

Taijiquan Applications by the Master

Or

What's he got that I ain't got?

By Chip Ellis

I was talking with Jasmine Dong in February, 2005. She gave me a gold nugget that (hopefully) has changed my approach to using Taijiquan in martial arts.

Jasmine, also known as Dong Mo Li, is the daughter of Dong Yingjie and sister of Dong Huling. She told me of a conversation she had with some former students of her father and brother. The subject was Push Hands. They told her of their experiences in pushing with Dong Yingjie and with others.

Quoting (more or less) "When you pushed with Dong Yingjie you hardly felt his touch. He was so light. When he pushed, you felt almost nothing, but you were sent flying a long way! When you pushed with others, you could feel their touch. And when they pushed, you only flew a short distance."

So my quest for improvement continues. Since this is only recently Chinese New Year's I guess I'll make a New Year's Resolution: I will try my best to be as light and responsive as possible. And when I push I will try my best to find just the right spot so that both my partner and I feel almost nothing while the effect is great.

Patience, humility, invest in loss, no force-against-force, use those 4 ounces to move the 1000 pounds. Keep trying, maybe some day success will come.

Aloha,

Chip