

# Wing Chun Story

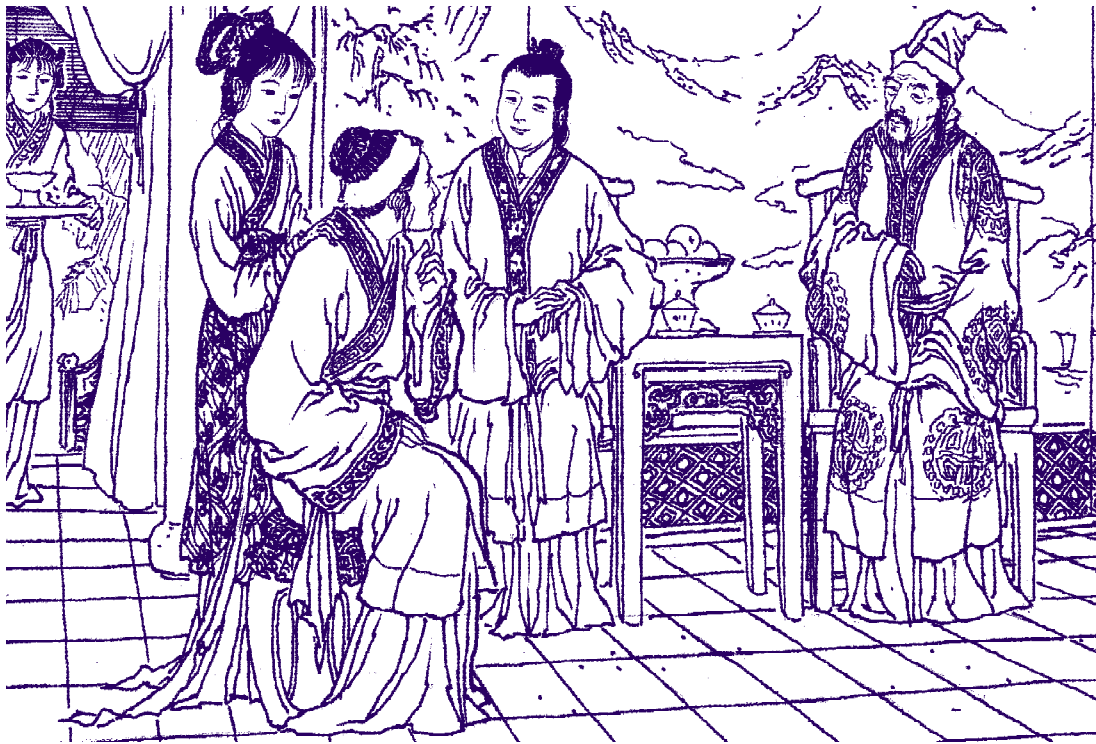


## Part VI

*When the fight was over everyone was happy for Yim Yee and his daughter, Yim Wing Chun. In fact Yim Wing Chun became a heroine in the village as no one would have to suffer the gang's harassment anymore. However, Wing Chun had different feelings. She immediately rushed home with her father, though he did not understand why they needed to get home so quickly.*

Once they were home Wing Chun said, "We must go now. Pack as little as possible and only take what we need." When her father asked why she replied quickly saying, "Didn't you know the gang's leader is involved with the local government officials who are corrupt? Soon the police will come to arrest us so, Father, we must go." Yim Wing Chun once again disguised herself as a boy. She and her father carried their belongings which were only a few clothes and a little bit of money and together they disappeared from the village.

No one in the village knew where Yim Wing Chun and his daughter went. The gang was quieter and they treated the



people better. However, the local people saw government officials putting up wanted posters for Yim Wing Chun and Yim Yee. It said they were wanted for assaulting people. No one knew where they were, but they were sure that they had gone very far away.

It was true, they did go far away. They travelled from Yunnan Province all the way to Guangxi Province. That meant they went from the west all the way to the east. They went to Guangxi as this was where Yim Wing Chun's fiancé, Leung Bok Chau, lived and made his living selling salt.

In the old times in China, salt belonged to the government. You needed a special licence to sell salt and because only a few people had a licence they were usually quite rich. Leung Bok Chau was no exception. He had good finances and lived in a big house with many servants. Leung had inherited his business from his father and he was only about four years older than Yim Wing Chun. He was a handsome young man and had a good Confucian background.

For 2500 years, from the Han Dynasty to the Qing Dynasty, all Chinese education was based on Confucian teaching. This is the real Chinese culture which taught people how to behave. Daoism and Buddhism were not considered to be the main subjects, so if people were Daoist or Buddhist then it was due to their own interests and beliefs. The government would not interfere with them unless people were using Daoism or Buddhism to organise rebellions or protect wanted criminals (as was the case with Shaolin Temple and other uprisings). Actually all the Qing Emperors were Buddhists, particularly the fifth emperor, Yong Zheng, who was well known for his strong Buddhist beliefs.

