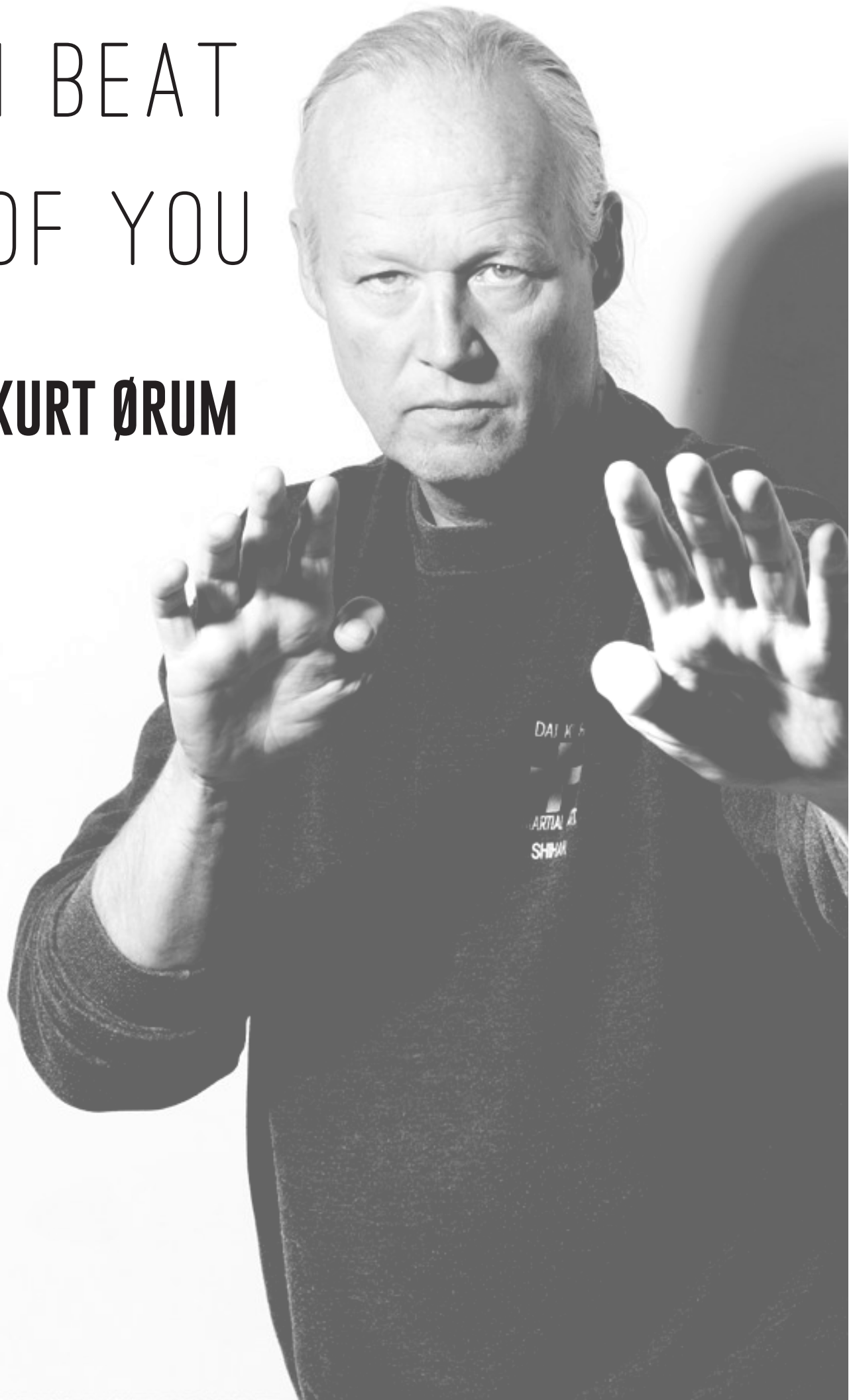


I CAN BEAT
ALL OF YOU

SHIHAN KURT ØRUM





"THE MODERN MAN ALWAYS HAS SOMETHING HE NEEDS TO PROVE, BY RUNNING, CLIMBING OR PUSHING HIMSELF TO NEW HEIGHTS. IT'S ALL FOR THE BENEFIT OF SELF-EVOLUTION."

