Number 4 · December 2000

Newsletter of the International Yang Style Tai Chi Chuan Associat

From Generation to Generation...

From the Past to the Future...

The Tradition Continues





by Yang Jun President Translated by Felix Jih

-Seasons, all our members!

irst off, I would like to wish you all a very happy holiday and I hope the coming year brings you nothing but prosperity and good tidings.

The busy summer season is over. My grandfather Yang Zhenduo and I gave seminars in Europe : Italy, France, Germany, and Sweden; North America: Winchester, Montreal, San Antonio, and Portland; South America: San Paulo and Porto Alagre. Every place we visited, we found that there were many people interested in Tai Chi. We were welcomed and shown nothing but warm greetings and hospitality through the careful arrangements from every seminar committee. This contributed to successful trainings at every seminar.

Here, my grandfather and I would like to say thank you to all the directors and staff that helped sponsor these seminars. We would also like to thank all who attended the seminars.

The arrangements for the coming year are almost ready. We will international continue training seminars to cover Europe, North America, and South America. The ranking system has been published and the first examinations are complete. The ranking system is going to gradually be extended to all

the centers. The International Association is going to hold an All Directors' Meeting, and research and improve the structure and organization of our association. The International Association will designate an individual responsible for the 20th anniversary activities of the Shan Xi Association in 2002. In summary, the coming year is going to be a busy year.

We anticipate many new members for the coming year. We understand that in the past year we have had our complications. We hope to improve ourselves and provide a better service for our members, so we can further develop our Yang Tai Chi Chuan and contribute to the health and longevity of people through Tai Chi. We can only do this with the support of all our members.





EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Yang Jun

> **EDITOR Dave Barrett**

CONTRIBUTORS Dave Barrett Gilles D'Anjou Jerry Karin John Kovacs

GRAPHIC DESIGN Marco Gagnon

All Tai Chi Chuan euthusiasts are invited to submit articles, letters, and pictures for publication.

Both critical and complimentary letters concerning the form and content of this newsletter are welcome. Please send correspondence in electronic format to: editor@yangfamilytaichi.com or mail to:

> International Yang Style Tai Chi Chuan Association

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Little Tai Chi Story



editation in action, harmony of mind and body, balance of Yin-Yang energy, with Taoist philosophy... I had been searching for these for years, way back since I began self-discovery and self-empowerment. At first, from publicity, I went to see Society of Taoist Tai Chi classes, but as I didn't know anything about the Tai Chi world, I decided to wait...

A year later, one friend asked me if I was still interested in learning Tai Chi. Yes, Yes for sure! I was ready. My first teacher Christine had learned the Cheng Man Ching Yang style. She had good experience and we started a new beginners group of twelve persons sixteen year ago. What I saw was great and beautiful, what I learned really touched my heart and changed my life. This inner aspect with slow and peaceful movements and poetic names got me! I soon became addicted to Tai Chi.

My journey really started two years after I began Tai Chi lessons. I will never forget that special day of strong and good Tao. A Sunday morning of February, as a private landscaper, I had signed my first big landscape project for the coming spring, I was very proud. After lunch my two young nephews and I went skating on the lake. We suddenly heard a call for help. A man and his young son with their snowmobile had just fallen in the water while the ice

had broken under them. With fast action the small boy was rescued and soon after the father. The water was very cold and deep, but with luck every thing went o.k. I know that Tai Chi gave me what I needed to help at that precise moment in time.

Then back home, the phone rang, the person who called had a problem and asked if I could continue Tai Chi classes, replacing my teacher who had decided to stop teaching. I did not know what to say, but after reflection I decided to do my best and teach so that Tai Chi would not stop in my area. This was a good choice, since then I have never stopped learning more about life and Tai Chi. It has been a wonderful gift. After six years of teaching, I heard about Master Yang Zhen Duo, 4th generation Yang Family, and son of the great Master Yang Cheng Fu. So I started to travel to go and see what were the particulars of Traditional Yang style Tai Chi Chuan. The weeklong seminar was very hard on me, I came back home and made big changes, I told my students that from now on, I would do my best to learn more and teach Traditional Yang Family Tai Chi Chuan. Some of them guit but the majority stayed to continue.

