greats with intelligence and envy. That of the golden dreamers who awake adorned with another color, but which soon console comforted themselves with the sorrow of those who have more than regrets. Individual little stories that joined end to end, write the great collective success of Karate and Judo world.

Born May 9, 1939 in Turin, capital of Piedmont, in the northern Italy, opened in the world, Aldo Lubes discovered it... From good social standing, his father is named Giuseppe Lubes and his mother Rosa Lamarca. Too much small he is not aware of the enormous scourge falling on Europe and the world. Fleeing atrocities of Second World War, he goes in search of a better world on the other side of the Atlantic. Without knowing, on the road takes shape, a spirit of challenge, conquest and respect...

Aldo Lubes is 8th Dan Karate, 4th Dan Judo, Ex-Technical National Director of Confederação Brasileira de Karatê – CBK, he is also International Referee PKF/WKF. Its constant commitment to Education is expressed in many functions he holds such as Doctor in Physical Education of the Federal University of Paraná or President-founder of Federação Paranaense de Karatê – FPRK in Brazil.

Aldo Lubes is regarded and respected as one of the best specialists as regards education in the Martial Arts. Each of his appearances is an invitation to travel. It is an opportunity of exchanging theories with professors and pedagogues of the whole world. He believes in transmission of cultural acquisitions based on respect and fraternity. Thus in his Karate and Judo, struggle and victory can only be means of serving the education of the individual. The progress of the man and that of the society are the hearth of his method.

With wisdom and clearness, it tells me a little of his incredible history...

Guy Sahri: Was habituation in a country which is not yours difficult? Are you missing Italy?

Aldo Lubes:

(Smiles) This year 2008 that will be exactly 50 years I arrived in Brazil... I went back to Italy five times my family. More precisely in 1972, 1982, 1984, 1990 and 1994. I always remained in my sister house with our mother and my elder brother. My mother and my brother were already dead, but I still have my sister who still lives in Turin with some uncles and nephews. Even after 50 years I am missing Italy, mainly the place of my birth, my family and especially my sister, whose name is « Itália ». As for Italian habits, they are good and take regional traditions into consideration. They are secular traditions, people behaving according their traditions. I think it must be the same in France and elsewhere in the world. I remember an Italian saying that said: « País que você vai, costumes que você encontra - Paese che vai, usanza che trovi ». We must adapt to the habits of the country where we live, and that's what I did in Brazil. But Italy always lives in my heart... Always!

« A ship named Andréa Costa... »

Guy Sahri: You arrived in Brazil a few years after the Second World War, did you encounter difficulties?

Aldo Lubes:

I arrived in Brazil at the end of January 1958, during summer, in Rio de Janeiro. I boarded on a ship called « Andréa Costa » which left port of Genoa. During this period it was very cold in Turin following violent snowfall that had taken place a few days before. I remember, it was at dawn, I walked to the station to take train. My mother, my brother and my sister saw me to this station. Fog was very intense and visibility did not get beyond 4 or 5 meters. Finally, we arrived in time at the station. Arrived to Genoa, I was very calm; after all, I was told that I would stay only one year in Brazil to help the son my mother's husband. I must explain.

My father died in 1940 during an air raid. I was one year old. My mother remained widowed with three children, Nicolino 14 years, Itália with 10 and me 1 year... Any person who lived during the European conflict of the Second World War can imagine the difficulties my mother and my brothers endured to survive during this period. I do not remember it very well, at the time I was too small and they did everything so that nothing is missing. Besides that, there is no other experience more difficult than to live from day to day during the war. Difficulties were a daily fact and I had to accept them, that's all!! In 1948, my mother married again one of her cousins, of the same city, also widower with three children. It is from there that things started becoming complicated, family grew and my stepfather considered that everyone should contribute to earn daily bread. Thus, at 10 years age, I started working as assistant's help in very opportunity that occurred, garages, joiner's shop, bars, restaurants, etc...

