

The Gogyo

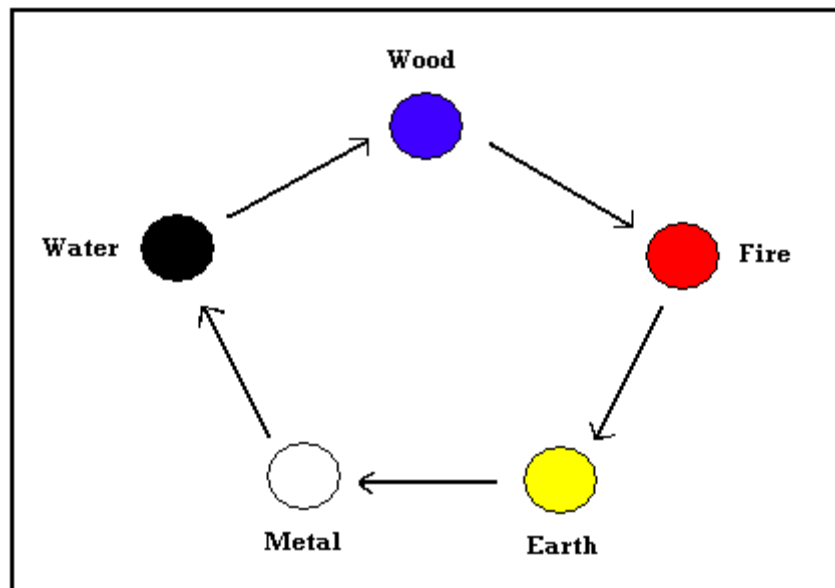
The Gogyo is a system of elemental forces that have their roots in the beliefs of Buddhism and are the five key elements within this religion. The five elements that are the basis for the Fuma Ryu Kamae are taken from the Gogyo. These are five elemental transformations that have their roots in Chinese philosophy and are listed below

The five elements of the Gogyo

Wood (Moku/Ki)
Fire (Ka/Hi)
Earth (Chi/Tsuchi)
Metal (Kin)
Water (Mizu/Sui)

These elements exist in two cycles. One is a creative cycle, the elements link in a creative circle with one begetting the other. This is shown in Figure 1 below:

Figure 1: Gogyo Creative Cycle

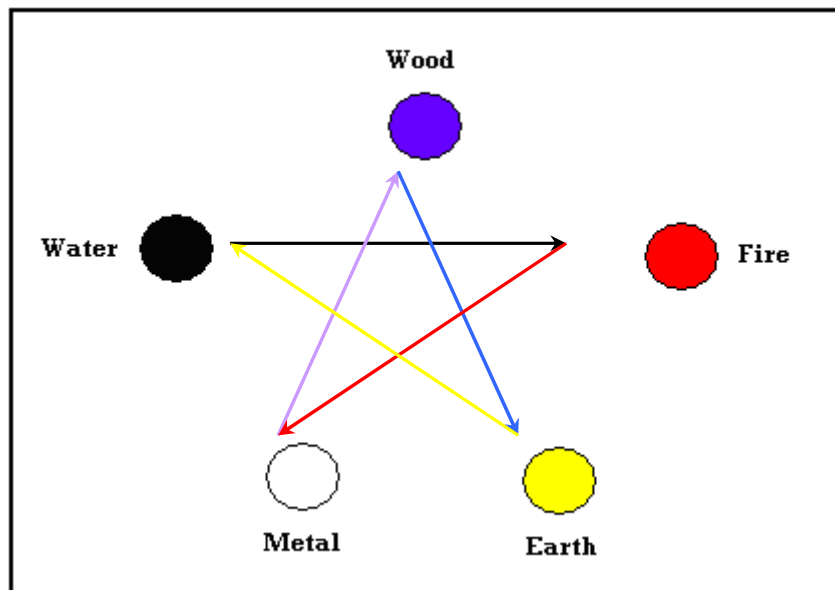


The cycle works as follows:

Wood gives fuel to fire
Fire creates ash which gives rise to earth
Earth is mined as it contains metal
The surface of metal attracts dew giving rise to water
Water nourishes wood and makes it grow

This creative cycle is a natural flow of energy from one phase to another. Energy is transferred around the cycle in the natural order of the universe. In addition to the creative cycle there is also the destructive cycle in which the elements are arranged in the ways they overcome each other. This cycle is demonstrated in Figure 2:

Figure 2: Gogyo Destructive Cycle



The destructive cycle operates in this fashion.

