

## Questions about Bushido

### Example Situation

You are about to start the eleventh grade. You have been blessed to have a mentor since elementary school. The two of you have met at least weekly, and sometimes more often, during that entire time. This mentor has helped you with practically every part of your life and is as close to you as any of your family members. You feel total respect for this mentor, who has always treated you with great respect and care.

Your relationship with this mentor is based on a contract that both of you signed many years ago. The contract includes a promise to continue your regular meetings until your high school graduation.

Recently, a wealthy local citizen contacted you after hearing of your great achievements and potential. This person offered to serve as your mentor for your final two years of high school. The reward for your participation would be a \$25,000 scholarship! You were very excited about this possibility, but when you mentioned your long-time mentor, this person became troubled. The prospective mentor let you know that you would have to stop your relationship with your long-time mentor if you wanted to participate and receive the scholarship.

### Questions about Example Situation

Would you abandon your long-time mentor to have an opportunity to receive the scholarship? Circle your choice, then explain your response on the lines that follow.

Yes, definitely

Yes, with hesitation

No, with hesitation

Definitely not

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### Situation #1

You are a samurai in feudal Japan. You have loyally served the same daimyo since you were a child. This daimyo has always been generous and fulfilled his obligations to you.

You are participating in a large, important battle against a neighboring daimyo's samurai. Hundreds of samurai are fighting for each side. It quickly becomes clear that your side is losing very badly. In fact, you are certain that if you continue to participate in the battle, then you will die.

The thought of running away crosses your mind, but you know that you would be obligated to commit seppuku if you lose your honor in this way. You are surprised to notice a number of your fellow samurai surrendering and joining the other side. You know that the daimyo leading the other side is well-respected. But you also are thinking about the promise of loyalty that you have made to your daimyo.

### Questions about Situation #1

Would you break your promise to your daimyo to join the other side and save your life? Circle your choice on the other side of the paper, then explain your response on the lines that follow.

Yes, definitely

Yes, with hesitation

No, with hesitation

Definitely not

Would you be more likely to switch sides in the battle if . . .

a. your daimyo had not always treated you well?

YES

NO

Explain \_\_\_\_\_

b. you knew that it was common for samurai to change sides during battles?

YES

NO

Explain \_\_\_\_\_

Situation # 2

You are a samurai in feudal Japan with a wife and four young children. You carefully follow Bushido, the samurai code of honor. Like other samurai, you value honor and loyalty above all.

While delivering a message for your daimyo, you encounter another samurai. Your swords accidentally touch, and he challenges you to a duel. You feel afraid, so you get on your horse and ride away.

You realize that you have lost your personal honor and are required to commit seppuku. But you are also worried about your family. You are certain that if you die, they will lose their comfortable lifestyle and be forced to become poor, miserable farmers.

Questions about Situation #2

Would you commit seppuku, keeping your promise to maintain your honor?

Yes, definitely

Yes, with hesitation

No, with hesitation

Definitely not

Would you be more likely to commit seppuku if . . .

a. your daimyo was with you when you lost your honor?

YES

NO

Explain \_\_\_\_\_

b. you knew that your family would not face economic trouble if you died?

YES

NO

Explain \_\_\_\_\_

Exit Slip

1. Which is more important: keeping promises, or keeping our personal health and well-being? Explain.

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2. Which is more important: keeping promises, or taking care of our closest family members? Explain.

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