# BRUCE LEE - BEST LIFE LESSONS



Bruce Lee had been acting in films since he was 6 years old. His father was a famous Hong Kong actor who always used to take him on the film sets. Growing up Bruce Lee really developed an interest in dancing. But the post-war Hong Kong, was full of gangs and Bruce was often forced to fight them. Moreover, he always did like to fight. In one fight, Bruce took on the son of a popular **gang** member so, to give their son an opportunity to protect himself, Bruce's parents **enrolled** him in a martial arts class. His street fighting continued and his violent nature was escalating. Seeing all this, his parents send him to the USA with his friends to escape this violence.

In Seattle he found a job at China Town. In his college, his friends and classmates started taking martial art classes from him due to the reputation that he had established. On the advice of his students, he started his own school and then used to charge people to learn from him. It is how he found his future wife, Linda Lee Cadwell.



Soon he was invited to perform at Ed Parker's *Karate Championship*. He astonished the crowd with his one-inch punch. Despite of all this, he did not do well financially.

One week after the birth of Bruce and Linda's child, Bruce's father **passed away.** He attended the funeral and when he came back to America, he was even more determined to make his family **proud.**

Later, a Hollywood hairstylist who saw Bruce Lee perform, recommended him to take part in a new show called "The Green Hornet" where he was quite successful. But even after that, he did not find work regularly, and soon, unable to find work as an actor, he started working as a fight coordinator in films.

The producer of The Green Hornet advised Bruce Lee to start teaching people in their own homes. He attracted many popular students who later became famous actors, like *Steve McQueen* and *Kareem Abdul-Jabbar,* and became a popular martial arts coach in Hollywood.

When he injured his back while training, the doctors told him that he will never be able to fight again. And how did Bruce Lee respond to that? He was even more determined to recover and even more active when he got back to his feet. He biked 15 miles (24 km), ran 3 miles (5 km), did a 1000 kicks and 2000 punches a day to see what the human body can endure.



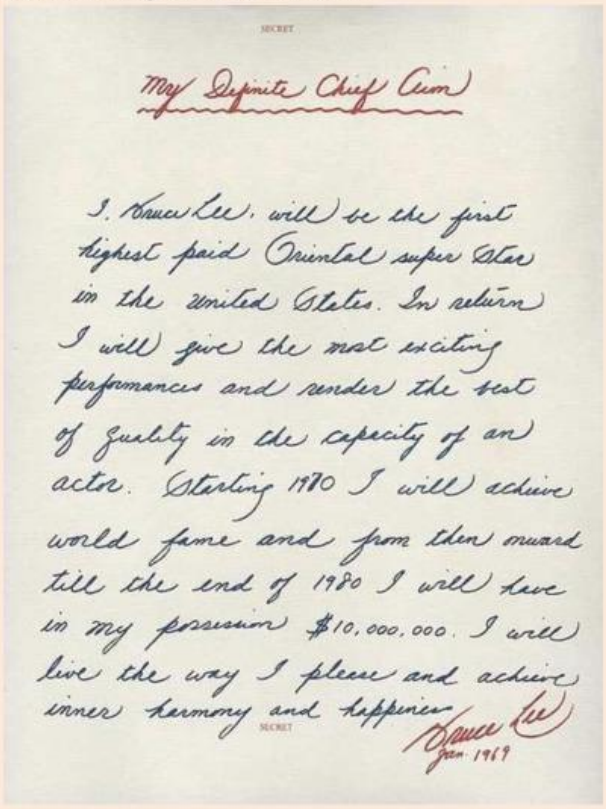
When he came back to Hong Kong, he was astonished to see that he had become a star there. That's why he later made several successful films in Hong Kong with most popular film producers of Asia. Soon he had conquered Asia, but still not satisfied, he wanted to take on the world.

