



Dear Grandmaster Aiping,

On behalf of the 90+ students at North Country Tai Chi LLC, I would like to thank you for all that you are and all that you have done for our Tai Chi practice in Northern New York. North Country Tai Chi LLC is a thriving full-time year-round Tai Chi academy that imparts world class expertise in Yang, Sun and Chen style Tai Chi. My students may call me Master Sean, but everything I teach and everything my students encounter is due to your mastery and dedication to help others selflessly. Thank you for such an amazing gift and opportunity!

I met Grandmaster Aiping in 2011 while my wife held a post doc at Yale and I was a graduate student at Cornell. My introduction to Tai Chi at Grandmaster Aiping's school, Aiping Tai Chi changed my life. When I first walked through her door, she offered a starving graduate student a sizable student discount. Grandmaster Aiping's charitable spirit allowed me to study and practice in as many classes as I was able to attend. After one year of intensive instruction, my personal health was greatly improved across a number of metrics. I was a new person.

While I lived in Connecticut for only one year, Grandmaster Aiping allowed me to become a serious long-distance learner that has continued for 15 years. Despite living 350 miles away from Orange Connecticut, I frequently returned to Connecticut for a weekend of private lessons that Aiping tailored to fit my personal schedule. The same is true for my visits to Texas, where she set aside two weeks a year for intensive private instruction. As the years progressed, what started as a personal investment in my health began to shift markedly toward a professional focus. When my personal skill level reached a certain threshold, Grandmaster Aiping began training me to teach with her accreditation. She ultimately gave me the permission to open my own academy under my own brand, North Country Tai Chi LLC.

Grandmaster Aiping coached my career and encouraged me to train and work hard. She helped me to focus on developing my own personal talent while meeting the needs of a new school. She would often say "you are doing things the right way" because the focus was never on myself or profit, knowing full well that if you focused on giving the students a remarkable experience, that business success would also follow. She was right. As my school began to develop into a true academy, a well-known and respected local institution, Grandmaster Aiping championed our effort each step of the way. She was selfless in offering honest insight, wisdom, encouragement, and advice on life. She was also welcomingly frank about areas in which I need improvement and how best to develop my skill set. She gave me the wonderful freedom to make it or break it on my own.

When Aiping "retired" to Texas, I followed her to Austin two weeks a year to continue training. I have not stopped. For many years, she expanded my understanding of Tai Chi with Sun and Chen style. While in Texas, I was also able to witness and interact with her students in Texas. As always, she poured her effort into cultivating talent in her students and trained her top students to

share what they learned as teachers. Her motivation was always to pass along information and to cultivate a real understanding of this art. She was in Texas what she was always in China and Connecticut, a world class athlete, champion, coach, and human being. Her work ethic, her morality, and her devotion to her students makes her beloved to so many.

It is clear that Grandmaster Aiping is always teaching, always wishing the best for her students; she doesn't accept excuses, does not flatter, and gives you a straight shot at how to be great! She trains Champions for competition but also for life. She sets the standard high but leaves the work up to you. If you are willing to go after your goals for the right reasons, in the right way, she will stabilize your success and help set the bar higher. I couldn't ask for a better coach and mentor. My life with my wife and son matched with the great success of my school, and my continuing education into the limitlessness of Tai Chi makes me profoundly grateful to carry on her lineage in Northern New York.

Grandmaster Aiping, you are a living treasure! Thank you for everything you've done for so many people for so long.

Master Sean Boutin

*Sean Boutin*

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