

4. 久琢磨先生が大東流と出会った時代(1)

4. The era when Hisa Takuma encountered Daitoryu.#1



埼玉銀行ビル 関西合気道倶楽部道場
Kansai Aikido Club Dojo, in Saitama Bank Building.

歴史についていろいろと書いてみると、見過ごしていた疑問が目についたので、分かる範囲で調べてみました。
While writing about various aspects of Takumakai history, I noticed some overlooked questions, so I researched them to the best of my knowledge.

- ◆大阪朝日新聞
The Osaka Asahi Shimbun Company



朝日新聞社 大阪本社屋上 中央は植芝盛平先生御夫妻
The Asahi Shimbun Company, Osaka Headquarters rooftop, in the center are
Master Ueshiba Morihei and his wife.

朝日新聞大阪本社ではなく、先頭に大阪と表記されています。なぜ“大阪朝日”と表すのか疑問でした。

久先生が在籍していたのは、当初は石井光次郎に紹介された東京朝日新聞でした。その後、大阪朝日新聞に移った、と過去の琢磨会の会報等で紹介されています。なお、新聞社の前に勤めておられたのは鈴木商店です。鈴木商店は戦前に急成長を遂げた国際貿易商社で、一時は国家予算に匹敵する売上を誇ったとも言われています。

In the newsletters of Takumakai, it was often written as "The Osaka Asahi Shimbun Company" instead of "The Asahi Shimbun Company Osaka Headquarters." My curiosity about why it's referred to as "Osaka Asahi" led to this explanation.

Master Hisa initially worked at The Tokyo Asahi Shimbun Company, facilitated by Ishii Mitsujiro. Later, as introduced in past newsletters of Takumakai, he moved to The Osaka Asahi

Shimbun Company. Prior to his newspaper career, he was employed at Suzuki Corporation. Suzuki Corporation was a pre-war international trading company of Japan that experienced rapid growth, with revenues at one point said to rival the national budget of Japan at the time. Unfortunately, unable to cope with the excessively rapid expansion, the company went bankrupt in 1927, just before the onset of the Great Depression.

以下は、ウィキペディアや朝日新聞社のホームページ、その他にも往時の新聞事情を解説した記事などを参考にまとめました。

朝日新聞は、明治12(1879)年に大阪で創刊されました。当初は大衆向けのいわゆる通俗紙だったようです。明治21(1888)年に東京に進出し、東京朝日新聞と改題して発行します。同時に元の大阪の朝日新聞は大阪朝日新聞へと改称しました。合わせて社名も変更して、それぞれを東京朝日新聞社、大阪朝日新聞社が担いました。この頃には報道新聞へと方向転換を図り発行部数を伸ばしていったそうです。東京、大阪の他にも中部、西部などの各地区をそれぞれの朝日新聞社が担っていましたが、明治41(1908)年に各社を合併、再び社名は朝日新聞社となります。しかし紙名はそのままで大阪、東京などを冠した名称で発行し続けました。紙名を冠なしの朝日新聞に統一するのは、昭和15(1940)年になってからです。

I compiled the following based on references such as Asahi Newspaper Company's website, other articles explaining newspapers from those times, and Wikipedia.

The Asahi Shimbun Company was established in Osaka in 1879. It seems, initially, to have been more of a tabloid publication targeted at the general public. In 1888, it expanded to Tokyo and

started publishing under the name The Tokyo Asahi Shimbun. At the same time, the original The Asahi Shimbun in Osaka changed its name to The Osaka Asahi Shimbun. Furthermore, at the same time, they also changed their company names. Each changed their names to The Tokyo Asahi Shimbun Company and The Osaka Asahi Shimbun Company, publishing newspapers in their respective regions. During this period, they reevaluated their management strategy, shifting from tabloids to serious reporting, successfully expanding their circulation. In addition to Tokyo and Osaka, various regions like The Central Japan Asahi and The Western Japan Asahi were covered by their respective The Asahi Shimbun Company. In 1908, all these companies merged, and once again the name became The Asahi Shimbun Company. However, the newspapers retained their names as they were and continued to be published with names that included prefixes like Osaka and Tokyo in the company names. The decision to unify the newspapers under the name "The Asahi Shimbun" without any such prefixes was made in 1940.

