

# ITF Black Belt Meanings

There are nine degrees or Dans in ITF taekwondo. Each Dan has one to three patterns (or Tuls). These patterns are the final 15 patterns which make up the 24 patterns in ITF Taekwondo representing the 24 hours of the day, or the whole of a man's life.

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## *First Dan*

**GAE-BAEK** is named after General Gae Baek a great general in the Baek Je Dynasty (660 AD). The pattern represents his server and strict military discipline. (44 movements)

**KWANG-GAE** is named after the famous Kwang Gae Toh Wang, the 19th King of the Koguryo dynasty, who regained all the lost territories including the greater part of Manchuria. the diagram represents the expansion and recovery of the lost territory. The 39 movements refer to the first two figures of 391 AD, the year he came to the throne. (39 movements)

**PO-EUN** is the pseudonym of the loyal subject Chong Mong-Chu (1400) who was a famous poet and whose poem 'I would not serve a second master thought I might be crucified a hundred times' is known to every Korean. He was also a pioneer in the field of physics. The diagram represents his unbending loyalty to his king and country towards the end of the Koryo dynasty. (36 movements)

## *Second Dan*

**CHOONG-JANG** is the pseudonym given to General Kim Duk Ryang who lived during the Yi Dynasty (14th Century). This pattern ends with a left-hand attack to symbolize the tragedy of his death at 27 in prison before he was able to reach full maturity. (52 movements)

**EUI-AM** is the pseudonym of Son Byong Hi, leader of the Korean independence movement on March 1, 1919. The 45 movements refer to his age when he changed the name of Dong Hak (Oriental culture) to Chondo Kyo (Heavenly way religion) in 1905. The diagram represents his Indomitable Spirit, displayed while dedicating himself to the prosperity of his nation. (45 movements)

**KO-DANG** is the pseudonym of the patriot Cho Man Shik, who dedicated his life to the Korean Independence Movement and to the education of his people. (39 movements)

## *Third Dan*

**YOO-SIN** is named after General Kim Yoo Sin, a commanding general during the Silla Dynasty. The 68 movements refer to the last two figures of 668 A.D., the year Korea was united. The ready posture signifies a sword drawn on the right rather than left side, symbolizing Yoo Sin's mistake of following his Kings' orders to fight with foreign forces against his own nation. (68 movements)

**SAM-IL** denotes the historical date of the independence movement of Korea which began throughout the country on March 1, 1919. The 33 movements in the pattern stand for the 33 patriots who planned the movement. (33 movements)

**CHOI-YONG** is named after General Choi Yong, premier and commander in chief of the armed forces during the 14th century Koryo Dynasty. Choi Yong was greatly respected for his loyalty, patriotism, and humility. He was executed by his subordinate commanders headed by general Yi Sung Gae, who later became the first King of the Lee Dynasty. (46 movements)



## **Fourth Dan**

**YONG-GAE** is named after a famous general during the Koguryo Dynasty, Yon Gae Somoon. The 49 movements refer to the last two figures of 649 A.D., the year he forced the Tang Dynasty to quit Korea after destroying nearly 300,000 of their troops at Ansi Sung. (49 movements)

**UL-JI** is named after general Ul-Ji Moon Dok who successfully defended Korea against a Tang's invasion force of nearly one million soldiers led by Yang Je in 612 A.D., Ul-Ji employing hit and run guerrilla tactics, was able to decimate a large percentage of the force. The diagram represents his surname. The 42 movements represent the author's age when he designed the pattern. (42 movements)

**MOON-MOO** honors the 30th King of the Silla Dynasty. His body was buried near Dae Wang Am (Great King's Rock). According to his will, the body was placed in the sea "where my soul shall forever defend my land against the Japanese." It is said that the Sok Gul Am (Stone cave) was built to guard his tomb. The Sok Gul Am is a fine example of the culture of the Silla Dynasty. The 61 movements in this pattern symbolize the last two figures of 661 A.D. when Moon Moo came to the throne. (61 movements)



## **Fifth Dan**

**SO-SAN** is the pseudonym of the great monk Choi Hyong Ung (1520-1604) during the Lee Dynasty. The 72 movements refer to his age when he organized a corps of monk soldiers with the assistance of his pupil Sa Myunh Dang. The monk soldiers helped repulse the Japanese pirates who overran most of the Korean peninsula in 1592. (72 movements)

**SE-JONG** is named after the greatest Korean King, Se-Jong, who invented the Korean alphabet in 1443, and was also a noted meteorologist. The diagram represents the king, while the 24 movements refer to the 24 letters of the Korean alphabet. (24 movements)



## **Sixth Dan**

**TONG-IL** denotes the resolution of the unification of Korea which has been divided since 1945. The diagram symbolizes the homogenous race. (56 movements)