

SenseiHood Review

I have listened to many lectures by a great number of teachers, professors and Senseis in my life, but the forty-five minute lecture given on this CD covering the topic of SenseiHood is done by a “Legendary Sensei” where I was brought to a new level of understanding as to what it takes to be the Legendary Sensei spoken of by Master Peter Brusso.

I am now thoroughly convinced that this concept is not only very misunderstood it has in many cases been trampled upon and thrown out as nonsense to the new “MMA” revisionist group flooding the market and which has gained an extremely strong foothold (no pun intended) in the minds of our young people all over the world.

Master Brusso makes it very clear that SenseiHood is the most important job on the planet. He believes and I wholeheartedly agree, that “at the end of the day we will be judged by our actions” and “when we screw up, people die!”

This teaching, although considered to be the basic foundation for SenseiHood, is exactly the concepts that have been missing for the past few decades. You will find it full of maxims and caveats and those who have fallen prey to the god of business marketing concepts of martial arts may very well find it offensive or it just might shock you (I hope it will) into understanding of what it takes to be a “Legendary Sensei”. Master Brusso asks you this.... “*Are you a Sensei or are you a Legendary Sensei?*” At the conclusion of this CD one will have to face this question head-on.

You are going to find out that SenseiHood has absolutely nothing to do with a color of a belt. Holding a “midnight black” belt (nicely embroidered) and calling oneself “Grandmaster”, “Yoda” or “Supreme Allied Commander” does not make one a Legendary Sensei. Holding eight black belts and owning a Dojo won’t necessarily do it either.

Master Brusso covers the historical view of SenseiHood in quite some depth. What I found to be the overreaching concept in this lecture is that of “Value.” It is brought out many times and in many ways throughout the teaching. Master Brusso believes that a Sensei and Student relationship is one of adding value to each others lives.

A very valuable concept is brought out by Master Brusso – one that would be wise to commit to memory in my opinion. It is this:

“A Sensei lives to two rules and two rules only. And every Sensei is judged by these two rules.....”

Rule Number 1: You are not in it for yourself.

Rule Number 2: The student must trust you to never disobey the first rule.”

A “Legendary Sensei” lives by these rules!

Master Brusso made an interesting statement that runs contrary to many schools of thought. And after some wrestling with it for a time and listening to the entire CD six times, I came to the conclusion that he is absolutely correct. The statement is as follows: *“Always keep the Tiger behind the bamboo.”* Ah, you thought I was going to expound further on this statement didn’t you – well, I’m not and you will need to get the CD to come to your own conclusion.

Master Brusso covers many other concepts in this CD. Concepts on why it’s necessary to have only one Sensei (many are violating this concept terribly today. I call it schizophrenic Ryu!), why charge your students, the difference between Pirates and Partners; what does rank mean and the right of passage.

A significant amount of time is covered on the Sensei’s responsibility of safety on the mat as well as a very interesting and valuable lesson on “mat dynamics” itself. Master Brusso covers the difference between a technician of the arts and one who lives the way of the arts. The one who lives it will apply the “concepts of the mat” to their life.

Also covered is when to determine if a student is not worth the effort. He believes in making lessons fun. You will learn that a “Legendary Sensei” infects and affects us!

So, as Master Brusso so wisely put it (speaking to a student or one to be).....

“What is your lessons worth?”

“What is your life worth?”

Seek out a Legendary Sensei!