*“It took them twenty days to reach Leung Bok Chau’s home.”*

It took Yim Wing Chun and her father 20 days to reach Leung Bok Chau's home. When they finally made it, Leung came out to meet them, but he was surprised that they had not contacted him and told him they were coming. Of course, the reason why they had not contacted him was because they were now fugitives and the less contact they had with outside people the better.

Yim Yee was an honest person. He did not want to hide the truth from Leung Bok Chau, so he told him everything. Leung was also a good person with a good heart. He would have tried to protect his fiancé from any harassment from the gang had he been allowed to and his sense of heroism wanted to protect them now, so he immediately arranged for them to stay at his home. So after their long hard journey, they could both

finally settle and rest.

After washing and changing clothes, Yim Wing Chun was transformed back into a beautiful young lady. Leung Bok Chau looked at his future wife and his heart began beating quickly and his face turned a bit red. It was the first time either of them had seen each other. As they were going to be husband and wife, they felt very embarrassed to talk to each other. They also had a sweet feeling growing in their hearts and it was something neither of them had felt before.

According to the old Chinese custom, young people did not talk a lot. They would always listen to their seniors, such as their parents or uncles. So basically there was no conversation between Leung and Wing Chun. Even when they turned to secretly look at each other they quickly turned away as if nothing had happened.

After they had been there for a few days, they still had not heard anything about their being wanted. Actually, the Yunnan officials did not want to make too much fuss about the case as they knew they were not right in the beginning and so they kept it very local.

The longer Yim Yee and Yim Wing Chun stayed, the more Yim Yee found he wanted to complete his last wish and that was to see his daughter get married to Leung Bok Chau. They were both grown up now and it was time they were married. In the old days girls were married when they were

between 16 and 18 years old as after this they were seen as being too old. So Yim Yee went to talk to Leung's father, who also lived in the same house but in a different part.

Traditionally in China whole families would live in the same big house, from grandfather to grandchildren, even great-grandchildren. The family would look after each and the children would grow up having more children around with brothers, sisters and cousins all playing together, learning from each other and finding best friends amongst them. If they had fights, the adults would educate them. So the children would grow up in what was basically a society in miniature. They would learn how to solve their problems, handle all kinds of situations and emotions, instead of avoiding their problems.

People do not grow up until they have faced enough problems. Today this happens very late in life. In the old days people would be mature earlier and grow up less arrogant, more humble and be more considerate of other people. They would also be less likely to suffer from depression, which seems to be very common today, as the children were used to communicating with others more easily and also as they grew up they knew how to work with others.

Yim Yee went to see Mr. Leung and he agreed that their children should be married and they immediately began making arrangements for the wedding of Wing Chun and Leung Bok Chau. The first thing they had to do was choose an auspicious day for the wedding. Chinese people believe that the energy of the universe can affect us in a good way or bad way and that is why some days we feel lucky and some we do not. This is because the universe's energy effects us like the weather. Sometimes it is sunny and sometimes it is raining. If you are going for a picnic, you would like to choose a nice sunny day not one with bad weather.

Chinese believe that Qi has five elements. These are wood, fire, earth, metal and water. These create and control each other. Also two elements together create a different kind of energy. There is also Heaven energy and Earth energy and these, too, follow the Five Elements.

Each person also has their own energy as when they are born with their year, month, day and time each having its own different energy. As a wedding is such a serious event in someone's life, the parent's will find a master to choose an auspicious day for their wedding. It is thought that this would help to make their lives better all the way to the end and help them stay together. Today people do not understand the energy of the universe and just find a day they want to get married.

Sadly, today many people end up separated. It is important that one person should match the other person and both should match the wedding day as well.

Mr. Leung and Yim Yee found an auspicious day for the wedding. Many relatives, friends and neighbours came to celebrate the lovely couple's wedding. Usually they would not see the bride's face as this was not lucky, so a bride's face would be covered by a red cloth hanging from a beautiful red hat decorated with jewellery.

The couple bowed to Heaven and Earth and also to their parents. In old traditional China, Heaven and Earth were the most important, next was the Emperor, followed by parents and then their teachers. So the couple bowed to each of them to pay their respects.

After the ceremony the bride would go to the bridal suite and wait for the bridegroom and the groom would come



*“Mr. Leung and Yim Yee found an auspicious day for the wedding.”*

later. Certainly, there was a lot of drinking and it was difficult to avoid because everyone liked to toast luck to the luck of the couple. When he finally went to the bridal suite where his bride was waiting for him, Leung Bok Chau was quite drunk after so many toasts.

He felt quite dizzy as he pushed open the door. There he saw his bride sitting waiting for him. His heart started pounding and he hurried forward. As he went to step over the threshold of the door, though, he suddenly lost his balance and fell straight towards Wing Chun.

Wing Chun was sitting quietly just waiting. She could not see anything as she had to wait with the red veil over her face. She had heard Leung open the door, but suddenly she sensed someone coming towards her too fast and she also sensed two hands flying towards her.

*to be continued... by Michael Tse*