

Heaven

清

Clean

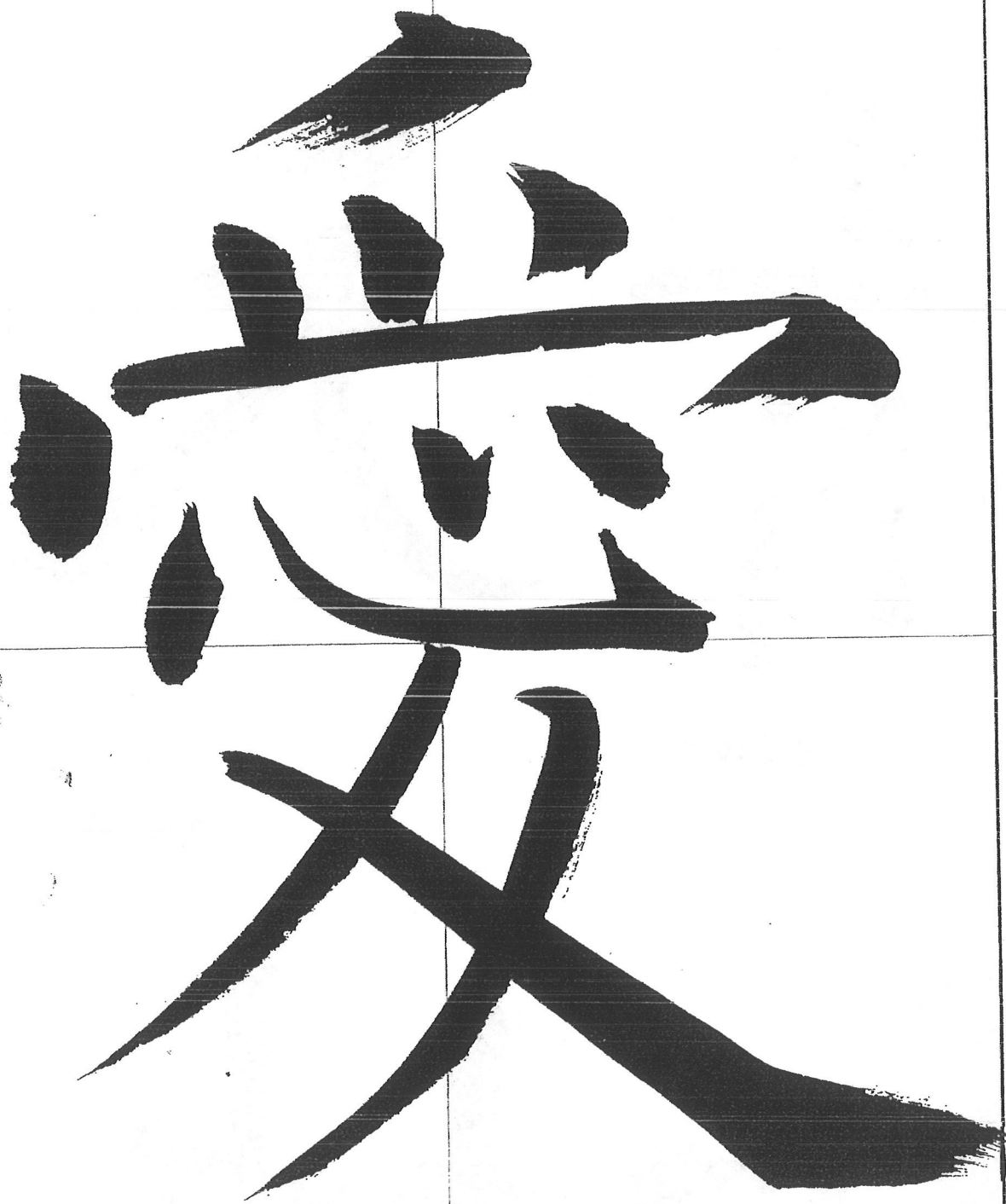
天

Earth

和

Harmonious

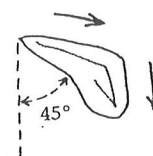
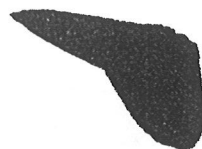
地



