

editorIAL

Michael Tse

right, then you are able compare it to others.

The students should know the teacher's history and background and it should be able to be proven. Maybe in the beginning you will just follow the teacher, but later on you should be able to meet your teacher's teacher, your Sigong, and even your uncles, those who studied with your Sigong. Nobody who has no (Kung Fu or Qigong) brothers and sisters or teacher will suddenly have a high level of skill. "The truth is the truth and you cannot hide it." Eventually everything will be exposed.

Therefore, to be a teacher is not easy. Once my Sigong, Ip Man was talking with a friend who said to him, "It is good to be a martial arts teacher, all your students respect you and give you money." Ip Man smiled and answered his friend by saying, "How about tomorrow, you come here and be me for the day. Can you do that?"

His friend was afraid and said, "No, of course I can't do that. I don't know your skill and cannot fight." Still smiling, Ip Man said, "Do you know that being a teacher is not easy. All my students want to beat me, and I have to defend myself. If I beat them then they will not be happy and if I let them beat me I will not be happy. I have to get everything right then they will be happy and I will be happy. You don't see that difficult skill."

My Sigong, Ip Man, was not just a teacher, he was a very good teacher. He let every student enjoy his or her studies and learn the skill. More importantly he could control his level, he was able to deal with beginners and make them feel comfortable and that they were progressing, and could show the seniors that they had a long way to go. I sometimes say that to be a good teacher you need to be able to change to a low gear for the beginners and a higher gear for the seniors.

Actually to be a good teacher is very simple. You must be true to yourself. If you know something you teach it to your students, but if you don't know then do not lie. Teach with your heart and treat your students like your children. Do not hold back, teach your students what you know and they will love you more.

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