

I

Dear Sifu,

I write this letter as an expression of my appreciation and sincere gratitude from one human being to another. Although I have not yet had the experience and pleasure of knowing you personally, you have in many ways already given me more than I could ever hope to repay. I'm sure I speak for many in this regard. As long as I can remember I have had this burning passion to expand and grow as a human being. What more could one ask of one-self than to be expressively real; to sincerely grow as a human being and actualize one's potential? This is what the Martial Arts means to me. The art of living real! In the past, life has often been very painful in my quest for truth; for liberation. I have watched others, their lifestyles, and have realized that most people live their lives very insincere. I have seen how fear and insecurity manipulate people through life like puppets.



Now maybe this is all part of the grand scheme of things, but I personally could never be content with that. I have always felt something more. As I'm sure you can understand, it has been very difficult for me to find any real companionship on my path. There have been many times when I have been very depressed; but even in my darkest hour, I have always truly believed in my heart that I would not, could not, ever give up. It would ultimately be giving up on me - like trying to live and die at the same time. Well, I could go on forever in this letter, but that would be deviating from the point. Hopefully there will come the day when we can have those long, wonderful, sincere conversations. There is nothing more fullfilling to me than the glory of real human communication. But I realize that everything is a growing process, and we must exercise patience. You have helped me to realize that.

Now, to get back to the point, it was very clear to me from the start that everyone who has seen you in action is more than impressed with your fighting abilities. And although I have not yet had the experience, I'm sure you have imposed that reality on them very well. But what is most impressive to me, and indeed what has helped me the most, is your in depth philosophy and how you relate it to the experience of life. And it is not your knowledge alone, but your passion and sincere desire to communicate the essence of it. To me, that is one of the greatest qualities of a human being - to be able to express the very essence of life and to inspire that in others. Indeed, the only way to truly help someone is to inspire them. It is like, the passion in your voice carries more than words, and transcends the thoughts to enter right into the being of another. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to learn from you.




Remember when you said you would like to be thought of and remembered as a good person, a good teacher and a good father? Well, I feel that you are all of those things and more. And, like the art you share and life itself, it can only grow with experience, and I look forward to every class and learning experience in the years to come. So, the purpose of this letter is to express my sincere appreciation and respect for a great man. I could simplify this all into two words

THANK YOU

And so maybe all these words are not really necessary, but life to me is expression, and I have to express how I feel.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

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3-22-96

\* I have been practicing religiously.