



BONUS

SHURIKEN JUSTU (SENBAN SHURIKEN) AND METSUBUSHI

We are going to present here the best-known weapons of the Ninja folklore, the Shuriken and the Metsubushi.





In the degree exam for the 1st Kyû from the “Memento du pratiquant” one must know the Tonso no Gata of Togakure Ryû, escaping techniques where one uses the Senban Shuriken and the Metsubushi.

For the training, one must use cardboard or plastic replicas for obvious reasons of security, but necessary to remind of here nevertheless.

As far as the Shuriken are concerned, we will speak here specifically of the Senban Shuriken of Togakure Ryû.

Shuriken means: weapons thrown with the hands. Moreover, the Shuriken are divided into two groups: the Boshuriken and the Shaken.



Speaking of Senban Shuriken :

The Senban has a specific form, a square with a square hole in the middle, often transported in packs of nine. It is used to create an element of surprise. To increase the efficiency of these weapons, especially in order to really hurt the opponent, the Ninja of those times prepared them in advance by putting poison on the points.

This is why it is very important to present the context to you. In the Feudal Japan, if one used this weapon at a distance of ten meters or more, it was very difficult to hit the opponent and this opponent knew that. It is a weapon for close combat, a weapon that is stealthy, because in the case of the Senban, as soon as they reach their targets, they will bounce back, which will baffle the opponent, for he will be hit but he won't see and won't find the object that hit him.

Furthermore, this type of combat took place mostly at sunset and the opponent couldn't see the exact number of projectiles flying towards him. Otherwise,



the adversaries could end up in hand-to-hand combat, because the Ninja kept the ninth Senban and used it with the Taijutsu techniques to hurt or kill his opponent.

Speaking of Metsubushi :

The Metsubushi is used to blind the opponent. There are several ways to do that:

The Ninja can throw the Metsubushi in the opponent's face; he uses then what we call blinding powder. The Metsubushi used for this is an egg emptied of its contents and filled with powder. And during the fight, when the opponent is close enough, the Ninja will break it before throwing it in his face.

You can find this type of technique described in the Togakure Ryû.

Later on in history appears what we call a Sokutoki. This object resembles a flute. Here too the Ninja prepares powder and stocks it inside to blow it in the opponent's face.



And we have of course the natural Metsubushi that the Ninja, depending on the terrain, can use to blind his opponent, like taking a handful of dirt, sand or whatever he can find next to him. Even the fact of simply covering the eyes with the hands is part of the Metsubushi, too.