« A Street of Copacabana... »

Years passed, my brother got married, my sister also and girls of my stepfather as well. The son of my stepfather had emigrated in Brazil for a few years, and with another Italian, they had opened a night bar in Rio de Janeiro in the district of Copacabana. I then found myself alone with my mother and my stepfather. Thereafter, my stepfather convinced me to go in Brazil to help his son. I had to stay a year before being able to turn over to Italy. And that was how, I arrived in Brazil, but things were not as well as they looked. The son of my stepfather was not such I imagined him and did not need my assistance. In fact, my stepfather sent me with his son in Brazil, considering I was a burden for him, his son made me understand he too was not responsible for me. So I had to find work as [i]« Commis de service »[/i] in a restaurant of twelve Boys. Six months later, in the streets of Copacabana I met the son of my stepfather. He asked me how I was. I replied that I was well, that I worked and lived in a small room in a family house and that I saved the money that was spent to pay my voyage. He told me I was a good man and he knew well that if I had any problem I should solve it myself. Not to make troubles, I packed my bags and moved to Sao Paulo, not speaking Portuguese and not knowing anybody there. There would be much. Anyway, that is the reason I come in Brazil...

Guy Sahri: In what year did you return in Italy?

Aldo Lubes:

In 1972, after 14 years, I returned in Italy... My stepfather died, my mother and my sister wrote me that my return might make he recovering from disappointment of the marriage and the loss of her husband. In his will, my stepfather left my mother usufruct of a small apartment they bought with legacy of my paternal Grandmother. He specified that after my mother's death this apartment would

be shared between his sons. My mother was shattered and disappointed. I remained three months in Italy with my mother and when I saw that she had recovered, I returned to Brazil.

In Italy, there was no place for me. I met some friends, but they had already made their lives and others had moved. The street of my childhood had changed. The pavement was not any more out of polished stone and new buildings had emerged. It was a great shock because I did not accompanied these changes, and all my memories were immutable. Disappointment was enormous! In Brazil, I had already built something, like Dojo which was not rented and which could open its doors in 1965 thanks to the children and many friends coming from Judo and Karate...

« A positive factor... »

Guy Sahri: Do these difficulties enable you to pass the door of Martial Arts?

Aldo Lubes:

Yes! Martial Arts enormously helped me, as I said you; the difficulties were never a problem for me, but only challenges I had to surmount. After all, I could depend only on me. When I returned to Brazil I devoted myself to the university and I finished my Ph.D. in physical education. My participation in the championships was a positive factor strengthened me, moreover I learned to know me better with better to have more serenity and patience in defeat and humility in victory. Relativity of victories and defeats made me completely lucid and coherent!

« My first Dan of black belt... »

Guy Sahri: In 1964 did the meeting with Mr. Minoru Kamada, 7th Dan Judo, 3th Dan Karate, Kendo e Aïkido be deciding in your practitioner's life?

Aldo Lubes:

When I was a little boy I had great aptitude for fight. My uncle « zio Michele », brother of my mother, was member of Italian Communist Party and had a sport's center. It took me to the boxing trainings and Japanese fights, thus named at the time. I then did not have more than 13 or 14 years.

When I arrived in Brazil, I did not find a public sporting center. Social clubs were private and you could be member only if you had a considerable income or were introduced by another member. At the time, I lived in Sao Paulo and worked in an Italian restaurant as « Boy ». A colleague took me in a Judo club; I was registered there and since did not cease practicing it.

In 1960 I arrived in Curitiba as a manager of an Italian restaurant. I continued to train myself in Judo. Then I met Mr. Minoru Kamada, 7th Dan of Tokyo Kodokan Judo Institute. Apart from the Judo, Sensei practiced several other Japanese Martial Arts. Mr. Minoru Kamada which came in Brazil, more or less at the same period, met many difficulties with Portuguese language. For my part a little less, because Portuguese is a Latin language, but I still could not speak perfectly... (Laughters).

