

The meaning of the name
Jinenkan Hiryu Dojo
自然館飛龍道場

Our dojo is called Jinenkan Hiryu Dojo. I chose that name for my dojo for several reasons. But before my reasons are revealed, a little background on Eastern Dragons is necessary.

The Eastern Dragon

Unlike the negative energies associated with Western Dragons, most Eastern Dragons are beautiful, friendly, and wise. They are the angels of the Orient. Instead of being hated, they are loved and worshipped. Temples and shrines have been built to honor them, for they control the rain, rivers, lakes, and seas.

The dragon is essentially benevolent, son of heaven, and controls the watery elements of the universe. In many cases the dragon is combined with the phoenix to symbolize long life and prosperity. It is also combined with the tiger (龍虎 – Ryuko “dragon and tiger”) to represent heaven and earth or inyo (Yin and Yang). Hence, the Dragon is seen as the ultimate representation of the forces of Mother Nature. The greatest divine force on Earth.

Because they are confident, fearless in the face of challenge, they are almost inevitably successful. Dragons usually make it to the top. There are a number of characteristics that a dragon possesses; innovative, enterprising, flexible, self-assured, brave, passionate, conceited, tactless, scrutinizing, unanticipated and quick-tempered.

My thoughts

Based on all of the above and the following reasons, I chose the name Hiryu for my dojo.

In my training, I am interested in movements which are created in the spur of the moment. For that, I believe that quick, unhindered footwork is necessary. By training in hichojujutsu (flying methods), tobi keiko (leaping methods) and focusing the mind, this kind of movement is possible to attain. The dragon, in itself, is very flexible and agile. He can move very quickly and very unhindered. He masters the watery elements of universe and is one of the greatest divine forces on Earth. He is also very wise and brave.

This above combination of traits is something that I believe to be important to master. Also, in our training we are trying to attain the state of Mushin (無心), a state of ultimate awareness. This is also called “being one with Nature”. As the Dragon is a representation of the forces of Mother Nature, this should be close to our concepts of Mushin.

Based on the above, the name Jinenkan Hiryu Dojo was born.

Keiko ikkan!