

# A Survey of the Origins and Transmission Holders of Modern Liu He Quan

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Information concerning the origins and transmission holders of Liu He Quan is incomplete and unreliable. Currently we have made a preliminary investigation into this and are now making this simple presentation. If any information here is incorrect, please make corrections.

## I. A Presentation of Popular folklore and Portion aspect of its origins

1. It is popularly held that the national hero, Wu Sheng Yue Fei of the Song Dynasty, founded Liu He Quan. While this is possible, these tales lack any reliable proof.
2. Mr. Xu Yusheng said in his book *Guo Shu Shi (History of the Martial Arts)*: "...the rest like Tan Tui Men, Cha Quan Men, Hong Quan Men, Chuan Quan Men, Luo Han Men, Mei Hua Men, Liu He Men .... are all derivations of the Shaolin Style."

This means that Liu He Quan evolved from Shaolin Quan. This is possibly true. The martial arts are sometimes divided into Waijia and Neijia. Neijia was said to correspond to the Wudang Styles and Waijia was said to correspond to the Shaolin Styles (This formulation has styles that have fast and fierce actions being placed in the Shaolin Style category. Obviously this is a forced interpretation.) It is also possible that Liu He Men was erroneously seen to come from Shaolin because of this. This still needs to be researched. However this idea is quite widespread. *Zhongguo Wushu Baike Quanshu (Chinese Martial Arts Encyclopedia)* and *Zhongguo Wushu Da Cidian (Chinese Martial Arts Big Dictionary)* etc. and many other authors all cite Xu Yusheng's categorization.

3. Mr. Wan Laisheng said, "Distinguishing the many Shaolin Fighting Arts styles is complicated. Our forefathers transmitted over 360 styles. They can be divided into 5 major styles. These are Emei Shaolin, Wudang Shaolin, Fujian Shaolin, Guangdong Shaolin, and Henan Shaolin (Song Shan Shaolin). They can also be divided into two styles of Northern Shaolin and Southern Shaolin. Henan Shaolin corresponds to Northern Style Shaolin. This Northern Style Shaolin is further divided into three major families (jia). These are Hong Jia Shaolin, Kong Jia Shaolin, and Qian Jia Shaolin. This last one is also divided into four major systems. These are Dashen Men (Great Sage School), Luohan Men, Erlang Men, and Weituo Men. These are then subdivided into numerous schools and styles. Liu He Men corresponds to the Weituo Men."

The idea is that Liu He Men corresponds to Northern Style Shaolin's Weituo Men. Mr. Wan words about this were not specific, and so we have no confidence in them. We don't know where his formulation comes from. Was it originally Shaolin? Or did it submit to

the Shaolin verbiage later. This requires more research. (See Chapter 1 of Wan Laisheng's *Wushu Hui Zong (Understanding the Martial Arts)*, and the General Narration of Shaolin *Liu He Men*, edited by Wan Laisheng's student, Sun Suixiong.)

4. Currently, Liu He Quan's lineage holders based around Cangzhou and Potou do not say that Liu He Quan corresponds to certain schools of Shaolin. We contacted local martial arts teachers and asked them to compare the relationship between Liu He Men and Shaolin. The *Cangzhou Wushu Zhi (Cang County Martial Arts Records)* also does not mention any relationship between Liu He Men and Shaolin, and presents both as independent martial schools.

5. The *Cangzhou Wushu Zhi* records that Liu He Quan was transmitted in Cangjing around the end of the Ming Dynasty. At this time there was a certain martial arts teacher named Zhang Ming. Zhang suddenly took sick while on the road to Putouzhen. The villager, Cao Zhenpeng took care of him out of the goodness of his heart, and helped him to gradually fully recover. Zhang wanted to reward his rescuer, so he taught Liu He Quan for many years. Cao Zhenpeng very much got the true significance of Liu He Quan Fa. Cao taught his son Cao Peng. Peng taught Shi Jinke, Shi Changchun, Zhang Maolong etc. of Putouzhen....." After this it passed to Cangzhou from Putouzhen. Then Liu He Quan gradually spread in Hebei and many provinces north.

In Putou, the important men in the lineage are: Shi Jinsheng -> Shi Jinliang -> Shi Guangqi -> Shi Tongding etc.

(See *Zhongguo Wushu Baike Quanshu*, p113, *Zhongguo Wushu Da Cidian*, p 37, and *Cangzhou Wushu Zhi*, p 31.)

