

## ***Faithfulness in the Heart***

*from Guy Sahri ©*

Most people spend their lives always trying something else. They cross the existence convinced that their goal is very distant when around them is all they need to achieve their goal. It is not the case for Daniel Lautier. For a long time he explores the world for passion of his art, karate. His career is exemplary, rich in subtlety. In 1969 he took his 1<sup>th</sup> Dan, he was 19 years old. We are then in a political and geographical exceptional context:

July 20, 1969, first step on the moon with Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin, beginning of SALT negotiations between USA and Soviet Union, military coup d'état in Brazil, War of the « Six Days », Election of Richard Nixon who succeeded Lyndon Johnson as President of the USA until 1974, arrival of a deadline Thirty Glorious that period of strong economic growth a large majority of developed countries, mainly members of Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development – OECD knew between 1945 and 1973 a large majority of developed countries.

Daniel Lautier was born on March 23, 1950 in Tanger in Morocco. His father working for an airline, he has travelled a great deal. Teenager, he started karate in France with Mr. De Peretti, on March 21, 1965. In 1968, he lived in Japan and went to the Japan Karate Association - JKA. There he met many instructors, particularly Mr. Taiji Kase with the assistance of Mr. Hiroshi Shirai founder of World Shotokan School of Tokyo -WKSA, his aim being to continue the teachings of Master Funakoshi Yoshitaka, Son of the founder of modern karate, Gichin Funakoshi. Very quickly, he devoted himself fully to his passion and becomes a teacher. From the moment when Taiji Kase joined Karate within the French Federation of Karate and Associated disciplines - FFKDA, Daniel Lautier try to develop and promote Japan Karate Association - JKA in France. In 1978, he becomes closer to Mr. Satoshi Miyazaki, Chief instructor JKA for Belgium. Every week, he leaves Paris for Brussels to train himself which Satoshi Miyazaki. He will be faithful for him until May 1993, when Satoshi Miyazaki dies. In April 2007 he is « *Sitchi Dan* » 7<sup>th</sup> Dan JKA in Japan.

Since 1974 he opens Dojos everywhere in France and Europe. He becomes Chief Instructor JKA for Cameroon and Madagascar. In France he is the founder and Chief instructor of the JKA and member of France JKA Europe. Technical adviser of Djibouti Federation of Karate - DFK and Technical Advisor of Royal Moroccan Federation of Karate and Associated Disciplines - FRMKDA. For many years he supports association « *Jolie Julie* » for Handicapped Children.

Exceptional man of value recognized in the World Martial Arts, he friendly consents to this interview in Parisian pub...

**Guy Sahri:** You are return from Japan where you part in the annual seminar of Japan Karate Association - JKA. Could you describe the ambiance of this seminar and summarize us the broad outline of topics discussed topics at this juncture?

**Daniel Lautier:**

*This Seminar names « Shihan Kai », which means teacher's meeting. As usual, work high grade, convivial and original. It is always a great time teaching with all members worldwide. Passages of examinations (International Referees and Instructors) for the various committees are successful. We delegate to each country's his Chef-Instructor with Instructors Members and we run several business meetings. These business meetings are based on Kihon, Kata, Kumite and various research conferences. It is an exchange on respect, friendliness, discipline and a harmonization of*

*Specifications. I say that because it is a very important point during the annual meetings of the Japan Karate Association – JKA in Japan.*

**« There are pending proceedings... »**

**Guy Sahri:** On 11 April 2007, Mr. George Yerolimpos, General Secretary of World Karate Federation – WKF, informs Mr. Keïchi Hasumi, Vice-Chairman of Japan Karate Association – JKA, that: **« JKA may integrate into the family WKF provided comply with the proviso of conforming to WKF statutes and having no sporting bond with dissident groups »**. The World Championships 2008 taking place in Japan, has this topic has been discussed. On this point precisely could you give us more details?

**Daniel Lautier:**

*(Laughter) In fact last year we received, beginning in April 2007, the correspondence between World Karate Federation – WKF and Japan Karate Association – JKA which makes us realize that JKA is not dissenting. Moreover, we knew it for a long time since Japan Karate Association – JKA was member of Japan Karate Federation – JKF. They work in close collaboration. The JKF obviously being attached to World Karate Federation – WKF. For the moment we do not know more about the basis of agreements which on the agenda. The chairman of JKA, Mr. Nobuyuki Nakahara tells us there are pending proceedings and they will take time. It must also be know inside the Japan Karate Federation – JKF they have excellent national coaches, as Mr. Hideo Yamamoto and Mr. Masao Kagawa. One continues within the JKA whereas the other left. By this time we can say there are many changes, negotiations and I think that it is in planned for Olympic Karate.*

**« World Karate suffered much... »**

**Guy Sahri:** Why these two Federations, JKA and WKF did not both agree before? Do you think this delay was harmful or on the contrary advantageous to development of Martial Arts in the World?

