



Cambridge & Impington Tang Soo Do Clubs



The Stone Cutter

On the floor of the training hall a black belt in his mid-teens was practicing with a friend. His movements were lightning fast and well-balanced, and he was the envy of all the younger students.

From the entrance of the hall Noritake watched with awe with his friend Mitsusuke 'I wish I was him', Noritake proclaimed to his friend, 'Look how good he is' 'Yes, me too', Mitsusuke sighed, 'I'll never be that good'

Unbeknown to the two boys the Master stood right behind them. Ah so! Never wish to be anyone else, just be yourself. You were placed upon this earth to be you, not anyone else. Let me tell you the story of a humble stone-cutter.

Once long ago, lived a stone-cutter. One day whilst working hard on a large piece of rock in the sweltering heat of the summer, he saw a fine prince pass by on his horse with his servants. He looked on in envy and wished out loud that he would give anything to be that prince in all his finery, surrounded by riches and servants. Immediately there was a blinding flash and the stone-cutter found himself sat upon a horse. He was finely dressed and had many servants surrounding him. His wish had come true. Now he lived like this for a while, until one day the heat was unbearable. The sun shone so brightly it burnt his skin and made him sweat profusely. He felt extremely sticky in all his fine clothes and very uncomfortable as he sat upon his fine steed. He looked up at the sun. Now that is real power he thought, I wish I had power like that. Again there was a blinding flash and lo and behold he became the sun. It was good. He shone down and showed his immense power to everyone, scorching the fields and making everyone hot and uncomfortable.

This made him very happy until one day a large, black cloud came by and blocked out his light. The sun could not find a way through this thick cloud and he thought, now that cloud has even more power. I wish I had that power. In less than a second his wish had come true, he was now the cloud. And it was good. He sent rain and lightning in all directions, shattering trees and blowing the tiles off buildings, but one large boulder stood firm against all his fury. No matters how hard he tried he just could not move the huge rock. He sent everything against the boulder but all to no avail. Now that power is awesome he thought I wish I had that power and immediately, Whoosh! He became the boulder. And it was good. He stood against the wind, rain, lightning and sun, indeed against absolutely everything. He felt more powerful than anything on the Earth, until one day a stone-cutter came by'.

The Master finished his story in absolute silence, eventually asking both boys if they understood its meaning. 'Yes Master', they spoke as one, 'Be yourself and be happy with what you have and who you are Master', Noritake continued.

'Exactly! Remember that for the rest of your lives, for it is the very secret of happiness. Now off you both go and get changed for today's lesson'

This excerpt has been taken from "The Ah so! Stories" by Malcolm Phipps