## I Chin Ching

I Chin Ching is considered one of the foundations to Shao-lin kung fu. There are many variations of the story, but the general idea is that Bodhidharma, (Pu Ti Ta Mo in Chinese) traveled from India to help spread Zen Buddhism. He met the monks of the Shao-lin temple and taught them to meditate. However, they kept falling asleep, displaying a lack of the fortitude required for deep meditation. Ta Mo developed a series of postures to strengthen their bodies and minds.

In performing these postures, we'll be targeting specific areas for conditioning and using our breath to progress through them. I Chin Ching translates to Muscle Tendon Change Classic, so we'll be using our muscles and tendons to develop strength and flexibility. The breath is used not only to measure how long to hold a posture, but to give focus and direction throughout the pose. Breathing should be centered around the tan t'ien, and the muscles should be generally relaxed when not the targeted area.



