



WISDOM OF SENSEI ROBERT C. MOORE COMPILED BY SENSEI ED MATHNA



The writings of Sensei Robert C. Moore will just show some of the thinking back in 1960s.

It should be noted that only certain people in our system may have these manuals. Copies of the manuals were given to me by Grandmaster E. A. Fuzy.

The following was pulled from Sensei Robert C. Moore's manuals copyrighted 1967. The manuals were written for United States Karate Association ([USKA WIKIPEDIA PAGE](#)). Grandmaster Robert Trias was the founder of USKA and was the founding father of modern day Karate in the United States. Sensei Robert C. Moore was an officer in this Association. Sensei Robert C. Moore wrote the Tournament Rules, Teaching Handbooks, Student Handbooks for this association. A lot of the tournaments rules for sparring and kata are still in effect today and are used all over the United States.

Enjoy

Sensei Ed Mathna

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"The biggest problem facing the spread of Karate today is the lack of qualified instructors, hampered even more by individuals that are introduced to Karate for a short period, and then proclaim themselves an expert in the art."

"The United States Karate Association (USKA) has been assimilating and adopting the techniques, principles and concepts of every Karate system and style in the world with the primary purpose in mind to develop an American System of Karate, just as every other major country has done through the centuries... Okinawa developed its specific system from the Chinese – the Japanese then used the combined knowledge and skill of the Okinawan and Chinese to develop a system for its people – the Koreans then used the knowledge of the Chinese, Okinawan and Japanese to originate a system designed to best suit the physical, psychological, religious and moral needs of its people, just as each of these other countries had done."

"Keep in mind as a student it is also your right to refuse a test or certificate if you feel you are not warranted of the test or the certificate. You should talk to your instructor and explain why you may not be ready for testing and why you do not think you should be promoted. The reason for not being ready is personal to the student. The reason for not excepting your promotion usually may be you have no confident in the rank being rewarded. Or you do not qualify because of time and rank chart does not match the promotion. IE... Being a first degree black belt and your instructor wants to promote you to 2nd

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degree belt. You know you only been a first degree black belt for 1 ½ years. But when you look at the promotion chart you see the chart states 2-3 years.”

“Jumping rank should never happen. This is when someone gets a rank two or more above their existing rank. If this happens then you as the student should decline the promotion with the reason of why. At first the student may be honored to think they are so good that the instructor is promoting them. But in reality the student will realize over time he never received his certificates for the ranks he skipped. And then think he never earned anything because he never tested.”

“There are also some instructors of questionable character and background themselves who have a very bad habit of awarding promotions on the basis of friendship, for money, or through plain ignorance, which the inexperienced instructor calls faith (in hopes that a student will automatically reform or socially adjust through further knowledge and skill which is absurd.”

“Gifted rank should not happen. When gifted a rank it means you did not pay for the certificate of rank. The student that was gifted their rank will feel like they did not do anything to earn it. They will feel great at first but later on will realize and question their rank because they did not test to earn their rank like the other students”

“I know of Instructors that will go ahead and grade an individual to a higher rank regardless of Attitude and Character for one of three basic reasons: The most frequent of these is Friendship. This is something that I would not do to a friend... Give him something that he knows he doesn't deserve. The second reason is Money. This is probably the worst reason (or excuse) of all. The third, is simply a matter of blind faith in which the general thought is: If the Student is promoted, he will reform and or will be able to adjust through further knowledge and will reform and/or will be able to adjust through further knowledge and skills.. I think this is unwarranted and unacceptable method of trial and error judgment. It is my opinion that a student can better make adjustments in attitude and character more readily in a lower grade. If he fully understands the full reason he is not eligible for promotion, and can see the direction he must follow to obtain the desired traits. If a student cannot or will not make adjustments and wishes to remain a bad guy, then you certainly would not want to welcome him as a Black belt with this attitude, Would you?”

“Anyone promoted to 5th degree or higher should have their own students and black belts unless the 5th degree is an instructor at the main headquarters of his instructor.”

“You are not required to adjust yourself to the art of karate, but rather you specialize the art to fit your needs!”

“You now have an opportunity to choose and specialize the effective Karate techniques that work for you. No longer does one man in a foreign country make the decisions of which techniques are best for you!”