そういった次第で、久先生が朝日新聞に入社する昭和2(1927)年から、退社する昭和18(1943)年までに紙名の変遷がありました。しかし会社としては、この頃には既に朝日新聞社に統合されています。この辺りの表記が社名でなく紙名で語られるのは、もしかすると当時の通称がそうになっていたのかもしれない。

久先生は、約16年を朝日で過ごされましたが、その中の5年のうちに植芝先生と出会い(昭和9(1934)年)、武田惣角先生が来訪され(昭和11(1936)年)、大東流の免許皆伝(昭和14(1939)年)がありました。今のわたしたちからすれば、これらの出会いと出来事がほんの5年の間に起こったとは驚くばかりです。

Due to such circumstances, from the year Hisa entered employment at The Asahi Shimbun Company in 1927 until he resigned from the company in 1943, there were changes in the newspaper's name. However, on the other hand, the company's name had already been unified under The Asahi Shimbun Company by this time. The use of the term "Newspaper's name" instead of "Company's name" in describing old articles might be because, at that time, it was customary to refer to the newspaper's name rather than the company's name for people in those days. Master Hisa spent approximately 16 years at The Asahi Shimbun Company, during which, in the span of just 5 years, he encountered Master Ueshiba in 1934, received a visit from Master Takeda Sokaku in 1936, and obtained the Menkyo Kaiden in Daitoryu in 1939. From our perspective today, it's truly remarkable how these encounters and events unfolded in such a short span of 5 years.

新聞に関して余談ですが、惣角は子供の頃に父親に反発して、読み書きは勉強しない、必要なときは人に書かせるのだと宣言し、それ以後は専ら武術稽古に精励したという逸話が伝わっています。しかし森前総務長によると、久先生は惣角先生が新聞を読んでおられる姿をよく見たと言われていたそうです。実は昔の新聞はルビ付きでした。総ルビといい、当時は仮名文字さえ読めれば新聞が読めたので、意外と多くの人々が新聞を読んでいたようです。一方で惣角先生は、ルビのない手紙などの私信は、時どき人を頼むこともあったようです。もともと当時の手書き文は変体仮名だったので、現代の仮名遣いより読むのは難しかったと思います。

Interestingly, there's a well known anecdote about Sokaku's rebelling against his father in childhood, declaring that he would

never study reading and writing, and would have others write for him when necessary. From then on, he devoted himself exclusively to martial arts training.

According to former Somucho Mori Hakaru, Master Hisa often witnessed Master Sokaku reading newspapers. In fact, newspapers in the past were printed with Furigana(*) attached above or beside Kanji characters in Japanese writing. Known as "fully Furigana attached", so if one could read Hiragana or Katakana characters, they could read a newspaper. Surprisingly, because of this convenient system, many people seemed to have read newspapers during that time. On the other hand, Master Sokaku occasionally relied on others to read personal letters without Furigana, as handwritten documents back then were often written in old style cursive letters, making them more challenging to read compared to contemporary letter usage.

(* "Furigana" in Japanese writing is small kana characters of Hiragana or Katakana accompanying Kanji(Chinese characters) to assist readers, providing pronunciation guidance, commonly used in materials for learners, children's books, or to clarify readings in complex texts.)

私事ですがわたしの母方の大叔母も、戦前にマレーの女学校に通っていたため、英語の読み書きには不自由しなかったのですが、日本に戻ってからしばらくは、日本語の読み書きはあやふやでした。しかし、新聞がルビ付きだったので欠かさず目を通していたそうです。

On a personal note, my maternal great-aunt, who attended an all girls school in Malaysia before the war, had no trouble with English reading and writing. However, upon returning to Japan after the war, her proficiency in Japanese reading and writing was a bit uncertain for a while. Nevertheless, she diligently read newspapers every day, as they had Furigana, which helped her navigate through the text without fail.