Master Yang Zhen Duo's Tai Chi skills and roots are very deep and solid with great power, beauty and spirit, showing us the correct way to improve our practice. The Art of Tai Chi Chuan was no more just a relaxation affair. As Master Yang showed us, yang energy was also part of the yin-yang of Tai Chi, and that this made Tai Chi more martial, energetic and spiritual in is true essence. I understood that we needed a Master to learn from and improve our basics, the essentials and the technique. It has not been easy for all of us but worthwhile, we are more and more happy about what we discover in every day practice. Some students have been learning together for eight years now. It has become a little family of Tai Chi enthusiasts.

continue next page ->



by Gilles D'Anjou Center Director Canada

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by Dave Barrett

Editor

S. W.

Learning from Each Other



his issue marks the first anniversary of our Association and our publication! It has been a very exciting experience to see the progress made towards creating an international network devoted to the wonderful art of Traditional Yang Family Style Tai Chi Chuan.

This issue is also my first as Editor and I would like to thank Yang Jun, Jeremy Blodgett, and Marco Gagnon for all the hard work they have put into past issues. I also want to thank the many contributors who have written interesting and informative pieces over the past year. I encourage any of you to write about Tai Chi Chuan and what it means to you and your community.

We are planning on a regular series of articles that will fall into four main Departments. First will be items concerning Practice. Yang Jun has kindly offered to share his views on common mistakes and how to correct them. Traveling the

world he has the unique perspective of seeing many perform Tai Chi and has seen many of us with the same problems in our practice. Secondly, will be articles devoted to the theories of Traditional Yang Family Style Tai Chi Chuan. Thirdly, will be a Member's Forum where anyone can submit items of interest to our Tai Chi community. Fourth, will be a section devoted to Center news and events from the world over.

We have the unique opportunity to bridge languages and cultures with our united efforts to improve the quality of our lives through the Art of Tai Chi Chuan. Not only for ourselves but also for our families and for the larger family of humankind, we can share our experiences and learn from each other. Please contribute!

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Little Tai Chi Story (continuity of previous page)

Recently Master Yang Jun recognized our school: La Voie Du Tai Chi, is now: Salaberry Of Valleyfield Yang Cheng Fu Tai Chi Chuan Center, Québec Canada. It is another beautiful gift for all of us. Proudly, we do our best to improve and spread quality Tai Chi Chuan for health, happiness and prosperity.

INVITATION

On the **23 24 25 of February 2001**, Master Yang Jun will visit us for a **weekend seminar** in Salaberry of Valleyfield. He will also officially open the new Yang Chengfu Center.

The seminar will be on corrections of the 103 and special teaching for members of the International Yang Style Tai Chi Chuan Association. We invite all Yang Family Tai Chi friends to

visit us and learn more from Master Yang Jun.

I hope to see you soon,

Gilles D'Anjou

Center director, Salaberry de Valleyfield For more information please contact :

gilles@yangfamilytaichi.com 450-371-1690

or see detail on the Yang website : www.yangfamilytaichi.com

INTERNATIONAL YANG STYLE TAI CHI CHUAN ASSOCIATION

The International Yang Style Tai Chi Chuan Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of Traditional Yang Style Tai Chi Chuan.

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Association Announces Rankings

The results of the first ranking examination are as follows:

4 - Copper Tiger

6 - Gold Tiger

Agnsater, Elin

Wang, Han Hoong

Arione, Sergio 5 - Silver Tiger Barrett, Dave 5 - Silver Tiger Bila, Marcia 4 - Copper Tiger Blodgett, Jeremy 4 - Copper Tiger Fox, James 4 - Copper Tiger Geering, Jean-Marc 4 - Copper Tiger Grothstuck, Frank 4 - Copper Tiger Hayashibara, Alice 4 - Copper Tiger Hedenberg, Christina 4 - Copper Tiger Ingebrigtsen, Rune 5 - Silver Tiger Karin, Geral 4 - Copper Tiger Lopez, Horacio 6 - Gold Tiger Muarer, Marty 4 - Copper Tiger Mingarini, Claudio 4 - Copper Tiger Rice, Pat 6 - Gold Tiger Scoz, Alexandre Lima 3 - Gold Eagle Severino, Maria Angela Soco 5 - Silver Tiger Severino, Roque Enrique 5 - Silver Tiger Smith, Susan A. 4 - Green Tiger Sweeney, Holly 4 - Green Tiger Teo, Theresa Mei Mei 6 - Gold Tiger Tuturo, Giuseppe 4 - Copper Tiger Walsh, Bill 5 - Silver Tiger

To sitback or not??

