

David M. Valadez Senshin Center Dojocho

Open Gi by David M. Valadez

Deshi: I do not believe in ranks.

Sensei: Not even your own?

Deshi: No, not even my own. Rank is meaningless.

Sensei: Do you not believe in mine then?

Deshi: Respectfully, I can say "no" to that question sir.

Sensei: Well if they are truly meaningless, there is no need for courtesy. I am not insulted by truth.

Deshi: Can I then do without ranking?

Sensei: Why of course, why not. Forget rank. Please, come let us take off our belts and trade them. You give me yours, and I will give you mine.

Deshi: Respectfully, sir I cannot wear your rank. What would others say, what would others expect. I am afraid I cannot deliver. People who see your belt on me will recognize it as such - what will I say and do when they confront me with their actions? It will be too much trouble - more than it is worth.

Sensei: Ah, so you know how to go but not how to arrive. Respectfully, where did your truth go - now that we are not wearing belts around our waists? Were we carrying it in our gi? With our gi now open, did it escape and fly away?