

Xin Qi Shen

2019 Autumn

The Professor:

Zhang Jie



Tung Hai Quan

Cheng Ting Hua

Liu Bin

Liu Xin Han Wang Win Quei

Zhang Jie

Professor Zhang Jie was an 'Inner Door' student of Master Liu Xin Han and a friend, casual student, of Wang Win Quei. If you're into the history it's an amazing lineage since their teacher, Liu Bin, was an 'Inner Door' student of the great Cheng Ting Hua. They were classmates with other famous Bagua stylists like Sun Lu Tang and many others.

Now it's not impolite to say Zhang Jie wasn't a martial artist. Though his applications were very good, he didn't care for the martial aspects of the art as much as the healing, philosophical, and cultural aspects. He was a professor of Chinese Culture and the I Ching. He preferred to be called Professor instead of Master.



Liu Xin Han - left

Zhang Jie is a friendly, charismatic, joyful, proud, and intense guy. He's not boastful but is very proud of his accomplishments, the arts he's studied, and his insights. Very respectful and proud of the teachers he's been able to study with and the lineage he represents in both Bagua and Wild Goose Qi Gong.



I met him through Harrison Morretz who had invited him, sponsored him, to teach in the U.S. Harrison called me to let me know he would have a new Bagua master teaching at his studio. Since I taught a Cheng Ting Hua Bagua lineage I might be interested in meeting him. Well, if Harrison was sponsoring him that was good enough for me.

As classes began they consisted of: Harrison, myself, Dave Harris, Victor Crandall, and a couple of Harrison's advanced students. We started from the beginning with the Bagua Qi Gong and during the lessons received the philosophical background related to the I Ching.

In my own opinion, I believe his study wasn't based on the principles or function of the internal arts as much as the theory. Though his applications were strong, his structure (especially his knees), weren't very safe. I don't know if it was the way Liu Xin Han taught or if it was Zhang's focus while learning. His knees were in pain a lot and watching him, his knee structure and action wasn't according to safe body mechanics and alignment.

As a professor he was great. Harrison arranged a few sessions for him to lecture about the I Ching and Chinese Culture. Zhang's English was pretty good, but Harrison help translate some of the technical and esoteric terms during these lectures. Zhang explained, in a very clear way, many of the concepts and history forming the principles of the I Ching, Bagua Zhang, Five Elements, and historical background of the above. He made sense of the symbolism related to Bagua and the internal arts. Throughout my study with him he cleared up many questions I had.



Liu Xin Han

His teacher, Liu Xin Han, wrote two comprehensive books on the Cheng Ting Hua - Liu Bin Bagua Zhang. Zhang Jie helped write a large portion of the book, especially the chapter on the elbow knives. He was also determined to write and document more on the Liu Bin Bagua method, which was known as the Beijing Southern Rooted Style Bagua. He would just call it Beijing Bagua. This style, in my opinion, is heavily influenced by Xing Yi Quan. (I'll explain this later)



This group also had a deep interests and knowledge of the I Ching. Thus they created forms based upon the symbolism of the I Ching. Hence the 64 palms, 24 animals, 9 palaces (which the style is sometimes referred to), 5 elements form and more. Some of these forms require each section of a form to move and represent a different trigram from the Bagua Diagram. An example of this is the Bagua Xing Yi forms. One linking set represents the creative cycle of the elements and the other the destructive cycle.



Zhang Jie knew the entire system having been an 'Inner Door' student of Liu Xin Han. This means he was privileged to being taught the entire system that Liu Bin taught as an apprentice. This included: basic warm-ups, qi gong, inner palms, old 8 changes, 64 palms, sword, broadsword, spear, double headed spear, short staff, long staff, crescent knives, elbow knives, partner

application forms to name a few. These students are expected to carry on the tradition of the lineage holder, entrusted with the 'insights' the teacher has learned.

According to Zhang Jie, after Cheng Ting Hua died his students went their separate ways to teach what they had learned from Cheng. Each having a different emphasis on their Bagua, since in those days it was taught individually to the student's talents. Four of these groups decided to form schools in different parts of Beijing; north, south, east, and west. Liu Bin and his friends decided to teach in the southern district. Liu Bin and his friends were all from strong Xing Yi background thus, as they started teaching they added elements and forms that incorporated a Xing Yi flavor to their Bagua. Most of them were top students of the Xing Yi master Gao Yun Shen. Sun Lu Tang was a part of this group but went off and did his own interpretation now known as Sun style Bagua Zhang.



They added various striking sets: fists, backfists, elbows, palms, and kicks. They also introduced the seven star short staff; one the of group members was famous for his staff and spear skills.

Zhang Jie was very open with his teaching and knowledge. He loved sharing and explaining it. What he knew, he knew. What he didn't know, or wasn't sure of, he'd say so. He was interested in putting down his understanding and knowledge into books of which two are in English.



Early on in my studying with him we set out on a project to write a book on the 64 Bagua Palms. We would spend a good part of my lesson trying to translate the names of the postures and descriptions so they'd make sense in English. During this time I was able to ask many questions regarding the symbolism of the names, their source, and images related to the forms. I also picked up a lot about the names of the energies during this time.

He completed two volumes, of which there were to be several, on the Liu Bin Bagua System. As I mentioned Liu Bin and his group decided to teach in a southern district of Beijing. Their Bagua was know as: South District Beijing's Strongly Rooted Style Bagua. The books title were Liu Bin's Zhuang Gong Bagua Zhang Vol 1 & 2. The information they contain is great. What I like the most about the first book, as I read it, I can hear Zhang Jie talking. Richard Shapiro helped him write this book and captured Zhang Jie manner perfectly.



Students of Cheng Ting Hua