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Harmony
by **David M. Valadez**

Deshi: You have often said that the Way is about relationships, that it is about knowing how to find the harmony that can exist between any two things - different things. This involves a very broad range. I imagine then that some things are close to each other, more alike, and thus some things are easier to harmonize. Other things are further from each other, more different from each other, even completely antithetical to each other, and thus harder to harmonize. I imagine this applies for people too - which are also "things" that hold a need to harmonize but that can range from being opposite to being very much alike. Some people can understand each other right off of the bat; some people will come to understand each other only through a long and dedicated involvement. What kind of people find mutual understanding the most difficult?

Sensei: The Man of Principle and the Man of No Principle.

Deshi: What of the sensei/deshi pairing?

Sensei: Do you uphold decency, honor, integrity, truth or accuracy of statement, and reason?

Deshi: Yes, these things are of value to me.

Sensei: Do you guide your actions by them, are they determinants in how you relate to yourself and to others?

Deshi: Yes, I believe they are.

Sensei: Then I believe that it is very easy for sensei and deshi to harmonize with each other.