

## Dojo Kun

(The Dojo Karate-ka Oath)

訓  
一人格完成に努むること  
一誠の道を守ること  
一努力の精神を養ふこと  
一礼儀を重んずること  
一血気の勇を戒むこと  
後始末を輔

“Hitotsu! Jinkaku Kansei ni Tsutomuru Koto!”  
(One! to Strive For The Perfection of Character!)

“Hitotsu! Makoto No Michi O Mamoru Koto!”  
(One! To Defend The Paths of Truth!)

“Hitotsu! Doryoku No Seishin O Yashinau Koto!”  
(One! To Foster The Spirit of Effort!)

“Hitotsu! Reigi O Omonzuru Koto!”  
(One! To Honour The Principles of Etiquette!)

“Hitotsu! Kekki No Yu O Imashimuru Koto!”  
(One! To Guard Against Impetuous Courage!)

## The Meaning of the Dojo Kun

1. **Seek Perfection of Character** This means that the art of karate is more than just physical. All beginners, especially the young, should be taught the importance of character building through discipline and rigorous training. For the beginner, the character building process begins with perfecting techniques through repetition. The spirit to fight will be achieved as one gains more confidence through development of stronger techniques. Train to bring out the spirit, not only to fight but to overcome personal problems especially in times of sickness, domestic crisis or business problems. It is a long path to develop these spiritual values but once the concept is understood and experienced it will provide a lifetime benefit of inner strength and peace.
2. **Be Faithful** To be faithful is a strong samurai tradition and an extension of the Confucius influence on the family and martial arts. The faith to be shown is in your sensei and dojo. The student always be faithful to his/her sensei and follow in much the same way as a medieval samurai was bound to follow his feudal lord to the death without hesitation. While this may seem unusual in the present day, it is unreasonable to expect a sensei to teach all he knows to a student who is likely to leave for the slightest of reasons. The student must prove his loyalty over the years. The faith and loyalty extended to the sensei will be rewarded, in that a greater amount of knowledge and wisdom will be passed on to the student and this bond between sensei and student is extremely valuable and it is the basis of the learning relationship.
3. **Endeavour** To endeavour means complete dedication and commitment necessary to achieve mastery of the art. In no case is mastery possible without strenuous effort and sacrifice on the part of the practitioner. The endeavour must be of a sincere nature and not just superficial. Serious effort on the part of the student will be recognised by the sensei who will in time spend more time with him or her.
4. **Respect Others** Respect for others is an important part of the Japanese and Okinawan culture therefore common to the martial arts. Gichin Funakoshi stressed that karate begins and ends with etiquette. He also stated that without courtesy there is no dojo. This is a reflection of the formal nature of the Japanese people and may be observed bowing during training as well as at home or the office. Dojo etiquette is well defined. You bow correctly and show respect in everything you do and everywhere you go. Respect is extended to all...senseis, parents, educators, law, deceased, nature, etc.
5. **Refrain From Violent Behaviour** a trained fighter is a person with a fierce complete spirit and great strength so it is unfair to use it against an untrained person. The karate-ka spirit is unbeatable and must use his knowledge only for the sake of justice. A person of character can walk away from a fight because he is in control of his emotions and is at peace with him/herself. He doesn't have to test his abilities on the street. He wins without fighting and he will have no regrets because no one will be injured. Refraining from violent behaviour is hard to explain to many Westerners because of their environment, or the attitude of winning tournaments and they want to do it as quickly as possible which is against the principles of karate-do and the dojo kun. It is therefore necessary for instructors to constantly remind the students the importance of the dojo kun