



BECOMING MR. SHINY TOOTH



Diamond Springs, CA....He was an orphan at three in Fukuoka, Japan, raised by a gambler until he was sixteen, when luck ran out for both. It was the seventies; nighttime was the right time when clubs and discos were operating at pulsating, full throttle. Survival meant working from 5pm to midnight in a disco, 1am to 6am at a nightclub, then off to high school.

Fast forward to today where Sunny Kamiya lives in Maui, Hawaii with his wife and a new puppy. He is a Regional Coordinator for Snuba International, a California based company. The Company invented Snuba, an eco-friendly, shallow water dive program that allows people to explore the undersea world to a depth of twenty feet. A certified guide leads up to four guests - not encumbered with an air tank on their backs - but connected by a hose to the air supply that floats on a raft at the water's surface. Mr. Kamiya's area of responsibility is, not ironically, Japan.

A curious circle of events brought him to this place. At seventeen, a high school friend said he wanted to be a firefighter, and was going to the library to check out past tests. Sunny went along: along too for the test, the physical and the interview. It was followed by two years of fire fighting, eight in the rescue squad and two in EMT. After watching "Backdraft" he set off to New York. Laughingly, he says, "I didn't know it was filmed in Chicago!" Unable to become a NYC fireman, he joined the Westchester, NY EMT unit.

Another media exposure was to alter Sunny's life, again. "I was watching the Travel Channel, drinking Crazy Horse Beer and munching on baby carrots. The show featured the paradise of Hawaii. Mr. White Shiny Tooth diving instructor was showing off his skills, with the brightest teeth I had ever seen, and taking the most beautiful ladies into the crystal clear water. So envious of Mr. Shiny Tooth, I arrived in Maui within a week."

His first job was with a diving company. A short time later, he was approached by Jim Mayfield, President and CEO of Snuba International, to develop the product in Japan. One of the most exquisite diving sites is in the Ryukyu Islands, a series of islands that include its most populated, Okinawa.





Kuroshio (the Japan Current) affords crystal clear visibility from 120 to 150 feet. Underwater formations spell spectacular as well as mysterious. Yonaguni is being investigated as an ancient civilization, gone the way of Atlantis.

Snuba is opening some beautiful worlds to visitors: at the renown Blue Cave at Maeda Point by Nagi Marine Club and at Blue Zone on Kerama Island.

Sunny Kamiya has experimented, learned and achieved in several universes. He can certainly smile about his life. He is Mr. Shiny Tooth.



Additional original photos are available.

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