



The Judo Compass

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LET'S PUT SOME MAGIC INTO OUR JUDO – Part II



“Misdirection” – A very commonly used word by both magicians and spectators. My magic mentor, Tyler Erickson, considers “direction” as a more accurate word for the process. He is correct. Does it matter? Let’s look to judo for an answer.

You want to throw with your right-side *o-soto gari*. If you massively assert energy and the endeavor to create *kuzushi* toward *uke*’s back right corner, you create the opportunity for *uke* to seize that energy and throw you to your front left corner. You also alert *uke* to your intentions. How can more judo be achieved, to both lessen *uke*’s counter chance and improve the odds of a successful throw?

We can take a cue from examining one method of combinations. You will leap in and get a strong start on *harai-goshi*, and when *uke* resists, you will alter direction and throw with *o-soto*. This is a common application. Anyone scouting you will know this, and most proficient judoka are not easily fooled, and counter. A more subtle magical touch is desired if you want to just do the throw without the massive misdirection. How? By creating “direction”.

If, for a millisecond, you move your eyes, your head, your shoulders toward the beginning of *harai*, your right hand makes just the smallest perceivable twitch on *uke*’s collar toward *uke*’s right front corner, and you do these all at a time when *harai* would be possible – and *uke* synoptically responds, you will be able to feel that response in your fingertips. Now you have “Misdirection via Direction”. That millisecond is your chance to make a strong and safe entry.

Next, add the initial step as part of the stratagem. Think of any throw you do. What is your “entry” or first step? Can you figure out how to use it to transmit a false message, as if you are putting force into a direction which, if reacted against, will provide actual intended *kuzushi*? If not responded to, it was a free and safe test.

You won’t even have to do the technique at this moment. You can log it into your book on *uke* for use in a later *randori* session, or maybe for tomorrow, or a *shiai* down the road. *Abracadabra!* (A.K.A. *Seiryoku Zenyo*)

MAKE IT YOURS

- *If you overly create a false intention, it will fail; and if you fashion the subterfuge on what would be a true and normal intention, it will succeed.*
- *Do you do uchi-komi? You can add this into any technique you do. This is not a trick, and requires practice.*
- *Make a short list of your favorite throws, and play with this.*
- *Endeavor to make the “Directional” controls smaller and smaller.*
- *Like a magician, never reveal your secrets. When asked, “What the heck did you do to throw me?” Shrug and say “I dunno. Practice it a lot, I guess.” Or, you could say, “Judo”.*



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