

Pioneer of the Shitoryu style in Italy, Karatekas ask to Master Mitsuya.

“Show us kumite - Demonstration”.

In Italy the style Hayashi-ha Shitoryu was missing, therefore, in 1974, Master Mitsuya arrived to Italy.

“The Italian Karateka asked: Sensei, Kumite, onegai shimasu”...

Pioneer of the Shitoryu in Italy, Shihan Seinosuke Mitsuya, held numerous demonstrations presenting the style Hayashi-ha Shitoryu both to the public and to the Italian Karatekas. One of these occurred in 1974 when Shihan Mitsuya went to Porto Recanati (*at about 320Km from Rome*) where it was happening a seminar for instructors and black belts of the Italian Federation of Karate (*with President Augusto Ceracchini*) where about 200 participants from all around Italy were present.

Received by the chief organizer, Mr. Augusto Basile, Shihan Mitsuya was invited to teach since there were no instructors of the Hayashi-ha Shitoryu.

In the meanwhile the practice went from Ippon-kumite to Jiyu-kumite, some chief of some groups went to a corner to talk. One of them (E.F.), probably the greatest Italian champion of that time, went to Shihan Mitsuya and politely asked for Kumite (in Japanese: “Sensei, Kumite, onegai shimasu”).

Shihan Mitsuya noticed the good manners of his opponent, but also a great self-confidence.

After the traditional greetings, they began to study each others movements. Suddenly E.F. launched a very strong mae-geri. Shihan Mitsuya was able to avoid the impact of the strike, but this action showed the real intentions of E.F.

The kumite was now a real fight. Shihan Mitsuya was not surprised by it, but it was now necessary to bring the fight to a conclusion as soon as possible since others could have come forward too.

E.F. launched another powerful attack, but this time Shihan Mitsuya disoriented his opponent throwing him, making him fall with the head at his feet, and closed his action.

At that moment all the participants and spectators of the seminar stopped to watch the fight that was happening.

E.F. got up and took back his fighting stance. He attacked with a series of combinations of tsuki and keri, but without managing to hit Shihan Mitsuya which replied with a similar combination of tsuki and keri, bringing his opponent to quickly back up, and concluded with a tsuki to the ribs that made E.F. to temporarily stop.

The anxiety of E.F. was now more evident and he attacked with another combination of tsuki-keri and closing it with a throw (tai-otoshi), but his opponent stayed up. So immediately he tried a second time the tai-otoshi (a technique used by experts), but Shihan Mitsuya anticipated him with a tomoe-nage, which rapidly lifted E.F. but (as Shihan Mitsuya was planning) stopped at the maximum elevation to gently lay him down on the side, rather than throwing him head first.

At this point E.F. said “Stop” to make understand that was for him enough, but Shihan Mitsuya denied his request since he didn't yet finish his action.

The two opponents got back to their Kamae posture, and at this point Shihan Mitsuya attacked with a jodan tsuki to the face with lightning speed and a strong Kiai which E.F. did not have the time to counter.

That was clearly the time to stop and Shihan Mitsuya gave a sign that he was done, so the two karatekas greeted each other cordially.

After a little while E.F. (the two were not yet formally introduced) went to talk to Shihan Mitsuya and introduced himself showing his book and his sport accomplishments: consecutively three times champion of Italy and several times international champion (at that time there was only one category without weight limits). That is why after E.F. no body came forward to challenge Shihan Mitsuya.

That very evening Shihan Mitsuya was invited by many instructors to direct numerous seminars around Italy.

After this demonstration of Shihan Mitsuya and of the Hayashi-ha Shitoryu school, several other presentations of Karate-do and Kobu-do were organized around in Italy as well as around the world, in which Shihan Mitsuya demonstrated impressive techniques of tameshi-wari and his outstanding performance of kata, ippon-kumite (kime-waza), often with the presence of Soke Teruo Hayashi.