

国際大山空手道連盟総本部

World Oyama Karate

Honbu Newsletter

Issue 44 - August, 2016

BOUNCER FROM THE EAST

(BASED ON THE TRUE STORY OF SOSHU S. OYAMA)

By Founder Saiko Shihan Y. Oyama

Shortly after World War II, a new global state of affairs arose, which pitted the United States and its Western Allies against the Soviet Union and its ever-increasing bloc of communist countries. The Cold War gave birth to many military conflicts in the name of either spreading or halting the spread of communism or democracy. In 1950's, Cuba became embroiled in a Communist Revolution lead by Fidel Castro.

Meanwhile, in post-WWII Japan, Japanese culture and Budo (i.e. Judo and Karate) began to gain international popularity. Instructors began to travel outside of the country to spread their knowledge to other parts of the globe.

Most of the people today are prisoners of technology. They are captives, both consciously and subconsciously, of what is on their cell phone, computer and TV screens. The following is based on a true story. Although it didn't occur all that long ago, it



seems like a fairy tale compared to the life experience of most people in the modern world. It involves 2 men who came to the United States. One to escape revolution in Cuba and one who travelled from Japan as a pioneer of Karate instruction.

EXT. HAVANA - EARLY MORNING

Sounds of music from various pockets of the city streets. Sun is still rising, the city is just waking up. On the BEACH a few people are walking or swimming

EXT. HAVANA BACK STREET APARTMENT

Old 2-story apartment building crammed in the terrain of the street.

INT. HAVANA BACK STREET APARTMENT

Early morning light pokes through the holes of thin curtains on the window. It's a one room apartment. Kitchen, sleeping and living areas all seem to be competing for space. It's very cluttered with run down furnishings and clothes strewn about. On the dining table are various partially-full food containers and empty TEQUILA BOTTLES and shot glasses.

GEORGE HAMILTON, 30 years old, white, 6'2" and 200 lbs., muscular is asleep on a bed next to a HOMELY WOMAN. He slowly opens his eyes and sees her FACE right in front of his. He rolls on his back and covers his eyes.

GEORGE (muttering to himself in Spanish): Oh

man... not again.

He stairs up at the slow-turning CEILING FAN. He cautiously gets out of bed and tip toes toward the sofa. He picks up his 3rd DEGREE BLACK BELT and DOGI. He begins to get dressed, trying very hard not to wake the woman. He creeps toward the door.

AT THE DOOR: George reaches for the knob. As soon as he touches it he hears the Woman.

WOMAN (O.S.) (speaking very slowly and quietly in Spanish.): Hey... you leaving already? Last night was good right...?

CLOSE ON woman's face with eyes still closed.

GEORGE: Um, yeah. Great.

WOMAN: Give me a kiss.

George very hesitantly makes his way to the bed. With eyes still closed, the woman puckers her lips. George cringes slightly and slowly leans over to kiss her cheek.

WOMAN (CONT'D): When will I see you again?

GEORGE (at the door): Um... soon...

EXT. HAVANA BACK STREET APARTMENT

George unlocks and removes the chain attaching his BIKE to a fence. He puts his dogi and black belt in the front BASKET and slowly starts peddling down the street.

FADE OUT.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAVANA, CUBA - MIDDAY

Shots of streets of Havana. Old Spanish-style architecture, cafes, markets, etc. The city is bustling.

EXT. MILITARY OFFICER'S CLUB - DAY

It's an old, historical-looking building. The front has a very green and well-manicured lawn.

Pre-revolution CUBAN FLAG is waving in the breeze, a couple old cannons on either side. There is a row of nice cars parked out front. George's bike is chained to a pole at the end of the sidewalk.

INT. MILITARY OFFICER'S CLUB - DAY

2nd FLOOR - Large open room. One side is filled with free weights and simple weight-training machines. Other side is an open area with a mat for Judo. SOUNDS of men struggling to throw each other to the ground.

GEORGE throws an opponent to the mat with a loud kiai. Around him 6 other men are training in pairs. They are officers in the Cuban Army. A couple other men are stretching at the side of the mat.

George throws his man again. He smiles and extends his hand to help the man up. SOUND of explosion and gunfire.

George and all the officers are startled. They race across the room to the windows.

EXT. HAVANA STREETS - DAY

Smoke from a couple explosions and fires is rising in various places. Sounds of gunfire, people running and screaming.

