

My Uchideshi Experience Emmeli Wennström

This has been my second time here Japan and in many ways it has been a lot easier. Though this time I return home with a lighter heart, this time leaving don't feel quite as final but rather as an opportunity to make use of all my new experiences. I leave here this time inspired by all the people I have met, the impressions I have had and the great times I have shared with the dojo members.

These two months feels like an eternity and yet at the same time they seemed to have passed in the blink of an eye. As I try to remember an experience like this I often tend to see only the happy moments, when I felt at ease and the world was smiling at me. But as I dig deeper I remember the pain of wounds under my toes, the frustration of trying and trying and never managing to complete a technique and all the willpower it took to keep my eyes open those days that the insane fatigue made me see double. I've had nosebleeds and bruises and forced to share a shower with spiders. All you can do at these times is to try and remember that these feelings will make good stories some day. And as I sit here writing this down I think fondly even of these times and wondering if I should really be called sane to enjoy feeling pain and misery.

If you are person used to be in control you may have a struggle here, I advise you to let go and try to enjoy the ride. Remember to laugh and smile, you should have fun here. And the weirdness, just accept it, as more often than not the only explanation for absurdness here is the words: "This is Japan!" As if that should be any explanation at all... I've had enjoyed my stay here immensely and I hope this experience have made me a little bit wiser.

Right now I am looking forward to going home but I know that I will soon miss this, especially everyone who have welcomed me into this dojo with open arms. It is thanks to you that I have enjoyed even the pain and sleep deprivation.

Thank you and Good bye!