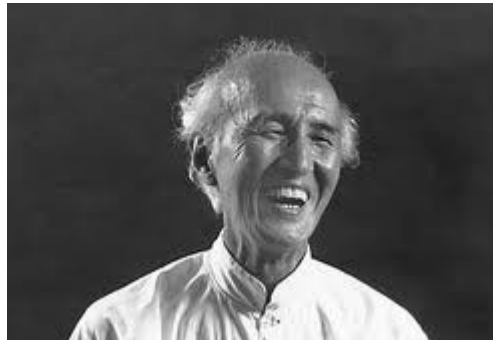


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MASTER ALFRED HUANG Author of 'The Complete I Ching' Survived Death Sentence in China



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By Martha Slater

During a recent visit to his publisher, Inner Traditions International, in Rochester, Master Alfred Huang spoke about his astonishing life and the philosophy he lives by.

A third-generation master of Wu style Tai Chi Chuan, Chi Kung, and Oriental meditation, Master Alfred Huang is a professor of Taoist philosophy who studied the I Ching with some of China's greatest minds, only to be imprisoned during the Cultural Revolution in 1966 and sentenced to death. During his 13 years in prison, Master Huang meditated on the I Ching and found the strength to survive. When he was released in 1979, he weighed only 80 pounds and soon emigrated to the United States.

The founder of New Harmony, a non-profit organization devoted to teaching self-healing, he is the author of "The Numerology of the I Ching" and "Complete Tai-Chi," as well as "The Complete I Ching," published by Inner Traditions International in Rochester.

Born, raised, and educated in Shanghai, he earned two degrees in philosophy and became dean of students at Shanghai Normal School, and then Shanghai University during the time of the Communists and General Mao.

"The Communists came and did not like me because I believe in God and democracy, and I like America," Master Huang recalled. "In 1957, I was sentenced to nine years of house arrest and hard labor and in 1966, during the Cultural Revolution, I was put in prison and sentenced to death because I had openly denounced Mao's philosophy and challenged his authority."

He spent 13 years of confinement on death row in a dark, four-and-a-half by nine-foot cell with three other people.

"Executions happened outside every day," Master Huang said, "but I survived and I still had strong beliefs. In 1979, Mao died and I was released and exonerated and later offered reparation."

After coming to the U.S. in 1980, he traveled around the country speaking about his experiences in prison, living in Pittsburg, before moving to his present home on the island of Maui.

"I was raised with a Christian background, but now have the Taoist belief in free-form divinity,"

Master Huang explained. "The purpose of Taoism is freedom. We accept everything. I wrote 'The Complete I Ching' because when I meditated, I heard a voice encouraging me to translate it. It was published 10 years ago and it's now a best-seller. I Ching was introduced to the western world 200

years ago and there are many translations, but I am the first native Chinese person to translate this from the original Chinese textbook.”

There will soon be a newly-revised edition, completed with the help of his student, Mimi Hu, and Master Huang was pleased to note that Inner Traditions International plans to publish eight books about I Ching.

I Ching is such an old philosophy that it is represented by symbols made of solid and broken lines, not by written words. It explains natural phenomena and human behavior. The symbols can be traced back to 10,000 years ago—long before Christ.

Master Huang feels that, after all of the suffering he endured, he is on a mission to be a spokesperson and let the western world know about this philosophy. Now 88 years old, he says he has a lot more to do in his life and hopes to live another 20 years so that he can complete the other books he plans to write.