

Advanced Kata of the Month:

Kanku Dai



shuhari
institute 

“View the Sky” 観空大

The Kanku Dai kata holds a special significance in Shotokan Karate as it is considered its “representative” or “root” kata. It is the parent kata for the entire database of techniques of this system and it is the central point to which most other kata point. In it, you will find many of the techniques seen in the Heian, Tekki, and other kata. For this reason it is revered as a repository of the most fundamental and important Shotokan techniques.

Kanku Dai was supposedly Master Funakoshi’s favorite kata and he performed it during his demonstration for the Crowned Prince of Japan (Hirohito) in 1922. It is also practiced in different variations in many other styles of karate - usually referred to by its original Okinawan name of Kusanku.