**Daniel Lautier:**

*I think it was harmful. It is very important to specify that Japan Karate Association – JKA is not a federation but a school of style. How I said you previously, JKA integrates Japan Karate Federation – JKF and vice versa! What is remarkable is that within JKF, there are members of Japanese team who are members of Japan Karate Association – JKA, of Japan Karate Federation Gojukai – JKFG, of Japan Karate Federation Shito-Kai – JKFS, of Nippon Karatedo Rengoukai – NKR, of Renbukai, of Japan Karate Federation Wado-Kai and it poses no worries for choice. In anticipation International meetings and World Championships, they are making very early detections – and not Selectives at national championships level – in order to be able to train top athletes to represent Japan, as we have within French Karate Federation and Associated Disciplines – FFKDA. The saddest in this case was a pressure for power brought by one and the other. Finally World Karate suffered much trouble with this discordance and unfortunately we still can it see in some developing countries...*

**« An important work of understanding... »**

**Guy Sahri:** What has modified this consolidation to the former Organization of Martial Arts in the World? What about the delicate issue of Shotokan Karate?

**Daniel Lautier:**

*The delicate issue will be guarantee important work of understanding on both sides, not only political. For example, the system on the World Karate Federation side, the system of a Competition Ippon Shobu of World Karate Federation – WKF which is not necessarily a novelty and on the Japan Karate*

*Association - JKA side which must accept the rules of World Karate Federation – WKF. That will take time because we do not speak the same language. I am sure we will succeed; it is a matter of months! Can we imagine there are many uncomfortable people with a view to their Olympic date, but if we want that Karate continues to exist, and concessions should be made on both sides!*

**Guy Sahri : Concessions...?**

**Daniel Lautier:**

*On both sides... Yes! But will they be able to make « concessions », to adapt, to really want it? Will there be within World Karate Federation – WKF, Traditional plan with Japan Karate Association – JKA like as representative, on the one hand and other a finality of common approach to all practitioners, on level of the competition, training, martial education, graduations etc... We have example with Japanese Olympic Committee – JOC which fully supports Japan Karate Association – JKA. Why? Simply because it is recognized by Ministry for Education, Culture, Sport Science and Technology of Japan. All Universities are with JKA and there is not specific Dojo belonging to it. As we have it in France by Ministry for National Education and Ministry of Health, Youth and Sports everything placed at the disposal. So, in my opinion on this point Japan Karate Association – JKA might assert its claims to the World Karate Federation – WKF in the coming months...*

**« The promotion of art... »**

**Guy Sahri: In 1954 Masatoshi Nakayama A creates the JKA. He did everything to give Instructors an adequate training in order to valorize Karate in the world, more particularly Shotokan. Do you think this work, in depth, made by Nakayama he in a some way, the first stone brought to the building of a Karate which finally could become Olympic?**

**Daniel Lautier:**

*I do not think that idea and purpose of Masatoshi Nakayama at the time to develop Karate of Japan Karate Association – JKA so that it becomes Olympic. That is certain! It was initially the promotion of art, Karate and school JKA. But he had no specific objective for Olympic Karate. At that time the context did not make things easy. To train Instructors and to make Karate were its principal concerns...*

**« That opened meetings... »**

**Guy Sahri: In your opinion, why Karate is not yet present in the Olympic Games while Judo and Taekwondo are, for the first 1964 and the second since 1988?**

**Daniel Lautier:**

*The origin of problem stems from former World Union Karate Federation – WUKO, of International Traditional Karate Federation – ITKF and Olympic International Committee – IOC. IOC did not want to decide either for one or the other. The split with the Federation was consumed. Finally each on set off again on its way with agreements that evolve. That opened meetings, debates but no concrete decision in its general appearance. It's true we saw coming Karate in a new light. But as we know this disagreement came from Mr. Hidetaka Nishiyama, President of International Traditional Karate Federation – ITKF and Mr. Jacques Delcourt, President of World Union Karate Federation – WUKO, unfortunately to the detriment of worldwide practitioners...*

### « This extraordinary subject... »

**Guy Sahri:** In France, for 4 years Karate officially opened up for Handicapped Disabled, could you tell us whether JKA followed us on way?

