

Mokkei

Once upon a time, in the Zhou dynasty from 690 to 705 AD, there was the emperor named "Sen-oh (Senou)" in China.

Senou liked cockerel fighting (cockfighting).

He wanted to have the most powerful and strong cockerel.

One day, he called for a cocker who had good skill for cockfighting and Senou ordered the cocker to train his rooster.

After 10 days Senou asked, "did you finish to train my rooster?"

The cocker said, "No, your rooster still is not good because your rooster still resorts to bravado".

After 10 days, again Sen-ou asked; "did you finish to train?"

The cocker said, "No, your rooster still is freaked out by seeing his opponent or hearing his opponent's voice".

Then again after 10 days Senou asked, "ready or not?"

The cocker said, "No, your rooster is still not good. When Your rooster meets an opponent, your rooster still tries to give his opponent a dirty look and tries to threaten".

Finally, after another 10 days again Senou asked, "Ready or not?"

The cocker this time said, "Yes, OK, now your rooster is good. Your rooster has got good spirit (virtue) and your rooster is like the cockerel carved in wood.

Even if he meets his opponent or he hears opponent's voice (bird call), now your rooster is not fazed (not stir an eyelid). If his opponent appears in front of him, his opponent would run away in fear.

Your cockerel would win every competition and for him, there are no longer any enemy".

Finally, Senou got the most strong cockerel in the world.

[Excerpt from Zhuangzi]

The cockerel carved in wood (mokkei) often is used among Budo-ka as an important lesson.