

Prof. Yao Huanzi 樂奐之



Yao Huanzi (°1900 - †1960) was born into a traditional wushu family from the Gushi District in Henan Province. He received a good education in cultural studies as well as philosophy, poetry, music, calligraphy and martial arts. He trained as a teacher in ZhengZhuo. Later, he studied at Xiamen University in Fu Jiang Province. He became a professor at Zhejiang University in Hanzhou. Here he studied Yang-style TaijiQuan with master Dong YinJi and regularly met grandmaster Yang ChenFu. At the same time he studied Nanpai Taiji and LiYiYu-style TaijiQuan.

Shortly before the second world war professor Yao Huanzi came to ShangHai and taught at ZhengDan University. By combining his knowledge of BeiPai TaijiQuan and Nanpai Taiji with his knowledge of Chinese and Tibetan Buddhism he developed a strong Empty Force (LingKongJin 凌空劲) and became famous for it in Shanghai. After the Chinese revolution of 1949 he stopped his professional career and concentrated on teaching TaijiQuan.

Professor Yao Huanzi was the first to use taiji forces, developed through the practice of TaijiQuan, to treat patients. Dr. Shen Hongxun considered him for this reason as his most important teacher and saw it as his task to further develop and spread Professor Yao's ideas.