

GOD'S HEART, GOD'S EYES (“Shinshin Shingan”)

By Grandmaster Shoto Tanemura

Shinobi no Mono (Ninja) must have the ability to keep pace with the change in the seasons and the world around us. Traditional ideas always exist, but they are transformed by new inspirations. In this world, change is an inevitable force, and everything is affected. All things are born, raised, developed and passed on. This is how it should be in the proper scheme of things. There is the power of nature, in its ability to flexibly adapt. We must have and experience such power in the course of our everyday lives and practices. But however much we adapt and change with the circumstances, the deep heart must remain unmoved.

The heart that follows Shinshin Shingan (god’s heart, god’s eyes) keeps going with an indomitable spirit (*fudoshin*). So it is that whatever happens in life is in keeping with the decision of Heaven. The judgment of god governing all events frees us from reacting to outside provocation with anger, frustration, betrayal, or sadness. We can relax and continue on our way knowing all to be in the hands of the cosmic power. This is the truth of Shinshin Shingan. So then, following the way of Nature, all is brightened and we become enchanted with the light. Having *fudoshin*, one attains a powerful mind. Without effort or friction one attains a natural happiness. In order to create *fudoshin* in the heart, don't let yourselves be caught by any negative emotions. Strive to reach for and believe in the natural way. In as much as you are able, do your best in all actions and situations. The gods in Heaven will take care of you. Be grateful to them. As completely as you are able, accomplish your life's work and mission.

I always say these things to my students. This is the purpose of our being in this world. It is for us to upgrade our soul and to fulfill our mission. We are not here to play. The severity and hardship of life is a normal and expected thing. There are six causes of suffering: eyes, ears, mouth, nose, skin, and the mind. These lead to our downfall, but if controlled by the brakes and the steering wheel of a proper heart, their effects can be reversed to give us a life of paradise. Keep a humble and grateful heart for the universe and the Gods. Realize the kindness given you in just being given life, living, eating, having clothes and shelter. Do well by all your actions, and it will be returned to you. I am always amazed at the result of using this theory, which is so simple in its beauty. Some think it hard, but it is not. It is the key to happiness.