

SHOSHIN RYU



KANJI

Truthful Heart Tradition

The Kanji [kan-gee]

These three kanji or characters attempt to convey the essence of the Shoshin Ryu school of martial arts. Each kanji has several readings. Each sound has several kanji that it could be.

First Kanji - Sho [sho]

- This kanji is translated as truth or justice.
- Sho - the sound can also be read as beginner, thus Shoshin would be beginner's mind.
- This kanji can also be read as sei (genuine) or tada (correct).

Second Kanji - Shin [shin]

- Shin is read as Kokoro when alone, but as Shin when compounded with another word.
- Kokoro is translated as heart or mind or spirit, but its meaning is really all these things as one.
- There is a sense that heart/mind/spirit all work in synergy towards one goal.

Third Kanji - Ryu [ree-oo]

- Ryu is translated as school or tradition.
- Ryu in Japanese gives a much deeper feeling of flow and continuation of the current, as in the flow of a river. The information and skills of one generation passing down to the next and the next.
- The Ryu of Classical Japanese Arts did not have static curriculum, but were dynamic, living, changing...adapting to the existing environment.