Unfortunately, while shooting for the movie The Game of Death, he collapsed due to 'cerebral edema' (swelling of the brain). Although he was perfectly fine after some time, later he felt a headache, yet again. He went to sleep after taking a pill and never woke up. He passed away at an age of 32.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

When Bruce Lee was about 28 years old, he wrote the following letter to himself:



SECRET

My Definite Chief Aim

I, Bruce Lee, will be the first highest paid Oriental super Star in the United States. In return I will give the most exciting performances and render the best of quality in the capacity of an actor. Starting 1970 I will achieve world fame and from then onward till the end of 1980 I will have in my possession $10,000,000. I will live the way I please and achieve inner harmony and happiness.

SECRET

Bruce Lee
Jan. 1969



*I, Bruce Lee, will be the first highest paid Oriental super star in the United States. In return, I will give the most exciting performances and render the best of quality in the capacity of an actor. Starting 1970 I will achieve world fame and from then onward till the end of 1980 I will have in my possession $10,000,000.*
*I will live the way I please and achieve inner harmony and happiness.*
*Bruce Lee*
*Jan. 1969*

He achieved everything at an age of 32. Everything that he hoped to achieve in ten years was achieved in only 4 years and his net worth also exceeded $10,000,000.



## WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM HIS LIFE?

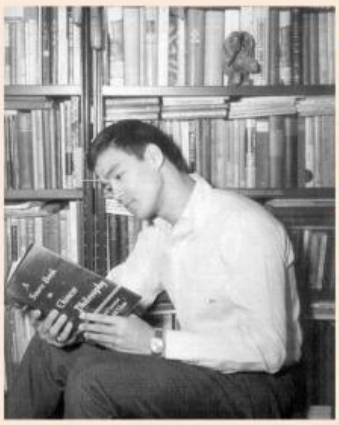
### Absolute Confidence

It is obvious that Bruce Lee knew that he would make it. He wrote the letter with complete certainty and from there on he trained hard and never gave up. Whether it was the doctors, the producers or the audience, he never doubted himself and his ability to make it big in life as a martial arts legend and as an actor. His confidence helped him to achieve in four years what he aimed to achieve in 10 years.

### Turning obstacles into stepping stones (=Turning barriers into progress)

- When he was not able to make it early on in Hollywood, he started as a martial arts coach.
- When doctors told him he could not fight, he started out even a tougher training system which is exhaustive even for a healthy person.
- He didn't even think about his injured back or the dizziness he felt due to the cerebral edema - he went on to train 7 days a week.

Finally he got what he wanted in life and has left an **indelible** imprint in the entertainment and the martial arts world. There are many things that we can learn from this legend.



**Note**: Bruce Lee was a great reader, his house was full of books. He also wrote some books about martial arts with many deep philosophical thoughts.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1- There are some highlighted words in the text. Match them with their meaning.

GANG ENROLLED PASSED AWAY PROUD INDELIBLE

a- Died: _____

b- A mark that can not be removed: _____

c- Pleased: _____

d- register as a member of an institution: _____

e- a criminal: _____



2 - Now, read again and choose the best option to answer these questions.

1 What was Bruce Lee's main profession before becoming a martial arts instructor?

a- Actor student b –Dancer c- Gang member d- College

2. What prompted Bruce Lee's parents to enroll him in martial arts classes?

a-His interest in dancing b- His street fighting and violent nature

c-His father's reputation as a Hong Kong actor

d-His desire to learn self-defense

3. Where did Bruce Lee start his own martial arts school?

a-Hong Kong b-China c –Seattle d-Los Angeles

4. Which of the following actors did Bruce Lee teach martial arts to?

a-Jackie Chan b-Jet Li c-Steve McQueen d-Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

5. What was the cause of Bruce Lee's death?

a-Cerebral edema b-Back injury c-Exhaustion from training

d - Gunshot wound

6. What was Bruce Lee's primary motivation to continue his martial arts training after being told he may never fight again?

a-To prove the doctors wrong b-To promote his martial arts school

LIVEWORKSHEETS

c-To maintain his physical fitness

d-To seek revenge on his enemies

7. How did Bruce Lee's fame and popularity change after he returned to Hong Kong?

a-It decreased significantly

b-It remained the same

c-It increased dramatically

d- It fluctuated up and down



LIVEWORKSHEETS

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