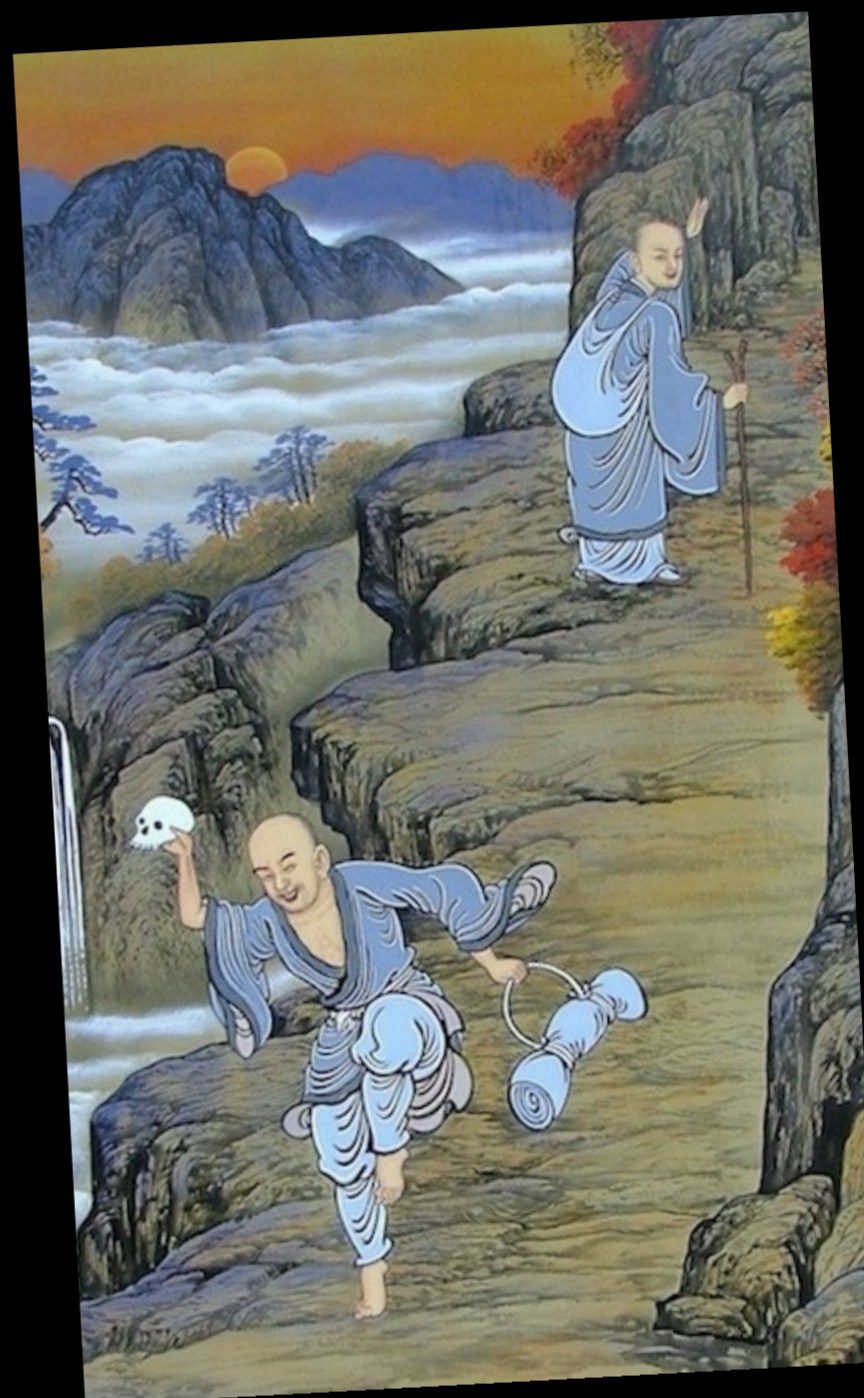


# WHO WAS WON-HYO?

Won-Hyo (617-686 A.D.) born as Sol-Sedang was said to be wise from birth. The pen-name Won-Hyo meaning 'Dawn' was derived from his nickname (Sedak), which had the same meaning. At 20 years old he became a Buddhist monk and turned his home into a temple. It is claimed that 'Won-Hyo's native home, Pulji (Buddha Land), his temple's name, Ch'ogae (First Opening) and his religious name Won-Hyo (Breaking Dawn) all refer to the first dawning of the Buddhist faith on earth.'



Won-Hyo wrote around 240 volumes covering 100 different types of literature, unfortunately constant invasions mean that much of historical value has been lost and only 25 volumes of 20 of his works survive to this day. Buddhism had been introduced to Silla previously, but had been confined to the Royal family and rejected by the people. With many scrolls that needed to be read only available in Chinese it was not accessible to the general population of the time. Won-Hyo's efforts made Buddhism finally available to all Koreans and he died in 686 A.D.



Won-Hyo is the fourth Pattern or Tul in ITF Taekwon-do. Students learn that the Tul represents "Won-Hyo, the noted monk who introduced Buddhism to the Silla Dynasty in the year of 686 A.D."



Who was Won-Hyo?