

June 11, 2004

## **Black Belt Responsibilities**

Attaining a black belt in Chayon-Ryu is a great accomplishment. One that requires patience and sacrifice for many years. However, a black belt is not a position of power - it is a position of responsibility. Black belts need to display a positive attitude toward their Chayon-Ryu family, through active participation in all aspects of the school. Simply being a "spectator" is displaying a negative attitude. Black belts are not "special guests" and training is not a social event. Black belts need to volunteer their talents and time to further Chayon-Ryu. This is necessary to ensure the continued growth and strength of the System. With the black belt comes responsibilities of leadership, participation, punctuality, teaching, and cleaning.

Leadership is the all encompassing aspect of these responsibilities. The actions of the black belt should make responsibilities obvious to all other students. If black belts are talking before class, arriving late, and not taking the initiative to clean, then that example is what the junior level student will follow. Obviously, this is not appropriate behavior.

Participation in special events is also very important, especially instructor's clinics, black belt classes and rank tests. A calendar of events is always available at the beginning of the new year so that you can organize your schedule to be available for all Chayon-Ryu activities. All of these events are held for your benefit. Between rank tests and instructors' clinics you must plan on being at the dojang at least once a month on the weekends.

Punctuality is very important in showing your sincere attitude. Black belts must plan on getting to class at least 30 minutes before the start of the class. This allows you to clear your mind through meditation, cleaning, and properly preparing for the day's lesson. Making a habit of arriving late exhibits laziness and an unreliable attitude.

Teaching is essential to learning and improving your own skills and cultivating deep mental insight. However, you need to be up to date on current instructing methods and technique revisions. Chayon-Ryu is ever evolving through its unique scientific teaching method, and as such, is constantly under review and modification. If you are unable to attend instructors' clinics, then you are unable to adequately represent yourself as a member of the teaching staff.

Many black belt students feel that cleaning and maintenance of their dojang is the responsibility of the lower ranks. How will the colored belts know what to do without the guidance, participation, and initiative of the black belts? Black belts need to promote more of a "team-like" atmosphere to these essential chores. They need to organize, delegate tasks, and be actively involved in the up keeping of their dojang. Cleaning is the responsibility of all students, especially the advanced belts.

Some senior ranking students don't pay their annual dues, and attend class only when it suits them; this a deplorable attitude. The higher you progress through the System, the more your commitment grows. Rand doesn't just mean you have mastered a set of physical skills - it means that you have grown both mentally and physically. By ignoring your responsibilities you are showing that your mental growth is not equal to your physical growth. In the future, there will be no promotion without the vital participation and leadership by the black belts. How can promotion be justified when your actions do not show sensible and mature development?



Master Rangel, 7th dan & Master Sean H. Kim 7th Dan perform One hand spar, Han Son Dae-ryon, Chuen fa. at the Hq.dojang during Tuksu Suryon

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Master Rangel or Master Sean H. Kim.