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**The contents of this time are as follows.**

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**<1> New Year's message from Somucho Sensei and Hombucho Sensei**

**(Kondo Katsuyuki Somucho Sensei)**

Happy New Year.

Last year was a very difficult year due to the unimaginable Covid-19 disaster. I think everyone had a lot of trouble.

It seems that light will be seen toward normalization this year, including the spread of vaccines, but it will take more time to regain the previous daily life.

I always think that the dojo is behind the scenes of life. Practice at the dojo is meaningless unless it can be used on the front stage of life and the real world.

It doesn't mean street fighting. Overcoming the various difficulties and problems we face in life and in the real world is the purpose of our practice in Budo.

There is the idea of a substitution method. Think of the difficulties and problems you face by replacing them with techniques that you practice in the dojo. Now, what kind of attack is Covid-19? What kind of technique do you use to deal with it? How about your mind at that time, breathing, and distance (ma-ai)?

And never forget that your biggest enemy is yourself. That biggest enemy is behind the difficulties and problems. It is no exaggeration to say that the ultimate goal of our practice is to beat ourselves. That is "A-gatsu".

With that in mind, Covid-19 disaster that we are facing now should be (although it may sound a bit unscrupulous) a great practice opportunity. In other words, what is the Budo for if you can't deal with this difficulty or problem now?

I am really looking forward to seeing you all who have grown up after overcoming the Covid-19. Your understanding and cooperation would be appreciated.

Katsuyuki Kondo  
Somucho (General Affairs Director)  
Daito-ryu Aikijujutsu

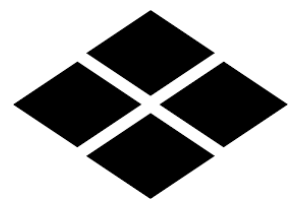
**(Kondo Masayuki Hombucho Sensei)**

Happy new year 2021.

I sincerely hope that you and your family will be healthy and have a good year.

It is also the New Year with the Covid-19 disaster that involves the world. We pray that your dojo will be open as usual and that you can practice as usual. Think of being healthy as your greatest goal of practice.

This year, in the oriental zodiac, "Yin Metal Ox". In the case of plants, " Yin Metal " means that plants have died and are about to reborn. "Ox" represents the status in which the seeds are about to sprout. Covid-19 has begun to significantly change the values and lifestyles of people in Japan and around



the world. This year will be a year of new buds from the old ones.

We will give you guidance at online seminars this year as well. (Starts from 21:00 Japan time on the second Sunday of every month. Please apply from the headquarters website.)

"Do not be infected / do not infect" is the biggest learning item this year.

I strongly hope that you are in good health and that your plan will be carried out without any problems.

**Schedule for 2021** (may be canceled or postponed depending on the situation of COVID-19)

January	Beginning of practice Regularly online seminar held on every second Sunday
February	(Canceled) The 44th Demonstration of Japan Traditional Martial Arts Association Online meeting of branch/study group chiefs
April	Asakusa demonstration of Japanese Traditional Martial Arts
April-May	Slovakia seminar
June	Online meeting of branch/study group chiefs
August	Katsuura Camp and the 65th Demonstration of Headquarters
October	Kashima Jingu Demonstration of Japan Traditional Martial Arts Association
November	Meiji Jingu Demonstration of Japan Traditional Martial Arts Promotion Society
December	Ending of practice

Your understanding and cooperation would be appreciated.

Masayuki Kondo  
Hombucho (Headquarters Director)  
Daito-ryu Aikijujutsu

## <2> Report from overseas branch (New Year's message)

### (Italy)

Happy New Year.

We look forward to working with you this year as well.

Unfortunately, the dojo has been officially closed since February last year due to the coronavirus.

However, I sometimes secretly practice and shoot videos of them. I think that it will be possible to solve it if vaccination becomes possible to the general public, but it seems that it will take time.

If the coronavirus disappears, I think the Daito-ryu will be in the spotlight again, so I will do my best not only for Alex and Luka but also for new disciples.

By the way, I will attend the Slovakia seminar, but I'm still not sure if I can go to Katsuura.

Please take care and see you soon.

With gratitude from the whole Italian group

Lisco ITALIA

### (Russia)

Message from Russian branch:

Daito-ryu Aikijujutsu, it is not only martial art, it is a big community all over the world. Despite restrictions in our countries we all continue practice and meeting together. And it is wonderful and amazing!

The new year has come. This is a good occasion to look back and to define the new aims for the new year. We wish you the best of holidays and a Happy New Year!

### (Netherlands)

Dear Daito-Ryu friends,

Looking back at 2020, the global crisis caused our seminars and regular training courses to be completely shaken up. It was a year in which it became clearer than ever what the Daito-ryu Aikijujutsu



community, the international contacts, seminars and training sessions mean for But let's look forward with renewed energy and optimism to a year in which we hopefully can all train together again. The Dutch branches and study groups wish all of you a healthy, happy and prosperous 2021 with a lot of training and friendship. Or , as we say in The Netherlands: gelukkig nieuwjaar!

**(Slovakia)**

Dear friends,  
Our Kurilla Budokan team wishes you a lot of joy and happiness during this holiday season. May the upcoming year will be full of new achievements that will bring you a huge success. We wish You a lot of health and hope that will be back in our dojos soon.  
Happy New Year.

**<3> Information from Headquarters**

In October 2020, Drechtsteden Daito-ryu Aikijujutsu Study Group, Holland (Study Group Chief: Ilse van der Hoeven) was certificated by the Headquarters.

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