

## Isoyama Sensei Hakama Pleat Explanation

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Translated by Ethan Weisgard, 2006

First of all, I would like you to notice that the hakama has five pleats in front: two pleats to the right and three pleats on the left. Each of the lines of these pleats has a meaning.

The foundation of the spirit of Budo is based on Confucianism, in which you find the concept of "Five Virtues (Go Rin), Five Attitudes (Go Jou)," namely the concepts that we as human beings should observe: Jin / Benevolence; Gi / Righteousness (the way people should lead their lives); Rei / Courtesy; Chi / Knowledge; Shin / Belief

These constitute the Five Virtues.

#### 1. 仁 Jin / Benevolence

Jin (benevolence) is the ultimate virtue: to complete yourself, based on the spirit of benevolence, love; an empathetic, cherishing spirit.

#### 2. 義 Gi / Righteousness

Getting things to fit into their proper place through reason, logic (factual and situational) and order, is precisely the path that we as people should take.

(Translator's note: The two words "douri" and "jouri" used in the Japanese text both translate into the English "logic." They have different connotations in Japanese. Douri refers to factual logic, where jouri is more situationally based logic)

#### 3. 礼 Rei / Manners

In order to preserve social order and have harmonious interaction and relationships with our fellow human beings, the virtue of Rei (manners) should be the standard by which we lead our lives.

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### 4. 智 Chi / Knowledge

Chi (knowledge) is the spiritual function for distinguishing right from wrong, good from bad; the process our spirit must use is namely that of the virtue of knowledge and culture.

### 5. 信 Shin / Truth; sincerity

Regarding the honesty of us human beings, we should always try to keep our promises, building relationships of mutual trust, to create a faithful spirit within ourselves.