INT. OFFICER'S CLUB GYM - CONTINUOUS

(ALL CONVERSATION IN SPANISH)

OFFICER 1: Oh... it's bad. They've started. Coming closer now.

OFFICER 2: Yeah

GEORGE: What is it? What the hell is going on?

OFFICER 1: We heard a rumor a couple months ago that Castro would start a revolution and take everything over.

OFFICER 2: But the top commanders didn't pay attention because they thought he didn't have the money or weapons to go through with it.

OFFICER 1: Sensei, this isn't your country, so you better get out before its too late. If you get to the harbor now, you can probably find a boat headed for Florida.

GEORGE: But, you guys are the military. Can't you stop him?

OFFICER 2: Most of the military officers only care about themselves. They are corrupt. It's not safe for you here. You gotta get out while you can.

The other Officers agree.

GEORGE: Alright, I guess this is goodbye, then.

The Officers quickly shake hands and say farewells to George. OFFICER 3, a chubby young officer, has tears in his eyes.

OFFICER 3: I'll never forget you. Thank you for taking care of me.

EXT. STREETS OF HAVANA - CONTINUOUS

Streets are crowded with people in a panic. Some in cars, motorbikes, buses. Everyone is going in different directions. George is on his bike and weaves in and out through the crowd and traffic.

GEORGE (in Spanish): Move, move! Out of the way.

George decides to abandon his bicycle, grab his dogi and backpack and make his way to the harbor on foot.

EXT. HAVANA HARBOR - CONTINUOUS

Scenes of chaos as people try to flee on boat. Crowds of people running about. Some crying, some shouting. GEORGE is wearing a backpack and carrying his dogi. He seems to be looking for someone.

SCOTT (middle aged white, American) is untying his boat from the shore. He has a couple people on board. As he starts to head out, he hears George shout.

GEORGE (O.S.): Scott, Scott wait!

George runs to the edge and yells to Scott across the water.

GEORGE (CONT'D): Where're you going?

SCOTT: Miami, Key West, anywhere I can, as fast as I can.

GEORGE: Take me too!

George secures his backpack and dogi around himself and jumps in the water and swims. From the moving boat, Scott tosses a rope out. George hangs on tight. The others on the boat help pull him aboard. They look back

PAN TO

Waves and ripples behind the speeding boat to the harobor Havana skyline, which is now consumed with smoke, fires, sounds of warfare.

EXT. STREETS OF WHITE PLAINS, NY - DAY

It's a nice, quiet town with shops and boutiques. Very warm feeling. GEORGE is driving a beat-up Ford convertible down the street.

EXT. STRIP MALL PARKING LOT - DAY

George's car pulls up to a building in the strip mall. The sign on the building says, "Karate & Self-Defense, Judo" in Chinese-style English lettering.

INT. WHITE PLAINS DOJO - CONTINUOUS

DORIS is sitting at a small reception counter filing her nails. She is mid 30's and curvy, although she wears tight fitting clothes to try and look slender. She uses lots of makeup to try and hide the aging features of her face. GEORGE enters.

GEORGE: Hey sexy girl! Richard in the office?

DORIS (smiling): Yep.

George walks down a hallway and stops at an open door. He knocks on it and peers inside.

GEORGE: Knock knock.

RICHARD (Mid 50's, slightly overweight, wearing glasses) is sitting behind a desk with his feet propped up reading a newspaper. The headline reads "Vietnam War Escalates"

RICHARD: C'mon in. GEORGE: What's up?

Richard takes his feet of the desk and puts down the newspaper. He searches for a moment among the various paper on his desk before he finds the one he's looking for.

RICHARD: Ah, here it is. The day after tomorrow, a new Kara-

te instructor is coming from Japan. I want you to pick him up. This is the flight schedule.

He hands George the piece of paper.

GEORGE: Really!? Hmm, let me see...

EXT. TOKYO, JAPAN - DAY

Establishing shots of Nishikebukuro (crowded streets and sidewalks, city center). Est. shot of a park. Next to park, on a side street is a hospital and across from the hospital is a 4-story building. There's a vertical sign on the building that reads "Kyokushin Kaikan Dojo".

In an alley beside the Dojo, a YOUNG COUPLE is walking, joking with each other. Suddenly, they hear loud Kiais coming from the 2nd story. They look up startled, then hurry off.

