Frequently Asked Questions

What is "Tatsujin"?

Tatsujin is a Japanese word that refers to a "fully actualized person," a person who is achieving excellence, who embraces excellence in all aspects of their life – physical, mental, social, economic, spiritual, etc.

Why a Japanese word?

The human mind tends to remember the bizarre, the strange, the out of the ordinary, and the curious. Words like this are easy to recall although maybe not easy to say.

We tend to remember our failures because for the most part we are successful. We tend to remember the bad grade, for instance, but not the easy grades. We also remember the really fantastic, since again, events are not fantastic consistently.

What is the Purpose of Tatsujin Programs?

Tatsujin Programs' mission is to support individuals and organizations in their efforts to achieve excellence. We do this by presenting a powerful problem-solving methodology and by supplying a learning process and toolkit to anyone seeking a consistent approach to address personal, business, or organizational issues. Regardless of whether a problem is related to technical/engineering, management, relationship, social, economic/financial, cultural, or any variety of issues which stretch across human experience, Tatsujin Programs provide a means to generate positive change in the areas of our lives which need our focused attention.

How does a Typical Tatsujin Program work?

The methodology presented in Tatsujin Programs works better within a context or relation, as opposed to a purely creative focus (although even here, it works better than most other methods). Our methods and strategies draw freely from Western civilization, e.g. Plato[i], Aristotle[ii], Socrates[iii], Homer[iv], Aesop[v] from the ancient world, and Jung[vi], Buzan[vii], Grinder/Bandler[viii] in more recent times, and from Eastern civilizations, e.g. Lao Tse[ix], Sun Tzu[x] and Musashi[xi] from the past, and Ishikawa[xii] more recently. It has origins on the Silk Road and, therefore, has a Middle Eastern touch too. The oldest part of the methodology is nearly 2500 years old and the most recent is just yesterday.

Tatsujin Programs place an emphasis on providing people with approaches to achieve efficacy (the right thing, at the right time, with the right tool). Getting to a well-defined situation by employing learning tools, and the practice of Tatsujin Programs' 3 step approach (see Figure 1) allow for creation of short and long-term goals and action plans. Each individual will continue to draw on deeper and multiple possible solutions throughout a six week program. Issues and solutions will be

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Fig. 1
3 Step Approach

derived through an understanding of reality and an individualized proper look at the world. Examples of tools used to obtain efficacy, include mind-mapping®*, modeling, and the examination of delusion/deception theory.

Tatsujin Programs provide measurably improved results over time. Aside from company-sponsored development programs which may require measured results for strategically targeted outcomes, not many individual personal excellence programs provide measurement as part of the development process. How many provide measurement over time? (Most have a "do it" in one weekend feel.) Tatsujin Programs focus on providing measurably improved results over time and a process for continued growth.

Individual learning and homework is also supported online by our website.

Why Participate in a Tatsujin Program?

We can actively BE in our lives or we can wait and see what life gives us.

Tatsujin Programs are individualized. How many programs have a "one size fits all" feel? We care about individual success. Issues come up in life and this program isn't for just anybody, it is for everybody.

Tatsujin programs provide a way to get back to the source of modern beliefs and methodologies, a foundation for the increasingly complex world we live in.
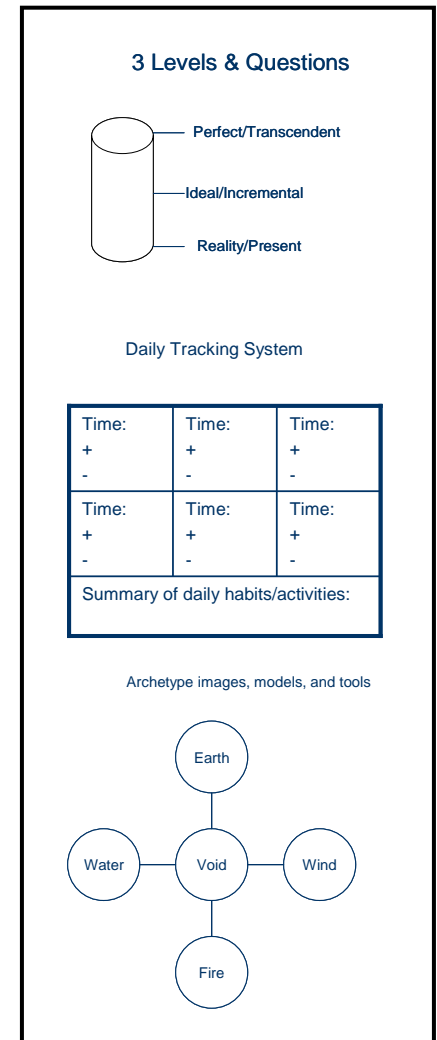
Who Facilitates Tatsujin Programs?