## **II. Lineage holders in the Cang County area of Hebei Province**

The Cangzhou men, Li Guanming, Tian Guichun (or Chungui?), Wu Fengming etc. brought Liu He Quan from Putou to Cangzhou.

Li Guanming becomes the first generation Cangzhou representative. Concerning Li Guanming's teacher, there are three references: Cao Peng, Shi Jinke, or Chu Wentai. Li Guanming taught Li Fenggang, Tong Cun, Wang Dianchen, Liu Yuting. Tian Chungui and Li Fenggang taught Liu Dekuan (Big Spear Liu). Li Fenggang also taught Wang Zhengyi (Big Saber Wang Wu) and others. Tong Cun's teacher is also said to have been Tian Guichun.

Liu Dekuan went to Beijing and while holding a post in the imperial palace studied Yue Style Sanshou and other things with Liu Shijun of Xiong County, Hebei.

Other famous teachers in Cangzhou were Wang Ziping, Tong Zhiyi, Li Junqing, Li Zhiyun, Wang Shaofu, Liu Shijun, Li Yuanzhi and others.

In Dingxing there were Li Jun, Li Wenting and others.

Currently in the Cangzhou region (today's Putou city) notable teachers are Shi Tongding, Wang Binrong, Li Junde, Yin Guangfu, etc.

### **III. Lineage holders in the Hebei region**

1. Liu Dekuan taught Liu Caichen, Zhao Xin'zhou, etc. Liu Dekuan becomes the first generation teacher of Liu He Quan in Beijing.

2. Liu Caichen taught Ma Yuqing, Wu Zizhen, Liu Wenhai (Liu Qingchuan) etc.

3. Zhao Xin'zhou taught Wan Laisheng (Wan Changqing), Liu Xianwu, Zhou Yaqing, Zhao Pulin, He Zhigui, etc.

4. Currently the famous teacher, Ma Yuqing's students are: Zhang Xuchu, Zhang Guosen, Cao Fengqi, Li Yanrong, Liu Yugui, Ma Jinlong, Xu Digu, Li Zuoyan, Zhou Zhihua, Zhang Fengying, Zhao Hui, Yi Hongji, Ma Zhupo, Diao Feng'an, Wang Yulin, Hou Shiyong, Hao Jianhui, Chen Gangdeng and others.

5. The students of Wu Zizhen of the Simin Martial Arts Society are: Dai Yubin, Li Qingchuan, Song Dekui, Wang Shixun, Niu Baogui, ZangYuhe, Men Huifeng, Li Ziqiang, Song Chengkun, Yan Long, Ma Qingke, Wang Chun'gu, Wang Shaohua, Sun Changfu, Zhou Baokun, Sun Zhe, Zhang Huazhi, Xu Xingwei, Cui Yujing, Niu Guangmao, Zang Yong and others.

6. Liu Caichen's later students were: Liu Wenhai (Liu Qingchuan), Liu Liukui, Liu Guangyu, Liu Hongzhai, Liu Dapeng, Ao Yaolu and others. (His students situations are treated separately.)

The Beijing Liu He Quan Research Institute is composed of Ma Yuqing's students and Wu Zizhen's students as well as Liu Caichen's descendents and students.

### **IV. The Fujian Area**

After Wan Laisheng settled in Fujian, he taught Sun Zongxiong, Hu Jinhuan, Huang Xiuyu, Gao Jianqing, and others.

### **V. The Shanghai Area**

The famous Tong Zhiyi of Cangzhou brought his family's tradition of Liu He Quan to Shanghai after he settled there. After this, Wang Ziping also settled in Shanghai, where he taught fighting and practiced medicine.

### **VI. The Shandong Area**

The famous teacher Liu Zhennan of Dezhou taught Liu Gaosheng, Tang Hao and others.

## **VII. The Taiwan and Hongkong Areas**

Li Yuanzhi of Cangzhou taught Liu He Quan in Taiwan. The famous teacher Huang Xuanting taught Liu He Quan in Hongkong.

## **VIII. Overseas Areas**

Liu Yugui, Deng Jixiang, Zhang Bingshen and Yin Ruchuan etc. went to Switlerland, Italy, Poland, and America to teach Liu He Men Quan and Weapons. Still more, they have firmly established marital arts organizations.

(Translator's note: The late Mr. Yin Ruchuan was my teacher in Oakland, California, USA.)