



空手研究室

THE MONUMENT OF KYAN CHOTOKU

ARTICLE – NO. 6

The monument, erected under the leadership of Nakazato Jōen in 1999, honors the legendary Karate master Kyan Chōtoku. Situated near the Hija River, it marks the area where Nakazato trained under Kyan from 1937 to 1943, before leaving for the Pacific War. Having visited this site in January 2024, I feel it is now the right time to share my translation of the monument's inscription, which celebrates Kyan's profound legacy in Okinawan Karate.

Yannick Schultze (Translation)
Drochtersen – December 7, 2024
www.karate-kenkyu.com

The Monument of Kyan Chōtoku



Kensei

Kyan Chōtoku sensei

Nickname

Chan mī gwā

Inscription on the Commemorative Monument

Kyan Chōtoku sensei (1870–1945) was an outstanding karate master of modern Okinawa, famously known by the nickname "Chan mī gwā". His martial prowess was widely acclaimed.

[Kyan] sensei was born in Meiji 3 (1870) into a distinguished family in Shuri and spent a formative childhood in Tōkyō, where he studied Chinese classics (Confucian texts) at what is now Nishōsha Gakuin University.

From an early age, [Kyan] sensei received his initial instruction in Karate from his father. After returning to Okinawa from Tōkyō, he studied under the masters of the so-called Shuri-te and Tomari-te traditions, further honing his skills and becoming a highly esteemed authority of Karate. Although less than five shaku tall (approximately 150 cm), his techniques were said to combine incredible strength honed through rigorous training with the speed and agility of a soaring bird.

From around the 43rd year of the Meiji era (1910), he took up residence along the banks of the Hija River, where he devoted himself to teaching the 'techniques' and 'spirit' of Karate. His students included pupils from the Prefectural Agricultural and Forestry School in Kadena, students from the Youth Teachers' Training School, police officers, and local youth. Despite living in humble circumstances and teaching without remuneration, he tirelessly passed on his knowledge.

Through rigorous training combined with profound scholarship and a warm personality, he earned the deep respect and admiration of all his students. Excelling in both martial and scholarly pursuits (Bunbu Ryōdō), he was truly worthy of being called a "Kensei – Fist Saint".

We, his disciples and grand-disciples, have erected this monument to honor his legacy and remember his virtuous deeds.

A fortunate day in July, 1999 (Heisei 11)

Nakazato Jōen (Chinen Village), Oyakawa Senkichi (Chinen Village), Ishii Tokuo (Kyōto prefecture),

Taira Kazuo (Katsuren), Oyakawa Hitoshi (Nishihara), Nakazato Takeshi (Yonabaru),

Tomimori Masao (Yonabaru), Sakugawa Masanobu (Sashiki), Hanashiro Kiyonari (Chinen Village).