Mr. Munyon Visits the Admiral Yi Soon Sin Home and Museum

Admiral Yi Sun Sin Visit By:

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On Saturday November 17, 2012, Michael Munyon of the USITF/ITF and Master William Sanders of the JiDoKwan took a trip to Asan to visit the Admiral Yi Sun Sin shrine. Asan is the birth place of Admiral Yi Sun Sin. Those who are not familiar with Admiral Yi's name might recognize him by another name known in ITF Taekwon-Do as Choong-Moo. Today, Admiral Yi is still celebrated as being a military hero in the Korean culture. The following is a brief description of the day we spent honoring Admiral Yi.

Master Sanders and I arrived at approximately 1300 hours to Admiral Yi's Memorial Museum. As we walked towards the Memorial Museum we saw a group of Korean military cadets in their uniform taking a tour of the premises. Both Master Sanders and I bowed to them as we walked past to show our respect for them preparing to enter the Korean Armed Forces. Both Master Sanders and I are active duty military and do our best to demonstrate respect for our friendly foreign military forces. As we entered the museum the first item that caught our attention was a 20 foot wooden model of the Turtle Boat. For me it was very amazing. This was the item I had to study for my First Dan when I was young. Naturally, I had to get a photo of the Turtle Boat.







As we continued our walk through the museum there were paintings on the walls depicting the creation of the Turtle Boat. As we continued walking we noticed arrows with simulated explosives on them. This was a tactic Admiral Yi used when fighting the Japanese. They'd use arrows with explosives on them to sink other ships. This visual kind of left me with the impression of that was their version of weapons of mass destruction in their time.

As we approached what seemed to be the middle of the museum we noticed two HUGE swords in a large glass display case. There was a sign written in Hangul stating that these two swords belonged to Admiral Yi. They had to be approximately six to 10 feet long and weigh approximately 50 pounds each. As we continued our walk through the museum we noticed a few glass cases with books, money, magazines and newspapers which glorified Admiral Yi's numerous victories. I saw a Korean mother talking to her son about Admiral Yi. Sadly, my comprehension of the Korean language is very limited, but I could basic understanding of what she was teaching her son.



Figure 1 Admiral Yi Soon Sins Swords



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Figure 2 Archery Range



After we left the museum we continued our tour of the premises. We entered the actual property where we walked through a huge Korean entrance gate. As we walked through the gate we saw many things. The first stop we made was Admiral Yi's shrine. There was incense burning at the front of the shrine along with a huge portrait of him inside of the shrine. We then strolled to Admiral Yi's family house. It was beautiful and old. We walked around both the outside and inside of the house. Tourists surrounded the inside taking pictures of the house and the many rooms within. Outside of the house was a well and pots for storing and burying Kim Chi and other spices.

Outside of the house were the Yi family grave stones. This was the site for many family members. On the opposite side of the grave sites was a family archery field where Admiral Yi practiced archery on horseback. With the weather turning colder we decided to depart the Yi property. While departing I looked back at the many parts of the property and museum and developed a better appreciation of what Admiral Yi did for his country and felt a little closer to understanding why General Choi Hong Hi chose a Tul honoring this highly glorified war hero. I found a clearing on the property and walked through Choong-Moo Tul just to say that I did the pattern on his property. It felt like the right thing to do. All I could think about was how great it felt to train my Taekwon-Do, even if it was for just a few minutes in a place where it felt perfect to do it.



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TECHNIQUE OF THE MONTH

Horizontal thrust

(Soopyong Tulgi)



This technique can be performed with either a single or twin elbow. In both cases, keep the elbows horizontal with the shoulder and the back fist faced upward at the moment of impact.

Single Elbow (Wae Palkup) It can be executed from nearly all stances and the force of thrusting elbow is strengthened with the aid of the opposite palm.

Twin Elbow (Sang Palkup)

This is used in attacking two opponents simultaneously and is mainly executed from a close, parallel, walking and X-stances, though occasionally a silting or one leg stance is employed.