LOVE

## The Dot

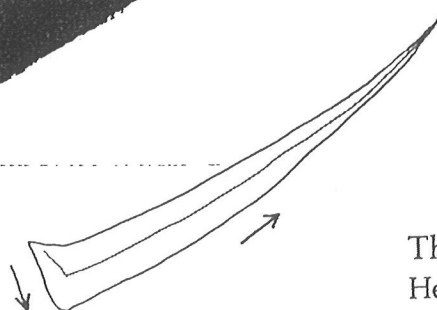
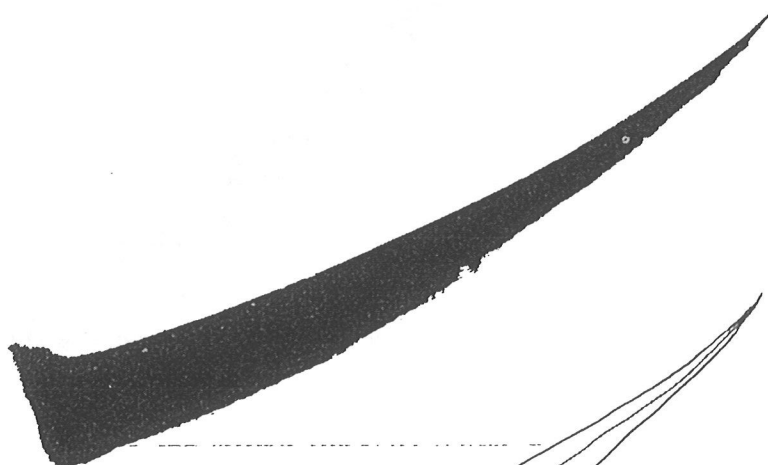
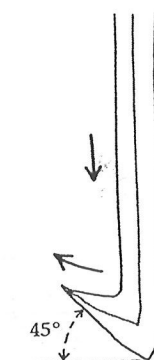
This is exactly the same as the first part of the vertical stroke previously practiced. The brush is lowered at an angle of approximately  $45^\circ$  onto the paper, then moved downward, brought to a halt, and removed after being returned to the center of the dot.



For the horizontal and vertical lines (#2 & 3), see pages 20-22.

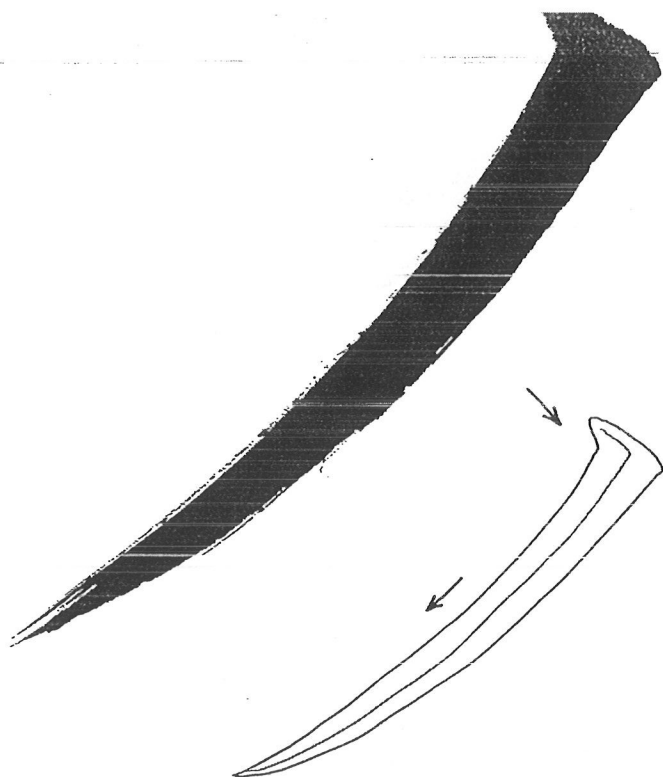
## The Tail

This important shape results from the brush's rebounding upward. The triangular spike is made by lifting the brush off the paper as it moves up the page, so that finally, at the end of the stroke, only the very tip of the bristles are in contact with the paper.



