



PEKITI TIRSIA KALIRONGAN RANK STRUCTURE

The Pekiti Tirsia ranking system includes traditional kawal, warrior, ranks based on technical skill as well as instructor ranks which reflect greater leadership, responsibility and contributions in promoting the art of Kali. Each rank is divided into sublevels or hagdan, which means step or rung, such as on a ladder. The Pekiti Tirsia System focuses on developing instructors, not just followers; so many of the ranks represent stages of leadership rather than only technical skills.

Rank	Class
Grand Tuhon Tuhon Mandala Maginoo	Master Instructor
Agalon Mataas Na Guro	Advanced Instructor (leadership responsibility)
Guro Lakan Guro	Instructor (technical expertise)
Lakan Yakan	Student

Master Instructor Ranks

- **Grand Tuhon** - this is the title for the highest level in the art and the chief leader of the kali system. It is not only grandmaster, but it is the **Supreme Grandmaster** who carries the highest knowledge and true lineage of the art.
- **Tuhon** - Tuhon, also known as Taluhoron in Illongo, means your honor or your majesty and refers to a great leader or king who rules a very large domain. In kali it refers to a **Grandmaster**.
- **Mandala (Maginoo)** - Maginoo translates as lordship or elder and refers to the wealth of accomplishment one has after successfully planting rice and building a large territory or domain for himself. This is someone who is a **Senior** in the art and higher in the hierarchy.

Advanced Instructor Ranks

The Pekiti Tirsia Advanced Instructor Ranking system is based on a representation of traditional Filipino culture as found in the Visayas. The growth of an instructor and his understanding is represented by a metaphor of rice cultivation and the clan or chieftom system. Each level of growth in the process of instructor development is mirrored by a corresponding stage in rice farming and group leadership status.

This advanced instructor ranking system is presented in the Illongo language, which is indigenous to the land where Pekiti Tirsia was born.

- **Agalon** - which means **Master** or mastery is when one has reached the tanum stage. Tanum refers to replanting the rice shoots, which were previously pulled out. In the process of growing rice, after the rice seeds have grown to shoots, they are pulled out and replanted in an orderly way. **The Agalon is a Chieftain who leads more than one small farm. In accordance with our instructor ranks, this is one who perhaps leads more than one small training group.**
- **Mataas Na Guro** - this is a **Master Instructor** or one who has really mastered the technical skills of Pekiti Tirsia. The Mataas Na Guro is truly an expert in the art and represents refinement of functional ability and understanding.

Instructor Ranks

- **Guro** - Guro means **Teacher**. This is someone who is a **Full Instructor** and is able to teach the technical skills of Pekiti Tirsia.
- **Lakan Guro** - is a **First Level Teacher**. A Lakan Guro is an advanced student who is learning how to teach and lead by serving as an assistant instructor.

Student Ranks

- **Lakan** - translated as first step, is an intermediate student. The Lakan has developed a solid foundation in the system.
- **Yakan** - known as a full student, the Yakan is a student who is committed to learning Pekiti Tirsia.

***** Ranking in the Pekiti Tirsia System of Kali is not based on the number of years alone. Instead it is based on understanding and skill in the art, loyalty to its lineage as well as contribution and dedication to its growth and cultivation. Ranking is measured considering the totality of these elements and not by one alone. *****