

Sifu

Some people have asked me about the title Sifu I use in literature and the website etc. It may come as a surprise that it does not mean Master. Basically it is translated as 'teacher'. However, as with all Chinese culture there are many levels. I was a teacher for many years before Master Lam suggested I could use the term Sifu. This term is made from two Chinese Words Si and Fu. These mean teacher or education and father respectively, together it means 'educational father'.

This says something of the relationship between student and teacher. It is like family. The teacher wants the student to grow and achieve the best he can. In return the student follows the teacher as if it were his own father. Here discipline is not an issue. They interact with mutual respect, care and compassion. Each wants the other to succeed in their role. It is similar to the salute at the end of class. The teacher cannot teach without the student, and is grateful for his attention and work. Without the teacher the student cannot learn and is also grateful for the knowledge and attention.

Achieving the level of Sifu may make a person feel proud. In reality is more like becoming a parent. Yes you are happy and proud, but pretty soon you realise it is more a responsibility than an honour.

Also the student should know who the father is. Even if he changes teacher or school he cannot change his father, which is a peculiarity of Chinese culture. This is why a Sifu will take time choosing a student and the student is wise to take time in choosing a Sifu.

We are lucky in the Lam Association to have such an authentic Sifu. He has allowed his students to grow and have students of their own. Effectively this makes him your Grandfather. Which is why it is good to come to his workshop. You have a chance to show respect and care, and grandparents have a habit of spoiling the children....

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West Country Lam Association August 2012

Master Lam Workshop 2013

Following the great success earlier this year Master Lam has agreed to visit the West Country Lam Association again in 2013. This time he is coming for two days-

Sunday 24th and Monday 25th February 2013

Put these dates in your diary now. Places will be limited.

The venue is still being organised. Price will hopefully be similar to last year with a reduction for booking both days. Full details will follow in the autumn.

Master Lam has been suggesting that he will not be visiting the UK as much in the future. Currently he comes three times a year. So I advise you to take this opportunity to learn from a directly from him.

