

The Reason for 24 Patterns

The life of a human being, perhaps 100 years, can be considered as a day when compared with eternity. Therefore, we mortals are no more than simple travelers who pass by the eternal years of an eon in a day. It is evident that no one can live more than a limited amount of time. Nevertheless, most people foolishly enslave themselves to materialism as if they could live for thousands of years. And some people strive to bequeath a good spiritual legacy for coming generations, in this way, gaining immortality. Obviously, the spirit is perpetual while material is not; therefore, what we can do to leave behind something for the welfare of mankind is, perhaps, the most important thing in our lives.

Chon Ji

Chon-Ji means literally the Heaven and the Earth. It is in the orient, interpreted as the creation of the world or the beginning of human history, therefore it is the initial pattern, consisting of two similar parts, one to represent the Heaven, and the other the Earth.

Tan Gun

Tan-Gun is named after the holy Tan-Gun, the legendary founder of Korea in the year 2333 B.C.

To-San

To-San is the pseudonym of the patriot Ahn Ch'ang-ho (1876-1938) who devoted his life to furthering the education of Korea and its independence movement.

Won-Hyo

Won-Hyo is the noted monk who brought Buddhism to the Silla Dynasty in the year 686 A.D.

Yul-Guk

Yul Gok is the pseudonym of the great philosopher and scholar Yi il (1536-1584) nicknamed the Confucius of Korea. The 38 movements of this form refer to his birth place on 38 degrees latitude and the diagram means scholar.

Chun-Gun

Chun-Gun is named after the patriot Ahn Chun-Gun who assassinated Hiro Bumi Ito, the first Japanese governor-general of Korea, known as the man who played a leading part in the Korea-Japan merger. There are 32 movements in this pattern to represent Mr. An's age when he was executed at Lui-Shunh prison in 1910.

Toigye

Toi-Gye is the pen-name of the noted scholar Yi Hwang (16th century A.D.) a authority on neo-Confucianism. The 37 movements of this pattern refer to his birthplace on 37 degrees latitude, and the diagram represents scholar.

Hwa-Rang

Hwa-Rang is named after the Hwa-Rang youth which originated Shilla about 1400 years ago. This group became the actual driving force behind the unification of the three kingdoms of Korea, Baekchae, Koguryo, Shilla.

Choong-Moo

CHOONG-MOO was the name given to the great Admiral Yi Soon-Sin of the Lee Dynasty. He was reputed to have invented the first armored battleship (Kobukson) in 1592, which is said to be the precursor of the present day submarine. The reason why this pattern ends with a left hand attack is to symbolize his regrettable death, having no chance to show his unrestrained potentiality checked by the forced reservation of his loyalty to the king.