

Moral Codes of HwangYongSa Kwan

HwangyongSa Do Meng Sae is the most important part of HwangYongSa Do Training. The roots of what is now known as HwangYongSa Do began over 2000 years ago and continue through the Silla Dynastic period and Koryo Dynasty. Initially, the young people, of what later became Korea, would gather in groups to test themselves and each other. These unified groups of young people were the predecessors of the Hwa Rang. The Hwa Rang, or "Flowering Knights", were incorporated into military service about the year 540 A.D. The Hwa Rang warriors went to the mountains, rivers and places of natural beauty to learn to develop patience, mental and emotional control, artistic pursuits coupled with martial arts training. Besides religious instruction, the Hwa Rang were taught dance, literature, arts and sciences. They were taught the art of warfare, archery, and self-defense skills. Based on the concept of the unity of opposites embodied in the Um/Yang, the empty hand fighting techniques were known for their blending of the hard and soft, linear and circular attacks. A linear thrust punch could break through the wooden Armour of an opponent and kill him instantly. They could spin kick at such speeds that their enemies frequently thought that the feet of the Hwa Rang warriors were swords. The ferocious fighting spirit of the Hwa Rang Warrior became legendary, and the exploits were recorded in Hwa Rang poetry and literature. They were Silla's elite warriors, called the Hwa Rang.

Hwa Rang were young men who exemplified the warrior intellect that influenced Korean history for many centuries. Martial Arts training is not focused on just winning fights, but is focused on building a good character through the vehicle of combat skills. Honor and Integrity of character is emphasized through the five point code of conduct and five tenets of Taekwondo. HwangYongSa Kwan Meng Sae is recited at the beginning and ending of each class so that we always remember the most important thing about training in HwangYongSa Do. Students are frequently asked at their promotional testing to explain examples of how they have exemplified HwangYong Kwan Meng Sa in their daily lives.

The Five Point code of Conduct

Loyalty to Nation

we respect the country we live in. The United States offers opportunity that no other country in the world offers. We recognize our rights as citizens as well as our responsibilities.

Respect of Parents

Recognize your father and mother for who they are and what they sacrifice for you.

Faithfulness among friends

a friend is someone who never gives up on you, even when you may have given up on yourself. A friend will offer assistance, even in the face of great personal sacrifice.

Courage in battle

this not only means in physical battles. Sometimes the largest battles are won by a firm commitment to stand for what you believe in. Speak your mind, but follow your heart.

Avoid all unnecessary violence

we are confident in ourselves. We can handle the situation, no matter how grim it may seem. We realize that violence cannot solve our problems. We commit ourselves to using our special skills to promote peace and harmony with the world around us.

Five Tenets of TaeKwonDo

Courtesy

Refers to the polite and humane treatment of others. Without a sense of courtesy, the martial artist could use his skills and personality to dominate others in many areas of life. With courtesy incorporated into one's life, the martial artist is reminded of a responsibility to society.

Integrity

Refers to one's honesty, not only to others, but also to himself. It is expected that the martial artist will have goals, and a strong sense of integrity can help the martial artist to achieve these goals with honesty and fairness.

Perseverance

The main difference between a dream and a goal is that a dream involves wishing for a desired outcome, whereas a goal involves working toward that outcome. Of course, even with perseverance the desired outcome may not always arrive on the first try, which can test the martial artist's patience. But a martial artist who learns from experience and works around his limitations-making the shortcoming a setback rather than a failure-will always be more successful than the one who readily quits at the first sign of a challenge.

Self Control

because martial arts skills are potentially dangerous. We must practice restraint or risk serious repercussions. Likewise, a martial artist should demonstrate self control in non physical ways as well, because losing control could make a bad situation worse. After all, martial arts provide the practitioner with the self confidence to deal with life's situations. Controlling the situation begins with controlling one's self.

Indomitable Spirit

Refers to the influence of others on the practitioner. Everyone has an influence on everyone else. Whether or not that influence is major or minor, positive or negative or neutral. Indomitable Spirit teaches the practitioner to use others influences to help self direct his own focus. Input from others will be received, but an indomitable spirit allows the practitioner to take an active role in shaping his own destiny.

Through daily practice, the codes of conduct compliment each other, creating a whole-practitioner-which are greater than the sum of its parts. The "Do" or "Way" extends far beyond fist and foot. Likewise, the practitioner must apply his skills far beyond the training Hall.

School Motto

Victory, Victory over one's self

The Christian Tenets of Taekwondo

In any textbook on Taekwondo, or "Student Handbook" you will see The Five Tenets of Taekwondo:

Courtesy - behavior that demonstrates consideration, cooperation, and generosity

Integrity - honesty, trustworthiness, and incorruptibility

Perseverance - determination, steadfastness, persisting in spite of difficulties

Self-Control - exercising restraint over one's impulses, self-discipline

Indomitable Spirit - unconquerable courage, a "yes I can" attitude

More than just words, these "doctrines" provide a framework - not just for Dojang behavior, but for life. As Christians, we too have "behaviors" to be followed. And one of the best passages from the Bible gives a "blueprint for life".

2nd Peter 1, Verses 3 through 11 says: [Heading - Making One's Calling and Election Sure]

3 - His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

4 - Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

5 - For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;

6 - and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;

7 - and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

8 - For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 - But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

10 - Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall,

11 - and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Notice Verses 5 through 7. Peter lists the virtues a Christian must develop in order to spiritually victorious and fruitful before God (Verse 8). Now, notice the similarity between the key words in these Verses, and the Five Tenets of Taekwondo? (Beyond the words of course.) Taekwondo, as with most Martial Arts, is symbolized by etiquette and respect. The Five Tenets amplify these concepts, and define the qualities necessary (the spirit) of a Martial Artist. The above Verses from 2nd Peter define the virtues we as Born Again Believers ascribe to meet. To that end, these "qualities" are our Christian Tenets.