



Jeong Mong-ju (1337 – 1392), also known by his pen name **Po-Eun** (Korean: 포은), was a Korean civil minister and scholar from the end period of the Goryeo Dynasty. Jeong Mong-ju was born in Yeongcheon, Gyeongsang province to a family from the Yeongil Jeong clan. At the age of 23, he took three different civil service literary examinations (**Gwageo**) and received the highest marks possible on each of them. In 1367, he became an instructor in Neo-Confucianism at the **Gukjagam** and was a faithful public servant to King U.

The king had great confidence in his wide knowledge and good judgement, and so he participated in various national projects and his scholarly works earned him great respect in the Goryeo court. In 1372, Jeong Mong-ju visited China, as a diplomatic envoy. Around the time, as waegu (Japanese pirate)'s invasions to the Korean Peninsula were extreme, Jeong Mong-ju was dispatched as a delegate to Kyushu in 1377. His negotiations led to promises of Japanese aid in defeating the pirates. He traveled to the Chinese capital city in 1384 and negotiations with the Ming Dynasty led to peace with China in 1385.

Jeong Mong-ju was murdered in 1392 by five men on the Sonjukkyo Bridge in Gaeseong following a banquet held for him by Yi Bang-won (later Taejong of Joseon), the fifth son of Yi Seong-gye, who overthrew the Goryeo Dynasty, in order to found the Joseon Dynasty. Jeong Mong-ju was murdered because he refused to betray his loyalty to the Goryeo Dynasty.

The 11th pattern of ITF Taekwon-Do is named after Po-Eun. The diagram (-) represents his unerring loyalty to the king and country towards the end of the Goryeo Dynasty.



Though I die and die again a hundred times,
That my bones turn to dust, whether my soul remains or not, Ever loyal to my Lord, how can this red heart ever fade away?