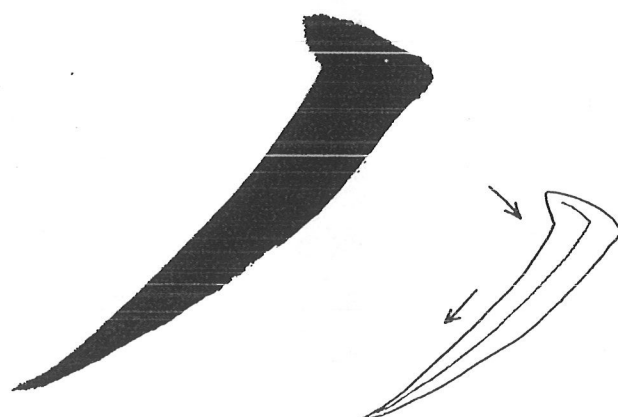
## The Sword Blade

Here the brush moves upward at an angle from left to right, comes to a stop, veers up the page to the right, and gradually lifts off the paper to produce



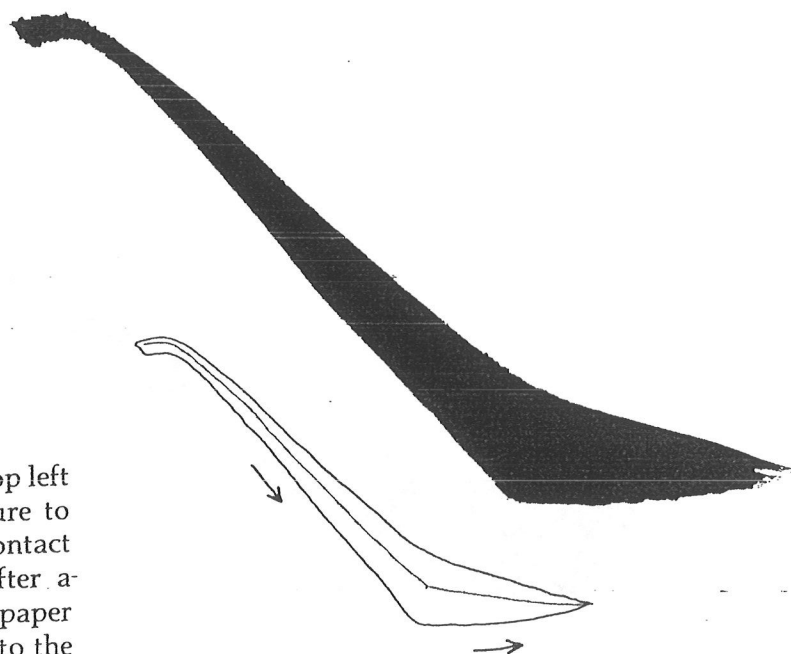
### The Inverse Sword Blade

This stroke begins in the same way as the previous stroke, but moves downward to the left, giving the same long sword-blade effect as before, but at a different angle.



### The Dragon's Claw

This is simply a shortened version of the previous stroke, the same movements being executed in a shorter time and space.



