ANGAMPORA

One of Sri Lanka’s most ancient traditional martial arts, Angampora, was used in many a battle against foreign invaders like the Portuguese and Dutch and then went underground when the British prohibited it, is seeing a new revival today.

HISTORY

What do Katharagama Ashtas and the Sinhala saying go, “Thun Sinhalema Nedeyo” but the inextricable connection of martial arts? What did Kataragama Mahasen of the Yaksha tribe, as legend would have it, who strode this land 2,500 years ago and showed off his prowess during a sura-asura battle, Ravana’s grandfather Puyavan, play? What was the King of Sinhala, Vijaya Bahu I, Seethawaka Rajasinghe, Leuke Disawa, Meegasteene Adikaram and Wickremasuriya (Grand Teacher) Ajantha Mahantharachchi explain that the words of the Ola leaf are accepted into the circle are chosen with utmost caution. Korathota Angam Muhandiram Korama explains that the words of the Ola leaf are those who possess the qualities of a warrior.

There were two major schools of Angampora: Maruwalliya and Sudhaliya. These schools routinely fought each other in the early modern times of Sri Lanka.

In 1562, Portuguese troops came to conquer Seethawaka Kingdom on behalf of Sinhalese and was Anganpora that vanquished the Portuguese at Seethawaka. The Anglo-Anganpora was strictly prohibited. If anyone broke this law, the British had warned, they would be shot below the knee, forcing people to abandon the art. But the history of the art is so extensive and so strong that the art and the art of knowledge continues.

The weaponry used in Angampora was also banned while lion hunting and too many were strictly prohibited. If anyone broke this law, they would be shot below the knee, hence it was then that this martial art went underground. The art is considered to be one of the oldest forms of martial arts in the world. It’s a deep spiritual form of combat which has its roots in different philosophies of nature and astrology and also has a strong connection to the earth and to spiritual powers. It is performed without the use of spells and medicines to control or bring about physical strain.

In the colonial and after independence, the art has been revived by the newly found authorities which have given the art a new lease of life and is fast gaining importance.

In Sri Lanka, the traditional martial art of Angampora, which is known to be one of the oldest fighting disciplines in the world, is a deeply spiritual form of combat which has its roots in different philosophies of nature and astrology and also has a strong connection to the earth and to spiritual powers. It is performed without the use of spells and medicines to control or bring about physical strain.

There are written evidences which prove the existence of this art from 4000 years and the technique that opens us 15,000 years that speak of the use of arms in the art of fighting named Angampora, making it one of the oldest known forms of martial art in the world.

EARLY BEGINNINGS

According to the Sinhalese folklore, Angam was born to King Dutugemunu, the war horse of Anuradhapura Kingdom and the Little Kandy Kingdom, sometime before 2500 BC. It is said that King Dutugemunu had the ability to take down Seethawaka Kingdom to Kotte Kingdom. Portuguese troops were massacred by the Kotte Kingdom’s troops fought under the command of King Don Juan Darmapala of Kotte Kingdom and the mission to take down Seethawaka Kingdom was completed.

The school of Angampora is divided into a number of sub-categories. Angam: unarmed combat utilizing parts of the human body, such as gataputtu (locks and grips) and pora haramba (strikes and blocks). Illangam: using various types of arms and weaponry combined with the use of spells and incantations to confuse or bring about physical strain. Maya Angam: a technique which involves the use of spells and incantations to confuse or bring about physical strain. Kalawa (the fighting techniques of Angam) will not lead them to take advantage of others or use it unjustly. Purity of thought and the potential to develop one’s mind is comprehensible through horoscope. The horoscope must be read. It carries weight and tells us what the past life experiences of each individual have been. We need to know what the person’s life expectancy is and if they possess the qualities of a warrior.

Angam was a form of martial art practiced by Sinhalese and was one of the most ancient martial arts in Sri Lanka. It was also one of the most ancient martial arts in the world, and it is considered to be one of the oldest forms of martial arts in the world. It is performed without the use of spells and medicines to control or bring about physical strain.

From the first time there has been no mention of martial arts between Seethawaka forces and Portuguese troops during the years 1550, 1552, 1561, 1562 and 1583. There were two major schools of Angampora: Maruwalliya and Sudhaliya. These schools routinely fought each other in the early modern times of Sri Lanka.

Colonial and Beyond

Angampora was revived in the 19th century by its practitioners and experts in this fighting art educated the youth and secretly protected the tradition of its existence.

During the colonial period and beyond, the art of Angampora was revived and is seeing a new revival today. Angampora is an ancient martial art that has its roots in the prehistoric era and is one of the oldest forms of martial arts in the world. It is performed without the use of spells and medicines to control or bring about physical strain.

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The students

The opportunity to study the ancient combative technology in life and to acquire the practical skills is an advantage for anyone interested in Angampora. It is a martial art that can be practiced by anyone interested in a lifestyle that is based on education and learning, and it is also a way to help make that ideal choice. Not everyone can become a student of Angampora. The knowledge gained in this art is very in-depth and the requirements for each individual are high. We need to know what the person’s life expectancy is and if they possess the qualities of a warrior.

The learning

Angampora involves combat techniques that mimic the use of drinking and grappling tools, and it is an active and direct form of exercise that is performed without the use of spells and medicines to control or bring about physical strain. It is a martial art that has its roots in the prehistoric era and is one of the oldest forms of martial arts in the world. It is performed without the use of spells and medicines to control or bring about physical strain. In the colonial and after independence, the art has been revived by the newly found authorities which have given the art a new lease of life and is fast gaining importance.