

Hojojutsu - The art of tying

The art of tying someone up with a rope in Japan is very old. There were even complete schools that teach the most effective way to restrain someone with a rope. Some of the most famous Ryu (traditional schools) are Kito Ryu, Takenouchi Ryu, Eishin Ryu, and even our Shinden Fudo Ryu. The basics of each ryu are similar. The ropes are coiled in such a way that they do not become entangled while they are used, and are kept compact in either the sleeve or pocket of the kimono. Some long ropes were hung from the side of the Obi. (Ed. note: The sago or cord attached to the sword was also used). The most important part while tying up your opponent is to keep him restrained while you set about him. This in itself is difficult, as one hand needs to be free to use the rope. So a good understanding of taijutsu is required. Sometimes a sword would be stuck in the ground next to the neck, with the cutting edge facing the assailant. If he moved his head was punched next to the blade to either cut or scare him into keeping still. To aid in the tying process a hook was added to one end of the rope and placed in the mouth or into the sides of the top knot (hair style of the samurai). It was also used as a lasso when placed around the neck. This hook used in battle could be thrown as a grappling hook onto a samurai on horseback, catching on his armour and pulling him to the ground.

Knots were developed that could hold almost anybody in any position. The knots were so designed that if a person tried to wiggle free the rope around the neck would tighten, restricting the airflow and choking the victim.

It should be noted that each school had its own designs knot styles, colours, patterns and established length of the ropes.

The police in Japan's Edo era (1601-1868) carried the rope, and used it effectively. Modern Japanese police are permitted to carry a rope for tying, on the one condition that they are well versed in its methods.

Some ninja could dislocate their joints to escape situations such as being bound with a rope.



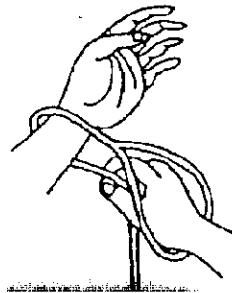
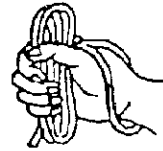
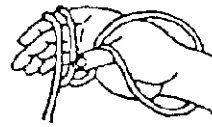
Before he can be tied he must be restrained.

捕方 捕方

敵の右手先を握み、
腕の裏に左手を添え
て握みふせ、直ちに
我が右腕にかけて置
いた捕輪を敵の右手
に移しかける。



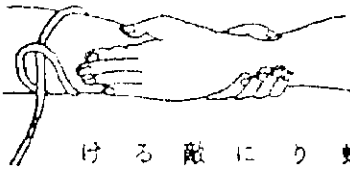
自分の右手に蛇口を止め、残りの繩を掌中に束ねて持ち、繩
をかける時すばやく敵の腕に移しかける。



捕われる者

自分の手首に
蛇口をかけ、残
りの繩を袂の中
に入れて置いて
敵の手首を捉え
ると共に移しか
ける。

捕える者



我が右手で敵
の左手を圓の如
く逆に持ち上げ
ると敵の体
は左前方に傾く、
我れは右手逆を
締め上げたから
左手で敵の肘を
押えつつ前方に
押倒し、繩をか
ける。