Dojo of Mr. Minoru Kamada was attended by many students of Japanese origem. They all were level 2th or 3th Dan and it seems to me that they had a certain predisposition to fight with me, as if they wanted to see whether I was able to take the blows they gave me. When Mr. Minoru Kamada had been engaged to ensure lessons of Dojo they were already Instructors. Finally it was very good for me, because they were not a few falls that could stop me. On the contrary that strengthened me...

Mr. Minoru Kamada was conquered by my commitment. Maybe because we were in Brazil and we experienced the same problems of adaptation. As my schedules at the restaurant did not combine with schedules of Dojo, I took advantage of it to go in the afternoon and met Sensei often alone. It explained me the vision of Judo until « Atemi-Waza » because, thanks to these techniques, I had to learn a little more on Karate... If I remember well, it was one Saturday afternoon when I found the elders that my Judo functioned well. It was thanks to the hundreds of « Uchikomi » executed under the

direction of Sensei. Living together for 4 years, brought us to better knowing us and better understanding of Portuguese...

During the Second World War Mr. Minoru Kamada had as Officer in Manchuria. In a conversation Bar I told him that I had never know my father who is died during an air raid on the town of Turin, and that had he been still alive, I would have wished he knows him!!

Finally in 1964 Olympic Games were held in Tokyo and Judo became an Olympic discipline. Mr. Minoru Kamada determined to go back to Japan to see Judo at Olympic Games and also because the financial situation was difficult for him in Brazil and that he was missing his family. Last day of training, after traditional salutation, Mr. Minoru Kamada, required all pupils to remain in « Zarei » and to exchange kimonos. Later I saw him folding his Judogui while speaking Japanese with my training partners about who shake their head by affirming several « Hai... Hai... Hai... » what means « Yes » in Japanese. He called me and gave me he kimono. I was surprised and touched and at the same time very proud, much more than at the time of my 1st Dan!

After departure of Sensei Dojo closed and we remained without Club to train. Kimono I received was hanging in the wardrobe... When I looked at it, I thought perceiving Sensei asking me to use it. I decided to open Dojo and invited both « Sempai » to teach, since I was graduated 1st Dan. They were 3th Dan and were pupils of Mr. Minoru Kamada. In June 1965 we opened Dojo Kodokan in honor of Mr. Minoru Kamada. I used the kimono for many years and when I arrived at the 4th Dan I was not really able to wear it so much it had served in training and competitions.

Then decided to frame it and as you can see the frame is hanging in my Dojo, a living relic of presence of Mr. Minoru Kamada...

« An attitude of respect... »

Guy Sahri: Thereafter Mr. Juichi Sagara was your professor for nearly 20 years, did he profoundly your practice?

Aldo Lubes:

(Smiles)... A month after the opening of Dojo Kodokan I met a man who coming from Sao Paulo and studying medicine at the Federal University of Paraná. He was brown belt in Shotokan Karate and was pupil of a Japanese Master who lived in Brazil for a certain time. Then he went to England. He name was, Mitsusuke Harada, student of Mr. Hiroshi Noguchi. We thus opened a section of Karate in Dojo run by Mr. Celso Charuri; he was this famous brown belt. My main interest is to improve techniques « Atemi-Waza » Judo. Mr. Celso Charuri was good, but he remained brown belt and could not graduate anybody, which, for me, had little importance. Training Kihon was difficult and exhausting. For 4 years, I stayed with Mr. Celso Charuri, using the white belt, until the day when Mr. Charuri Celso finished his courses in medicine and returned to Sao Paulo.

In a Judo Championship, held in Curitiba in 1969, where I participated as « civilians against armed forces », I met Mr. Juichi Sagara. He was invited to present a demonstration of Karate with its team. Shortly after the competition he asked me to be his pupil. So I pass a test with his team. Mr. Juichi Sagara being satisfied, I was approved for the brown belt.

