One of the many personal achievements of Grandmaster “Iron” Kim is the Kyong Gong Sul Bope (flying side kick). Above is Grandmaster jumping from the top of a building. (The roof is visible in the lower right corner.) In 1970, Grandmaster “Iron” Kim demonstrated Kyong Gong Sul Bope by jumping from the equivalent of an 11-story building. In 1972, Grandmaster “Iron” Kim again demonstrated the Kyong Gong Sul Bope movement by jumping from the equivalent of an 8-story building both times landing without injury onto a sloped surface below.

My name is Maryse, and I am 50 years old. When I joined the Oom Yung Doe School, I didn’t think that the moves I learned were going to be beneficial to me so quickly—I thought it would take a lot longer. I frequent Davis Square a lot, and I’ve passed by the Oom Yung Doe school dozens of times. Finally, one day, I decided to fulfill my curiosity, and I walked in and inquired about the school. Shortly after, I registered for a two month trial. I began the lessons, and quickly realized how much I was enjoying the classes. Not only did friends and family notice an improvement in me, but I also noticed how much more energetic I was. I was smiling more and less stressed—just genuinely happy. Not only were there mental and emotional changes, but there were physical changes as well. As I lost more weight, I became more focused.

The most defining moment for me was when I fell down two flights of stairs. The lessons that I learned regarding fall techniques, I feel, saved my life. As I first started to learn how to roll, I was making faces and thinking that “Are you kidding me? I, Maryse, roll!” I thought it was something I would never accomplish, partly because I was scared and partly because of self doubt. With the careful tactics of my instructors, their patience, and their professionalism, I became more confident with my rolling lessons. The roll techniques and the “learn how to fall” lessons saved my life. The lights were out on the stair well, and I missed the first steps of the stairs. Without even giving it a second thought, I immediately changed to a roll position using my right hand to protect my neck and left hand to land on my side. As I reached the bottom of the steps, I honestly believed I had broken my neck. It took a few minutes for me to readjust myself, but I did. After a few minutes, I shifted my hand and realized that, while I was a little sore, I was ok.

If it weren’t for the lessons I learned at the Oom Yung Doe School, I probably would have been severely injured, or maybe even paralyzed.