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"You can become a qualified teacher and representative of the total art of Karate, not just one particular style or small segment, or just an Instructor under your teacher, but an accepted Black Belt anywhere in the world"

"You will immediately see that there is much more to learn in the American System... designed for Americans... with your choice of which techniques you wish to specialize to fit your individual self defense needs."

"Attitude and Character is so important, not only to the class as a whole but to the welfare of the student in relation to what is being taught, that this requirement is almost one-third of all examinations."

"It is lamentable fact that some instructors do not classify any Attitude or Character traits conducive to the proper handling of Karate knowledge and skills, and as requirements for learning these skills."

"An instructor must be very careful not to allow students to obtain and Intermediate level of skill that have no respect for personal property and the feelings of others."

"You as student, are a part of your Instructor as his is of you, and any student that associates with his teaching is a part of his reputation as he is in yours. The statement that: An Instructor is only as good as the quality of students he produces certainly has merit."

"Length of time in Karate practice is also a very important area. This does not mean how many months you paid your dues, or how many courses you have paid for, but is usually based upon a record of attendance to class or private lessons from 3 to 5 classes constituting one week time in grade."

"The students cannot take the hard hours training in strange positions to prepare them for rigors that lie ahead in training them for physical and mental perfections which is the true and ultimate goal and purpose of this art. We first desire healthy exercise and practical knowledge of self defense, not complete conversion to an alien way of life. As I stated before the principles don't change, they are still Karate Principles"

Karate Principles

Philosophy

**Insight
Understanding
Experience**

Scientific Facts

**Physics
anatomy
Physiology
Psychology**

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"We are not content to learn the scientific facts through insight and experience. In the same situation, the American style of Karate would be just as useless if taught in Japan, Korea, and Okinawa without adapting and relating to the philosophy of the appropriate Oriental culture. These are the basic reasons why you will be taught American Karate. We are proud to present this American art form to you and we know you will benefit to a much higher degree in this school than you would if were limited to studying only one Oriental style."

"The American system has been painstakingly developed and refined for many, many years and is a thorough composite of not one or two, but all the Japanese, Korean, and Okinawan styles and systems and is presented in a manner conducive to your development so you can understand the art, not just be able to it without knowing why or how it is done. Later in your training, if you desire to further your knowledge in the art as a career or way of life, you will be able to do so through the Professional Program."

"You as my student are as much a part of me as I (and My teachers) become a part of you. An instructor's merits and judged by the quality of students he produces and the image of the student is largely dependent on the esteem in which his instructors is held in the eyes of others."

"I gave you the benefit of my reputation and image when you enrolled. You can say My Teacher is Sensei Robert Moore. This means a great deal in this field. But I also wish to be able to point to you and say that is my student, for this is the way I am judged."

"Remember that general base if composed of knowledge. The degree of understanding is this base and is categorized into.

How --- Refers to the mechanics, the fundamental principles of physics and physiology

Why --- Refers to the principles of psychology and anatomy

REFER TO THE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR RANK DESIGNATION

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RANK DESIGNATION OF THE UNITED STATES KARATE ASSOCIATION

“The following ranks are from the lowest to the highest rank as they appear on your Certificates of Rank. The first six degrees of Black Belt represent skill and perfection in the physical application of the art, and the knowledge and understanding of the art. The last four degrees represent outstanding accomplishments in, and devotion to the art based on knowledge and understanding.”

COLOR OF BELT	KYU OR DAN	JAPANESE TERMINOLOGY	TITLE	MINIMUM TIME REQUIRED
WHITE	8 TH CLASS	HACHIKYU	NOVICE	#####
YELLOW	7 TH CLASS	SHICHIKYU	STUDENT	3-4 MONTHS
BLUE	6 TH CLASS	ROKUKYU	STUDENT	5-6 MONTHS
GREEN	5 TH CLASS	GOKYU	STUDENT	7-8 MONTHS
PURPLE	4 TH CLASS	YONKYU	ASST. INSTR.	9-10 MONTHS
BROWN	3 RD CLASS	SANKYU	INSTRUCTOR	1 YEAR
BROWN	2 ND CLASS	NIKYU	INSTRUCTOR	1 ½ YEARS
BROWN	1 ST CLASS	IKKYU	INSTRUCTOR	2 YEARS
BLACK	1 ST DEGREE	SHODAN	SENSEI (TEACHER)	2-3 YEARS
BLACK	2 ND DEGREE	NIDAN	SENSEI (TEACHER)	4-5 YEARS
BLACK	3 RD DEGREE	SANDAN	SENSEI (TEACHER)	6-8 YEARS
BLACK	4 TH DEGREE	YODAN	SENSEI (TEACHER)	9-11 YEARS
BLACK	5 TH DEGREE	GODAN	SENSEI (TEACHER)	12-14 YEARS
BLACK OR RED & WHITE	6 TH DEGREE	ROKUDAN	SENSEI (TEACHER)	14-16 YEARS
BLACK OR RED & WHITE	7 TH DEGREE	SHICHIDAN	SENSEI (TEACHER)	17-19 YEARS
BLACK OR RED & WHITE	8 TH DEGREE	HACHIDAN	SHI-HAN (MASTER)	20-24 YEARS
BLACK OR RED	9 TH DEGREE	KUDAN	SHI-HAN (MASTER)	25-30 YEARS
BLACK OR RED	10 TH DEGREE	JUDAN	SHI-HAN (MASTER)	30-35 YEARS

