

More Than Meets The Eye: The Story of A Survivor

Master Profiles: Part 2

Name: Robert J. Ott

Location: Olympia, Washington, the United States of America

System (s): Hapkido, Tae Kwon Do, Kuk Sul Won, Farang Mu Sool, etc.

Close friend and fellow Moosa (martial arts warrior ... similar to Pendakar in Malay)

It may hard to believe, but we as a race of sentient beings are spoiled. We take for too much for granted. We have the capacity to think, feel, express ourselves and are capable of other things that no other creature on this planet could fathom. Our five senses are one of things we just assume as normal. The human abilities of taste, touch, smell, sight and hearing are far more acute than we realize.

More than a few people have told me "Things could be worse, Guy." It's a hard pill to swallow sometimes but it is true. I remember many years ago when my grandfather Douglas Skidmore was slowly being taken from this earth from cancer. He felt sorry for a friend of my grandmother's, a man by the name of Rawleigh Orr. Why? Because Mr. Orr couldn't move any part of his body save his head. My grandfather could still walk and do many common things like bathe himself. The ironic thing was, Mr. Orr felt my grandfather had it worse. He was in so much pain and Mr. Orr couldn't feel a thing.

It helps put things into perspective. The ironic thing is that most people who have a hard time dealt by fate are stronger and more resilient spiritually than you or I could imagine. You should appreciate and treasure every day because it can be gone in a blink of an eye.

Imagine you are a young man in a small town in the States. Despite living in a single parent home, you never want for the basics of life, especially love. You develop a passion for the arts and find your calling. Life seems to come together until one senseless moment someone puts a bullet in your head and nearly kills you. After being given up on, somehow you pull through and have to adjust to being scarred, blinded and having lost your sense of taste. Do you think you could cope? What would you do? How would you do it? I shiver at the thought. I just had to endure a mild case of asthma and two bum knees.

Wing Chun, Tai Chi, Hapkido and other arts do sensitivity training blind folded. I was even instructed to do my *poomsae* blindfolded to learn to control my senses and shut out distractions. But even if you did *chi sao* or bamboo cutting blindfolded for 40 years how could you cope, let alone continue your martial arts journey after that kind of ordeal?

This is where we enter Master Robert J. Ott. As mentioned in the a fore example he grew up without a father in reality (his father ran a nightclub and was more of a buddy whenever Robert visited) and despite many setbacks had a fairly normal life. He was introduced to Korean martial arts at a young age, but didn't formally begin study until his pre-teens years in the art of Tae Kwon Do. He loved it... almost too much. After a few years, his instructor went his own way as did Robert. He discovered a master of a

unique art called Hapkido in the next city. He was even more sold on it. It contained the striking motions he loved, but introduced weapons, joint locks, throws and tumbling to the youth. It filled his entire existence. He was quickly promoted through the ranks and learned about the sixth sense masters can tap into as well as other advanced techniques. He eventually left and opened his own gym so he could continue to seek his own path in the arts.

All seemed well in the life of young Bobby Ott. He had his passion, family, friends, a lovely girlfriend... until one horrific night. One no one close to him can ever forget. Some thugs pushed their way into his father's club and started causing trouble. One began to harass one of the ladies working there. Fortunately for her Robert was there and tossed him out on his ear. Before Robert, his father, or any of his friends could figure out what was really going on, that one criminal came back and put a bullet in his head. It was so surreal. Almost like a weird, sickening dream for him.

Most physicians believed him to be a lost cause and one very callous one even told his mother that was going to die so she should start making plans. Fortunately a nurse who thought outside the box arranged a different surgeon and saved the young man's life.

In the days, weeks, months, and years that followed he had to fight not just his blindness, but also a shattered self-image, his pride and a feeling hopelessness. Thankfully his family, friends and fellow martial arts such as Grandmaster Kenneth Mac Kenzie never let him give up. Ultimately however, it was Master Robert's resolve to not let the criminal win and live on. His friend Kenneth pulled him back into the arts which gave him purpose and a reason to get up every morning.

Where Robert never really knew prejudice, he had to then face it. Being a recently blinded and scarred young man with a lot of emotional baggage he had to fight a lot of personal demons in addition to the audacity of the ignorant.

In time his passion for the arts pushed him out of the introverted shell he placed himself in. He regained his pride and appreciation for what he did have. He pushed himself to move far from home to Washington State by himself and later became an entrepreneur with his lovely wife Kimberly. Now he is one of the most accredited experts in the field of Korean martial arts in North America. He also is the founder of Certain Victory Food Services, Inc. which is one of the top contractors to feeding the U.S. military troops. In addition he is a loving family man with his children Savannah and Robert Jr.

Currently he has also founded the World Kidokwon Federation and hosts an annual martial arts seminar in his home of Olympia, Washington. For a blind man with no hope or vision for tomorrow he has come a long way. In my opinion he sets a strong example for what we all can do, disabled or not. Master Robert is my senior in Hapkido, but more importantly a brother in the arts and a good friend. I strongly recommend anyone reading this article to visit his site. As it is said in Korea, **PILSUNG** (certain victory)!

Accomplishments In Brief:

- President/Founder of the World Kidokwan Federation
- 7<sup>th</sup> Dan Black Belt under Grand Master Ji Han Jae

- Certified Instructor via the World Han Min Jok Hapkido Federation (Formed by the South Korean Government) under Grand Master/Chairman In Sun Seo
  - Certified as the Washington State Director of the National Korean Martial Arts Association under Grand Master Rudy Timmerman
  - Author of the Biography titled “Certain Victory”
  - Cover page article of the July 2008 Tae Kwon Do Times Magazine
  - 1994 World Martial Arts Association Man of the Year
  - A Leader for Personal Empowerment and Motivational speaking across the USA
  - Official Correspondent for Tae Kwon Do Times Magazine
  - Chief Master and Owner of The Temple of Certain Victory\*
- \*NOTE: The Temple of Certain Victory is not a place of business nor is it open to the public.*
- 2009 Tae Kwon Do Times **Master of the Year Hall of Fame**

#### Contact Information:

Master Robert J. Ott can be contacted by e-mail at [pilsung@comcast.net](mailto:pilsung@comcast.net). His website is [www.certainvictory.com](http://www.certainvictory.com).

#### Product Information:

- Certain Victory DVD
- Certain Victory: Setting The Course DVD (about his seminars)
- Certain Victory: The Documentary DVD
- Certain Victory (softcover book)

*Guy Edward Larke sabumnim has dedicated his life from a young age to the pursuit of the martial arts, Asian culture and hopology. It led him to Korea in 2000 and has lived there since then. He now lives in Daejeon city with his wife Gi-Ryung and their son Alexander. He holds black belts in Taekwondo, Hapkido, Taekkyon, Bon Kuk Kumdo, Korean kickboxing, Karate-do, Wushu, Cheon Ji Muye Do, and Hoshin-Sul. Currently he teaches Taenglish (English Taekwondo) full time in addition to writing for various magazines and running Kisa-Do Muye (Martial Arts) & Marketing. In the future he plans to relocate to Malaysia to teach martial arts and continue studying. He can be contacted on Facebook or at [kisa do muye@yahoo.ca](mailto:kisa_do_muye@yahoo.ca).*

