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Thy Will Be Done
by David M. Valadez

Sensei: The ukemi you were taught through your early training days only resembles true ukemi – it is not true ukemi. What you did then and what you are being asked to do now share the same essence, but the source of that essence is in what you are now being asked to do and not in what you were once taught. Now, there is no space for an ukemi by numbers, nor is there room for an ukemi that is so heavily dependent upon balance and acrobatic skills. As the techniques become more sophisticated in their application, energy will no longer be employed so that you can follow it over your toes and into the forward roll or front breakfall. Never again will you be allowed to lower yourself gradually into the back breakfall. No more will you be able to turn so that your center can stay oriented toward my own. When you seek to roll forward or to fall forward, energy will be aimed outside the rear edge of your front foot. When you seek to lower yourself backwards, you will find my hip on the path where you would like your foot to go. Your body will always fall from a state where you have lost all Directional Harmony. All physics of acceleration will be replaced by geometries of falling. To experience a geometry of falling safely and repetitively you will have to be in a state of perfect reception. You must purify your body/mind of the resistance that comes from fear, and from not being in control. You must seek the spiritual maturity of “thy will be done.”

Deshi: “Thy will be done” - Is this the spirit of ukemi?

Sensei: Yes, this is the path of Non-Resistance, and thus this too is the spirit of how we should and can only receive God. It is the path of Openness, Humility, and Acceptance. It is the cultivation of Faith.