Tatsujin Programs was founded as a collaborative effort between a number of very talented people. This group consisted of an MBA, an historian, a financial planner, an entrepreneur, a philosopher (and that was just one person!) besides a private consultant, a professional speaker, a priest, an artist, an engineer, a geologist, a lawyer, an EMT, a writer, and a professional specializing in executive development. All of these people have diverse backgrounds but have managed to find commonalities within the methodologies that the Tatsujin Programs teach.

For specialized needs Tatsujin uses privately retained consultants with an expertise in the problem area. For the public sessions we use professional speakers and practitioners.

*Mind-mapping is a registered trademark of Buzan Organization

3 Levels & Questions

- Perfect/Transcendent
- Ideal/Incremental
- Reality/Present

Daily Tracking System

Time: + -	Time: + -	Time: + -
Time: + -	Time: + -	Time: + -
Summary of daily habits/activities:		

Archetype images, models, and tools

Earth

Water — Void — Wind

Fire

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The Materials and Program Terms Look Kind of New Age and Far Out

There is a dragon, a funny looking tree and words like Earth and Void. What does that all mean?

The dragon is an archetypal composite of all animals and represents our deepest fears and highest aspirations. From the Western culture, we see the dragon as negative. In the Beowulf story, a dragon ravages the country. Success at the end is killing the dragon.[xiii] St George [xiv] or the Archangel Michael[xv] slaying a dragon was considered an act of heroism. In more modern times, we speak of "slaying our dragons" as confronting our deepest problems and conquering them. In other cultures, the dragon represents the mental-spiritual side of humanity, happiness, longevity, strength, and action. Therefore, it seems appropriate that a dragon appear as an aspect of what we as humans are, and if we are to solve problems, all dragons must be studied.

The tree also comes from Japan. There is a monastery in the Yoshino Mountains where these really unusual cliff trees dwell. The trees grow out over the valley along cliffs. Their roots curve back into the cliffs and yet the trees remain on the shelf of the cliff. The taproot is somewhere between the cliff side and the shelf side. In the morning, or in the night, when the moon rises or the sun does, these trees seem suspended, like Blaise Pascal said of infinity[xvi], "between two universes", neither well grounded nor unearthed, neither attached nor unattached, just suspended in possibility.

The tree represents infinite potential.

The use of Earth (structure), Water (adaptability), Wind (purpose), Fire (creativity/energy), and Void (potential) as terms is found within Lucretius' *"De Rerum Natura"* [xvii] as well as within Lao Tze. Jung speaks of archetypal images and that is the context of our methodology.

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[i] "Plato (c. 427 BC – c. 347 BC) was an immensely influential classical Greek philosopher, student of
    Socrates, teacher of Aristotle, writer, and founder of the Academy in Athens. "
       – "Plato" < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plato >
[ii] "Aristotle (384 BC – March 7, 322 BC) was an ancient Greek philosopher. Along with Plato, he is often
    considered to be one of the two most influential philosophers in Western thought. He wrote many
    books about physics, poetry, zoology, government, and biology."
       – "Aristotle" < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristotle >

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iii "Socrates (June 4, 470 – 399 BC) was a "Greek (Athenian) philosopher and one of the most important icons of the Western philosophical tradition. His most important contribution to Western thought is his dialogical method of inquiry, known as the Socratic method or method of *elenchos*, which he largely applied to the examination of key moral concepts and was first described by Plato in the *Socratic Dialogues*. For this, Socrates is customarily regarded as the father and fountainhead for ethics or moral philosophy, and of philosophy in general."
– "Socrates" < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socrates >

iv "Homer was a legendary (or perhaps mythical) early Greek poet and rhapsode traditionally credited with authorship of the major Greek epics *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, the comic mini-epic *Batrachomyomachia* ("The Frog-Mouse War"), the corpus of Homeric Hymns, and various other lost or fragmentary works such as Margites. A few ancient authors credited him with the entire Epic Cycle, which included further poems on the Trojan War as well as the Theban poems about Oedipus and his sons. Tradition held that Homer was blind, and various Ionian cities are claimed to be his birthplace, but otherwise his biography is a blank slate."
– "Homer" < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homer >

v "Aesop, or Æsop (from the Greek *Aisopos*), famous for his Fables, is supposed to have lived from about 620 to 560 B.C. Aesop's Fables are still taught as moral lessons and used as subjects for various entertainments especially children's plays and cartoons."
- "Aesop" < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aesop >

vi "Carl Gustav Jung (July 26, 1875 – June 6, 1961) was a Swiss psychiatrist and founder of the neopsychoanalytic school of psychology. One of the key psychological concepts originally proposed by Jung was the Archetypes, which are innate prototypes for ideas, which may subsequently become involved in the interpretation of observed phenomena."
-"Carl Jung" < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jung >
-"Archetype" < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archetype >

vii "Tony Buzan (1942-) is the original promoter of mind mapping and coined the term mental literacy. He was born in London and received double Honours in psychology, English, mathematics and the General Sciences from the University of British Columbia in 1964. He is probably best known for his book, *Make the Most of Your Mind*, his promotion of mnemonic systems and his mind-mapping techniques." – "Tony Buzan" < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_Buzan >