From: Dennis Date: 08 Dec 2000 Time: 22:02:50

Comments

I have read many contradictory things in the past in regards to the transitional step (I call it sitting back) between brush knees in the long form. I would like some input on this matter. Is it supposed to be there or not? It seems to me that it breaks the continuity of the form. I have the book "Yang Style by Yang Zhen Dou", but in it I don't think there is any refernce to the sitting back movement between brush knees. My teacher in Yang Style taught me with the transitional movements and I have seen it many times in videos. Any intelligent input would be most appreciated.

Thank you, Dennis Smith

Re: To sitback or not??

From: Ron Date: 09 Dec 2000 Time: 06:56:20

Comments

Hi Dennis, What are the alternatives?

- Shift weight back. (a)all weight back (b)some weight back
- 2. Turn on the 'weighted' front foot. (a)by turning the toes outwards (b)by turning the heel inwards.
- Place the front foot originally at an angle, so turning isn't needed.
- 5. Place the front foot straight, and forget about turning it.
- 6. Turn on an insubstantial front foot Does moving weight back, really impair continuity? There are other backward shifting postures in the form. . Backward is one of the directions. So, at the very most, a singular forward continuity is impaired by moving backward. Turning on a weighted foot requires great care, some say it requires a subtle differentiation of

"substantial / insubstantial" in the same foot. The price of error here is knee damage.

The benefit of turning on the weighted foot is said to be the development of leg strength. Leg strength for what? Certainly not for merely turning a foot, one would think. What of the sixth way--turning on an insubstantial front foot? The forward continuity is maintained, if that is important. There is no risk of knee damage. There is no need for strength to turn on an empty foot.

This in accord with YCF's dictum to make good use of sitting step. This in accord with avoiding double weighted-ness. which involves having less than 100% on one foot and not the version of doubleweightedness as 50/50 weight distribution.

This in accord with Wang Tsung Yueh, even. See, if one were already sitting back at the conclusion of Brush Knee your question no longer arises. However the question To sitback or not?? at the end of Brush Knee, and not only Brush Knee, could then be raised. Also the questions of why to shift backwards in general, and why to turn the feet in general could be raised. Hope this helps by at least setting out the alternatives.

Ron

Re: To sitback or not??

From: Jerry Karin Date: 09 Dec 2000 Time: 06:23:31

Comments

This is an interesting question. I think there are three ways to do it. A) don't shift the weight back at all B)shift back slightly C)shift back completely. An example of A would be Fu Zhongwen and his disciples, such as Xie Bing Can. B is what Yang Zhenduo and Yang Jun teach. C is the way this is done in the 24 move form, and perhaps some of Cheng Manching's students also do this. In Yang Zhenduo's book, "Zhong Guo Yang Shi Taiji" the second 'important point'

pertaining to left and right ward off is as follows:

"2. As far as pivoting the foot in or out goes, you should proceed through a transitional step, and only after the weighted leg has slightly freed up, turn the foot following the waist. This is to avoid forcefully grinding the foot to turn in or out, which makes for stiffness and clumsiness and would result in the loss of agility; but remember, when what is supposed to be a transition turns into a large-scale movement, that is also inappropriate.'

Re: To sitback or not??

From:Michael Coulon. Date: 10 Dec 2000 Time: 00:03:39

Comments

Dennis, I think that the key phrase in this quote is 'slightly freed up". It is so important to find that proper middle ground of transitioning just far enough back and not too far. I have previously studied a variation of Yang style where we pivoted on a weighted foot and agree that this is hard on the knee. I do not think that I gained any significant leg strength with this technique. I now practice and follow Traditional Yang style and follow Master Yang Zhenduo in transitioning back slightly before opening up the foot. When standing in a proper bow stance the weight is distributed 60/40. 60% of the weight is on the forward leg and 40% is on the rear leg. When transitioning I teach that you must transition back (sit back) to a 40/60 distribution. (40%front and 60% rear). This way you do not get stuck with a double weighted position (50/50 weight distribution). If you transition back farther, say a 30/70 (30% forward and 70% rear) you are simulating the weightedness of an empty stance and are over emphasizing the sit back. You do not want the front leg to get anywhere close to being straight. This sitback also helps with the suttle roll back energy the the upper body transitions through.

