

## Um – Yang (Tae Keuk)



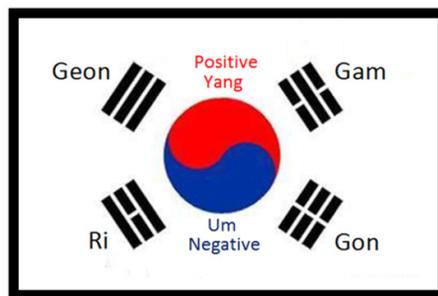
In **Korean philosophy** these two elements (Heaven and Earth) form a unit (synergetic) often depicted as a red and blue **Tae Keuk** which literally means “supreme ultimate”. The symbol is based on the Chinese Taoist idea that all of creation is made up of two opposing forces. These opposing forces are often referred to in the West as Yin-Yang (Taijitu) – the Korean term is Um-Yang.

Unlike the Chinese Taijitu which is usually depicted in black and white, the Korean Tae Keuk is usually red and blue. There exists thus a slight difference in the Chinese philosophical understanding of Taijitu and the Korean Tae Keuk. Although in essence the same, there is an emphasis in the Korean version on Chon-Ji (i.e. Heaven and Earth). **Heaven** is symbolized by the red lobe and **Earth** by the blue lobe in the Tae Keuk.

As ancient symbols of the creation of the universe, these two extreme opposites express the eternal dualism of the cosmos; fire and water, day and night, light and dark, construction and demolition, masculine and feminine, active and passive, and hot and cold.

The central thought in the *Tae Keuk* indicates that while there is a constant movement within the sphere of infinity, there is also a **balance and harmony**. This thought of *Tae Keuk*, called **UM-YANG theory**, has influence in all fields of oriental philosophy, logic, science, and military strategy, as well as the martial arts. This perception influenced the martial arts wisdom of using non violence against violence, soft against hard, and circle against straight line.

## Korean Flag -Tae Keuk Ki



The South Korean flag symbolizes much of the thought, philosophy and mysticism of the oriental Um-Yang philosophy. The symbol is called **Tae Keuk** and the flag its self is called **Tae Keuk Ki**. Depicted on the centre of the flag is a circle divided equally and in perfect balance. The upper red section is called the **YANG** and the lower blue section is called the **UM**.

The three bars at each corner also carry the ideas of opposition and the balance. The three unbroken lines represent **heaven**; the opposite three broken bars represent **earth**; at the lower left corner at the flag, the bars symbolize **fire**; the three opposite bars symbolize **water**.

## (Um – Yang – Chong) Sam Tae Keuk

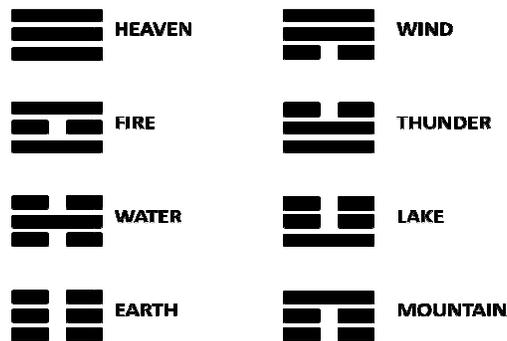


The “**Triple Grand Ultimate**” - The Sam Tae Keuk (“Sam” meaning three) is a three lobed Tae Keuk; the extra yellow lobe representing **humanity**. The Sam Tae Keuk reflects the Korean philosophy of Triple Essence. The three fundamental essences that defines the universe: heaven, earth, and human being.

Sam Tae Keuk: A Korean symbol symbolizing the co-existence of um, yang, and chong. In this symbol, heaven (yang) is portrayed in red, while earth (um) is blue. The yellow lobe represents man (chong) and their embodiment of the spiritual and physical.

## Pal Kae Do

The first four symbols are part of the Korean Flag and the Um – Yang. Collectively, the Pal Kae figures are called Pal Kae Do.



## Pal Kae Diagram