◆石井光次郎
Ishii Mitsujiro



埼玉銀行ビル 関西合気道倶楽部道場 中央が石井光次郎氏、右に座すのが久琢磨先生

Kansai Aikido Club Dojo, in Saitama Bank Building. In the center is Ishii, Hisa is sitting on the right, and in the chairs, guest legislators are seated.

往時は説明のいらぬ有名な方でしたが、最近ではわたしも含め知らない人も多いと思います。この方は久先生の人生の局面で幾度もお名前があがります。

石井光次郎は明治22(1889)年生まれ、政治家。戦前に商工大臣を勤め、その後、朝日新聞専務、朝日放送初代社長に就きました。戦後は政界に復帰して、運輸大臣、副総理、通商産業大臣、法務大臣、衆議院議長などを歴任。昭和56(1981)年没。久琢磨先生との縁は、神戸高等商業学校(現神戸大学)在学時に相撲部の部長だったことによります。久先生を朝日新聞社に紹介し、これが後に久先生と大東流

を出合わせる機縁となりました。ご自身も朝日新聞社にいた頃に植芝盛平に入門していたそうです。

Mr. Ishii used to be such a famous politician that no introduction was necessary. However, these days, most people may not be familiar with him. Mr. Ishii's name repeatedly comes up during Master Hisa's significant life events.

Ishii Mitsujiro was born in 1889, a politician who served as Minister of Commerce and Industry before the war.

Subsequently, he took on roles as managing director of The Asahi Shimbun Company and the first president of The Asahi Broadcasting Company. After the war, he returned to politics, holding various positions including Minister of Transport, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Minister of Justice, and Speaker of the House of Representatives. He passed away in 1981.

Hisa Takuma had a connection through his role as the captain of the sumo club during his time at Kobe University (then Kobe Higher Commercial School at that time). As Ishii used to be the former captain of the sumo club, he facilitated Hisa's employment at Asahi Newspaper Company. This created the opportunity for the encounter between Hisa and Daitoryu. It is mentioned that Ishii himself met and apprenticed under Master Ueshiba Morihei during his time at The Asahi Shimbun Company in Tokyo,

後年、久先生は石井光次郎の秘書のような仕事をされていたということです。関西エリアにおける何でも担当の、いわゆる私設秘書でした。

実は、石井光次郎は琢磨会の設立にも間接的に関わりがあります。久先生は石井光次郎の勧めによって琢磨会の前身、関西合気道倶楽部を設立されました。

In later years, Hisa was said to have worked in a role resembling a secretary for Ishii. He served as a sort of personal secretary, handling various responsibilities in the Kansai area.

Actually, Ishii indirectly played a role in the establishment of Takumakai. Hisa, at Ishii's suggestion, founded the predecessor of Takumakai, Kansai Aikido Club. That was when Hisa was 64 years old.

こうして振り返ると、石井光次郎が久琢磨先生を朝日新聞社と結びつけ、植芝先生を大阪朝日に招聘し、これが久先生と武田惣角との出会いにつながり、更に久先生を奮起させて琢磨会の前身となる関西合気道倶楽部創設のきっかけを作られました。大臣を歴任した高名な政治家だった方が幾度かにわたってわれわれ琢磨会の種を蒔かれたというのも不思議な縁です。

In retrospect, Ishii Mitsujiro connected Hisa with The Asahi Shimbun Company, let Hisa invite Master Ueshiba to The Osaka Asahi, which lead to the encounter between Hisa and Takeda Sokaku. This eventually inspired Hisa to establish Kansai Aikido Club, then decades later, laying the foundation for what would become Takumakai. It's a curious twist of fate that a distinguished politician who served as a minister played a role in sowing the seeds for our Takumakai on multiple occasions.