

Fri, 5 Apr 2002 4:03:33 PM Eastern Standard Time

Dear Mark:

Hope all is going good with you. Through this stuff you are learning are you learning patience? That was a problem when you were young. You could understand how a flower could grow, could figure out how complex it was, but you just couldn't stop just to smell it. Hope you are still growing in all ways.

Talk to you soon.

Love Mom

3/19/02 9:09:28 PM Eastern Standard Time

Why struggle? That's the part I don't get. You should simply create art. You are not an audience-bound artist. Why get hung up on the other? For most people I'd say that the audience comes first. Not for you. I think that the authentic art you can make must be personal. It must show your passion for a thing—whether it's practicing kung fu or singing to Chelsea or whatever. That's why sometimes you are loathe to take on commissions. They are not passionate enough for you.

Try to let go of others' expectations of you. Just me. Luckily, you've got me, a totally drive 'A' personality to give you a shove from behind when/if you need one.

Enjoy China and stop worrying. I know thinking is DIFFERENT from worrying. So just think.

Love you
LUV Chopz

“Remember, above all, the past *has* passed. It has no magical, automatic effect on the present or future. At most, your past habits make it harder for you to change than to remain stationary. Harder but not impossible. Work and time; practice and more practice; thinking, imagining, and doing—you can use these as the unmagical keys that will unlock almost any chest of past defeats and turn them into present and future successes” Albert Ellis, PhD

“The Tampa Tribune-Times, Sunday, January 20, 1991

Operation Desert Storm

Letters from the Front is designed to bring the Middle East crisis into focus through the thoughts, fears and frustrations of the American military men and women stationed there. With the gracious help of families and friends of servicemen and women in the gulf region, we will bring Letters from the Front to you each week. Today, we offer letters from two servicemen. The first is from Mark Runge, a specialist in the Army, writing to his mother and stepfather, Karen and Don Palmer of Tampa, in a letter dated Dec. 3, 1990.—Editor”

“How is everything going? Fine I hope. Give me the scoop. I may get it a couple weeks late, but I'll get it.

I was reading the Boston Globe today. There was an editorial in there, [and] I felt a little disheartened when I read it. The man who wrote it was from the Northeast somewhere, I don't recall. He said his job, gas or anything, wasn't worth one life that would, God forbid, be spent.

If he feels that way now, how will he feel if, God forbid, hostilities break out? Will he quit his job, walk to church maybe? The way I see it, everything in our society exists off or around oil somehow. I think he should step back and take a look at his life. If he is in the same world as I am, he should support us!

I am not sure if you understand what I am saying without being here, but the support of you [the American public] at home will help us, the soldiers, to justify our part in this. Not that I disbelieve in our cause, because I believe in it 100 percent even though there are reasons you and I will never know about. I would just like to believe everyone thinks our cause is a just one. I know it would be foolish for me to believe this, but I hope. I believe in my God and my country, I hope 'We the people' do also.

Well, I guess that is about it. Tell everyone I said 'Hi.' I love you and miss you both very much. Hope to hear from you soon."