

# 仁

Jin – Benevolence or Compassion

Jin is to develop a sympathetic understanding of people  
Make your nobility & adaptability your sustenance, walk the path of those you would seek to judge.

*Samurai, who possessed both the legal and physical power to destroy and kill were also required to keep their powers in check with benevolence and mercy. It is only those who could act with valor to the extent that they can befriend their enemies in times of piece who could capture benevolence.*

Valour and honour alike required that we should own as enemies in war only such as prove worthy of being friends in peace. When valour attains this height, it becomes akin to benevolence.

# 義

Gi – Rectitude, Morality or Integrity

In practice this Gi is vital to preserve the correct ethics

The virtues of righteousness & veracity are your invincible weapons, when all else is gone you can still rely on your ethics.  
Preserve them with all that you have and all that you do.

*Although it's often translated as rectitude or integrity, 'morality' makes it easier to understand. Gi is more about justice than taking a moral stand. Bushido: The Spirit of Japan defines morality in two ways: as the power of unwavering decision upon a certain course of conduct and more metaphorically as the bone that gives firmness and stature.*

'Morality is one's power to decide upon a course of conduct in accordance with reason, without wavering; to die when to die is right, to strike when to strike is right.' Morality is the bone that gives firmness and stature. Without bones the head cannot rest on top of the spine, nor hands move nor feet stand. So without morality neither talent nor learning can make the human frame into a samurai.'

# 忠

Chu (Chugi) Loyalty

Chu is to show loyalty to one's master

Your duty, loyalty and immovable mind  
become your castle and sanctity.

*During Samurai times loyalty was thought of as being more valuable than life itself.*

Life itself was thought cheap if honour and fame could be attained therewith: hence, whenever a cause presented itself which was considered dearer than life, with utmost serenity and celerity was life laid down. Of the causes in comparison with which no life was too dear to sacrifice, was the duty of Loyalty.

# 勇

Yū Courage

Courage is an extension of morality and only useful when  
matched with correct morals.

*Courage, or the spirit of daring and bearing, as it was first translated was a huge element of raising children during the time of the Samurai.*

It is true courage to live when it is right to live, and to die only when it is right to die

# 礼

Rei – Respect

Rei more specifically is to show  
unquestionable respect for others.  
Self-respect must exist before  
respect to others can be properly given.

Let simplicity & courtesy be your guiding light

*The system of politeness or respect is based in Chinese Confucianism but the Japanese Samurai adopted and preserved this system very well.*

By constant exercise in correct manners, one brings all the parts and faculties of his body into perfect order and into such harmony with itself and its environment as to express the mastery of spirit over the flesh.

# 誠

Makoto Honesty

Your words are your actions, it is as if it is already done.

Let nothing will stop you from completing  
what you have said you will do.  
You no longer will give your word.  
You no longer will promise.

Makoto is more than telling the truth when asked it is more concerned with being honest with oneself and all dealings with others. As a principle, the Samurai did not lie and there are many tales of those who did being put to death for it.

The Samurai also didn't see the need for written contracts as that would be doubting the truthfulness of their word.  
Bushi no ichi-gon...was a sufficient guarantee of the truthfulness of an assertion. His word carried such weight with it that promises were generally made and fulfilled without a written pledge, which would have been deemed quite beneath his dignity.

# 名誉

meiyo Honour

True learning, rank and stature are but a rare privilege.

Wealths are only of value when they are humbly abided and  
preserving honour is the way this is achieved

There is hardly a more profound concept in Bushido than honor. The Samurai lived and died by their honor, with haragiri (seppuku) being the final way of preserving lost honor. Fortunately, killing yourself by cutting your gut open is not allowed in most modernized countries (and definitely not Japan). Still, though, there is a great deal that can be learned from Samurai-esque honor. He was born and bred to value the duties and privileges of his profession. Fear of disgrace hung like a sword over the head of every samurai ...

To take offense at slight provocation was ridiculed as 'short-tempered.' As the popular adage put it: 'True patience means bearing the unbearable.'