THIS ARTICLE IS WRITTEN THROUGH CONVERSATIONS WITH THE MARTIAL ARTS' PROFESSIONAL SHIHAN KURT ØRUM

WORDS: MAD SØFUS NIELSEN

MARTIAL ARTS PROFESSIONAL

As a fashion & lifestyle magazine the Danish Shihan, a highly honoured master, Kurt Ørum doesn't really meet the required specs as he is a character of longhaired pony-tails and home made t-shirts. Although as an example of a prime male he stands among the finest. Shihan has proven track records as a lethal professional of martial arts. He is of a strong personality and he is a humble and insightful man with a great appetite for what he believes in and stands for. This is what defines him as a person and it has led him to become "The Grandmaster Of The Year". He has built a progressive foundation for combat-arts, which contains evolvement with the individual as well as evolving the individual with his or her's social environment. The inner-strength built a life-philosopher who leads, as well as inspires, this ship. He invests almost all of his energy into the growth of his martial arts movement "Dai Ki Haku".

WALK YOUR TALK

The first thing Shihan Kurt Ørum brings up is how an inferiority complex can play a major part in a man's nature and how a man should rise above such a way of thinking. He explains that the core of being a man lies within the acknowledgement and confrontation of such subconscious thoughts. Thoughts of inferiority create the illusion that it is the people around us who create our weaknesses - when, in reality,

everything we see and feel has roots within us. All this time we spend trying to be more than each other, only to become less. During our conversation Shihan repeatedly said, 'walk your talk' which is the essence of becoming something bigger than just an empty image. Experience the world through your own eyes, instead of through others.

THE VICARIOUS MODERN MAN

Talking to Shihan in a café. Shihan is probably the most lethal man I have ever sat down and had coffee with as well as he is also one of the most self-controlled beings I have ever met. A man is more often to be defined by his way of controlling his abilities than by his way of using them. Shihan has spent the majority of his life training and perfecting his skill set. When I first saw Shihan, he didn't strike me to be the type who could take away my life the same way he could turn off the light. But as good as he is with lethal moves he told me that he could beat anyone in the room without a doubt but he also expressed to me that he didn't need to.

"The modern man always has something he needs to prove, by running, climbing or pushing himself to new heights. It's all for the benefit of self-evolution, but the thing is that; the more he does this, the more he expresses a weakness or lack of self-confidence. The man who truly rests by himself, doesn't need to prove anything"

He is a walking warrior, running in circles with a strong balance. The practice of Dai Ki Haku is a way of channelling inner pressure into positive outcomes. All self-defense techniques are more of a side-effect. The more practise you get the less significant the moves become.

THE INNER CULT ICON

All the training, as a persona, has now made Shihan a recognizable face in the public eye especially between martial arts practitioners. Kurt Ørum has become what 'Kind of Blue' means in the music genre Jazz, a bit of a cult icon.

As a natural part of his personality, Shihan finds humility equal manliness. He sees competition as an empty as well as an overrated part of life. It is quite ironic that he ends up being assigned such a desirable award "Grandmaster Of The Year". The ultimate title to have as an experienced Shihan. This was accompanied by being an official part of The Black Belt Martial Arts Hall Of Fame - alongside with such personalities as Bruce Lee and Chuck Norris. Kurt Ørum is also one of the few combat artists, who have acquired 9th dan (9th degree of the black belt).

He has built himself quite a temple, throughout the years, by standing and going by his beliefs. It has brought him a long way and it is still bringing him even further. He told me, without making it sound like a cliché, *"being an inspiration to many troubled teenagers as well as adults, is really all about making the world a better place."*

As a writer I must note that none of this felt like religious propaganda, it is not some mental hiding place. It's quite the contrary. In comparison to a lot of movements in the world it's open for input and not blindsided by it's own ways. Shihan mentioned that, "If someone who has spent the last five years practicing Karate were to come in with the desire to learn Dai Ki Haku, he will not be told to let go of Karate. He will instead be trained on top of

his previous experiences. I am not sure, that it would work the other way around but correct me if I am wrong of course."

Through this open-minded mentality he has become a beacon of inspiration, like a lot of others through the ages, have made their life-choices a principle of changing society or the world. Like Martin Luther King, Shihan Kurt Ørum also has a dream. It's not about the size of a movement but more about the individual impact and with a perspective like that, Shihan can compete with the best of them.

