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**Arriving**  
**By David M. Valadez**

Deshi: Hello, I was watching class. You are very good - one of the best I have seen. I was looking for a place to train, but before I commit to your dojo, I was wondering if you can tell me of your lineage, your qualifications, your federation alliance, and your political leanings regarding your art.

Sensei: Is this so that you can determine whether you can learn from within our training hall?

Deshi: Yes, it is.

Sensei: I can tell you these things, of course. Moreover, you seem to be the kind of person that would undoubtedly be impressed by the kind of resume I could provide. However, it must be said, that in the very act that I would qualify as your teacher, you would not qualify as my deshi.

Deshi: What do you mean? Are not these fair questions to ask of any instructor?

Sensei: Fair indeed they are, for any instructor. Fair, they may indeed not be for any deshi. For what do these things have to do with you learning? Are they not the trappings that have more prevented you from learning than to actually learn? Are they not having us sit here by the side of the mat, discussing them, when we can be working on the mat without them instead?

Deshi: Committing to a teacher is a big decision. Should not all big decisions be sound decisions? Moreover, should not all sound decisions be based upon all relevant information?

Sensei: Well there you have it. What was relevant has already been provided: You have watched class and determined that there is quality in what you have seen. You are looking for a place to train. Please feel free to train here as long as those two things remain relevant. On the other hand, please feel free to leave now and return to train here when they have become so.

Deshi: Are you asking me to leave?

Sensei: I am asking you to finally arrive.