Jerry Karin Web Master

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by Dave Barrett

Song Kai

The Tai Chi Paradigm

onsider this definition of Tai Chi: the dynamically balanced expression of oppositional energies. The familiar yin-yang symbol is the graphic representation of this core concept. The theories of Tai Chi Chuan are complex and sometimes difficult to understand but if we can keep this model clearly in mind it becomes easier to integrate practice and principle.

This article will examine two key techniques of Yang Style Tai Chi Chuan, Fang Song, the action of loosening and sinking and Fang Kai, the action of opening and extending. At first glance these important elements of practice seem contradictory. How can one relax the body and at the same time elongate the postures? If one is too relaxed the poses lack strength and if one is too extended the form becomes stiff and disconnected.

Resolving these contradictions through the integration of opposite forces is the essential activity that makes Tai Chi Chuan a unique system of self-enrichment and discovery. By concentrating on balancing and combining Fang Song and Fang Kai we can achieve





SONG KAI by Chan Sik Hung the relaxed yet resilient feeling of strength and the expansive yet connected postures that characterize Traditional Yang Family Style Tai Chi Chuan

FANG SONG

Professor Cheng Man-ch'ing once remarked, " Every day Master Yang Cheng-fu instructed me saying, "Song, Song!" Or sometimes he would say, "You are not Song; you are not Song!" Emphasizing his point most strongly he would say, "You must be completely Song." He could not have repeated this fewer than several thousand times." The importance of Song is well documented and yet still remains a difficult concept to render into English. "In the English language there is no equivalent to the Chinese character, "Song", which means relaxed and not using brute force, and more importantly, stretching and loosening all the muscles and joints in the body."1

If one relies on the word relax to interpret Song, important elements of the technique are left out. "Song is normally translated as, "to relax", but in English the meaning of relax has too much of the idea of

In practical terms how does one make use of such an elusive concept? " Song requires the release of all the sinews in the body without the slightest tension... When we are able to completely Song this is sinking. When the sinews release, then the body which they hold together is able to sink down". IV Yang Zhenduo describes the process as twofold: "To talk about the word Song, or to be loose, is important because there is a lot of misunderstanding about the word. When you talk about being loose, or Song, there are two parts about which the person should think. One is spiritually and one is physically.

Spiritually, it is to be totally relaxed and concentrate on your motions and your movements. By doing that, you get rid of all the other thoughts in your mind and then you become fully concentrated. That part, most people can do.

The other part is the physical Song, being physically loosened. Most people misunderstand this. When they talk about being loose, they think it is softness. If they do it as soft as they can, the muscles and everything become powerless. That is the biggest error a person can make in practicing Tai Chi Chuan. In practicing Tai Chi Chuan there is a contradiction: the outside looks soft but inside is strong and they are the opposite of each other. When talking about Song physically, you should loosen your bones, joints and tendons and make them long and outwardly extended. Stretch them out. That type of looseness will

create energy. On the outside the person appears to be very soft but on the inside is totally the opposite: hard as steel. That is the meaning of Song in practice.

Looking at people, not just here, but all over the world, a lot of people make the biggest mistake they can make by not understanding Song correctly." v

Fang Song is a crucial element of Tai Chi practice but it should not become the sole preoccupation of the Tai Chi enthusiast. "To stay loose is one of the most important tools in the practice of Tai Chi Chuan. It is a technique but not the final goal...some who are not quite clear on this point, when they practice, become soft. The correct practice is to be soft with resilience. The softness is not the kind that collapses or becomes softness within softness. Fang Song is resilient, the muscles become resilient." VI

How does one avoid the mistakes of excessive looseness and softness within softness? By using the complimentary technique of Fang Kai to extend within the relaxation process, to temper the elements of relaxing and sinking with those of elongating and opening.

FANG KAI

Several years ago at a Seminar in San Antonio, Texas Yang Laoshi offered this fascinating metaphor for Fang Kai, the action of opening and extending. Say you have a length of chain lying in a jumble on the floor. You pick up one end and whip it up over your head. Here Yang Laoshi made a sweeping circular motion of his arm upwards. At a certain point all the links in the chain will become extended in a smooth curve, each separating and yet remaining a part of chain.

