

# DO YOU KNOW BRUCE?

## DO YOU KNOW BRUCE WAS A PHILOSOPHER?

Bruce Lee is remembered for many inspiring quotes, the most famous arguably being, “Be water, my friend.”

In his 1971 interview with TV host Pierre Berton, Bruce said: “When you pour water into a cup, it becomes the cup. When you pour water into a bottle, it becomes the bottle. When you pour water into a teapot, it becomes the teapot. Now water can flow, or it can crash. Be water, my friend.”

Bruce was far from recommending conformity and mediocrity. He was suggesting that when you are on the most honest path for yourself, you fill the space around you. You can be strong and forceful when necessary, or flow like a stream when you choose. In any case, there is no form that binds anyone.

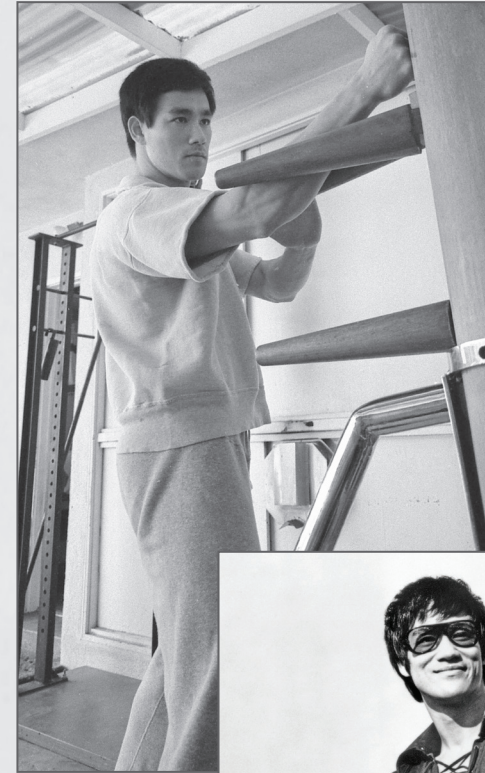
Bruce adopted these principles in part from philosophers like Jiddu Krishnamurti, an Indian-born spiritualist living in the United States. Krishnamurti believed that when there was only one way of thinking, that way of thinking constrained people from applying what they learn.

Bruce saw water as a symbol of movement and pliability. Water can flow, or trickle, but it can, given the opportunity, bore through solid rock, or become a tidal wave. The only obstacles were the limits to your own imagination.

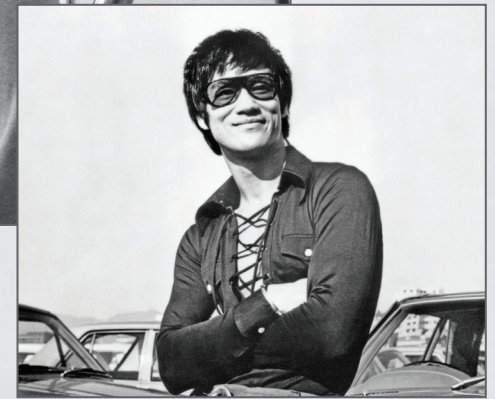
Bruce neither taught doctrine nor believed in one. Bruce believed a person should learn an art form, or a skill, but not be limited by those lessons to define their ability. These ideas and practices form the basis for his own martial arts practice of Jeet Kune Do.

We all have obstacles we believe are keeping us from achieving our goals. Imagine yourself as your own teacher. What advice would you give yourself to overcome obstacles? What advice could you give to others?

Write that advice in 140 characters or less and email it to [tours@wingluke.org](mailto:tours@wingluke.org). We will contact you when we upload your advice on Tumblr.



*Bruce practicing on his Wing Chun training Dummy  
TM & (C) Bruce Lee Enterprises, LLC. All Rights Reserved.  
[www.brucelee.com](http://www.brucelee.com)*



*Bruce poses in Los Angeles  
TM & (C) Bruce Lee Enterprises, LLC.  
All Rights Reserved. [www.brucelee.com](http://www.brucelee.com)*



*TM & (C) Bruce Lee Enterprises, LLC. All Rights Reserved.  
[www.brucelee.com](http://www.brucelee.com)*

*Do You Know Bruce?* exhibit runs for three years with a new theme and select items changed each year. Bruce Lee Neighborhood tours are available daily, and private/school tours of the Bruce Lee exhibit and neighborhood tours can be booked by contacting 206.623.5124 ext. 125 or [tours@wingluke.org](mailto:tours@wingluke.org).