### The Spatula

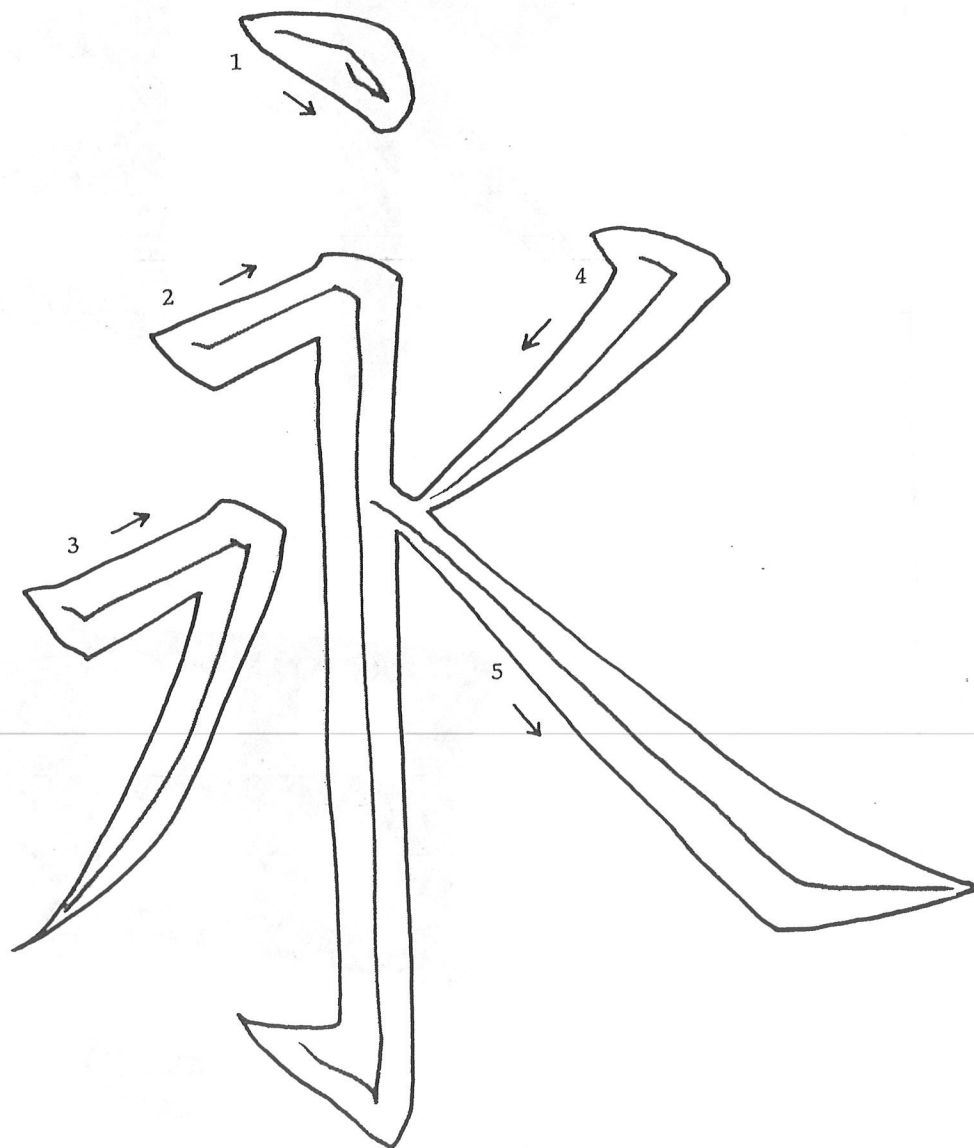
Here the brush is brought slowly down from top left to bottom right. As you lightly apply pressure to the brush, more of the bristles come into contact with the paper and the stroke thickens. After a pause, the brush is lifted slowly from the paper while moving away and slightly upward and to the right.

## Writing *Ei*

Anyone dealing with these eight techniques, beginner or otherwise, is dealing with the core of the calligrapher's art. Simple as they are, even a little experience shows their complexities, the difficulty in learning to write them well. And "well" means regularly and consistently well. The range of possible variants becomes clear as soon as the brush touches the paper, from the moment one is forced to control the brush's movements to produce the desired effect. Whatever happens, do not become frustrated or discouraged by initial difficulties: There is nothing intrinsically difficult in the eight strokes themselves, and they will soon bend more easily to your will as you learn to handle the brush.

Your progress depends a good deal on eliminating interference in the form of frustration, annoyance, and distraction. The lines themselves are the very essence of simplicity. What is difficult is the attention and concentration required to practice them.

When you begin to feel fairly comfortable with your brush and other equipment, and have gained familiarity with the eight basic techniques (five strokes), begin to practice the character *ei* in its entirety. When practicing this character, and others as well, you will find, at least in the beginning, that using a single sheet of paper for each character, and boldly centering that character, will bring better results than squeezing in several small characters on one sheet.



### THE FIVE STROKES FOR *Ei* IN PROPER ORDER

- 1: Dot.
- 2: Horizontal and vertical legs.
- 3: Sword blade and inverse sword blade.
- 4: Dragon's claw.
- 5: Spatula.

ETERNITY

MUTUAL RESPECT

相

Reciprocal

思

Realize