



Xin Qi Shen

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The next few newsletters will focus on my teachers: their backgrounds, how I met them, how they taught, and stories either about them or that they told.

These are excerpts from a book about my teachers. - *Andy*

Master Fook Yueng

1919 - 4/23/2012

Attending Harris sensei's class I heard many stories about Mr. Yueng. This picture shows → my first meeting with him, I think it was 1973. I was attending Dave's class, working on basic drills, when this skinny 'old' guy walks into the dojo on a cold winters day. Dave greeted him and then returned to giving instructions. The old guy takes off several layers of jackets and has a belt with a huge buckle around his tiny waist. He walks up to me and shows me an on-guard position which I take. The next thing I know my face is buried into his sweater (which smelled like old cigar smoke); my foot was trapped, and I couldn't move. Nice to meet you Master Yueng. (after this I'd call him Mr. Yueng since he didn't like the term "master.") In those days, he always had a cigar hanging out of one side of his mouth.



This first class was awesome. He went through the class teaching and correcting individuals. "You tall, you do this", "You not tall, you do this." He would demonstrate his techniques with Dave, which is the only time I've ever seen Dave defenseless.



Just like when we worked with Dave, Dave's every move made to counter Master Yueng's move was the wrong one. Yueng would do the same with Dave, tying him in a knot so he couldn't do anything. Dave's skill was awesome, but this was a level beyond him, so really enjoyable to watch. Around this time, Yueng was a part owner and cook in an Everett restaurant and taught around 1am, after closing.

During a visit to Washington Aikikwai from Shihan Sado Yoshioka, of one my Taiji students (Kinji) walked in with a young Chinese gentlemen. He was looking for a Chinese translator (in a Japanese dojo). I greeted them and somehow figured out this guy was looking for Fook Yueng. I had no contact information so I gave him Dave's number. It turned out this guy was sent from Hong Kong

in order to bring Mr. Yueng back to learn the Tian Shan Method. Shortly after that, Mr. Yueng would appear at Dave's once in a while to teach as well as to do qi gong healing on some of the students.

When Dave's school moved to the Phinney Center, he and I were teaching the same days, so I didn't see much of Mr. Yueng. Actually at that time he didn't visit Dave's very often either. After our classes, Dave, Geri, and I would meet at the Pastry Case in Wallingford to chat and discuss techniques and principles.



Late in the 1980s one of my students was experiencing some unusual energetic stuff. She felt like she was going crazy and thought that Taiji would help. I eventually heard about it and the only person I could think of that I trusted was Mr. Yueng. Through Dave, I was able to connect the two. Several years later they married!

Once during work, I had messed up my back unloading a truck, which left me in a lot of pain. Fortunately, I decided to teach class anyway. At that time our classes were in Upper Woodland Park. As I started the class, I noticed a strange look cross my students' faces. The next thing I knew, I was grabbed from behind and couldn't move. Then I felt a few pats and sensations on my back, was slapped forward, and heard the comment, "now teach." By the time I turned around, he was getting into a car and drove off. Mr. Yueng! My back felt great, and I continued with the class after telling everyone that they had just seen the mysterious Mr. Yueng I always talked about.



That July, in 1990, the club decided to give me a special birthday party at Lombardi's in Ballard, my favorite restaurant. As I was sitting there talking with someone, I got this feeling of racecars going up and down my back. I



turn around, and at the top of the stairs I saw Mr. Yueng. I introduced him and found him a seat next to me. Through Angela (my student, who was his translator by then), he asked me why I hadn't been visiting him — he had much to teach me. I was perplexed. First, I didn't know that I was invited; second, I didn't really know how to get in touch with him or where he lived. He gave me his address and told me, "I see you Thursday one o'clock." When I showed up at the address and knocked on the door, the woman who answered told me "garage door."

These sessions consisted of three levels of Tian Shan Qi Gong and its applications, energy listening, meditation, and other applications, monkey staff, and double broadswords. We would also sit around the table, and he'd give me advice. We'd chat about qi gong as well as his life and martial arts. Though at first he wouldn't talk about Bruce Lee (his kung fu nephew and student, I was told he was godfather to Brandon), eventually he opened up more and let me interview him for my newsletter. This started a close friendship.

At the opening of my school on 8th avenue NW in Seattle he presented me with his family sword, announcing I was his second son. Dave Harris was number one son, his best and longest-term student. After receiving the sword, I asked, "So Dad, can I have an allowance?" we both had a good laugh and then he said, 'No'. In hindsight he wouldn't accept payment for the lessons he gave me - a gift more valuable than any allowance. After my first lesson, I tried to pay him but he wouldn't accept it. I slipped some money under a dish on the table. As I left, he grabbed me by the shoulder so I couldn't move and then shoved the money into my pocket. As payment, I started bringing him sweets.

I invited him to our monthly video nights where we'd watch videos of masters from various styles. From then on, he attended monthly, and also came to our club workshops and demonstrations. He also agreed to come to our Bandon retreat and teach a couple of times. Later on I arranged for him to teach at other retreats like the Kootenay Summer Retreat a few times as well as the Lake Crescent Energetic Retreat.



MEETING GAO FU

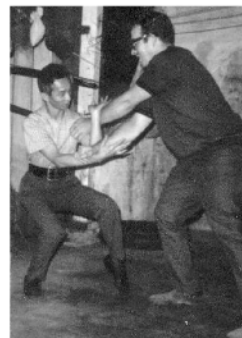
Shortly after Gao Fu started teaching in Seattle I invited her to our dojo video night. She was always eager to meet other teachers. She and Yueng just hit it off. Mr. Yueng treated her very kindly and was a bit over protective of her. It was really cute.

On one occasion a Taiji classmate of Gao Fu came to visit, and we

were all to meet at a restaurant in China-town. As I was walking down the street I saw Gao Fu and her guest coming towards me at the other end of the block. All of a sudden, Gao Fu tripped on the uneven sidewalk and falls. Mr. Yueng appeared out of the blue in the next moment and picked her up. He did some qi healing and then disappeared. They insisted that I find him and invite him to our lunch. A block away I found him inside a club of some kind. He said he'd drop by after we ate, which he did. He did some more qi kung healing on her and then left.



Master Yueng was a Taoist wizard. His empathic skill was amazing and his martial arts were awesome. Happy, kind, and generous. His energy was contagious, you couldn't be around him without feeling great. I once asked him how he could tell where someone hurt or was in pain. He told me that he could feel what they felt. Later on, he showed me his technique which is similar to tree qi gong, a part of the Tian Shan Qi Gong.



HISTORY: Mr. Yueng was part of the Red Boat (Red Junk) opera company. They traveled up and down the coast giving performances in every port. His on the coast, giving performances in every port. His good friend in this troupe, Bruce Lee's father, was considered the company's Wu Taiji master. Though most members knew all the parts but specialized in one or two, Master Yueng's specialized in the Monkey King. The troupe composed of masters of various styles, would workout and share their knowledge and techniques. After the performances, they'd clear the stage and invite challenges to earn extra money. Their styles included: N & S Mantis, Wing Chun, Monkey, Tam Tui, Long Fist, Taiji, Bagua and others.

Due to their friendship, Bruce Lee's father arranged for Bruce, when he first came to Seattle, to stay with Mr. Yueng and to train with him. Yueng is considered Bruce's second teacher, which Linda Lee, Jessie Glover, and a few others recently verified. It has been said that Bruce's Wing Chun improved greatly and that he was eventually able to hold his own when he returned to Hong Kong and trained with Yip Man. However, Yip Man was very traditional and wouldn't let his students study with other instructors so Bruce kept his study with Yueng quiet.