If we apply this image to the action of opening and extending the body there are several important elements to describe. First the motion of the waist generates the action of opening centrifugally outwards. Rather than pushing the frame open using muscular strength, the postures are naturally pulled open. Secondly the correct sequence of extending should proceed in a circular pattern, using the curve of the form's motion to establish an extended position.

DEPART

During his teaching Yang Laoshi illustrates this using the following sequence, "Feel the fingers pulling the palm, the palm pulling the wrist, the wrist pulling the forearm, the forearm pulling the elbows, the elbows pulling the shoulders, the shoulders dropping and rounding the back." In this way the open and extended postures that characterize Traditional Yang Style Tai Chi Chuan remain connected together, not pushed apart.

The challenge is to use kinetic force rather than muscular strength to arrive at the correct end position. In order to feel the opening of the joints, sinews and tendons one must use a refined type of force, characterized by a dynamically balanced integration of Song and Kai

COMBINING SONG AND KAI

The phrase, "Song Kai" is used commonly in Chinese to describe an action that represents a relaxing or expanding situation. For example if you hold your fist very tightly and then open the palm, you could say "Song Kai". If the sky was overcast and suddenly cleared to reveal the scenery, or perhaps you were in the midst of performing White Crane cooling its wings you could say to vourself "Song Kai"

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TEN ESSENTIALS of TAI CHI CHUAN

Orally transmitted by Yang Chengfu, recorded by Chen Weiming translated by Jerry Karin

The actions of the Tai Chi sequence can be understood as the continual cycling of loosening and extending and then loosening again over and over. When the end position of each form is expressed there is an exquisite moment when Song Kai comes into its complete fulfillment: a dynamically balanced expression of resilient, tensile body sensation that has just the right blend of relaxation and energetic extension.

Consider Song and Kai as the oppositional elements of the Tai Chi symbol. Within each there is the small expression of the other. As you perform motions that open and extend, can you feel loose and relaxed? As you sink, can you feel expansive? In the end positions can you fully utilize each technique to balance and refine your posture?

At the beginning it may be just the briefest moment that you feel the balance of Song Kai. My first teacher used to encourage us saying, "Catch the feeling!" Then gradually, day-by-day, the sensation of balance expands to other motions and postures until your whole practice becomes a marvelous expression of Tai Chi.

6. USE INTENT RATHER THAN FORCE:

The taiji classics say, "this is completely a matter of using intent rather than force'. When you practice taijiquan, let the entire body relax and extend. Don't employ even the tiniest amount of coarse strength which would cause musculoskeletal or circulatory blockage with the result that you restrain or inhibit yourself. Only then will you be able to lightly and nimbly change and transform, circling naturally. Some wonder: if I don't use force, how can I generate force? The net of acupuncture meridians and channels throughout the body are like the waterways on top of the earth. If the waterways are not blocked, the water circulates; if the meridians are not impeded the chi circulates. If you move the body about with stiff force, you swamp the meridians, chi and blood are impeded, movements are not nimble; all someone has to do is begin to guide you and your whole body is moved. If you use intent rather than force, wherever the intent goes, so goes the chi. In this way - because the chi and blood are flowing, circulating every day throughout the entire body, never stagnating - after a lot of practice, you will get true internal strength. That's what the taiji classics mean by "Only by being extremely soft are you able to achieve extreme hardness." Somebody who is really adept at taiji has arms which seem like silk wrapped around iron, immensely heavy. Someone who practices external martial arts, when he is using his force, seems very strong. But when not using force, he is very light and floating. By this we can see that his force is actually external, or superficial strength. The force used by external martial artists is especially easy to lead or deflect, hence it is not of much value.

7. SYNCHRONIZE UPPER AND LOWER BODY

In the taiji classics 'Synchronize Upper and Lower Body is expressed as: "With its root in the foot, emitting from the leg, governed by the waist, manifesting in the hands and fingers - from feet to legs to waist - completeverything in one impulse." * When hands move, the waist moves and legsmove, and the gaze moves along with them. Only then can we say upper andlower body are synchronized. If one part doesn't move then it is notcoordinated with the rest.

