

## Guidance From A Master.

*Grand Master Chan Tin Sang (1921-1993)  
Inheritor and Preserver of the Northern Hakka (禪道) Lineage*

*Traditionally, Confucian ethics dictate how a perspective student should approach a gungfu teacher. The student should be honest and sincere. They should approach the teacher with a sense of deep respect - even if they are rejected at the first attempt. How the student behaves is of utmost importance if the master is to consider the student to pass into the beginner's stage of acceptance. If accepted (and this may require a number of respectful approaches and perhaps lobbying from people who know the master - to test the student's resolve), the student will be on the fringe of the group, the periphery of the master's teaching influence. Here, the student will be expected to show tolerance and endurance to physical and psychological stresses of gungfu training - this is essential as the foundation of what is required to fight is being laid at this early stage - the question is whether the student can keep him/herself under control during this process which might even include an element of humiliation - again, another test.*

*The student should show utmost respect to other students who have trained longer and experienced more in the process. After about a year, the student might be accepted further into the group and cease to be a complete novice - the master will show more interest and correct the student's technique here and there, but will remain weary that even at this stage, the student may still not be able to keep the training-up. Being beaten around in sparring will start virtually straight away, if the student can not take the pain and show the right courage, they might be thrown out without any way of gaining access to the school again. After 3 years, the student enters the school proper and the way others relate to them will change. The master will start to give them responsibility for the complete beginners. After 6 years, the student becomes an intermediate student, and after 12 years an advanced student. An advanced student can not be called master until his master has died. They can only be called 'Shifu', or 'Master/Father'. Not training regularly, or training with another teacher leads to instant dismissal from the school. A teacher must show both strength and at the same time a calm relaxation, and never drink in front of the students, thus creating an example. The school's martial secrets should not be shown in public, or sold for money, and only be taught to those worthy of them. Remember that in the old days, any infringement of the code of honour would lead to a fight to the death - every student should be prepared for this eventuality. If you do not want to fight to the death, then do not train here.*

*The term 'death' is not just the physical possibility - but includes the death of the 'ego'. The ego is our small, deluded minds that need polishing so that they might shine brightly in all directions. Penetration into the essence of the true mind is the real aim of our school. We train our minds and bodies to transcend self-imposed limitations. Our 'Mind Way' training must use the body to concentrate the mind so that it might break free of the ego and become fully enlightened to its own nature. And although many unusual powers may be acquired at the advanced physical level - the truly unusual powers are only acquired when the mind is fully developed and transcended. Martial prowess is but a by-product of mind development. The true nature of 'Mind Way' boxing has nothing to do with the body.*