



The Roundhouse: Headlines from Around the Do-jang.

In this and upcoming editions of **The Roundhouse**, we'd like to elaborate on the five fundamental tenets of Taekwon-Do: Courtesy, Integrity, Perseverance, Self-Control and Indomitable Spirit. If you've read the Student Handbook (which is now available on our web site), you know that the Traditional Taekwon-Do College encourages students to use these tenets as a guide for becoming an honorable person with perfect character and physical condition, both inside and outside of class. The Japanese parable below helps illustrate why patience and **perseverance** are required to excel at everything – especially your hyungs.

Enjoying the journey.

Let's say you've been on your hyung for three months. You are a serious student who attends class two or three times a week. You feel certain that you've mastered the techniques and your intensity is strong. You wonder anxiously, "When will I test for my next pattern?" When perhaps the question you should be asking is: What more can I learn at *this* belt level?

Japanese Parable:

"A young boy traveled across Japan to the school of a famous martial artist. When he arrived at the dojo he was given an audience by the sensei.

"What do you wish from me?" the master asked.

"I wish to be your student and become the finest karateka in the land," the boy replied. "How long must I study?"

"Ten years at least," the master answered.

"Ten years is a long time," said the boy. "What if I studied twice as hard as all your other students?"

"Twenty years," replied the master.

"Twenty years! What if I practice day and night with all my effort?"

"Thirty years," was the master's reply.

"How is it that each time I say I will work harder, you tell me that it will take longer?" the boy asked.

"The answer is clear. When one eye is fixed upon the destination, there is only one eye left with which to find the Way."

-- Anonymous

When Taekwon-Do is translated literally to English, it means "The way of the foot and hand." However, in Korean, "Do" implies a philosophical "way" of approaching life. Physical fitness and self-defense are obvious advantages of Taekwon-Do, but there are many other benefits that strengthen a person's character and self-discipline by improving his or her mental attitude through the tenets.

Another way to look of it:

"It is easier to go down a hill than up it, but the view is from the top."

-- Anonymous

Unlike many activities that offer instant gratification, Taekwon-Do requires perseverance to master it. There are simply no short cuts. You must do the work, put in the time, and above all, be patient. The Bailey's have established minimum amounts of time that every student is required to spend practicing each hyung. The time varies depending on the belt level and difficulty of the hyung. These are only minimum guidelines, however, and the final decision as to when a student is ready to promote is up to his or her instructor. While you're waiting to receive your promotion papers, use the time to strive for excellence at the belt level you are currently at. This work will not only serve to make you a better student overall, but also a stronger candidate when you test for your black belt.

This is not a race:

"We need to learn to set our course by the stars, not by the lights of every passing ship."

-- Omar Bradley

Most importantly, do not worry about where you stand in comparison to other students and their ranks. Stay focused on your own journey. After all, you are the only person who can use your abilities. Work hard, do your best, and strive to persevere until you succeed.