

APRIL 2024



Letter Cognard Hanshi

Spring is here. The cherry trees have blossomed at the Hombu dojo. The park is magnificent and even the sand in the stone garden seems to be in bloom, so resplendent is it.

The last EFE was an extraordinary opportunity to meet and practise together. I was very touched by the surprise of the evening on 6 April and I would like to thank everyone who took part in these wonderful gifts. I have an intense feeling of happiness at the thought of all of you, men and women, young and old, all united around a deep ethic and friendship.

The aikido of my Master, Kobayashi sensei, lives on in all of you, and the strength you demonstrate, combined with your distinctive features, allows me to predict that his memory and gestures will live on.

Spring is rich in this inextinguishable force of renewal, and this is also expressed in our Kobayashi Ryu by the many promising seminars we offer. Please, visit the [school's website](#) to find the seminar that will enable you to take a further step along the path.

I am pleased to inform you about one of them in particular.

Riondet Shihan will be coming to the Hombu Dojo from 9 to 12 May to teach. He is a pioneer of Kobayashi aikido in Europe and was lucky enough to spend time in Japan with Sensei and to know him well. There are many pretenders to the title of "student of" Kobayashi Sensei, and for many of them it is an illusion, not to say sometimes an abuse.

This is therefore a unique opportunity to hear, through a voice other than my own, and regardless of any differences, what the path shown to us by Master Kobayashi is all about. I hope that many of you will attend this seminar and listen attentively to Riondet Shihan's teaching, so that he can broaden your perspective on our practice.

Aikido is a path of harmony on which it is preferable to see what unites us rather than what differentiates us.



Riondet Shihan is not only the repository of a treasure trove of gestures, he is also an example of modesty, kindness and generosity. Open your heart to him and it won't be long before you hear his heart beating. I would ask the elder students and instructors to make arrangements to receive him in the best possible way in my absence and to provide for any logistical needs.

You have been informed of the important meeting that will take place in Japan in September.

You are all expected to attend. The presence of each of you is key. We selected fifteen options in order to give you the greatest possible organisational flexibility. Please register as soon as possible. I have to make all the bookings while I am in Japan, so you are kindly asked to register before 15 May. Please be aware of the importance of this event. It is about making history, about giving a new lease of life to Kobayashi Sensei's aikido in Japan. Remember Kobayashi Sensei's leitmotiv: "You have to nurture the root". That's what we're all going to do together. I am counting on you.

Pay close attention to the letters from our presidents, Huet Shihan and Professor Debiasi, and come to Kyoto in September.

I Wish all the instructors every success for their spring courses. May all of you benefit from them.

All the best

Cognard Hanshi