

A Master's Legacy

What was your passion as a child? Was it soccer? Or was it the insatiable urge to drive your parents insane? Well, for one particular child, his passion was one that would either render you in awe, or lift your eyebrows in wonderment. I had both reactions upon hearing his childhood stories. In fact, as he recounted his life experiences, my eyes progressively got wider and I had to screw my jaw back together after the interview. So who was this mysterious man who made an author want to ditch her own book and start a biography on him? Let us embark on a mini journey through the life of the legendary, internationally renowned Feng Shui Master, Master Paul Ng.

Master Ng was not your ordinary child. As a strapping young boy, he did not spend his elementary school years playing soccer or wreaking havoc in the classroom, but sitting in a cemetery pondering the meaning of life. Yes, you read it correctly, I did write cemetery. His passion was stopping at the cemetery on his way to and from school. He would study the names and dates on tombstones and wondered why some people lived longer than others. He even stayed and watched the occasional bone cleaning which would certainly drive away the bravest adults, but not the young Master Ng. His fascination in philosophy of life did not stem from attending an Anglican School, but rather an innate yearning for answers.

His atypical interest was further strengthened by his father's unique teaching method—live demonstration of the horrific consequences to bad decisions. As a police officer, Master Ng's father knew where to scope out the lowest of the low in society. He brought the young master to the back alleys of casinos, the red light district, and drug addict shelters. Those of you who are parents might be covering your mouth in shock right now, just as I did. But whether you approve of this method or not, it gave the young master a valuable and effective lesson of which he still holds dearly till this day. Seeing the dark urges of humanity at a young age taught him the monumental importance of making good decisions in life.

Soon after elementary school, young Master Ng realized he developed a fear of heights. Unwilling to succumb to the phobia, he decided to challenge himself by jumping off the highest diving board he could find, again and again. The courageous act did indeed heal his fear but at a heavy price. The pressure and impact of the dives damaged his eardrums and unfortunately reduced his hearing to only twenty percent. In the face of adversity, he did not lose hope. In fact, his spirit was never stronger. He went on to complete high school with honours and set his mind to attend university in Canada despite his parents' disapproval.

“I felt claustrophobic in Hong Kong,” he said to me. “It was too small a place . . . and the

moment I stepped onto the soil of Canada, I felt like I could breathe again. I got over my culture shock in just one day. The vastness of the country and the warmth of the people is where I belong.”

He did fulfill his wish to enroll into the Electrical Engineering program at the University of Ottawa, but his journey of getting there demonstrated his perseverance. After being declined his student visa application, he waited at the doorsteps of the Canadian Embassy daily to beseech the help of the immigration officer of his case. Eventually, his sincerity moved the officer and he was told his last chance was to get the university's acceptance despite his hearing loss. Hard work paid off. He came to Canada in 1968 and began his life as a proud Canadian.

The next seventeen years marked Master Ng's successful corporate career in which he'd worked as the Team Lead at Clarkson Gordon and The Marathon Realty Co. Ltd. Eventually he became the IT Director of CIBC with more than a hundred employees under his belt. This time period also posed some of the biggest challenges in his life. After suffering from bone cancer in 1974, he took up Tai Chi in the hopes to strengthen his body to prevent recurrence. Noticing obvious results physically and mentally, Master Ng grew evermore respectful and grateful to his teacher, Moy Shifu. Wanted to show his gratitude, he helped expand what would become the biggest Tai Chi association in Canada today—The Taoist Tai Chi Association of Canada. Under the tireless works of Master Ng, the association grew in both branches and students. At its peak, an unfortunate news brought him back to Hong Kong. His father had passed.

His father's death dealt a hard blow to the master's spirit. But this trip was not all discouraging, for it solidified his Qi Gong and planted the seeds of Feng Shui in him. Through inexplicable fate, he met a Shaolin Qi Gong Master who, upon seeing his potential, quickly accepted him as a disciple. Meanwhile, he was also introduced to four geomancers who became his teachers in Feng Shui. Since then, he furthered his knowledge through reading ancient scriptures and observing people and surroundings to improve his skills.

This brings us to a festive evening in 1985. During his co-worker's housewarming party, Master Ng saw the placement of her bedroom furniture and was immediately hit with a sharp intuition. Utilizing what he'd learned through the years, he quickly made a bold statement that if his co-worker did not change the Feng Shui of her house, her marriage would soon crumble. Such an audacious claim had everyone unsettled, naturally. But the house owner's confirmation that her husband had indeed left her only a week prior proved the accuracy of Master Ng's words. That night lit the path of his Feng Shui career.

It was not until 1993 that Master Ng quit his corporate life and became a full time geomancer. But what brought on the courage to give up a lucrative career? It was none other than the Governor of

Hilago, Mexico. During a trip to the country, he was introduced to the newly appointed governor, to whom he gave a few pointers in Feng Shui sense. Intrigued, the governor invited Master Ng on a four-hour tour of the city in his private helicopter. With a map in hand and a bird's eye view of the land, Master Ng advised the governor on crucial city planning and the like, which bought him goodwill and a close working relationship with the Mexican government. This experience had reignited his patriotism and the need to do something for his own country of Canada.

Upon returning, he decided to run for Member of Parliament (MP). Calculating that he only had 30% success rate, he went ahead with his campaign anyway, during which he met people in all walks of life. Although he lost the election, the opportunity opened his mind to his true calling. "I belong to the people." He said. He handed in his resignation at CIBC the next week and officially started his full time career as a Feng Shui Master.

Fast forward twenty-four years, Master Ng is now one of the top geomancers in North America with clients spanning over seventy nationalities. He is the Feng Shui adviser to thirty-nine real estate developers and nine banks across the globe.

When asked what separates a skilled Feng Shui Master from those who are mediocre, Master Ng said, "One needs to be both logical and intuitive. Making the right judgment in a ambiguous finding is crucial to accuracy. Therefore having the intuition is paramount." With natural instinct and logic acquired from years of computer science and engineering, one can say that Master Ng was perfect for this art.

For those who are interested in learning the ancient art of Feng Shui, I asked the master how one can obtain the education. He said that although there are schools out there, they tend to be too generic and might not separate students who carried true potential from those who don't. He himself uses the old-school method of teaching through apprenticeship. But don't ring him up just yet, because his criteria are strict. "Personality is the first thing I look at," he told me. "Then I will ask him or her for what purpose you seek to learn Feng Shui?" Many potential students in the past had answered this question with honesty—"To earn money," they said—to which Master Ng had closed the door behind them. So before you approach a master, think about what is it that you want from such knowledge and to what extent do you plan to utilize it.

Nearing the end of our interview, people began filing into his house whom I was told were his Qi Gong disciples. In keeping with his love for people and willingness to give back to society, Master Ng also teaches Qi Gong free of charge twice a week. After the interview, he graciously gave me a tour of his Qi Gong studio where students were already gathered. On the walls were pictures of his many disciples over the decades, and bless my laser-corrected vision, a familiar face stood out in one of the

pictures. Who would have guessed that among his disciples was the famous figure skating world champion and Olympic medalist, Elvis Stojko. Master Ng said that photo was taken just months before he became the world champion.

As I'm sure, the short sixty-minute interview was only a glimpse into Master Ng's movie-worthy life. Needless to say, I left his place feeling inspired and humbled. His life stories a testament to determination, courage, and tenacity. A famous author once said, "You must forge your own path for it to mean anything." Through Master Ng, I have witnessed the true embodiment of this quote.