viii "The field of Neuro-linguistic programming (NLP) was co-created by Richard Bandler and John Grinder in the early 1970s from what they called "modeling" several well-known psychotherapists." NLP is a "field of human endeavor concerned with empirically studying and modeling human performance and excellence, with the goal of creating transferable skill sets. It has found applications in most areas involving human communications, such as education and learning, persuasion, negotiation, sales, leadership, team-building, etc., as well as decision-making, creative processes, health, medicine, and athletic performance."
– "Neuro-linguistic programming"< http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neuro-linguistic_programming >

ix "Lao Zi (also spelled *Laozi*, *Lao Tzu*, or *Lao Tse*) was a famous Chinese philosopher who is believed to have lived in approximately the 4th century BC, during the Hundred Schools of Thought and Warring States Periods. He is credited with writing the seminal Taoist work, the Tao Te Ching (a mystical treatise covering many areas of philosophy, from individual spirituality to techniques for governing societies). He became a popular deity in Taoist religion's pantheon. His most famous follower, Zhuang Zi, wrote a book that had one of the greatest influences on Chinese Literati, through the ideas of individualism, freedom, carefreeness, and, even if the author never speaks about it, art, which may well be the cornerstone of Chinese aesthetic."
-"Lao Zi" < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lao_tse >
-Read the Tao Te Chin < http://www.kisa.ca/daodejing.html >

x "Sun Tzu was the author of *The Art of War*, an immensely influential ancient Chinese book on military strategy (for the most part not dealing directly with tactics). He is also one of the earliest realists in

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international relations theory."   - "Sun Tzu" < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sun_Tzu>
Read the book < http://www.sonshi.com/learn.html >

xi "Miyamoto Musashi (c.1584 - June 13, 1645) was a famous Japanese swordsman and author of *The Book of Five Rings*, an analysis of his style. "He spent many years studying Buddhism and swordsmanship. He was an accomplished artist, sculptor, and calligrapher. Records also show that he had architectural skills. Also, he had a rather no-nonsense approach to fighting; with no additional frills or aesthetic considerations. This was probably due to his real-life combat experience." - "Miyamoto Musashi" < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miyamoto_Musashi >
Read *The Book of Five Rings* < http://www.samurai.com/5rings/ >

xii "Kaoru Ishikawa is a Japanese consultant, father of the scientific analysis of causes of problems in an industrial process. He gave his name to the Ishikawa diagram, also known as *Fishbone Diagram*, which graphs all causes organised by categories."
– "Kaoru Ishikawa" < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaoru_Ishikawa >

xiii "The story traces the life of a heroic king of the Geats, Beowulf himself, and his three great battles with monsters: first the troll-like Grendel, then Grendel's mother, and finally with a fire-breathing dragon, which finally kills him."   - "Beowulf" < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beowulf >

xiv "St. George was a soldier venerated as a martyr when he was tortured and executed for refusing the orders of a Caesar to persecute Christians across the Roman Empire, instead admitting that he was a Christian himself. He was canonized as a saint in 494 AD. The tale of St. George and the Dragon "begins with a dragon making its nest at the spring that provides a city-state with water. Consequently, the citizens had to temporarily remove the dragon from its nest in order to collect water. To do so, they offered the dragon a daily human sacrifice. The victim of the day was chosen by drawing lots. Eventually the "victor" of this lottery happened to be the local princess. The local Monarch is occasionally depicted begging for her life with no result. She is offered to the dragon but at this point a traveling George arrives. He faces the dragon, slays it and saves the princess. The grateful citizens then abandon their ancestral Paganism and convert to Christianity."
– "St. George" < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_George >

xv "The Archangel Michael is described in John's Book of Revelation in the New Testament as fighting the seven-headed dragon, a representative of Satan, in a battle in heaven."
–"Michael (archangel)" <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archangel_Michael >
7And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. 8But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. 9The great dragon was hurled down–that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.
- Revelations 12:7-9

xvi "Blaise Pascal (June 19, 1623 – August 19, 1662) was a French mathematician, physicist, and religious philosopher. Important contributions by Pascal to the natural sciences include the construction of mechanical calculators, considerations on probability theory, the study of fluids, and clarification of concepts such as pressure and vacuum. Following a mystical experience in 1654, he fell away from mathematics and physics and devoted himself to reflection and writing about philosophy and theology."   - "Blaise Pascal" < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blaise_Pascal >

xvii "Titus Lucretius Carus (c. 99 - 55 BC) was a Roman poet and philosopher. His major work is *De Rerum Natura* (*On the Nature of Things)* which is considered by some to be the greatest masterpiece of Latin verse. The main purpose of the work to free men's minds of superstition and fear of death. It achieves this through the principles of the philosophical system of Epicurus, whom Lucretius immortalizes."   – "Lucretius" < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucretius >