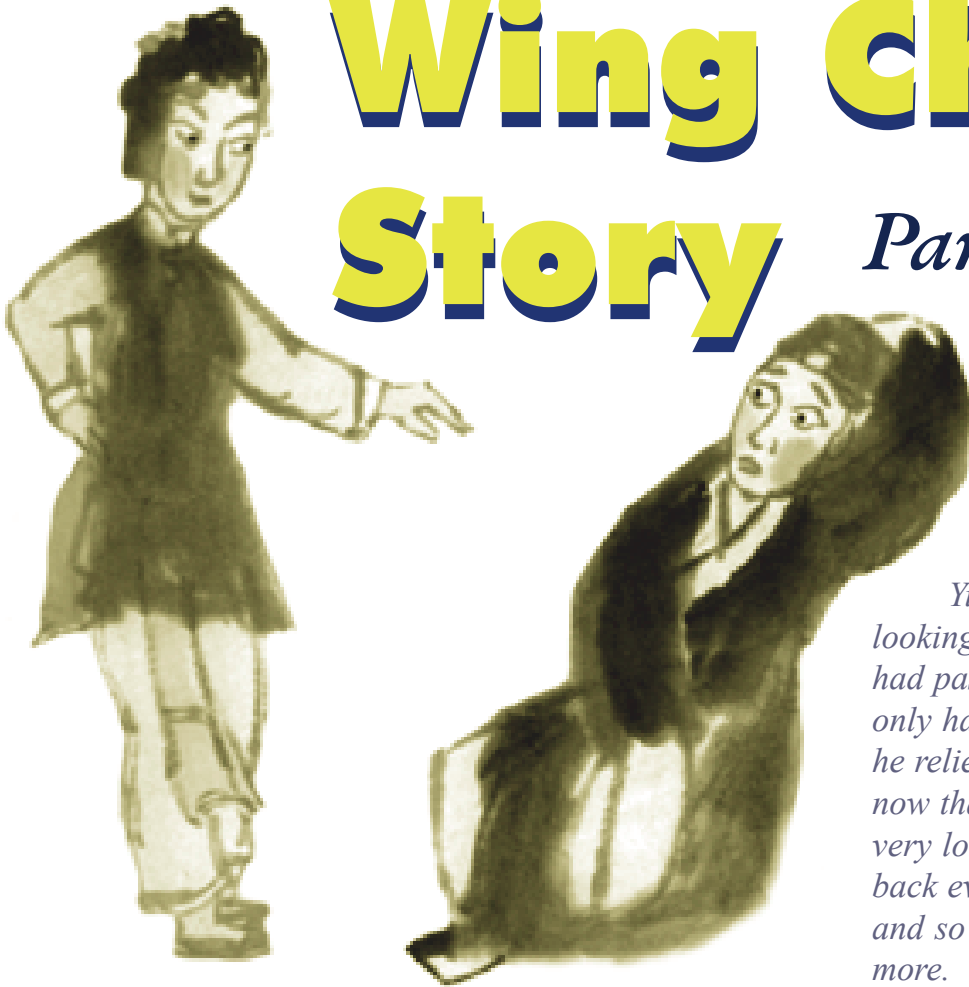


Wing Chun

Story Part V



Yim Yee was sitting at home looking out of the window. His wife had passed away some time ago. He only had his daughter in his life who he relied on to take care of him but now that she had gone away he was very lonely. The gangsters would come back every few days to cause trouble and so he missed his daughter even more.

Suddenly there was a knock at the door. It was quite late so he was scared of who it might be so he did not answer. He was worried it might be the gangsters again as his home was at the back of his shop. However, the knock at the door was gentler than before. Usually the gangsters pounded on the door and shouted "Open the door!" His thoughts were interrupted suddenly when he heard a voice he had been longing to hear, it was his daughter Yim Wing Chun's voice! "Dad!" she called, "Open the door, I'm back."

He quickly rushed over and opened the door. There stood his daughter and she was smiling at him. He recognised her immediately, but somehow she was different and he could not describe how. It was definitely her though and he was so happy to see her.

Wing Chun was also so happy to see her father. All through the six months of training she had been worrying about him, but she knew that if she had not left with Master Ng Mui and learnt the skill to protect them both, then the situation would be the same or even worse. There was only one answer and that was that she had to be good at the skill.

Yim Yee realised that his daughter looked different as her eyes were brighter, her voice stronger and her face more open. She seemed to be someone you could trust and rely on because she was very confident.

Her father was right. Wing Chun also knew that she had changed. She looked at things differently. She was still afraid, but she was channelling her fear into strength and

wisdom. With a clear mind she was able to plan what she had to do. She told her father not to tell anyone she had come back as she wanted to have a few days to check around and see what was happening.

Her father told her, "These gangsters come to the shop every few days. Sometimes they break our things and damage the Tofu. They try to harass me into telling them where you went even though we had told them that you needed six months to prepare for the contest." He shook his head and looked sad, "In the beginning they came everyday as they did not believe that you had gone. The leader hoped to catch you by surprise and take you."

Yim Wing Chun had also heard that the gang's leader had been harassing other girls and also many of the poorer and weaker people in the village. They had to be stopped and this made her even more determined to turn her fear and anger into strength!

The next day Yim Wing Chun disguised herself as a young boy and went to spy on the gang and find out where they stayed. Eventually she found out that most of them were just outside of the village whilst another ten or so lived in the mountains and some hid themselves in the forest. Wing Chun then went back home to make her plan.

She wrote a letter to the gang's leader and said that before she would marry him she wanted to make sure that he could keep her safe and secure. She wanted to know that his fighting was good enough to protect her and so she fixed a

day when they would meet and have a martial arts contest between the two of them. She said, "If you win, I will go with you and marry you. But if I win, you must accept me as your leader." Shortly afterwards the gang's leader replied saying that he would accept her challenge. He also knew a lot of martial arts and knew that he was the strongest person in the village.

On the day of the challenge the leader came with his entire gang. By now the whole village had heard of the challenge and many had come to see what was happening. They were all afraid for Yim Wing Chun. Yim Yee was also

concubine even though he already had so many. He aimed a punch at her stomach as this would not cause too much injury.

As he moved forwards to punch, Wing Chun used her footwork and just moved to the side. She remembered what her Sifu had said, "If the enemy does not move, I do not move. If the enemy moves I move first." This means that you should sense your enemy's actions and respond accordingly. This is often based on how relaxed and quiet you are as then you can respond better. Nothing is faster than the mind. Your mind must be relaxed, quiet and calm. Then your response will be the right one. This is just what Wing Chun did.

"It did not matter that she had been training some secret martial art skill. There was no way a woman could beat a man."

very scared and tried to persuade his daughter that they should escape together rather than go ahead with the challenge. However, Wing Chun told him not to worry about her. All the while she had been practising very hard by herself in their back yard where no one could see her.

At the arranged time and place Yim Wing Chun faced the gang leader. There was a big crowd around made up of villagers and gangsters. The leader looked at Wing Chun. Although she was small, she appeared taller than he remembered. (She looked taller as she had been training a lot of standing postures and this had made her posture straighter and more upright. If you are not aware of your posture and always have your head down and back bent, even if you are tall, then you will look shorter and weaker. But if your posture is straight, then you will look taller as this also connects to your spirit as well.)

The leader thought of Yim Wing Chun as a weak opponent as she was only a woman. For him, it did not matter that she had been training some secret martial art skill. In his thinking, there was no way a woman could beat a man. He was much bigger and much stronger than she was. He then began to think about after he had won the challenge, Wing Chun had promised to go with him and marry him. He smiled right from his heart to himself.

Time was up and the contest began! The leader wanted to finish this quickly and take her back to him home. He was also afraid he might hurt her seriously and he wanted a healthy

When his punch missed, the leader was taken by surprise and he paused slightly before deciding where to punch again. As he made up his mind, the side of his face suddenly erupted with pain and he was knocked to the ground. Some of the gathered crowd cried out but others did not even have time to respond, it all happened so quickly, even the gangsters. Everyone was so surprised.

How could this happen? Usually, when someone attacks trying to land a finishing blow, they will pause slightly once they have finished before they attack again. The harder they try to hit, the longer the pause.

Yim Wing Chun had stepped to the side to avoid the punch without using her hands and this meant her upper body had remained relaxed.

The more relaxed she was, the faster she could react. So she quickly hit the

leader's face with a straight palm strike. Her stepping to the side meant that the angle she hit him at struck his centre of gravity. As she struck, she let the punch come from her waist and this transferred the power of her whole body to her palm, making it a very powerful strike. As she hit the gang leader's centre of gravity she knocked him down. So it was not because Yim Wing Chun was strong, it was because she used her strength and energy at the right angle and at the right time.



It was so sudden the leader could not believe it and he did not even see what happened. Luckily for him, although it was very painful, he was able to handle it as he was a strong man. He got up thinking that she had got lucky and done it by accident because he had held back not wanting to hurt her. This time he knew he had to finish her!

He ran at her swinging his forearm in a powerful hooking punch. However, it did not reach her so he swung again with his other arm. He still did not touch her and so he summoned up all his strength and swung again, but instead of hitting anything he fell face first onto the ground and rolled over a few times stopping a few meters away. "What happened?"

Wing Chun knew the question raced through her mind. Her Sifu said to her, "The stronger you are the less contact you make. Repeat the same technique again because they do not have missed. Each more and more energy. any skill should not be repeated more than twice."

This was the mistake the leader had made. He had tried the same thing three times. Wing Chun dodged the first two strikes and then waited for the third hook punch. This, too, she avoided and then used Po Pai Jeung (Double Palm Strike) to hit her opponent. One of her palms pushed his shoulder and the other his ribs. As his energy was already going forwards after missing



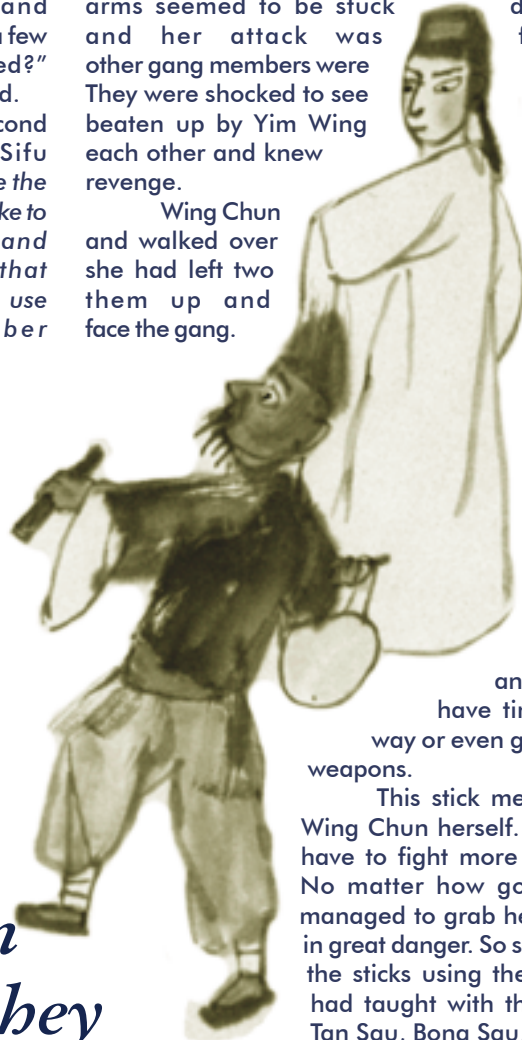
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crossed his arms against his body trapping them so the leader could not move.

Finally Wing Chun used her free hand to strike the leader's face with a palm strike. When the strike finished, she then dropped this hand to pin the leader's arms, thus freeing the other hand to hit. She exchanged hands like this a couple more times hitting the leader each time. She let go and he fell to the ground and did not get back up. He had lost!

The audience had never seen such fast hands and they had never seen such skill from a woman. The leader's arms seemed to be stuck down by Wing Chun's and her attack was frightening to see. The other gang members were also taken by surprise. They were shocked to see their leader get beaten up by Yim Wing Chun. They looked at each other and knew they had to get revenge.

Wing Chun and walked over she had left two them up and face the gang.



had expected this to a corner where sticks. She picked turned back to Seeing Wing Chun holding two sticks unnerved them, but they knew they had to fight her. Before they moved she was already walking at them! She moved so fast hitting their arms and legs. She covered so many angles that they did not have time to get out of the way or even go to pick up their own weapons.

"They had never seen such fast hands and they had never seen such skill from a woman."

his punch, it was perfect timing to make him fall as he was already leaning forwards.

The leader quickly jumped up and this time he did not care and threw a straight punch towards Wing Chun's face. He knew, though, that he had committed too much with this strike and so straight away he threw a second punch at her. However fast his punch was, Wing Chun was also fast. Quickly she met the outside of his arm with her Tan Sau and then changed her hand to Lap Sau pulling his hand down. She knew the second punch was coming and used Lap Sau on his other punch. This

This stick method was created by Wing Chun herself. She knew she would have to fight more than just the leader. No matter how good she was, if they managed to grab her, then she would be in great danger. So she trained herself with the sticks using the same skills her Sifu had taught with the same principles of Tan Sau, Bong Sau, Huen Sau, punching and chopping. She walked between her opponents as if she were training on plum blossom poles (poles buried in the ground at varying heights and distance between them and which were used to train balance, footwork and coordination).

She covered all the Bagua positions (eight directions) and each time she hit, she struck their acupuncture points which caused a lot of pain but did no lasting harm. Walking at them surprised them as they had not expected that and it meant they did not have time to react. She struck before some had even noticed.

In a few moments the gang were all lying on the ground and the leader was still unconscious. The whole village was ecstatic and happy to have such a heroin living with them. However, Yim Yee was the happiest. His daughter had won the fight.

to be continued.... by Michael Tse