

Huang Bonian and Dragon Form Baguazhang

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Huang Bonian, also known as Jiezi, was from Zhensanpu village, Zhengzhou, Renqiu County, Hebei. He was born in 1880 and died in 1954 at the age of 74.

In his youth he was weak and sickly. He started training martial arts under Shaolin Quan Master Gao Shiping. In 1896, he asked to become a student under Master Li Cunyi and specialized in the fighting arts of Xingyi Quan and Baguazhang.

His teacher, Li Cunyi (1847-1921), also known as Zhiyuan, was from Xiaoying, Shen County, Hebei. He studied with Liu Qilan, the great master of Xingyi Quan. Because of his close association with Cheng Tinghua, he was recommended to become a student of Dong Haichuan. He created the "Four Gates Dragon Form Palm" and fully taught it to Huang Bonian, and other gentlemen. In 1936, Mr. Wu Tunan wrote in *Introduction to the Martial Arts*: "Bonian of Xingyi Quanshu is quite knowledgeable in his art. He traveled widely and has many brilliant disciples. There are not many in the Xingyi School who have achieved this much."

In 1911, Huang Bonian followed his teacher Li Cunyi to take charge of teaching in the Tianjin Chinese Martial Teachers Association. In 1931, he was engaged by the Nanjing Central Martial Arts Institute. He taught Xingyi Bagua and the bayonet arts. Among his students were: Zhang Wenguang, He Fusheng, Wen Ruming, Jiang Haochuan and many others. In 1937, he was a martial arts instructor in the Chongqing Military Academy.

In his middle years he wrote *Dragon Form Baguazhang*. It was first published in 1928 (another printing in 1930). Because it was printed so long ago, today people have a difficult time finding this book. Do to the limitations of the times, the content of the book is unduly terse.

Huang Bonian, had three sons and one daughter. All carry on the family studies. The sons are Guoxin, Guoxun, and Guozhen (currently in Taiwan). The daughter is Guowei.

I look forward to the publishing of *Chinese Martial Arts Famous People Dictionar* in the near future". However they omitted to include Mr. Huang's biography. This truly is a matter for regret.

Today, Dragon Form Baguazhang, as handed down from old, is divided into two routines. Each routine has 8 palms. A recent review shows that this style is being taught in the Shanghai/Nanjing area, and all the provinces of the north.

The First Routine:

1. Single Change Palm (added Dot the Knee Leg)
2. Double Change Palm (added Cuo Leg and Cai Leg)
3. Turning Body Palm (Inside and Outside Sweep the Lotus)
4. Flowing Posture Palm (Front Piercing Palm, Rear Deng Leg)
5. Spit out the Tongue Palm (Dot the heart Leg)
6. Wild Horse Kicks the Manger (In the Face Striking Leg, Returning Body

Flicking and Leading Hand)

7. Vertical Post Palm (Turning Body, Kou Bu, Strike the Groin, Turning Body, Pound the Waist)
8. Sparrow Hawk Body Palm (Slice the Horse Leg Reverse Deng Leg)

The Second Routine:

1. Returning Body Palm (Point to the Face, Springy Knee Leg)
2. Leaning Body Palm (Black Dragon Coils around the Pillar)
3. Slicing Rotating Palm (Jade Ring Tripping Leg)
4. Tiger's Mouth Palm (Raise Ti Leg)
5. Red Phoenix Flies to the Sun (Grasp Flick Reverse raise Leg)
6. Wind Wheel Splitting Palm
7. Dodging and Evading (Ding Knee Leg)
8. Four Dragons Bring Water