

Note: This is usually given to students among "readings" when studying to be a Reiki Master.
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On Being A Reiki Master

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Teacher People attach a lot of baggage to titles. They feed the ego. They color how people look at us, deal with us. They can even help us fool ourselves. The designation "Reiki Master" is one of those tricky titles that can do more harm than good. To be honest, in Reiki, being a "master" only means one thing: the ability to give attunements. One can be good at it, bad at it, or choose not to do it at all. But many cling to the title, regardless. There are some common responsibilities for those who choose to be a Reiki Master and act as a teacher: to ensure the teaching is correct and true and that the principles are explained fully; to be available to help students with guidance and knowledge at any time, after the class is done. But, beyond that, a Reiki Master, essentially, is no more than a Reiki I or Reiki II. A Reiki I has the ability to heal self and others; a Reiki II can broaden that to long-distance healing and can apply the symbols consciously. Being a Reiki III adds only the ability to give attunements and teach and, with that, the responsibility, if one accepts that role, to do it to the best of one's ability. It's true that how a Reiki Master conducts him or herself, good or ill, reflects on Reiki as a whole. But it's essentially the same as for a Reiki I or Reiki II, though, because among one's Sacred Circle of friends and relations, whoever practices Reiki IS Reiki to them - warts and all - whatever level is practiced. The principles of duty, integrity and service are only highlighted a bit when one becomes a Reiki Master because people expect more from one who wears that title. That is the exoteric or outward form of being a Reiki Master; with what is seen as authority comes responsibility. Others will judge how we live up to this - as we judge ourselves. There is another esoteric side to this, though, that should be better known and understood. We should make it known for the good of our modality. Being a Reiki Master does not mean one is any greater than any other, as in "master" over another or any outside thing. It is, rather, a calling and a challenge, an initiation into a higher degree of difficulty: The Challenge of Mastering One's Self. Where people get into difficulty over the title "master" in this path - whether one has gained that title or not -- is that they see the Reiki Master status as an accomplishment. It's really a moving target. It's never accomplished, unless you die (as in, one "was" a Reiki Master), and then it dies with you, transformed into something else. Just as Life Force Energy is moving, constant but always changing, so must anyone who attempts to be at one with it

and use it. Some have said that Dr. Usui should have chosen another word than "master" for the third level. If so, 3rd Degree or Third Initiation would probably do to cut away some of the ego associations that feed upon the word "master." But, if seen from the standpoint of the enormity - perhaps, for most of us, the improbability, or even impossibility - of the task of mastering one's self, the title Reiki Master ought to be one of humility. For, the conferring of the title of master demands so much of the individual who chooses it that to wear it with pride or arrogance or as a finished accomplishment is to tell the world quite loudly that one has failed to even begin to achieve it. Reiki, at any degree, is a path of growth, miracles and challenges. To stop or attach to anything along that path (such as a title) is to leave the path and lose what has been gained. It is a path of humility and service whose followers must go with the Flow of Creation, the ever-changing currents of Life Force Energy as manifested in this world, if only to keep pace. There is no "end point" or graduation. To achieve the title of "master" is not an accomplishment so much as a challenge to meet a higher goal, one that has no end as long as one holds life. For Reiki is life. To say one has mastered Reiki is to say one has mastered one's last breath and, hence, there is no need to take anymore. It is a path, not a destination. Each step leads to a more wondrous one - beyond the names, words or titles of humankind. Our guides and angels know that. So do we in our innermost knowings, in our inherent wisdom. And those who come to us for help or guidance will know it, too, whether we admit it or not. We learn from every human being who crosses our path and every one is a "master" of some kind. Our humble task is to learn from all who present themselves in this miracle we call life, giving what we have to give, so that we may receive all blessings that Spirit brings our way. Only by mastering ourselves can we see this. Only by being humble in the sight of the Creator and seeing our small part within Creation can we be large enough to receive the infinite abundance from an eternal Source that is constantly offered us. We cannot fool Spirit; it would be foolish to fool ourselves. That is a fundamental task of being a Reiki "Master."

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