



Cambridge & Impington Tang Soo Do Clubs



The Bamboo Farmer

Once upon a time there was a farmer. He lived in a farming community and had farmed, like his neighbours, for all his life. As time passed by he became bored with farming traditional crops. He still loved farming but felt unchallenged.

So he set about the business of researching alternative crops. Making a living and supporting his family was critical, so he wanted to make sure he made a wise choice.

Therefore, he began reading, researching and speaking with experts with more knowledge than he had before making his final decision.

After studying a variety of options, he decided on bamboo. The climate, soil conditions and equipment at his disposal could make growing and harvesting bamboo a profitable business. He was convinced he was making the wisest choice and began making the changes needed to become a bamboo farmer.

Now remember, our farmer lived in a farming community. For generations his neighbours had all grown traditional crops like corn and wheat. You can only imagine how the idea of growing bamboo was received. Upon telling his fellow farmers his idea, they mocked him calling him foolish, all the time warning him of his impending peril. They were unwilling to accept change or progress. However, the farmer was unshaken. He had done extensive research and was confident of his knowledge. He would not back down from the belief that he could grow bamboo and even turn a substantial profit in the business.

Well, if you know anything about bamboo, you know that the first year it's been planted, nothing happens. You don't get so much as a twig or a leaf! His neighbours were ruthless. They had all harvested their crops while he had nothing at all to show for his efforts. He was undaunted and confident in his knowledge.

But wait, there's more bad news. The second year nothing happens either - not a sign of a bamboo tree anywhere. Again he was forced to endure a second year of ridicule by his heartless neighbours. Still, he was unshaken in his confidence.

The third year came ... And guess what? Bamboo, bamboo everywhere. His crop grew a foot a day! By the end of the summer he had a virtual bamboo forest. He harvested his crop and sold it for a huge profit. His neighbours were astonished. In fact, several who had once ridiculed him began to show interest in becoming bamboo farmers as well.

The farmer went on for many years enjoying the benefits of his new crop, bamboo. He and his family enjoyed a very happy and successful life, unafraid of growth, progress or change, confident and determined when facing challenges.

Taken from "Legends of the Martial Arts Masters" by Susan Lynn Peterson.