



Korean

Forearm guarding block- Palmok Daebi Makgi

Bending Stance- Goburyo Sogi

One legged stance – Wae Bal Sogi

JOONG GUN

32 moves

6 different stances (walking stance, fixed stance, closed stance, low stance, rear foot stance and L Stance)

Joong Gun was named after the patriot Ahn Joong Gun, who assassinated Hiro-Bumi Ito, the first Japanese Governor General of Korea, known as the man who played a leading part in the Korea/Japan merger. The 32 movements in the pattern represent Mr Ahn's age when he was executed in the Lui Shung prison in 1910.

FUN FACTS

At age 25 Joong Gun started his own coal business.

Hiro-Bumi Ito was named the first resident Governor General of Korea on 21st December 1905 and given total control of all the Japanese forces stationed in Korea.

In March 1909, Ahn Joong Gun, along with 11 others, formed the Donguidanjiho, a society of patriots whereby each member swore an oath to sacrifice themselves for "The Restoration of Independence and Preservation of Peace in the East".

They all cut off the first joint of their ring finger to show their belief and faith in the cause.

On 26th October 1909 Hiro-Bumi Ito arrived at Harbin Station, Ahn Joon Gun was hiding his gun in his lunchbox. As Hiro-Bumi Ito stepped off the train, Joong Gun shot him 3 times.

He also shot and seriously injured 4 others, all Japanese ministers.

As the shooting finished, Joong Gun shouted for Korean Independence, whilst waving the Korean flag.

When he found out he had actually killed Hiro-Bumi Ito, he made the sign of the cross in gratitude and said "I have ventured to commit a serious crime, offering my life for my country. This is the behaviour of a noble minded patriot"

Ahn Joon Gun, insisted on being called by his Catholic name 'Thomas', by his captors.

He went through six trials, all the time insisting that he should be treated as a prisoner of war, as Lieutenant General of a Korean Resistance Army, as opposed to just a common criminal.

At his sixth trial he was sentenced to death by hanging, he was angry as he wanted to be executed by a firing squad like a prisoner of war.

Whilst in prison, he became renowned for his calligraphy work, he signed his work with his signature and his handprint, which showed the missing bit of his finger.

He wrote a piece of calligraphy whilst awaiting his execution which simply said “*The Best Rivers and Mountains*”, implying he felt his country to be the most beautiful place on earth, worth dying for. Some stories say it was written on the wall of his cell in his own blood.

He was executed at 10 am on 26th March, exactly 5 months to the minute that Hiro-Bumi Ito had died.

His final message to the Korean people was “*To my People: I worked hard abroad for three years to regain Korea's Independence and maintain peace in Asia. However, I have to die before achieving our common goal. If the twenty million Korean people work diligently to advance education and industry, and finally achieve our independence, I will be a happy soul in heaven*”

In 1962 he was posthumously awarded the Order of Merit for National Foundation medal by the South Korean Government, an award reserved for those who contributed to the founding of the modern Republic of Korea.

In 2006 an American band called ‘Scrabbell’ released a track called ‘1909’ about the assassination of Hiro-Bumi Ito!