

THE YAW-YAN SYMBOL



The meaning of the Yaw-Yan symbol.

Grand Master Nap emphasizes to lead our life based on each of the significance of the Yaw-Yan seal.

All lines on the seal show the non-resistance principle of Yaw-Yan, what we commonly refer to as “go with the flow”. The non-opposing lines fluidly flow continuously either with others or independently on its’ own.

The first outermost black circle is thicker than the second black circle or any of the other lines. This circle signifies the infinite power that encompasses all being, no beginning and no end. This outer circle signifies our shield, we aptly affirmed this on our creed – **“God is my only shield”**.

The second circle is white, sandwiched between the first outermost black circle & second black circle. This signifies secrecy. Everyone has its’ own weakness and strength, Yaw-Yan practitioners are not an exception to this. This circle also signifies our faith, when we assert - **“Faith is my guide”**.

The third circle is another black circle; this signifies Organization and Honor, the organization which binds all Yaw-Yan brothers & sisters together. Give due respect and obedience to the Grand Master and to your Master. Address your elder brothers and sisters in the art as “Sir” and “Ma’am” respectively. Remember to say “po” and “opo”, and be polite to everyone including your younger brothers and sisters in the art. This traditional hierarchy within the organization, common to

Filipino customs and values shall be observed at all times. The blue circle, the red ellipse, and white space are all directly connected to this third circle, this is to remind each of us that life's most valued treasure more valuable than life itself is our Honor. Hence, we say in our creed - **“Honor is my wealth”**.

There are 3 main colors inside the black circle which signifies the same meaning as the Philippines' flag - White for peace which can also mean truth or purity, Red for bravery, and Blue for loyalty.

White signifies peace; it covers the largest colors than red and blue to remind us to be always at peace and live harmoniously with others. White also signifies Truth or Purity; this is the color to come to mind when we affirm - **“Truth is my fortune”**.

Red signifies bravery and preparedness, always ready for what is to come. The space it occupies on the seal also stands for **45 Basic Kicks**. This color is on a sort of elliptical or eclipsing shape. Imagine this to resemble the Philippine bamboo tree -- when young, it boasts to reach the sky, it continues on as it grows, but gradually in time as it aged it bends humbly forward. This is the same as the learning process common not only in all martial arts but life in general. Also, **be as flexible and resilient as a bamboo tree**; bend to survive gales and storms, but be strong not to break by going with the natural flow.

Blue stands for Loyalty and Allegiance, it is next to red and also occupies the space next to white. The space it occupies on the seal also stands for **12 Bolo Punches**. Notice that this color is on a humbly smaller round circle than the other circles -- where it begun it continues without end. It is directly connected to the bigger circle, signifying loyalty to the organization. Yaw-Yan members are loyal to the brotherhood, the organization, and to its' creator. You were not given a belt which you can easily take off your waist, but a branded mark you carry with you wherever you go; signifying that you are a part of the whole. Seniors wear this brand on their right upper limb as they serve to be the strong foundations; juniors on their left chest close to their heart to love and support the art. We willingly accept the hot iron brand, giving up our ego and our fears, to pledge our loyalty – **“Once a Yaw-Yan, always a Yaw-Yan”**.

All the curving lines and the colors - black, white, red and blue... stands for the creed declaration: **“Yaw-Yan is my weapon”**.

~ First published in 1995 on www.yaw-yan.com from the original notes of Master Armando D. Liban