



Peterson's Martial Arts Mu Sa Kwan Tang Soo Do Federation

WHAT IS A MASTER?

The following describes the qualities and characteristics of a master (4th dan and above) and how one is expected to act while a part of the Mu Sa Kwan Tang Soo Do Federation:

1. A master must be self-confident; confident from within, believing in himself/herself. Getting right up if you're knocked down. Knowing you're good. It means proud, but not arrogant.
2. A master must be in control. A person who can't control himself or herself can't control others. This takes concentration, self-discipline, calmness under pressure; no flying off the handle allowed.
3. A master must be fair. That means being impartial, tolerant, having a keen sense of justice, being consistent in how you handle problems, people praise, and punishment.
4. A master must be decisive. Know how to make decisions, have the courage to make them, to make them quickly, and to stand behind those decisions.
5. A master must be prepared. This is a big one. You have to know your job and you have to know the jobs of those you lead; you have to do your homework, understand goals and priorities and the process of planning. No guesswork allowed.
6. A master must be a team player. You're not a loner – you're part of a team. Be loyal to that team. Listen as well as talk. Motivate. Teach; tell people why, so they can understand their place on the team and the rules of the team.
7. A master must be honest - with yourself, as well as with others! Integrity is the big one here. Character: no one can teach you this. No one can order you to have it...it has to come with you and from you.
8. A master must be committed. Ambition, ego, drive, dedication... all come into play here. Commitment means you don't just make goals, you try to reach them. It means you make commitments, not idle promises.
9. A master must be courageous. Not afraid to fail. Not afraid to make a mistake. Not afraid to fight for an idea or person you believe in. Not afraid to make an unpopular decision.
10. Above all, a master must be human. Strong enough to be gentle. Empathy is important here, understanding those you work with are people, not machines... people have problems. People aren't perfect. Understanding that we're all in it together in this game of life.

Continuing the analogy of comparing the dan ranks to the higher levels of education, at 3rd dan the student has earned his/her bachelor's degree and now begins studying for his/her master's



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degree. Upon reaching 6th dan, s/he has earned his/her master's degree and begins working on his/her doctorate (PhD) degree.