

Tsukahara Bokuden

The lone ronin (masterless samurai) strode along the deck of the ferry, shoving farmers and merchants aside. The passengers and crew all cringed in fear as the ronin came near them.

There was one older samurai who napped in one corner. He seemed unmoved by the commotion around him. Even more annoying to the ronin, this fellow did not seem to fear him. "Time to teach this old samurai a lesson," he thought.

The ronin kicked the old samurai and questioned his skill, for how could he nap when there was such a dangerous man as he around. The samurai said that he was too old to fight and that surely no one would be bothered by an old geezer like himself.

"Slacker, the ronin said, as he kicked the samurai again. "Not much in this old bag of bones," said the ronin and strode off. In doing so he tripped over a young couple and he cursed them and drew his sword to cut them down for their impertinence.

"Oh ronin of little worth, what school did you say you studied?" the ronin heard the old man say. The ronin, sword still out, told of his school and its lineage with great pride and gusto. What kata do you have for cutting down the helpless?" the samurai said with a laugh in his voice.

*"Do you wish to taste my fine sword?" the ronin said angrily.
"I think that my Muto Ryu would not approve of that happening to me". "Muto Ryu; never heard of it" said the ronin now sensing a chance to cross swords even if the samurai was old. "Yes, my No Sword School is a very nice one".*

*"Nice? What kind of martial art is nice? My school is dangerous and deadly." the ronin spat. "Now get up and fight you old geezer.
"It's your funeral" said the old samurai. "But it would be dangerous to the passengers to fight here, so why don't we take the small boat to that sandbar over there. This way we can fight and everyone can safely see."*

"Now, you are going to see a real warrior at work" said the ronin to the passengers, who all smiled with some fear and much relief. The two boarded the boat and on the short ride over to the sandbar the old samurai said, "When we arrive you jump out first and move to the center of the island. I don't want to be cut down while I'm in the surf getting out."

"Fear not old man I need no tricks to cut the likes of you down." said the ronin.

The boat hit the shore and the ronin jumped out and moved away from the water's edge. When he looked back he saw the boat moving away. "Hey come back you coward! What are you doing?" screamed the ronin.

"Ah, now you have seen Muto Ryu in action." said the old man. "Learn something from our encounter.



Muto Ryu

No Sword School

- How can you put this strategy of Muto Ryu to work for you?
- Have you seen it in the movie 'Enter the Dragon'?
- To what other situations can you apply the lesson of fight, without fighting?
- Can you apply this to other aspects of your life?
- Take 'Good Stories' and allow them to help change you.