INT. KYOKUSHIN KAIKAN DOJO - DAY

Dojo is full of Black Belts. SHIGERU OYAMA (32 years old, 5'11", 140 lbs.) is covered in sweat, fighting another Black Belt. Shigeru sweeps the leg of opponent and he crashes to the ground.

MONTAGE of Shigeru fighting hard and defeating opponents with back kicks, reverse punches, etc.

An OLD MAN is making tally marks on the black board.

OLD MAN: That's 115.

Shigeru is covered in sweat. He looks around the room.

SHIGERU: Anyone else?

Everyone avoids eye contact and just looks down. Pause.

SHIGERU (CONT'D): Alright then, that's enough.

He smiles.

INT. KANCHO'S OFFICE - LATER

A middle age SECRETARY is giving SHIGERU various papers to sign.

SECRETARY: Sign here.

SHIGERU: Um... They'll take care of my sleeping place, food and everything... right?

Secretary looks over her reading glasses at Shigeru.

SECRETARY: Of course they'll take care of you. You're sensei! SHIGERU: Just want to make sure... They, um, pay me too... right?

SECRETARY: Of course! Your apartment, expenses and \$150 cash in your hand every week. Just like Kancho said. You want to ask him again?

SHIGERU: No, no, that's OK.

Shigeru signs the rest of the papers.

INT. HANEDA AIRPORT - DAY

Departure area. People saying good-byes. SHIGERU and his MOTHER are saying goodbye.

MOTHER: Take care of yourself. Make sure to write!

SHIGERU: I will, don't worry.

INT. AIRPLANE - LATER

SHIGERU is seated at a window seat. He's the only Asian on the crowded plane. Everyone else is either Black or Caucasian. A STEWARDESS checks on the passengers. A couple GI's enter in Army Dress. One sits next to Shigeru.

GI: Hey. You alone?

SHIGERU: Hm?

GI: America iku no?

SHIGERU: Yes, yes.

GI: (looking S up and down) Vacation?

SHIGERU: Mm?

GI: Kanko?

SHIGERU: No.

GI: Oh, Ok.

Plane takes off. Shot of Tokyo skyline fading off.

SHIGERU (V.O.): I was looking forward to seeing a different world in America. But once in the plane, I suddenly began second guessing myself. Could I really handle America? But I knew inside that if I put my spirit in it, I could handle it.

INT. AIRPLANE - NIGHT

Passengers are asleep. SHIGERU and the GI are snoring, heads touching.

EXT. BRONX HIGHWAY, NEW YORK - DAY

GEORGE is driving, humming to himself. Lots of traffic. He sees the exit for the airport. Suddenly there's a loud POP and the car begins to shake. It's a flat tire.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

GEORGE: Damnit! Agghhh!

He pulls off to the shoulder. He opens the trunk. The trunk is full of various junk and empty containers. There's no spare tire.

GEORGE (CONT'D): Ah man!

He looks around and sees a gas station in the far distance. He jacks up the car and removes the flat tire and carries it up on his shoulder, toward the gas station. He stops periodically to put the tire down and rest, then picks it back up. Cars pass him by. Passengers stare at him and laugh. A car honks

next to George. George is startled.

GEORGE (CONT'D) (as the car passes): What're you lookin' at?!

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

The plane is preparing to land. The GI and SHIGERU look outside at the New York skyline.

GI: Big, isn't it?

SHIGERU (V.O.): The first time I saw the New York skyline, I felt like a giant monster was waiting for me below. I began to feel nervous again.

EXT. BRONX HIGH-WAY, NEW YORK -DAY



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GEORGE is back with the repaired tire. He puts it back on and heads out into traffic. He weaves, trying to hurry to make up the time he lost.

INT. PLANE - CONTINUOUS

PASSENGERS are standing up and getting their bags, preparing to exit.

INT. IMMIGRATION LINE - DAY

The lines are full of people. An IMMIGRATION OFFICER looks at SHIGERU.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER: Next.

Shigeru hands him a letter and his passport.

SHIGERU: Osu.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER: What?

SHIGERU (points at letter): Osu. Letter.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER: What's the purpose of your visit?

SHIGERU: Uh... Letter

IMMIGRATION OFFICER: I know what it is. Why are you vis-

iting the U.S.