**Daniel Lautier:**

*Japan Karate Association – JKA has been working with disabled practitioners since 10 years. It adapted organizes competition and training courses. It is true that it did not develop as we hoped with example of the French Federation Karate and Associated Disciplines – FFKDA. The way is long and perilous and it remains still much work to do with arbitration rules, passage of graduation, evolution of each one and relating to this extraordinary subject, a more and more important demand.*

### « I try to develop Handisport Karate... »

**Guy Sahri:** You have just published an autobiographical work in aid of an Association, which and this Association precisely?

**Daniel Lautier:**

*This Association is named « Jolie Julie ». It is dedicated to the one of my pupils who lives in Senlis a city in the Paris area. The story takes places like that. One day her mother came to see me with publicity posters and asked me whether it was possible to distribute them. Of course I asked her what it was. It was simply for Disabled Childhood! From there I succumbed to this child. At the time, I was writing my autobiographical book « Sur les pas de mon Sensei », published in November 2007, so I decided to transfer the safe's benefit of this book to the Handicapped Children Association, attached to the French Federation Handisport – FFH. I wrote this work to detail my course in the world of Karate but also to reveal the man I am in the everyday world: a companion, a father, a friend, like many others... (Laughter).*

*These days I am trying to develop Handisport Karate within JKA France. It is not easy. I have contacts with other clubs and groups of the French Federation Handisport. That advances with difficulty but I particularly want...*

### « Under the same roof... »

**Guy Sahri:** Karate still has many steps, which seems the most important?

**Daniel Lautier:**

*In my opinion the most important step would be that French Federation Karate and Disciplines Associated – FFKDA regroup the various Karate associative under the same roof as in Japan. I think it would give a full opening to many people and a significant expansion in the policy World Karate. We need it is going well...*

### « Our lives are traced... »

**Guy Sahri:** Recently you have just organized Seminar International JKA in Paris with Sirs Masaaki Ueki 8<sup>th</sup> Dan, Hideo Ochi 8<sup>th</sup> Dan, Masahiko Tanaka 8<sup>th</sup> Dan, Jörgen Bura 7<sup>th</sup> Dan, Koichiro Okuma 4<sup>th</sup> Dan and Keisuke Nemoto 8<sup>th</sup> Dan. Why such an initiative from you?

**Daniel Lautier:**

*(Laughter)... Because we are in 2008 and number 8 left its mark on my life. In 1968 at the time of my first trip in Japan in Hombu Dojo of Japan Karate Association – JKA, I remember that Mr. Masaaki Ueki was in « Kenshusei » training with Sirs Satoshi Miyazaki, Hideo Ochi, Hideki Okamoto, Masahiko Tanaka, Tetsuhiko Asai, Takeshi Oishi, and many others... 10 years later, in 1978, I decided to train in*

*Brussels with Mr. Masaaki Ueki. In 1988, at the time of the Europe Championships ESKA in Paris, I invited Mr. Masaaki Ueki. In 1998, for 7<sup>th</sup> Shoto World Cup JKA in Goussainville, France, Mr. Masaaki Ueki was of the Team of the JKA Headquarters.*

*Now I believe that there is no chance, but that our lives are traced. Once more Mr. Masaaki Ueki was present as Instructor for this International meeting in Paris...*

**Guy Sahri: Did you achieved the goals you set yourselves?**

**Daniel Lautier:**

*I wanted each Instructor of JKA France and Europe, and other countries could take part in this Seminar, held for the first time in France. The aim was partly to promote JKA France and Europe. For this first meeting, we had a good participation with 185 Instructors of 25 countries from all over the world. Maybe our Association not have the great structures of JKA Headquarters (according some members) but it will create a big family, promote and develop our school throughout France and Europe. As long as I would be there, I will make do everything perpetuate tradition of JKA and Karate...*

**« Nothing is acquired definitively... »**

**Guy Sahri: In your opinion, which qualifications are necessary to be a good practising?**

**Daniel Lautier:**

*Taiji Kase had a saying: « the important is to progress, each one at its rhythm, compared to oneself not to the others. We know that nothing is definitively acquired and should never lose patience or humility ». In a word: perseverance, taste for effort and respect... (Laughter).*