8. MATCH UP INNER AND OUTER

What we are practicing in taiji depends on the spirit, hence the saying: "The spirit is the general, the body his troops". If you can raise your spirit, your movements will naturally be light and nimble, the form nothing more than empty and full, open and closed. When we say 'open', we don't just mean open the arms or legs; the mental intent must open along with the limbs. When we say 'close', we don't just mean close the arms or legs; the mental intent must close along with the limbs. If you can combine inner and outer into a single impulse *, then they become a seamless whole.

9. (PRACTICE) CONTINUOUSLY AND WITHOUT INTERRUPTION

Strength in external martial arts is a kind of aquired, brute force, so it has a beginning and an end, times when it continues and times when it is cut off, such that when the old force is used up and new force hasn't yet arisen, there is a moment when it is extremely easy for the person to be constrained by an opponent. In taiji, we use intent rather than force, and from beginning to end, smoothly and ceaslessly, complete a cycle and return to the beginning, circulating endlessly. That is what the taiji classics mean by "Like the Yangtse or Yellow River, endlessly flowing." And again: "Moving strength is like unreeling silk threads". These both refer to unifying into a single impulse. *

10. SEEK QUIESCENCE WITHIN MOVEMENT

External martial artists prize leaping and stopping as skill, and they do this till breath (chi) and strength are exhausted, so that after practicing they are all out of breath. In Taiji we use quiescence to overcome movement, and even in movement, still have quiescence. So when you practice the form, the slower the better! When you do it slowly your breath becomes deep and long, the chi sinks to the cinnabar field (dan1 tian2) and naturally there is no deleterious constriction or enlargement of the blood vessels. If the student tries carefully he may be able to comprehend the meaning behind these words.

I Cheng Man-Ching, Advanced T'ai Chi Form Instructions, pg.10

Tu-ky Lam, The Importance of Achieving Song, Tai Chi Vol.20, No.3 (June 1996) pg.22

III Stuart A. Olsen, *The Intrinsic Energies of Tai Chi Chuan*, pg 55

^{IV} Cheng Man-ching, *Tai Chi Touchstones*, pg.18

Y Yang Zhenduo, An Interview with Yang Zhenduo, Tai Chi Vol.14, No.4 (August 1990) pg.3

VI Yang Zhenduo, *Generating Internal Energy*, Tai Chi Vol.18, No.5 (October 1994) pgs4&5

Literally "one chi". This could also be rendered as "one breath".

BAN FER

🖊 ith Tai Chi Chuan gaining more and more popularity, curiosity as to its origin and the inherent different "styles" continue to be of interest to practitioner and layperson alike. Now that it is accepted fact that the Yang style of Tai Chi Chuan is the most popular style today, debate as to it's true origin and influences abound. The origin theorists commonly agree on is that Yang Lu Chuan learned his original art from the Chen village before modifying his art, which in turn was further modified through subsequent generations of Yang Lu Chan's descendents and their students. Without a doubt the most influential person in modern history responsible for the spread of Tai Chi Chuan is Yang Cheng Fu.

All one has to do to see the raging debate that goes on among Yang And Non Yang practitioner alike, as to whose Yang style is most "authentic", and hence most closely resembles Yang Cheng Fu's style, is to pick up a martial art magazine with an article on Yang style Tai Chi Chuan in it. Or just visit any Internal Art's Or a "Naja" chat site to see the arguments, posturing, debates, and at times intelligent dialogue that goes on among the 'experts". Searching the World Wide Web we see countless schools that claim that their way is the only "complete", "authentic", lineage traceable back to Yang Chen Fu himself. student's and potential student's mind can literally swim in a sea of confusion in regards to this subject matter. So what is one to do? Should we just disregard history altogether? Your martial art tree in traditional Asian martial practice is a way to define your practice, so knowing your roots is important. But do the time and energy and endless debate replace the idea of practice? One of the only real "secrets" in martial art training is to sweat, sweat, and sweat some more until you discover the truth for yourself. No one can do the actual work piece for you. Perhaps the Dhammapada, from the wisdom of the Buddha, expresses this notion well, "He who for his own benefit constantly recites but does not act accordingly, that heedless man, like a cowherd that counts the cows of others, is not enriched by the religious life".