In 1970 I went in Sao Paulo to attend the 1st Championship Paulista Karate; category was « Ippon Shobu ». Although not knowing the rules, I had to participate. One of assistants of Mr. Juichi Sagara defyed me to participate, pretexting I was brown belt... Then thereafter, he gave me a kimono. Seeing the engagements, I understood that Referees, all Japanese, were very lenient with the faults made by athletes! We did not use any protection, the so-called touch of hand or foot was not really moderated, quite the contrary...

Today, with the rules of World Karate Federation – WKF, all athletes of this event including me, and other championships to which attended would be completely disqualified. This famous rules were

used by the old International Association Karate Federation – IAKF, which served only teachers of Shotokan style. I had fun like crazy... (Laughters).

That day, I was Vice-champion in Kumite and Kata. Mr. Juichi Sagara was satisfied because I had participated for his Dojo. So began my journey in Karate.

Every fortnight I went to Sao Paulo. Travelling by night, I arrived in the morning. Curitiba/São Paulo, more or less 400 km! I was training myself all day. I took with me two Kimonos because I sweat very much...

At night, exhausted and with sweat Kimonos, I was off to Curitiba again. My relation with Mr. Juichi Sagara was excellent. He was attentive and received me with open arms. Our relation lasted nearly 20 years. Then, my administrative activities obliged me to move away from him, because I had been invited by Confederação Brasileira de Karatê – CBK to be National Technical Director and there were no places for comments because of the rivalry existing between the styles of Karate. So I stopped training in his Dojo and our friendship took a blow, but we are always in contact, with an attitude of respect to one another...

« A school of Karate... »

Guy Sahri: For many years you were National Technical Director within Confederação Brasileira de Karatê – CBK. When you hold this position, what was its greatest concern in relation to Karate in Brazil?

Aldo Lubes:

Because of the great Japanese immigration in Brazil, cultural and technical exchange of Karate took place thanks to the intervention of Japanese coming from their native country with all the practiced styles. In the past we had a great back and forth of Japanese professors of different styles coming to run training courses. Myself assiduous practitioner of Shotokan style, I only took part in these training courses organized by professors as Sirs Masatoshi Nakayama, Hirokazu Kanazawa, Tetsuhiko Assai, Teruyuki Okazaki, Mikio Yahara, Yoshiharu Osaka, Masaaki Yokomichi and many others. They were very good training courses in of Traditional Karate perspective. But my vision of Karate developed when I had the returning to Italy to train in « Doju-kay » Dojo of Mr. Hiroshi Shirai in Milan and Turin where met athletes Karate of high level ...

When I had the opportunity of returning to Italy to see again my family, I never forget the kimono. That happened more or less every 4 years.

Particularity of « Doju-kay » Dojo was that there were always different teachers, all with an excellent technical knowledge. I remember the names of Instructors « Doju-kay » as Mr. Fassoni who, I learned died in a car accident Mr. Nieddu and Mr. Zava at that time belonging to the National Italian Team. The last training was with Mr. Napolitano and Mr. Rizzoli. These training courses were a good support for my experience in Karate. All we practiced Karate, but with different styles for each – which does not happen in Brazil where mainly personal talent – and a common school common prevail.

Arrival in Brazil of Mr. Antonio Oliva Ceba of Federación Española de Karate – FEK and Mr. Rafael Ortega of Fédération Française de Karaté et Disciplines Associées – FFKDA opened my eyes to International Karate. It was too little, not for the value of training courses in particular but for athletes who had already participated in international events and already knew the contents. Finally nobody heard what Mr. Antonio Oliva Ceba and Mr. Rafael Ortega indicated, namely that he only way of succeeding was to follow traced way...

In the beginning training courses were well assimilated, but then each of them went back set to his small local success, without even realizing that objective of values of Karate is common to all. That remains my opinion!