Wood overcomes earth as a plough can form furrows in a field.

Earth overcomes water as a dam stops water in its path

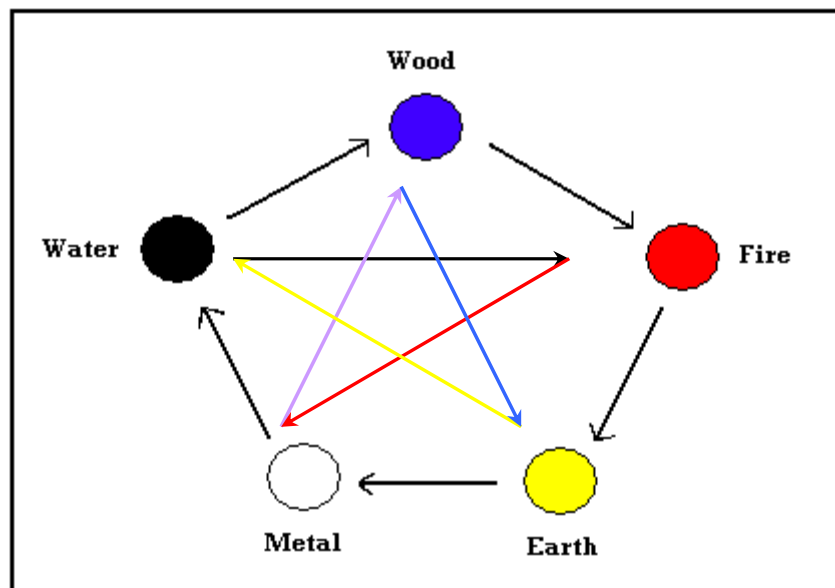
Water quenches fire through extinguishing the flame

Fire melts metal using its heat

Metal is used to cut through wood

Together these two cycles form a continuous cycle of creation and destruction. This cycle is demonstrated in Figure 3.

Figure 3: The Continuous Cycle of the Gogyo Elements



The Gogyo is reflected in all aspects of life. Table 1 below shows the associations of the elements within the Gogyo have within this belief system.

Table 1: Associations of the Gogyo Elements

	Wood	Fire	Earth	Metal	Water
Colours	Blue	Red	Yellow	White	Black
Compass Directions	East	South	Centre	West	North
Major Planets	Jupiter	Mars	Saturn	Venus	Mercury
Heavenly Creatures	Azure Dragon	Phoenix	Yellow Dragon	White Tiger	Black Tortoise
Animals	Dog	Sheep	Cow	Chicken	Pig
Emotions	Delight	Joy	Desire	Anger	Sorrow
Sensory Organs	Eye	Tongue	Mouth	Nose	Ears
Sense	Sight	Speech	Taste	Smell	Hearing
Tastes	Sour	Bitter	Sweet	Acrid	Salty
Fruit	Plum	Apricot	Dates	Peach	Chestnut
Seasons	Spring	Summer	Change of Season	Autumn	Winter
Life Cycle	Birth	Youth	Adulthood	Old Age	Death
Birth Year Ends with	4,5	6,7	8,9	0,1	2,3
Yin (In) organs	Liver	Heart	Spleen	Lung	Kidney
Yang (Yo) organs	Gall Bladder	Small Intestine	Stomach	Large Intestine	Urinary Bladder
Fingers of hand	Index	Middle	Thumb	Ring	Little

These associations make the Gogyo very important within philosophy and every day life as they influence all aspects of existence.

The Gogyo are represented by the kanji shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Kanji for the Elements of the Gogyo

Japanese Term	Kanji	Hirigana/Katagana	English Translation
Gogyo	五行	ごぎょ	The five elements
Ki	木	き	Wood
Hi	火	ひ	Fire
Tsuchi	土	つち	Earth
Kin	金	きん	Metal
Mizu	水	みず	Water

The Gogyo is one of three elemental sets that influence Japanese martial arts, the others are the Godai and the Rokudai.