



Reiki eZine by Taggart King

[Liberate Your Reiki!] Reiki Symbols, Attunements... And BEYOND!

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Liberate your Reiki!

The eZine for Open-minded Reiki people
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Reiki Symbols, Attunements... And BEYOND!



Symbols are a big part of Western Reiki

In the Western style of Reiki, the Reiki symbols are seen to be very important. They are seen as an integral part of the system; indeed for many people the symbols **are** Reiki, the symbols **are** the energy.

It has been a basic tenet of Western Reiki that you have to be 'attuned' to the symbols for them to work for you and that you are connected to Reiki only when you have been 'attuned' to the symbols. All Western style attunement systems – as far as I can see – involve being attuned to symbols at First Degree, Second Degree and Master levels.

However, no one really knew if you needed to be attuned to the symbols for them to work for you, and no one really knew whether symbols needed to enter into the connection ritual used, because no one knew of a way to attune people without using symbols! The only connection rituals that we had were attunements, and all attunements used symbols!

Do 'attunements' need symbols?

New information coming from Japan, and the experiences of some Reiki people experimenting in the West, suggest that the Reiki symbols might not be such a necessary part of 'attuning' people as was once thought, and suggest that there is no need for a person to be 'attuned' to a symbol for it to work for them, so long as they are already connected to Reiki.

Now, we now know that Mikao Usui did not teach symbols to the vast majority of his students, and those few students who were taught symbols (the Imperial Officers) were not 'attuned' to these symbols by Usui Sensei.

In fact, Mikao Usui did not attune anybody to anything: he used to 'empower' his students, and the empowerments that he bestowed on his students, at all levels, did not utilise the Reiki symbols.

So where did attunements come from, and where did the idea of 'attuning' someone to symbols in order for the student to be 'connected' to Reiki, and to be able to use those symbols, come from?

Well it seems certain that the Imperial Officers had not trained with Usui Sensei for long enough before he died for them to have been taught by him how to empower students (Usui taught this quite far along on the Master student's journey). Usui did not attune people and he did not teach attunements.

The Imperial Officers created attunements

It seems that the Imperial Officers developed for themselves a ritual – an 'attunement' – by way of trying to replicate the experiences that they had had when being empowered by Usui Sensei, and because they had been taught symbols, these symbols entered into the ritual that they developed.



Dr Hayashi helped to create attunements

A version of this ritual was passed from Dr Hayashi (one of the Imperial Officers) to Mrs Takata, who passed on a ritual to her Master students, and the ritual has now been endlessly distorted and embellished as it has been passed from teacher to teacher in the West.

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