

Healing Traditions Trade in Qigong

By Gary W Abersold



I consider myself a freelance therapist and mentor/teacher. Generally I try to avoid the common pitfalls in the field such as “affiliation cronyism, networking careerism, institution conformity and the promotion of system/cultural mediocrity”. What I do is based on my personal experience of a lifetime of study and practice. My only goal is to teach and help others that seek these traditions I offer. Much appreciation and gratitude goes to all my teachers and friends throughout the years. Without their openness; I could have never learned what I have.

This paper is presented so prospective students understand my philosophy on "Healing Traditions Trade" in Qigong. Also how I equate monetary value to operating programs. First and foremost I would recommend you read my paper on “Ethics of Cultural Appropriation within Qigong Traditions”. This was written to state my/our acknowledgement of these indigenous traditions of East Asia. Within this paper I encourage a proper paradigm on how to ethically acknowledge, adopt and promote these traditions. The ethical dimension is an often overlooked area in these traditions. They do exist but in recent times it has seemed to disappear for whatever reason.





Adaptation & Innovation

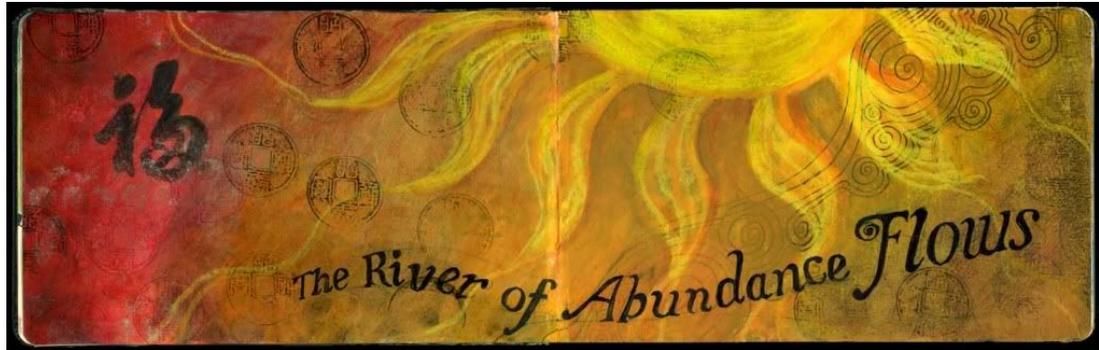
Whenever an indigenous tradition gets adopted into another culture it ultimately gets adapted and innovation comes into play. The Healing Traditions are a perfect example of this. Traditions like Traditional Chinese Medicine, Kung Fu, Yoga, Karate and Spiritual Traditions are a prime example how they ultimately become a sought after trade/commodity to some extent. There is nothing wrong with this since they bring benefits to whomever they seek it. Please understand this does not mean to discourage generosity or helping those who are truly not economically viable. As a public teacher in East Asian Traditions since I began teaching in 1994, I have taught many programs for under value and often for donation or free. This has been a great joy to bring forth a great access to many that I have taught. When I began teaching it was still pretty obscure and underground, but much has changed over the years for the better. Often times many teachers never explain why they charge or what they charge; so this is designed to help people in the spiritual and healing field to align with understanding the spirit of paying a teacher for their knowledge/trade. This is also presented to educate prospective students in these fields in the understanding of philanthropy and generosity to teacher self sacrifice. I believe this can also enlighten other teachers that what we do is a serious trade profession; no different than any other field.



What Happened to the Great Classes?

Time after time I have witnessed many teachers and programs ultimately don't survive due to the misunderstanding that what they do is extremely valuable, and at the same time the misunderstanding of one should not be paid for what they do. A common theme is a student saying "What Happened to the Great Classes?" This has happened in all areas where a class/program that have come into a area and ultimately failed.

This is not due to poor tradition but, to "Teacher Sacrifice" not asking to be honored for their trade hence "Self Sacrifice". Another argument can be also that, some could be as well insanely overpriced which is a whole another topic & day. It would be great to offer the Healing Traditions free and effortlessly; but the reality is that teachers need to be honored for their experience, time and trade just like any other tradition.



True Abundance & Value

For some the concept that Healing Traditions and financial recompense can't co exist; and that there is something ethically wrong with turning ones trade into a viable service is a sacred belief to many traditional teachers & practitioners alike.

They take it as so much of a truth; that they are unwilling to understand, be objective what really is one doing with their traditions essentially. In actuality, assigning value to one's long crafted traditions & trade, is no different than assigning a value to an item that is totally unrelated to Healing Traditions. Physical, material things are not separate from source energy. They are not separate from spirit. They are extensions of spirit. What does this mean? Financial recompense "money" too is an extension of spirit; so it is a misunderstanding to say that money and Healing Traditions service is a contradiction.

A Lifetime of Apprenticeship & Study

Students, Teachers and Master Teachers who are dedicated to their Healing Traditions Trade pour a massive amount of their personal efforts, money and time into their skills. We dedicate our lives to it in the same way that any other professional pours their existence into their trade. And so the question's everyone is to ask themselves is:

- *Do you respect the teacher and their life traditions you are learning from? Do you value your dedication and your skills? Do you think highly enough of yourself or what you have to offer that it is conceivable that what you know could benefit and therefore be valuable to someone else?*

I believe if the answer is "yes" to the above then you are in alignment of what truly is needed to move forward in life no matter what you study or follow. Emei Taoist Master Wen Lei Chen, summed it up during a class once "In the West when people pay for service or class they pay attention". The practices and techniques one will learn and develop, bring forth a different type consciousness and awareness in the world. They are a specialized skills that for even people in Asia is often hard and obscure to find. So this offers the serious student a Health & Wellness approach to better conscious living. So surely this is a specialized skill & trade.



Thoughts for the Future

For the Traditions of Qigong, Tai Chi Chuan, Martial Arts & the Healing Way of Meditation to survive in the new frontier I believe the most important thing is that we all strive to stay in alignment with our own sense of integrity. We cannot draw absolutes about what is or isn't right, what is or isn't in alignment because right and wrong are human concepts that do not exist from Universal source perspective. Our alignment is always based on our perspectives and where we currently are vibrationally, and that is always different from person to person. I appreciate all readers and prospective students taking time to read and understand this section before the actual programme breakdown and Healing modalities are read. If have any question please feel to contact me.

~Gary W. Abersold~

