

10th dan Osawa
- Sode Tsurikomi Goshi -

The Transferring of Momentum -The right place at the right time-

Masters of strategy know that success is most probable when there is a shift in momentum. The shift implements a change of balance. The year was 1960. The U.S. wanted a change from “old” national leadership, and it wanted to test its emerging, enlightened, liberated wings. It elected a young Irish Catholic Democrat to the Presidency - John F. Kennedy. He was the first Catholic U.S. President, and the youngest president ever elected.

Sometimes, the shift in momentum is already in progress and the advantage is taken, as the Kennedy example verifies. Sometimes, the shift is created by the opportunist who wants to implement a chance. This is Maximum Efficiency through Minimum Effort.

Brutus speaks to his co-conspirators after their assassination of Julius Caesar, and speaks of capturing the tide. Here is Maximum Efficiency via Minimum Effort, optimizing the forces already in motion, grasping that advantage, taking that possibility to the utmost.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2sbB-T4wP8>

Double click or right click and select “Open Hyperlink”.

Brutus:

There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on
to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.

Julius Caesar | Act 4, Scene 3 -
Shakespeare

So it is with Osawa’s *sode tsurikomi goshi*. The architecture of the throw is one thing, and Osawa makes specific points about the application of the lifting of uke’s arm. Nevertheless, we want to focus on the timing, which, if wrong, will spoil the endeavor.

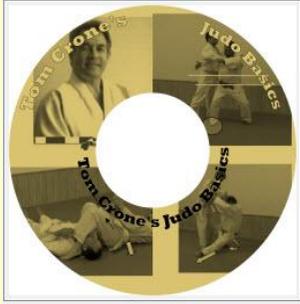
As you watch the video, entertain two questions. What happens naturally just before the critical timing? What might I do to create the event?

Judo is a wonderful analogy for life. What is happening in your life you’d like to master? First, consider applying the concept of creating opportunities to be in the right place at the right time. Make it happen. What usually happens naturally just before the critical moment? Is there a step before the critical one? What might be done to predict or motivate an advantageous shift in momentum? Just as with judo’s *tai-sabaki*, life’s chances are commonplace, simple and direct. The timing for the *kuzushi* in Osawa’s throw could work for many throws. Without the timing, there is no *judo*, only a throw.

Can you think of monumental historical events that were predicated on “Right place, right time”? How about in your own history? This is not so much an “If this, then that”, as it is a “without this, never that”.

Meanwhile, back at the dojo... work on Osawa’s timing relative to this *waza*, or another favorite front throw of similar construction.

The *Judo Compass* is conceived, written and produced by Tom Crone.
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If you would like information on *Tom Crone's Judo Basics* DVD, go to www.judominnesota.com. Or, email me for a 2 minute informational action movie. (The Osawa clip herein is not part of this DVD.)

In the previous issue, I suggested that you keep your secrets, like a magician, and not divulge them. I did not mean you should hoard them and be stingy, thus going against mutual benefit and welfare. Only those who are ready for them will be able to benefit. Those who only want "tricks" will be disappointed. Before you can share them, you must learn them; so strive to share.