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Retiring From Martial Arts

Is there ever really retirement for a martial arts Master? Many of my long-time friends, martial artists and Masters from here in the US and around the world have often asked when I will retire. Some say that I already should have retired and delegated the job to the next younger generation. Many of my fellow martial arts Masters have stopped training and retired from 30 to 50 years ago. Now they mainly just do paperwork. They say it is time for me to quit and to come to travel with them.

Some look at my life as just running a business. They ask questions like "How is the business going?", "How much money are you making?", "What was your gross last year?" Some in the Houston Korean community ask me to come out and help with meetings, helping people and other activities. They encourage me to retire and make comments like you are too greedy, are you going to take your money with you when you die?

When I hear comments like this from those that don't have any knowledge or understanding of martial arts, it upsets me, but I let it pass. When I hear the same things from so called martial arts Masters, it deeply saddens me and makes me angry.

Is there retirement for highly reputable monks and clerics? For Zen Masters? For the Dalai Lama? I believe that there is no retirement in studying in knowledge and science, researching, practicing and teaching until we die. This is what I have dedicated my life to and continues to be my life's mission.

Sincerely,



Grandmaster Kim Soo

Founder Chayon-Ryu International Martial Arts Association