SHIGERU: Um, letter.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER: Oh, OK.

He looks over the letter.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER (CONT'D): So you teach Karate?

SHIGERU: Yes.

The officer stamps the passport and hands everything back to Shigeru.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER: Alright. Good luck.

SHIGERU: Osu.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER: Osu.

INT. CUSTOMS BAGGAGE INSPECTION AREA - CONTINUOUS

A bald CUSTOMS AGENT is joking with a co-worker. The Customs Agent is holding a pen and moving it as he talks. SHIGERU approaches with his bag and puts it on the counter.

CUSTOMS AGENT: Open it.

Shigeru doesn't understand, so just stays there.

CUSTOMS AGENT (CONT'D): Open it!

Shigeru opens the suitcase. There's very little in it, just a couple dogis, belt, clothes, underwear. The Agent pokes through it with his pen.

CUSTOMS AGENT (CONT'D): This it? Anything else?

Shigeru doesn't understand.

CUSTOMS AGENT (CONT'D): You got any other stuff? Huh?

SHIGERU: Osu.

The Agent and Co-worker exchange glances. A pair of underwear is hooked on the Agents pen while he's looking away. The coworker cracks up. The Agent looks over, and tries to quickly shake the underwear off, but it is caught on the pen.

CO-WORKER: You gonna add that to your collection?

CUSTOMS AGENT: No! (to Shigeru) Shut it!

Shigeru is smiling. He shuts the suitcase. Agent waves him through. Before exiting, Shigeru looks back. He and the Agent exchange glances. The Co-worker is still laughing.

INT. AIRPORT LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

The automatic doors slide open. The lobby is full of people and noise. People are embracing, meeting up, etc. SHIGERU walks slowly through the crowd, trying to make himself visible to whoever is there to get him.

Shigeru gets to the edge of the crowd, but still no one has approached him. He looks around, hopefully one last time, then sits down on his suitcase and waits.

The CLOCK passes time. The lobby is quiet. An OLD WOM-AN JANITOR passes by with her cart, looking curiously at Shigeru.

EXT. AIRPORT PARKING LOT - DAY

George quickly pulls into the parking lot, parks the car and grabs a cardboard sign off the passenger seat and hurries toward the lobby. He dodges cars as he makes his way across the street.

INT. AIRPORT LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

The CLOCK is later than before. The JANITOR is still cleaning and glancing curiously at SHIGERU. GEORGE bursts in with his sign. Shigeru brightens up and stands up.

SHIGERU: OSU!

GEORGE: Oh, you? OK. That your only suitcase?

They smile, relieved to have found each other.

EXT. AIRPORT PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

GEORGE puts the suitcase in the back seat and pushes a button that makes the convertible top close automatically. SHIGERU is very impressed.

SHIGERU (V.O.): Now, the US is full of Japanese cars-Honda, Toyota, Nissan. But in 1966, they weren't around. I was so impressed to see a convertible for the first time.

I/E. HIGHWAY/CONVERTIBLE - NIGHT

Various shots of New York City at night. SHIGERU looking out the window and taking everything in.

As they get further from the city, scenery changes to more

wooded and suburban scenes. They enter the town of "White Plains"

EXT. HORNET NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

It's a large warehouse building. Parking lot is full of cars and people. Front sign reads "The Hornet". GEORGE has trouble finding an empty parking space. He finally pulls up to the front entrance.

There's a line of nightclub-goers standing outside, waiting to get in. At either side of the front door are 2 BOUNCERS, one black (WASHINGTON) and one white (JAMES). Both are 30's and the size of professional wrestlers, with no necks. Washington is seated on a stool, the James is standing on the other side of the door.

George and Shigeru get out of car.

SHIGERU: This dojo?

GEORGE: What? No, no, no. Nightclub. (gestures) Drinking,

dancing.

SHIGERU: Osu... GEORGE: C'mon.

He pushes the button to shut close the convertible top.

AT THE FRONT DOOR

GEORGE: (CONT'D) What's up? Richard inside?

WASHINGTON: Yeah, he's there.

Both Bouncers look curiously at Shigeru. His hair is very neatly parted. In his suit, he looks out of place.

JAMES: Who's this?

GEORGE: He's a guest. (to Shigeru) C'mon.

