



Andrew Jordan Forge Visit

by Megan Hine

As we step into the Andrew Jordan Forge, the provenance of the Jordan knives, I feel like I've stepped into a land of fantasy. Sparkling dust motes dance in the shafts of light that fall through the open door, parting and swirling around me as I enter. The forge is lit inside by the soft orange glow coming from the furnace, a warm and relaxing hue softening the harsher angles and throwing flickering shadows on the walls. The old blacksmithing tools hanging on the walls, the anvils spread throughout the forge tell stories of an age old practice. Andrew's Blade Smith machinery, the presses, the power hammers and the rollers lend to the atmosphere of the forge, traditional skills meets modern mechanics blending in harmony.

Watching Andrew creating his blades is truly seeing a master at work, he is obviously connected to the work he is doing, I feel I am watching someone who has achieved enlightenment in his field and although utterly fascinating and beautiful to watch, I do not feel I grasp what Andrew is actually doing and the sheer depth of his knowledge. The small adjustments he makes seemingly without thinking, how the steel he is working is placed in the heat and which area he is pressing goes over my head. He is not randomly hitting a piece of steel he is meticulously heating, examining, folding, heating, pressing, heating, hammering, heating, re-examining creating the beautiful Damascus steel for some lucky persons blade. Being an avid Jordan knife user I had an inkling of the time, effort and love that goes into each one

of his blades. This has now been confirmed to me and my respect for the Blade-Smithing craft, Andrew and other true Blade Smiths has increased ten fold. This is not a skill that can be mastered in an afternoon, a week or even a month, to achieve this depth of understanding and instinct for the metal worked, this goes beyond a knowledge of science, goes beyond the knowledge of how the molecules interact with each other it is a instinctual knowledge that has become part of who the Blade Smith is.

I feel privileged to have watched the process of this blade being created and wonder on the future adventures this blade will visit, the amazing places it may be taken, the lives it may save and indeed the lives it may take. Wherever this blade goes I know for sure it takes a small part of the Blade Smith with it.