

## **SABANG-KWON HYUNG: MASTER KIM KI-WHANG'S LEGACY**

By: Grandmaster Kim Soo  
(as told to Robert McLain, Chief Instructor of the Arlington Chayon-Ryu dojang)

Master Kim Ki-whang learned Shudokan karate from Master Toyama Kanken in the late 1930's and early 1940's at Nihon University, Tokyo, Japan. During this time, Master Kim Ki-whang met Grandmaster Yoon Byung-in who was a senior classmate in the Colonial Agriculture Department and a fellow Shudokan karate club member under Master Toyama Kanken. Master Kim Ki-whang and Yoon Byung-in became good friends and would travel to Ham-gyoung North Province in Korea together during school vacation breaks.

After graduation from Nihon University in the 1940's, Master Kim Ki-Whang became employed in a high-ranking government position in the Transportation Administration in Seoul, Korea. He kept in touch with Master Yoon Byung-in, but didn't get involved in martial arts. In his transportation position, Master Kim Ki-whang became friends with a fellow transportation employee, Hwang Kee (Mooduk-Kwan founder).

After South Korean President Rhee Syng-man was deposed in a student uprising and the short-lived civilian government overthrown in a coup d'tat, anyone involved in a government position found themselves in trouble. Because Master Kim Ki-whang had helped Hwang Kee at the Transportation Administration, Hwang Kee wanted to return the favor. Hwang Kee convinced Master Kim Ki-whang that he should go to America, but nobody would give him a letter of recommendation. So, Hwang Kee said he would write a letter of recommendation from the Mooduk-Kwan if Master Kim Ki-whang would be the Mooduk-Kwan representative in America. Master Kim Ki-whang wasn't involved in martial arts at the time and didn't belong to any organization. So, he accepted the offer and immigrated to Washington D.C., in the United States. In the beginning he used the Mooduk-Kwan name for his school, but later dropped the name because he was not teaching the curriculum of the Mooduk-Kwan.

Master Kim Ki-whang had the opportunity to witness Grandmaster Kim Soo demonstrate the form "Jang Kwon" at both Master Kim Il-joo's tournaments in Akron & Cleveland, Ohio and Master Henry Cho's tournament in New York City over the years. At one tournament Master Kim Ki-whang approached Grandmaster Kim Soo and told him, "When I watch you demonstrate Jang Kwon Hyung, I feel like I am watching my old friend Master Yoon Byung-in! I am pleased to see that." Grandmaster Kim Soo had admired Master Kim Ki-whang over the years because he was a very nice gentleman and provided information about Yoon Byung-in. So, Grandmaster Kim Soo and Master Kim Ki-whang formed a friendship and kept in close contact.

During the 1993 Chayon-Ryu Festival at Robertson's Field House at The University Of Houston, Master Kim Ki-whang remarked to Grandmaster Kim Soo that he had never witnessed a competition where everyone enjoyed themselves. "Even the students without a medal are happy. Of all of the tournaments I've witnessed or promoted over the years,

this is the first time I've seen everyone happy," he said. Grandmaster Kim Soo explained that festival is a reunion and educational experience for Chayon-Ryu students – a friendly competition. This is why he intentionally called the event a “festival” instead of a “championship” or “tournament.”

Master Kim Ki-whang was impressed and admitted to being wrong about tournaments in the past. “I really appreciate you showing me the difference,” he said. He then invited Grandmaster Kim Soo to visit him in Washington D.C. and take a private lesson. This was the first time Master Kim Ki-whang accepted a Master from somewhere else as a student.

During this private lesson Master Kim Ki-whang taught the form, Sabang-Kwon. Sabang-Kwon is an Okinawan karate form with the influence of Chinese Chuan-*fa*. Grandmaster Kim Soo promised Master Kim Ki-whang that he would pass along this form as “Master Kim Ki-whang’s Sabang-Kwon Hyung.” This form is preserved as a 6<sup>th</sup> Dan requirement in Chayon-Ryu.