

## The Meaning Of Bushido



**Bu** The element on top of the Kanji is a Halberd.  
The element below is a foot meaning to advance.

Even in the earliest records of the Japanese nation Bu was employed to denote the military dimension of its national culture (as opposed to the public or civil). A different Kanji character, but with the phonetic sound is the Bu of Buddha., meaning enlightened or awakened.

*Shi means man (of the earth).*

*Bushi means military nobles.*

*Do, (Chinese Toq) shows a foot walking down a road, means path or way towards a spiritual rather than purely practical achievement. Here the interest is to discipline, and educate, mentally and ethically. Therefore, Bushido is the way of the military nobles.*

*The way of the military noble man is that he is to remember at all times that he exists solely to die (for his Lord).*

*These simple ideas of excellence and personal loyalty to one's immediate superior were not always a large part of the Japanese culture. In fact, it directly clashed with the prevalent attitude of most of the upper classes especially those in the powerful Nara region.*



## *The Meaning Of Bushido (continued)*

*It took several centuries and almost the complete annihilation of the aristocratic class. The few remaining nobles were deprived of any influence and the libraries and monasteries were also purged of any and all evidence of the old aristocratic ideology.*

*From 1600 the way was prepared and henceforth Bushido permeated the Japanese culture so completely that one Western observer during the Tokugawa period noted that the Japanese people were "naturally addicted to wars".*

*The quintessence of Bushido are the Samurai's three possessions:*

*Time, Honour and Integrity*

*He guarded these three above all else.*

*Time because he could be called upon to give up his life at any moment so that he had to ensure that each moment was lived to its fullest.*

*Honour because much as Achilles in the Saga of Troy, if one knows that he is to die only the thing that survives is the Tales of his honour that is left behind.*

*Integrity because without integrity what are we worth. The ability to look ourselves in the mirror is second to none. Our integrity is who and what we are.*



## *What Is The Silence Behind The Thought*

*The silence behind the thought is that which is the ultimate cause behind every thought.*

*An old Latin Dictum is Nihil Nihil Fit from nothing nothing comes. It was this type of thinking that led such philosophers as Descart to search for the prime move or to seek the ultimate cause.*

*Much like the waves of the ocean, each one has a certain amplitude and intensity and each wave has distinct properties, however, at the same time, all waves are clearly and essentially part of the same ocean. The macrocosmic viewpoint is to see the "oceanness" of the wave.*

*Another aspect, however, can better be demonstrated with the analogy of the ripples created by tossing a stone into a calm pond. The repercussions from each and every ripple can be felt throughout the pond to some extent or another. The underlying interconnectedness of the pond can seem to extenuate the individuality of each ripple.*

