

Black Belt 1-5 The way of the Peaceful Mind

Five Aspects

The Five Aspects of Black Belt degrees 1-5 are Earth, Water, Fire, Wind, and Void respectively.

Black Belt, 1st Degree, is represented by Earth. The Earth represents a solidified potential...a memory base that is substantial and the understanding of its contents well established. From the student's earth, grows increased knowledge, its use and therefore, confidence.

Water represents Black Belt, 2nd degree. During this period of training, the students techniques begin to smooth out...round off. The rough edges begin to disappear and the fluidity of movement becomes apparent and natural. The students' personal nature refines...heading toward the balancing of the warrior and spiritual natures. The many aspects of water are apparent: it has perfect patience; it's soft when touched; it's hard when slapped; and although when moving slowly or drifting it is extremely dangerous and powerful when agitated (the huge river or the giant power of a massive wave).

Fire represents a duality and is the third degree Black Belt symbol. Its energy is warming and friendly. The energy radiates a beauty and comfort. Yet, when touched it burns. The student during this period learns about balancing the traits of a warm and friendly personality and those of a great warrior that, when attacked, heats up (non-anger heat) a fighting energy with an ability to consume any and everything in its path. This is an important period of learning. It is an important duality for the developing student. The phrase "monk and warrior" is probably the closest to revealing the real meaning of this period of training; all the warrior aspects being balanced by the deepening spiritual aspects.

Subtlety is represented by wind. Air, itself always has a subtle presence. Yet in a split second, a gust can knock you off your feet. The period of Wind is a time when the student obtains Mastery of Knowledge and becomes less apparent and more subtle. The use of the student's skills is at a peak. The essence of what the student has learned is felt, like air, by anyone nearby. The feeling is not overbearing, but rather, a presence of being. It is very subtle; it is very smooth. But, there's an ambiance about the Master that is felt by all - a depth.

When a student has been a Master for a long period of time, a creativity begins to arise. Techniques, principles, philosophies, and so forth, seem to unite forming a great pool of new potential. Ideas begin to flow outward and enlightenment seems to be a daily occurrence. The student grows during this period immensely and becomes a creative force, flowing with a "tapped in" presence and function. From seemingly nowhere, flows a constant creativity...a creativity that make sense. It's the type of creativity that naturally arises out of a deep and rich foundation. To reach this stage, it takes tremendous dedication, consistency, and patience. The student can encourage its appearance, but, absolutely, cannot force it.