As Master Yang Zhen Duo has said in past interviews, you need to not engage in endless debate on whose way is right or wrong, you need to try the practice for yourself and see if it is logical and feels right for you. If the principles as stated by Yang Cheng Fu are steadfastly adhered to in your practice, does it really matter if what you claim to do "small", "medium" or "large" frame? How important is it really to have an extra saber set or "secret" spear set in your practice? Perhaps the real question needs to be two-fold 1) Is what you are practicing helping you and benefiting you to grow in those areas of your life most important to you in the moment? 2) Can you take the practice out to the greater world at large to also help others to benefit from the practice? Let us not plant our sectarian banners so deeply in the ground as to be unwavering. We need to live and let live, and respect each other's views and just enjoy the fruits of our practice. Let us enjoy each other's company for the precious few moments that we have on this earth. Perhaps that may be one way to honor the true legacy of Yang Lu Chan and Yang Cheng Fu and the Precious gift of Tai Chi Chuan that they left for us. *

Useful Chinese Phrases

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Tai Ji Shi San Shi The Thirteen Postures of Tai Chi

掤	Peng 。 Ward off
捋	Lu 。 Rollback
擠	Ji 。 Press
按	An ∘ Push
採	Cai 。 Pull (grab)
挒	Lie 。 Split
肘	Zhou 。 Elbow strike
靠	Kao • Shoulder strike
進	Jin ∘ Advan ce
退	Tui ∘ Retreat
顧	Gu ∘ Look left
盼	Pan ∘ Look right
完	Ding Controd

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NORTH AMERICA

July 14th to July 17th 2001 -=[HAND FORM]=-July 18th to July 20th 2001 -=[SWORD]=-

Dave Barrett's Center 24300 Northwest Timber Road, Forest Grove, Oregon 97116 Tel.: (503) 357-8917 E-mail: dave@yangfamilytaichi.com

July 28th to July 31th 2001 -=[HAND FORM]=-August 1st to August 3rd 2001 -=[SWORD]=-

Bill Walsh's Center

22 Birch Trail, RR 5 Carmel, New York 10512 Tel.: (914) 225-0662 • fax: (914) 225-5350 E-mail: bill@yangfamilytaichi.com

August 11th to August 14rd (morning) 2001 -=[HANĎ FORM]=-August 14th (afternoon) to August 16th 2001 -=[SWORD]=-

Han Hoong Wang's Center

1748 Lakewood Dr. Troy, Michigan 48083 Tel.: (248) 680-8938 • fax: (248) 680-8938 E-mail: Han@yangfamilytaichi.com

EUROPE

PARIS FRANCE

May 20th to May 27th 2001 -=[HAND FORM & SABER]=-

Nguyen-Minh Duc's Center

ECOLE POLYTECHNIQUE. F-91128 PALAISEAU Cedex Tel: (33 1) 69 33 33 64 • Fax: (33 1) 69 33 30 26 E-mail: duc@lms.polytechnique.fr

COLOGNE (GERMANY)

June 1st to June 7th 2001 -=[HAND FORM]=-

Frank Grothstunk's Center Burgstr.67, 51103 Koln Tel: 49-221-625 629 E-mail: Frank@yangfamilytaichi.com

LONDON

June 8th to June 10th 2001 -=[HAND FORM]=-

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Meimei@yangfamilytaichi.com

SWITZERLAND

June 15th to June 20th 2001 -=[HAND FORM]=-

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YANG JUN'S MINI **SEMINARS**

YANG CHENGFU TAI CHI CHUAN CENTER -

BUFFALO

805 Auburn Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222 716-886-5887 E-mail: james@yangfamilytaichi.com

April 20th to April 22th 2001

FRIDAY, APRIL 20 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM • Sword 1:30PM - 3:30 PM • Sword 6:30 - 7:30 PM • Push Hands (Level 1)

SATURDAY, APRIL 21 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM • 2nd Section 1:30 -3:30 PM • 2nd Section 6:30 - 8:00 PM • Push Hands (Level 2)

SUNDAY, APRIL 22 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM · 3rd Section 1:30 - 3:30 PM • 3rd Section

New Centers



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All Association members who have practiced Traditional Yang Style Tai Chi Chuan for at least three years, who possess the ability to be teachers of Traditional Yang Style Tai Chi Chuan, and who have the necessary skill level may inquire about establishing a Yang Cheng Fu Tai Chi Chuan Center.



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2001 CALENDAR

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