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Right Beginnings
by David M. Valadez

Deshi: It is said that the Way is beyond words - beyond intellectual reasoning.

Sensei: Yet it is also said that the man of the Way can always find such words. It is also said that his reason falls firmly within the Way.

Deshi: What type of words are these - of which you are speaking?

Sensei: They are the right words - made such by the situation in which they are uttered and by the ears that they are being directed toward.

Deshi: What might those words be now - right here, to me?

Sensei: The Way is a matter of putting all relationships within the parameters of Harmony. It is a study and practice of relationships - between people, between things, between oneself and one's waza, between oneself and one's environment, between oneself and Nature, between oneself and God. These relationships, all of them, any of them, we guide, determine, nurture, restrict, and build through the idealization and cultivation of Harmony. Do you understand?

Deshi: No.

Sensei: This is the beginning. What I have said is just right.