George and Shigeru go in. The Bouncers eye Shigeru up and down as he passes. The club-goers in line also look at Shigeru curiously.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

GEORGE and SHIGERU walk down a hall with 2 closed double -doors at the end. 2 more BOUNCERS (GREG and WILLIAMS) are perched in front of the doors. Williams (Black, late 20's) is slender and wiry. His nose shows the affects of multiple breaks from boxing. Greg (White, late 20's) looks like a weight-lifter.

2 MEN (white, early 20's) are smoking cigarettes near the door. They are sharply dressed gigolos.

George and Shigeru approach. Williams smiles and gets up, ready to box. George smiles and gets into a fighting stance. The square off for a minute before laughing and giving each other a high-five.

GEORGE: Hey, hey! Richard at his table?

WILLIAMS: Yep. He's there.

2 YOUNG WOMEN in tight skirts approach and pay the cover charge to Greg. All men present, except Shigeru, check them out.

WILLIAMS (CONT'D): How you doin'?

YOUNG WOMEN (flirting): Fine.

The women go through the doors. Williams watches after them bites his thumb, trying contain his excitement.

WILLIAMS: Damn! Hot, hot, hot!

GREG (to George, pointing at Shigeru): Who's this guy? Looks weird.

GEORGE: New Karate instructor from Japan. WILLIAMS: Oh yeah? Karate! Ninja, ninja!

Shigeru looks tense. George shakes his head and chuckles.

Gigolo 1 pulls out a \$10 bill and holds it out.

GIGOLO 1: Hey, George!
GEORGE: Oh, you wanna try?

GIGOLO 1: Yeah, I think tonight's my night.

GEORGE: OK, then.

Gigolo 1 gives the \$10 bill to Gigolo 2 and takes off his jacket. Greg and Williams chuckle and move back. George turns his back to Gigolo 1 and braces himself in a wide stance.

Gigolo 1 comes behind George. George sticks his chin out so Gigolo 1 can wrap his forearm around to choke him. Shigeru looks tense. George winks at him.

GEORGE (CONT'D): It's OK. (to Williams) Two minutes!

GIGOLO 1: Ready? GEORGE: Ready! WILLIAMS: Go!

Gigolo 1 tries his hardest to choke out George. George stays put, flexing his neck against the choke. Both men groan and grunt from the exertion. Shigeru just stares with wide eyes.

WILLIAMS (CONT'D) (looking at his watch): Thirty seconds!

Gigolo 1 tries desperately to finish off George, George's face is reddening and his eyes and nose bulging as he tries to hang in for the last 30 seconds.

WILLIAMS (CONT'D): Time!

Gigolo 1 releases his hold, exhausted. George gasps and tries to regain his composure. He takes the \$10 bill from Gigolo 2. Greg and Williams laugh.

GEORGE (To Gigolo 1): You did good. Almost got me that time! (to Shigeru) C'mon, let's go.



The bouncers open the doors. Suddenly, music comes blaring out. Before going in, Shigeru looks at Gigolo 1 a last time. Gigolo 1 is still out of breath after the effort.

INT. DANCE FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

About 800 people are jammed into the nightclub. Various shots of dancing, drinking, partying, etc.

GEORGE: C'mon.

Shigeru follows George. George weaves his way through the crowd, making eyes at some girls, doing a couple dance steps with others. They make their way off the edge of the dance floor. There's a large bar counter area with some tables in front.

RICHARD and his younger brother, SAM are seated drinking with a couple WOMEN. George and Shigeru approach.

GEORGE (CONT'D): I got a flat tire, so we're a little late, but I got him. This is Oyama-san.

Richard's eyes show his disappointment for a moment. Then his face changes back to pleasant as he shakes hands with Shigeru. Shigeru is aware of Richard's disappointment.

RICHARD: Welcome, welcome! Nice to meet you! Have a

seat!

They sit.

SAM: You want a drink?

SHIGERU (thick accent): BEE-RU

RICHARD: What?

SHIGERU (thick accent): BEE-RU

Everyone else looks at each other. No one can understand

him. Shigeru gets tense.

SHIGERU (CONT'D): Gin tonic

RICHARD: Oh! Gin Tonic! Beeru gin tonic!

He motions for a WAITRESS (Ashley) to come take a drink

order.

SAM: You speak any English?

SHIGERU: No English. I'm a boy. I'm a man. You are man. The

end.