« We had to choose one or the other... »

In 1983 arrived in Brazil Mr. Masatomo Takagi, former Secretary General of World Union Karate Federation – WUKO. At the time Confederação Brasileira de Karatê – CBK did not exist. Karate was a department of Confederação Brasileira de Pugilismo – CBP under Chairman answer of Mr. Armando Vasconcelos. was the oldest Confederation of Brazil fights to answer all Arts so called opposition. We all had to be affiliated until Karate be emancipated in 1987. Mr. Masatomo Takagi was pupil of Master Gichin Funakoshi, founder of modern Karate. He was also professor of Sirs Hidetaka Nishiyama and Masatoshi Nakayama, personalities of World Karate.

Confederação Brasileira de Pugilismo – CBP organized a meeting in Sao Paulo with representatives of every styles of Karate practiced in Brazil and leaders of the affiliated Federations. I was present as a President of Federação Paranaense de Karatê – FPRK. Mr. Masatomo Takagi asked for Brazil be disaffiliated from International Association Karate Federation – IAKF. Its affiliation with World Union Karate Federation – WUKO aliasing greater union in a future organization which would be new for World Federation. Thus Brazil would take part in Championships organized by the later.

That would strengthen the request to International Olympic Committee – IOC for its recognition as Olympic Discipline. I remember that I asked whether we could be affiliated to the two organizations. He was categorical by stipulating that Sirs Hidetaka Nishiyama and Masatoshi Nakayama were against the administration of Karate as Olympic Disciplines and we had to choose one or the other. Majority chose former World Union Karate Federation – WUKO, lately named World Karate Federation – WKF. Thus occurred tumble of International Association Karate Federation – IAKF.

Thereafter Brazil began its participation in meetings and championships organized by World Union Karate Federation – WUKO.

« It was a good lesson... »

Then in 1982, I went back to Italy, knowing difficulties of Brazilian Karate. In 1986, I went in Rio de Janeiro where was the headquarters of Confederação Brasileira de Pugilismo – CBP. Using new regulation « Shobu-Sanbon », I asked that Brazilian Championship Karate and a National Tournament take place in honor of a great Master of State of Bahia, prematurely died in a accident car Mr. Denilson Caraïbes de Castro.

Tournament was opened to a very large number of athletes from all regions of Brazil. Athletes were divided into three categories and it was also selective for Athletes participating in the World Championship in Australia. That day, August 15, 1986, by using new rules of arbitration, Curitiba was National Capital of Karate...

At that time I had only one objective, sport and Karate. I remember well that day when Wado-Ryu style representatives wanted that son of founder, Master Hinori Otsuka, be present at several Training courses of Karate. Mr. Edgar Ferraz de Oliveira then President of Confederação Brasileira de Karatê – CBK, considering that we are working for Union of Karate and not for proof of a unique style in a National Championship, did not let pass this event. The completion of National Championship and its immediate success were the first foundations of future Confederação Brasileira de Karatê – CBK...

« I was a member Management Committee... »

On September 11, 1987 was temporarily formed the first Management Committee which created Confederação Brasileira de Karatê – CBK. I was part of the Management Committee as temporary Treasurer, and Mr. Fauzi Abdala João, as President. Of the last election, Mr. Fauzi Abdala João and Mr. Marcelo Guimarães Arantes – a doctor of the state of Minas Gerais, practicing Goju-Ryu style –

opened the vote. Mr. Marcelo Guimarães Arantes gained with a difference of one vote. I was the last to vote.

Four years later, mandate of Mr. Marcelo Guimarães Arantes, first President of Confederação Brasileira de Karatê – CBK expired. There was a new election. Mr. Edgar Ferraz de Oliveira of state of Bahia and Mr. Fauzi Abdala João, were both candidates. At insistence of a former leader of Federação Paulista de Karatê – FPK, I finally agreed to make opposition as National Technical Director.

Later on Federação Bahiana de Karatê – FBK paid homage to Mr. Fauzi Abdala João, its founder, by naming 8th Dan Karate. I agreed to work with both at my friend's pressing request who estimated that my presence would be the balance of relations. Duo Edgar Ferraz de Oliveira and Fauzi Abdala João was finally elected and I followed as National Technical Director...

To be continued...