

My experience with Sabom nim In Wan Kim:

I have been involved in martial arts at several stages in my life. Traditional Okinawan Karate GoJu Ryu was the first Martial Art that I started practicing in Venezuela 22 years ago. I had to discontinue the practice when I moved to USA to pursue my career in engineering. I was introduced to Hapkido in 1997, in New Jersey, where I lived for over 14 years. As soon as I started practicing I developed a great passion for this art but with high regret I had to discontinue the practice again because my work schedule of traveling was frequently was conflicting with the Hapkido classes. It was until 2004 that I moved to Florida and I joint a Karate school that practices that practices traditional USA GoJu Karate. However, Hapkido continued to be one of my great passions. It was in 2005 when I discovered the Dojang of Master Kim where Hapkido classes were offered. Right after having a long conversation with Master Kim, I just knew I had met a real traditional Hapkido Master that follows the traditional teachings like in the Korean ancient times.

Hapkido, developed in Korea over twenty centuries ago was exclusively practiced for the royal families and their nobles; Hapkido is considered a soft and circular martial art. It looks very gentle, however the combination of different techniques using pressure points, hip twists, and inertial philosophy, makes Hapkido a potent form of lethal self defense.

Master Kim has the particularity of being one of the students coming directly from the lineage of the founder of Hapkido Dojunim Ji, Han Jae. Also, having studied and analyzed different martial arts during his whole life, Master Kim combines his experience and expertise in this teaching of this art by applying specific techniques, according to the natural physical abilities of his students. Master Kim provides with incredible accuracy the key of the technique needed to be effectively precise, by using our own physical capabilities, and indicating how physics laws apply to that technique.

Learning Hapkido with Master Kim makes it a unique experience because you learn to complete foundation of it, from using the internal energy with the flow of the movements to the rotation of the steps in circular motion. Hapkido develops a balance that helps to the practice of other martial arts because you learn how to project the balance of the internal energy to work against your opponent, taking the force of the opponent in a trajectory that puts him out of balance and reveals his weakest areas. Hapkido is the mastering of the use of the internal energy in the form of circular water waves, Master Kim puts you in the right path where you feel how your body engages correctly when applying a technique, by using the internal energy and compiling it with proper breathing technique to generate tremendous power when unfolding it to make contact with opponent. I notice the efficient results that Master Kim has develop through out the years by bringing a complete series of techniques in logical sequence that helps you to learn progressively at a faster path.

Today, when I meditate about my life I know that everything in life comes at the right time, when we are prepared to deal with it. Having Master Kim as my Hapkido Master is a gift from life. It is an invaluable experience that I appreciate constantly for helping me develop my martial art skills and evolve in this continuous practice for life

Very truly yours,

Miguel Florez