Everyone laughs.

SAM: Well, George will teach you.

GEORGE: Yeah, yeah, no problem.

Ashley returns with drinks. Sam's girlfriend tries to keep herself from staring at Shigeru. The women at the table look at Shigeru with fake smiles.

5.1 1 . . . 61. . .

Richard communicates to Shigeru with elaborate gestures.

RICHARD: Tomorrow. You come to the dojo. George will

bring you. To dojo.

SHIGERU: Osu.

SHIGERU (V.O.) My first day in America was stranger than I'd ever imagined. It was a completely different and confusing world. Nothing about this was like I'd imagined. I felt more pressure than ever before.

FADE OUT.

EXT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Shot of outside of building. There's a sidewalk lined with some trees in the front. There's a small park and playground nearby.

INT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

SHIGERU and GEORGE enter. It's a very cluttered and dingy apartment. Small bedroom, living area and small kitchen. Kitchen is filled with dirty dishes, etc.

GEORGE (sighs): Long day, huh?

SHIGERU: Osu.

GEORGE: You tired?

SHIGERU: Osu.

George points to the sofa. He acts out everything he says

with gestures in order to communicate.

GEORGE: Your bed.

SHIGERU: Osu.

GEORGE: Kitchen's there, and there's the bathroom.

George pulls out some sheets and a blanket form the closet.

GEORGE (CONT'D): You want to take a shower?

SHIGERU: Ah, no.

George opens the fridge. It is very sparse, with a couple cans

of beer.

GEORGE: Beer?

SHIGERU: Osu?

GEORGE (Holding a beer and pointing): Beer?

SHIGERU: Ah, BEE-RU.

GEORGE: Oh... BEE-RU means beer. I got it now. Listen, say

"beer".

SHIGERU: BEE-RU

GEORGE: Not "bee-ru". Nobody understands what you're talking about if you say that. "Beer". Like "here". Here is

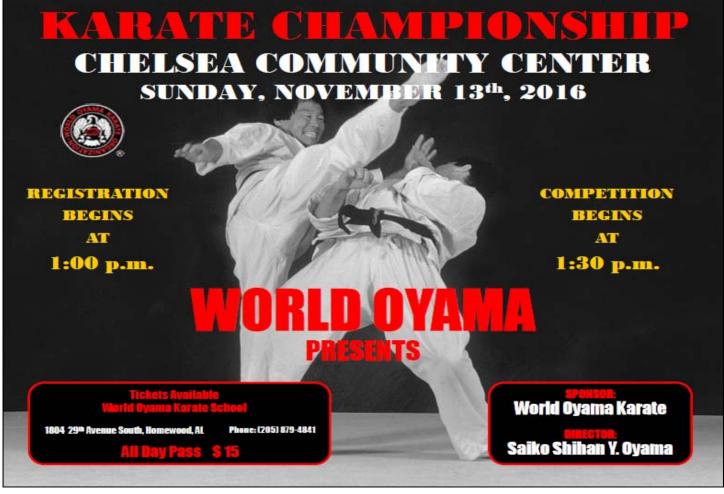
beer.

SHIGERU (with great effort): Beer. Beer.

GEORGE: That's it! Beer is wonderful!

SHIGERU (with great effort): Beer is wonderful!





GEORGE: Now you sound American! You want a a beer?

SHIGERU: No. Water?

GEORGE: Sure, I got plenty of that.

He fill a glass from the sink and gives it to Shigeru.

SHIGERU: It's safe?

GEORGE (laughing): Yeah, yeah, American water is OK to

drink.

SHIGERU: Good.

He drinks.

SHIGERU (CONT'D): Japan water OK, too.

GEORGE (smiling): That's good to know! Well, I'm going to bed now, let me know if you need anything.

SHIGERU: Osu.

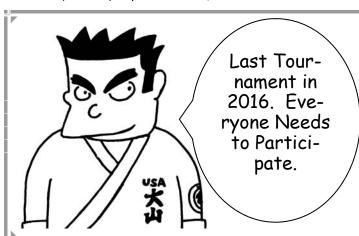
INT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT - LATER

SHIGERU is in pajamas seated on sofa, looking out the window.

EXT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - MORNING

Early morning, birds chirping, streets are still quiet. The Bronx River flows in the distance.

(To Be Continue....)



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