

Xinyi Quan Master Li Zunsi of Shanghai

By Chen Maxi and Jarek Szymanski
Translated by Joseph Crandall

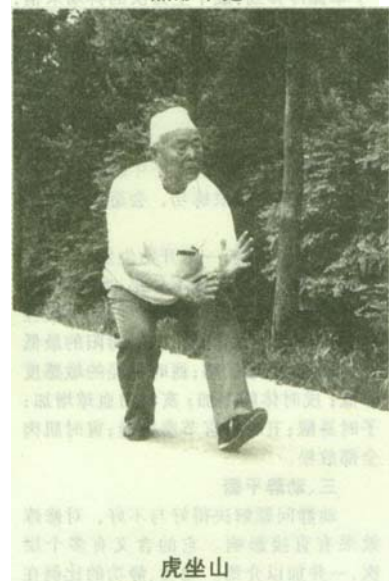
From *Wuhun Magazine*, 1999.11, #137

The system of Xinyi Liuhe Boxing of Ma Xueli was passed to Mai Zhuangtu. Mai Zhuangtu taught Yuan Fengyi, Yuan Changqing, Li Haisen and others. Yuan Changqing taught Mai Jinkui. Li Zunsi is a disciple of Mai Jinkui.

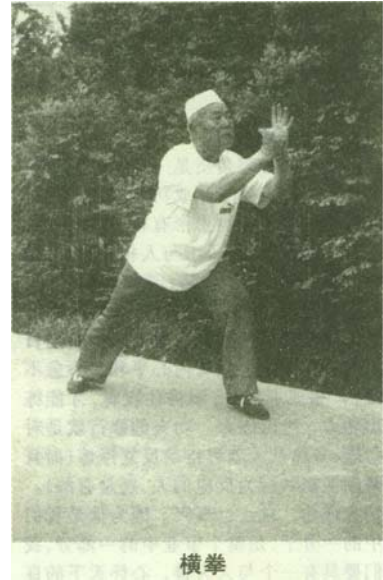
Li Zunsi, of the Hui nationality, was born in May of 1918 in Shenqiu, Henan Province. He studied Xinyi Liuhe Quan from Mai Jinkui, Cha Quan from Ma Zhongqi, and Qi Shi Quan [Seven Postures Fist] from Guo Wenzhi. He is an expert in Xinyi Liuhe Quan, Qi Shi Quan, Cha Quan as well as saber, sword, staff, small sickles, big sickle, two-section staff, three-section staff, and other weapons. He teaches that Xinyi Liuhe Quan's special points are "Quick, Agile, Fierce, and Cruel."

Li Zunsi began to study martial arts when he was 10 years old. When he was 13 he went up to the Shaolin temple. Because he was a Hui, he did not wish to become a monk. Therefore he was a lay disciple for three years. After he left the Shaolin temple, Li Zunsi continued to pursue advanced studies in Cha Quan with the great master Ma Zhongqi. In Wuhan, he studied Xinyi Liuhe Quan with Mai Jinkui. In Shanghai, he also studied Qi Shi Quan with Guo Wenzhi. Therefore Li Zunsi gathered together the strong points of all of his teachers, trained himself arduously and his martial skills gradually attained perfection.

Li Zunsi has been very loyal to his friends. Not only does he have superb skills but also he hates evil like an enemy. 40 years ago in Shanghai, he had a friend whose wife was being forced into prostitution by a hatchet gang. He had a fight with the hatchet gang. He used his two-section staff to bitterly defeat the gangsters and rescued his friend's wife from a lot of trouble.



When he was 27, Li Zunsi went to Japan as a delegate from China to attend the Asian Sports Games and won a gold medal. However one Japanese man refused to accept Li Zunsi's superior skills and challenged Li Zunsi to see who was better. Li Zunsi, calling to mind that he is a Chinese man, could not afford to lose face by any means. Therefore, with deep feelings, agreed to fight. He spoke with the head of the delegation. In case he was killed by the Japanese guy, the Chinese government only had to make arrangements to return his body to China. When they crossed hands, the enemy used a katana and Li Zunsi used a staff. After only two rounds, he knocked the sword flying. Even though Li Zunsi won, the Japanese felt offended. After he returned to China, he had to hide on the docks where he worked. It was only after the war with Japan was won that he could feel proud and elated.



In March of 1961, Li Zunsi demonstrated the single saber and nine-section whip at the Shanghai Sports School, and had an audience with Vice Premier Chen Yi. In 1982, he was a judge in the National Traditional Martial Arts Competition. That same year he attended the Second National Minority Nationalities Sports Competition and won first place. In 1985, he was named one of the top 1000 outstanding instructors by a national panel. In 1986, he attended the Third National Minority Sports Association event and won first place. In 1991, he answered invitations to visit and give lectures at the Guoshu Associations of New Zealand, Singapore, Holland, Malaysia, Australia and Hongkong, vigorously propagating Chinese Traditional Martial Arts. Li Zunsi's performance demonstrates his deep skills in Chinese martial arts and fighting. He has won the admiration of enthusiasts from each Chinese martial art. Pictures of his martial arts practice were published by an American "Kung Fu" magazine.

Today [11/1999] Li Zunsi is 81 years old. He still teaches Xinyi Liuhe Quan, Qi Shi Quan, Cha Quan and weapons in the Pudong area of Shanghai. He often has domestic and foreign martial arts enthusiasts requesting instruction from him. As Li Zunsi is getting older, he has indicated his desire to arrange the Chinese martial arts that he has learned from his teachers into a book to provide material for martial arts enthusiast everywhere and to propagate and spread Xinyi Liuhe Quan. This would be his contribution to the enrichment of his country's martial arts.

(The authors are students of Mr. Li Zunsi. Mr. Chen Maxi indicates that if he has the opportunity, he would like to completely and systematically record Li Laoshi's Xinyi Liuhe Quan routines and Xinyi Liuhe Saber, Xinyi Liuhe Spear, Xinyi Liuhe Staff, Xinyi Liuhe Sword (two-hand sword), Xinyi Liuhe Two Section Staff, Big Sickle, Little Sickle and other weapons so that they may be provided for the readers.)

[The translator had the privilege to meet Mr. Li in September of 2005.]