

Justin Stein gave his opinion on Elizabeths' (2023, *The Samurai Reiki Master*) and my (2024, *Tokio Yokoi. From Japanese Christianity to Universal Reiki*) publication. It is my intention to give a one-time response that will hopefully halt any further polarization.

Overall, it seems to me that in Stein's writing, on several occasions the content of those two books is mixed up or equated on other occasions. So, firstly I must make clear these two books both hold as their primary topic Tokio Yokoi, but they differ in detail and should not be mixed up or equated.

Elizabeth spent over 30 years on this topic and has an impressive archive of material on her inquiry into Tokio Yokoi. She deserves credit and respect for her own publication, and it must be said, we do not always have the same opinion. For some years now, we have been engaged in a dialogue instigated by the continual questions that we pose to each other, in a concerted effort to explore the underlying beliefs that shape our views and opinions. After all, doubt is the driving force behind growth and development. I honor her for her perseverance and thank her for her friendship.

In my opinion, Justin seemed to have picked pieces of content he feels he can refute. However, these pieces are taken out of context. Several people that have read my book pointed this out to me. While this is an important detail, I will not comment on that because it will be counterproductive. So, for this response I will take another path.

Most if not all the evidence provided by Justin about Usui dates after 1922 and does not indicate whether this refers to Mikao Usui born in Taniai, or someone else using the pseudonym Usui. This is the whole point. The narrative of Tokio Yokoi is particularly interesting for the time prior to 1922. In fact, suggested details on the life of Usui prior to 1922, such as that he travelled to Europe and the US, that he studied in the US, that he was a reporter and a politician, seem impossible to relate to the Mikao Usui from Taniai but can all be related to the life and work of Tokio Yokoi.

Justin did a doctoral study about Hawayo Takata. I regret that he did not verify the Takata story with Doshisha University for accuracy. In a groundbreaking first step in 1991, William Rand asked Doshisha if they knew the name Mikao Usui. I read in their letter to Rand that Mikao Usui did not exist in their archives. However, the question was not turned around, if there was a story about an ordained minister, head of Doshisha, problems with his students, resignation, study in the US, etc. They would immediately have said, "Yes, Tokio Yokoi!" Justin also neglected to ask this question and failed to discover that the Takata story is about Tokio Yokoi. Somehow, he was called Mikao Usui. As a result, Justin labeled Takata's story a fabrication and Takata was dismissed by many as a fantasist or even a liar. See here the birth of an academic-stamped bias ("the story is not true") that unfortunately has been adopted by many, including me at one time.

Then in 2023, I heard from Elizabeth Latham that Takata's story did involve someone from Doshisha: Tokio Yokoi. After years of research, Elizabeth concludes that after completing his quest for healing in 1922 on Mt Kurama, for several reasons Yokoi must have continued his work of teaching Reiki under a pseudonym: Mikao Usui or just Usui Sensei. This is plausible, as it is common practice across societies that people change their names after a

mystic experience. It took me months to get used to this idea, but finally it forced me back to the drawing board to revisit the history of Reiki without the shroud of bias. The outcome of this new study shows that Tokio Yokoi fits completely into Takata's picture and not only that, but I could also trace back in his life that he was indeed on a quest for healing through the laying on of hands analogous to Jesus and surprisingly fitting into Takata's story. A stunning number of dots were finally connected unfolding a new Reiki narrative, coherently integrating and aligning the life and work of Yokoi, Hayashi and Takata. Also, this life story fits with the rise of Japanese nationalism in the complex geopolitical shifts that took place between WW I and WW II. This is the context of my book, telling Yokoi's story using data sources evidencing his accomplishments throughout his life through his own publications and through publications mentioning his name, all to be found back in my book on Yokoi.

In many of my Tokio Yokoi presentations, I share that I experience my work on Yokoi as a rehabilitation of Miss Takata, apologizing to her that there was a time that I also did not believe her story. I can assure you; this gives a feeling of deep connection to her energy. All in all, the new narrative brought me to a place of inner peace regarding the history of Reiki.

One thing I absolutely have a different opinion. Justin states he only wants to base his research on (his) so-called facts and leave out intuitive knowledge. For him as a Reiki practitioner, this limited perspective may work but for me as a Reiki Master, it does not. Reiki practice is a Mystery School becoming most evident during the performance of the sacred ritual of initiation. This takes place entirely in the unseen world, in the realm of meta-physics, of Mystery where 'facts' play no role. In this realm the initiative Reiki Master and student are guided by the agency of *reiki*-energy with its inherent wisdom, oneness, love and compassion. In other words, facts help me believe in Reiki, but facts plus intuitive knowledge gives me faith in Reiki. I carry this with me during my study of Reiki. For me, this 'intuitive knowledge' is essential to comprehend Reiki practice which reflects in my Reiki studies.

Also, despite Justin's claim to limit himself to facts, he finds it necessary to defend himself by using pseudo-psychology to downplay other authors, completely abandoning the subject. This is unusual; I have never encountered this in any academic publication and completely distance myself from this.

Where does that leave us? Everything comes down to one question. After reading the works in discussion, what do you believe? Do you believe Takata?

If your answer is "no," as from Justin, then you end up in a narrative with Mikao Usui born in Taniai as the founder of Reiki. A narrative that goes back no further than 1922.

If your answer is "yes," like mine, then you get a narrative with Tokio Yokoi (possibly) working under the pseudonym Usui that goes back to Yokoi's youth when Yokoi was struck during a meditation by the Light and Love of Jesus. This experience formed the beginning for his quest for healing through the laying on of hands and consequently the development of Reiki. The experience on Mt Kurama in 1922 was the final step in this quest and therefore he could spread Reiki as a teacher from day 1.

Everyone is free to listen, think, or feel and therefore free to choose which narrative they energetically connect with.

We will not get beyond this point unless we acknowledge there are still some “unknowns” in both narratives. So, feel free to make your own choice and avoid further polarization with that.

Joan Jonker, March 27, 2025