YOUNG DAYS

He once travelled the world, when he was young, to meet the praised masters of martial arts and what he found was a lot of lost and old men who seemed bounded by traditions. Culture only limits the art itself. He saw a lot of potential in some of the techniques, seen, in the different art-styles and Shihan Kurt Ørum respectively learned and studied the ways of traditional martial arts as he went from country to country; it seeded a plan.

When he came back home with the idea of expanding the knowledge of combat arts, everyone told the 23-year-old Kurt Ørum that it couldn't be done. He had sought understanding and illumination and had found limitations and potential. He used his experience and knowledge to build a life-philosophy and art form which made room for individual evolution. The individual evolution would reflect the users mentality and train both body and mind. This idea became the foundation of the Dai Ki Haku martial arts movement, a progressive modern usage of traditional combat techniques.

Later, he would discover new ways to improve and expand the movement. Not only did he improve and expand this movement through himself, but he did it through his students as well and it is still ever-expanding alongside his

experience as a Shihan.

Today it has become more about the spiritual expansion of Dai Ki Haku than about the psychical. Meeting and seeing folks training or living by Dai Ki Haku is a dream of Shihan's which slowly but surely is coming true.

LIFE GUIDANCE

Word for word he has defined himself through his work and family, creating a way which makes focus and self-balance a daily routine. It's easy to relate to the feeling of wanting to be the best at some-thing, but making it true, is a much more difficult path and for most of us the road remains hidden.

Shihan has spent his existence, since he were 14, to uncover a way of life that is unburdened by tradition and empty habits. He stands as an example of insightful awareness, as he has created a martial art that builds strength to overcome the need to fight instead of encouraging it. Shihan Kurt Ørum stands as an example for those who live with an urge to hide in feelings, work or religion, for those who disappear in their fears, for those who accuse the people around themselves of the weakness in their life and for him who always got something to prove. He has a strong image which shows the world the importance of standing by who you are as a man. Creating an illumination of your surroundings and taking root within yourself.

As mentioned in the beginning then Kurt Ørum doesn't really look the example of the of a Nordic man, but more a mirror of his soul. What he told me about the Nordic man:

"Nordic men, I find are very serious people with a lot of empathy as well as having a good portion of humour, that's why, generally seen, it is very distant for the Nordic man himself to be a fanatic, racist or even violent. He makes room for

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himself as well as for the people around him. He is easy-going and that's why the Nordic man can find it difficult to relate to the complex evolvement in world issues, for him simplicity is the way" I feel empty and lost, when I can't look myself in the eyes. The feeling of pride when doing something that you can stand by is important. We all live vicariously in some way or another, its about inspiration and about creating a distance between you and your more burdened habits.

Talking to Shihan has given me a lust for self-control and the outcome which it can bring. I want to look myself in the eyes and feel pride in the thoughts I contain and work I seek. I want to stand by myself. I ask myself in the end, "Who is the weakest? The man who doesn't know himself, but knows everybody around him or the man who knows himself but doesn't need to know everybody else around him?" - Inspired by Shihan Kurt Ørum.

FACTS AND EXPLANATIONS

THE GRANDMASTER, AS HE EXPLAINS:

Shihan:

Means "highly honoured master" it's an official martial arts title, given to the ones experienced enough. It's a title of respect and honour.

Shihan has obtained the title 'Grandmaster of the year 2012 - World Black Belt Martial Arts Hall of Fame'. The title Grandmaster of the Year is chosen by a long range of people within the martial art movement, and at last given to the stand out. It can be compared to what an Oscar is in the movie culture.

A life in martial arts:

Shihan has published a self-biography explaining his life struggles to become what he is today, it contains a lot of stories, tips and counselling in how he deals with life. It can be bought on amazon.com – Shihan Kurt Ørum a life in martial art.

Dai Ki Haku:

Means "the utmost radiation of the inner force" and is the explaining title of Shihan Kurt Ørums martial art, a mixed combat philosophy, completed by different styles and techniques inspired from traditional martial arts and expanded by the ones who train in its ways of combat and philosophy.

Dai Ki Haku Family:

An organization and foundation made by Shihan for those who respect and is intrigued by Dai Ki Haku's philosophies, but don't want to train in its combat arts. For those who are driven with the thought of making the world a better place to live.

Training facilities:

A lot of facilities are rooted in Denmark. However In 2013 he opened a new training playground in London and one in the Philippines is opening in 2014. And there are plans for expanding to more countries.