The above chart is from one of Sensei Robert C. Moore's manuals. This chart is based on training 5 days a week at a minimum of two hours of training each day. The basics of this chart are used throughout the United States with a few small changes. In American Ji Do Kwan Karate Association 5th degree black belts to 8th degree black belts are considered to be Master level and 9th degree black belts and 10th degree black belts are considered to be Grandmaster level. Refer to the following chart to see some difference.

The following chart shows a comparison with some slight difference of the two different charts.

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RANK DESIGNATION FOR AMERICAN JI DO KWAN KARATE ASSOCIATION

This chart is based on training 3 to 5 days a week from 1 to 2 hours per day (depending on rank)
On an average it takes 4-6 years to achieve a black belt depends on how many hours you train per week.

COLOR OF BELT	KYU OR DAN	JAPANESE TERMINOLOGY	TITLE	*MINIMUM TIME AND AGE REQUIRED
WHITE	8 TH CLASS	HACHI KYU	NOVICE	#####
YELLOW	7 TH CLASS	SHICHI KYU	STUDENT	3-4 MONTHS
BLUE	6 TH CLASS	ROKU KYU	STUDENT	5-6 MONTHS
GREEN	5 TH CLASS	GO KYU	STUDENT	7-8 MONTHS
PURPLE	4 TH CLASS	YON KYU	ASST. INSTR.	9-10 MONTHS
BROWN	3 RD CLASS	SAN KYU	INSTRUCTOR	1 YEAR
BROWN	2 ND CLASS	NIK YU	INSTRUCTOR	1 YEAR
BROWN	1 ST CLASS	IK KYU	INSTRUCTOR	9-12 MONTHS
BLACK	1 ST DEGREE	SHODAN	SENSEI (TEACHER)	1 YEAR 18 YEAR OLD
BLACK	2 ND DEGREE	NIDAN	SENSEI (TEACHER)	2 YEARS 20 YEAR OLD
BLACK	3 RD DEGREE	SANDAN	SENSEI (TEACHER)	3 YEARS 23 YEAR OLD
BLACK	4 TH DEGREE	YODAN	SENSEI (TEACHER)	4 YEARS 27 YEAR OLD
BLACK OR RED & WHITE	5 TH DEGREE	GODAN	SHI-HAN (MASTER)	5 YEARS 32 YEAR OLD
BLACK OR RED & WHITE	6 TH DEGREE	ROKU DAN	SHI-HAN (MASTER)	6 YEARS 38 YEAR OLD
BLACK OR RED & WHITE	7 TH DEGREE	SHICHI DAN	SENSEI (TEACHER)	7 YEARS 45 YEAR OLD
BLACK OR RED & WHITE	8 TH DEGREE	HACHI DAN	SHI-HAN (MASTER)	8 YEARS 53 YEAR OLD
BLACK OR RED	9 TH DEGREE	KU DAN	SHI-HAN (MASTER)	9 YEARS 62 YEAR OLD
BLACK OR RED	10 TH DEGREE	JU DAN	SHI-HAN (MASTER)	10 YEARS 72 YEAR OLD

- Denotes minimum time required at each rank before you can move on to the next rank. At black belt and above a minimum age is a requirement to hold a black belt at each level. This was done because of maturity issues. Less than 18 years of age are not mentally ready for the responsibility of being a black belt. Rank under black belt in some cases can be accelerated if the student has a previous high rank in another system.

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