

Linda Nathan and Tonie Gatlin, *The Dark Side of Karate: The Story of Tonie Harris Gatlin*, 1st Books Library, 2004

Pages: 103

Being on the Wrong Side

With widespread martial art schools in the West and the huge popularity of MMA, this personal account of the spiritual dangers behind karate is quite relevant.

There is good history on the foundation of each martial art, what life among martial artists and in dojos is generally like, and the impossibility of separating physical techniques from occult influence.

The appendix attempts the 'hard' questions on motives for Christians like working in law enforcement and self-defence at night, but apart from boxing and wrestling all the traditional arts seem tainted in one way or another.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding".

Proverbs 3.5, Authorized Version

I) Enter the Dragon (pp. 1-7)

II) Embracing the Fire (pp. 8-11)

Most tournament people frequent bars and drink a lot.

From 1987 to 1991, the number of martial art schools in the U.S. went from 4,000 to 7,000.

As at 2000, there are an estimated five million practitioners, with 20% of instructors and 50-70% identifying as Christian.

III) Winds of Change (pp. 12-23)

In the 1950s and early 1960s there was a spiritual vacuum in the West, leading to rising crime, drugs, rebellion, unsafe schools and neighbourhoods.

40% of martial art students are children between 7 and 14.

Chinese arts are traced back to the I-Ching Chou Dynasty from 1122-255BC.

From the 6th-4thC Lao Tzu's Taoism posited that nature was the Tao/Way.

Ca. AD 1 in Korea *Tae kyon* ("push shoulder") was invented.

AD5th-6thC Bodhidharma brought Shaolin boxing and other fighting styles from India.

In the 9thC in the Philippines, the art of Kali (sword) was born with the ultimate goal of unity with the god Bathala.

AD593-628 Ninjutsu was invented in Japan.

Tai Chi was developed in the 13thC in China.

Aikido was born in 1942 and Tae Kwon Do in 1955.

Kata are karate "dances".

The first Japanese Shotokan dojo was built in Japan in 1936.

IV) Root to Flower (pp. 24-29)

Joe Hymas: "The deepest purpose of the martial arts is to serve as a vehicle for personal spiritual development."

Masutatsu Oyama: "Zen is karate and karate is Zen."

Bowing, concentration methods, breath control, mind emptying, kata visualisations, calling teachers "master", ki-centering are all Buddhist and Taoist practices.

Karate becomes one's god.

Monism states "everything is One").

V) The Way of the Dragon (pp. 30-35)

"Karate for Women" would always have workshops with role-playing of battered women and oppressive men. Today there is overt militant feminism as well as lesbianism.

VI) The Dragon Returns (pp. 36-39)

VII) The Snake, The Cobra, and the Dragon (pp. 40-47)

Shaolin Temples venerate the north door¹, through which only a certified North Shaolin master could exit.

The dragon, snake, and cobra all ubiquitous dojo symbols.

Hindus believe Vishnu is at the heart of the universe in the form of a snake resting upon another, the female *Kundalini* serpent power.

Eastern philosophy holds there is only the *illusion* of evil.

VIII) The Narrow Way (pp. 48-52)

VIII) The Christian and the Force (pp. 53-62)

The Kung Fu "Five Animals System" of dragon, snake, tiger, leopard, and crane was created in the 13thC.

"Chi kung" is breath control.

An empty mind is impossible as some other force will always enter.

Uyeshiba was "enlightened" when he was overcome by a golden spirit rising from the earth.

Ki is said to surround all things, even able to bring distant points into physical contact.

X) Snake Eggs (pp. 63-72)

Martial art victories are manmade.

XI) The Full Armour of God (pp. 73-82)

XII) Walking in the Light (pp. 83-90)

Epilogue) Going After the Dragon (pp. 91-92)

Appendix) Answers to "Hard" Questions About the Martial Arts (pp. 93-96)

Boxing and wrestling aren't based on an occult system.

¹Psalm 48.2 says that mount Zion, the city of the great King, is in the sides of the **north**.