

Meibukan Dojo Kun: Sayings from the Brush of Dai Sensei Yagi

Compiled and edited by Matt Ravignat, with translations by Sensei Hing Poon Chan.

Dojo Kun are specifically written by a Grand Master for his organization and its students. It is through these that the Grand master communicates his wisdom to his students. You will notice Yagi Meitoku Dai Sensei's specific calligraphy style. It is bold and strong, as expected from a warrior, it conveys courage and determination. There is a direct relationship between his karate and his calligraphy. Like Karate it takes many years for a calligrapher to develop his own style and individuality. Calligraphy like art is in the eye of the beholder. Additional translations by Sensei Hing-Poon Chan. Read from right to left. (ed)

MICHI (DO) The path



"....Karate men have to be careful of their behaviour. Never break a promise. If we keep a promise to each other, we don't need to make laws. Never make trouble with others. Be kind to others and be strict on yourselves." (Yagi Meitoku)



OKU MYO ZAI HAKKU REN SEN TAN

There is no secret to Karate but to train a hundred techniques a thousand times.



OKU MYO ZAI REN SHIN

The strange, mystery and miracle, (of Karate) is inside located in the refinement and drilling and polishing of the heart. The secrets of karate are revealed by having a good heart.



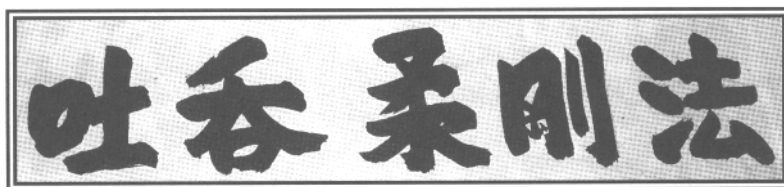
RYU SU FU SEN KYO

Running water does not compete. Be soft, flexible and humble. Shed your ego.



KAN CHIKU FU SHO

A pine tree bends in the wind but a bamboo is hard in the cold. Must have a balance between hard and soft.



HO WA GOJYU WO TONDO SU

The way of inhaling is both hardness and softness, you must give and take.



SHUTO SHIN (NIN)

Sword Heart, remain steadfast in morality your heart should be virtuous like a sword that cuts through lies. Endure.

Shuto Shin (NIN) was specifically brushed for the students of Anthony Mirakian Sensei's All American Okinawa Goju Ryu Meibukan Academy and of its international branches in thanks for the gift offered by them for his 88th birthday. Calligraphy is part of editors personal collection and may be shown on request. (ed)

Other Karate Sayings

These sayings are shared with other styles of Karate and are used in Meibukan (ed)

KOROSHI NO MEI

Killing stare. In kata and practiced the eyes should be strong and staring with focus. It is more than just a gaze but also an attitude.

HITO TSUKI

One punch one defeat. In a real fight you may not have the chance to strike twice. Every single punch must be practiced to be a killing blow.

DO KAN KI TAI

Baby face, iron body. Be hard on yourself and soft on others. Be polite and courteous to strangers.

GOKU WAZA

Every attack has a perfect counter technique, to do this one must be natural and devoid of conscious thought during a fight. If you think about it is too late.

ZANSHIN

Awareness. At all times one should be aware of his surroundings. Presence.

SHU HA RI

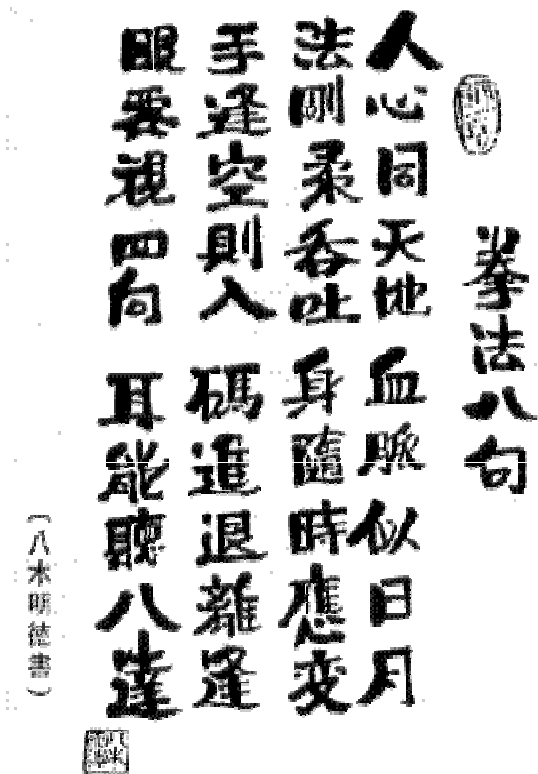
Obey your teacher. But also try to be better than him. That is while obeying him try to surpass his standards for you.

FEI SHI DA XU

Do not hit where there is strength and fullness but where there is weakness and emptiness.

The Kempo Hakku Brushed by Dai Sensei Yagi Meitoku

This is the single most important poem for the understanding of Goju-ryu Karate. It is a Chinese poem where the name Goju was taken from. The poem is found in a Ming Dynasty Fujian Kung-Fu manual called the Bubishi. Read from top right, down and up. Because of its importance it is traditional that all Sensei brush it. Sensei Chan has also brushed it and offered the poem as a gift to his most senior students upon the completion of their Shodan (ed)



THE KEMPO HAKKU (The Eight Poems of The Fist)

- 1.JINSHIN WA TENCHI NI ONAJI. - The mind is one with heaven and earth.
- 2.KETSUMYAKU WA NICHIGETSU NI NITARI. - The circulatory rhythm of the body is similar to the cycle of the sun and the moon.
- 3.HO WA GOJU WO TONDO SU. - The way(method) is both hardness and softness.
- 4.MI WA TOKI NI SHITAGAI HEN NI OZU. – Body act in accordance with time and change.
- 5.TE WA KU NI AI SUNAWACHI HAIRU. – Attack where there are openings.
- 6.SHINTAI WA HAKARITE RIHO SU. - The stance (feet) must advance and retreat, separate and meet.
- 7.ME WA SHIHO WO MIRU WO YOSU. - The eyes have to see all four sides .
- 8.MIMI WA YOKU HAPPO WO KIKU. - The ears listen well in eight directions.

A Poem

This poem was written by Yagi Meitoku Dai Sensei in 1973 as a Hakku, a specific type of Japanese poem using a very specific and difficult meter. This meter structure was the preferred meter of the Samurai warrior class and has its origins in Zen Buddhist philosophy. Translation anonymous.(ed)

**Inner Power of steely strength.
Form perfected by a thousand years.
Okinawa's heritage.
Seeking only to protect.
Man's self respect.**

