

The Hanshi Reader

... words that matter !

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A periodic sampler of Hanshi Stephen Kaufman's writings.

World-renowned Author, Universally Acknowledged Distinguished Grandmaster and Educator
A True Founding Father of American Karate

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Intelligence is no excuse for Intelligence!



Hanshi Stephen Kaufman

My Skills Become More Effectual

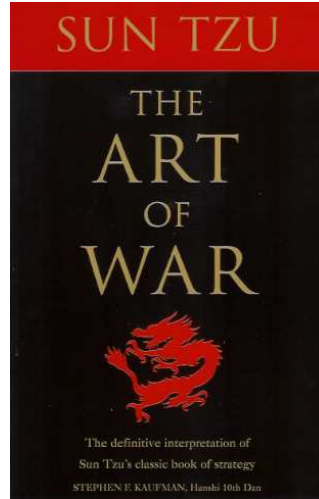
Knowing that I am immersed in the development of my own self, and that I have chosen to excel in specific areas of accomplishment, I accept ever increased productivity in all areas of my life that enable me to ascend to higher positions of performance without any restriction and without any delay. I acknowledge *My Divine Right to Live in Joy and Freedom* as I learn to use *Self-Revealization Acceptance* on a more efficient plateau as the *Spirit of the Thing Itself* manifests my desires before me. I open my self to the acceptance of my great bounty that is mine by choice and watch as all of my desires manifest in perfect order elevating me to new heights of productivity. I watch with personal pleasure the enlargement of my consciousness with regards to:

- 1 (discipline)
- 2 (creativity)
- 3 (physical ability)
- 4 (academics)
- 5 (self-revealization)

Nothing and no-thing interferes with my ascension. I do not permit myself to become enamored of myself and structure my newness via complete giving of my self to the ideal that I desire to live. As a result ever more clarity of purpose and clarity of thinking becomes prevalent in my life and I do not lose my Way. My productivity soars and my sense of self-worth increases manifold. I give profound thanks to the creative power of the universe that I am intelligent and focused in my own reality. I accomplish my desires without restriction or delay. And that's that way it is for me, right here and right now.

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A Selection from:
Sun Tzu's Art of War
The Definitive Interpretation
by
Hanshi Stephen Kaufman



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BOOK 4 – HOW TO THINK OF WAR

In ancient days warriors made themselves unbeatable by constantly practicing their art. Constant practice enabled them to see the vulnerability of their intended victims. They did not think in terms of beating the enemy by overwhelming him with boastful actions but rather they continued to practice until they saw the opportunity to extend their practice in the reality of combat, which they acknowledged as the same thing.

They also knew that the enemy had the same attitudes towards battle and would seek the same results against them. To make themselves perfect for battle they practiced. There was no way they could make the enemy vulnerable. The enemy had to do that himself. Because a warlord knew to win does not mean that he did.

Invincibility lies in the defense of the attack by the defender, which means that to properly defend, *your* attitude must be of a thorough attack. To depend strictly upon defense means that there is not enough strength of purpose. To adequately gain victory you must be assured of your own abundance of conviction and supply.

Warlords who would master defense would attack from hidden places thereby insuring success. They did this by knowing when and where to make the initial onslaught in order to defend their positions as well. They would rely on the obstacles they set up for the enemy in understanding the initial attack mentality. Under no conditions did they permit the enemy to know where the attack was coming from. They always relied on position and the weather. They attacked as lightning and were relentless in their purpose until they had driven the enemy asunder or had been thrown out from the land. They took no prisoners. Great warlords did not see war as an extension of court etiquette.

Warlords of profound worth see victory where most men see nothing. They see victory in creating difficulty for the enemy to deal with in the fight. They foresee victory where the enemy cannot overcome his own inadequacy. This is the way of a great warlord and the reason for his very existence. Other than this he is only a warlord in title.

To triumph in battle is not the perfection of one's skill as a warlord. If one is openly recognized as a master of war, enough subterfuge was not utilized and the issue of war became an object of self-aggrandizement. It is therefore not pure and will not hold over the great periods of history.

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You must be warlord for your people and not for yourself. Let your people praise you when they realize the great thing you have done for them without you telling them about it.

Create situations where your troops will perish if they fail. Do not let them know this and be sure in your own heart that you have their best interests at stake. See that you are in the same position that you put them in. Regardless of your generals' outcries maintain your conviction and your authority. They may be frightened but they will follow you if they feel you love them deeply enough.

You must understand your warriors if you proceed in this fashion. If you do you will be successful. If you don't, you will fail. In acts of desperation troops will fight as if possessed by devils. They will have no alternative means of escape and will therefore succeed or perish. More than likely they will succeed.

Ancient masters always beat the enemy when it was easy to do so because they planned properly and they foresaw the victory. They did not gain recognition as masters of war. They knew not to fight when it was difficult. That would have been stupid and ended up in a costly victory in terms of men and resources -- if the battle was won.

Never forget: It is always best to permit the enemy to defeat himself with little effort on your part. Reap the rewards of the enemy's own over confidence. Make sure of his ineptitude in understanding the initial attack mentality. The great warlord knows when and where to position himself and his troops for maximum effect with least effort. This is the sign of a great warrior.

Those who would be skilled in the arts of war permit the Tao to flow within and without themselves. They do not try to coerce the heavens into thinking in their own favor but seek to do that which they believe is correct action under heaven. The great warlord never goes against heaven's wishes which heaven makes obvious to the man of wisdom.

When the seed of endeavor is planted in the mind of the warlord by the warlord, the heavens will instruct him in the proper behavior to gain the goals. If the heavens do not move when the man of wisdom wants them to move he will reflect upon his attitudes and positions in life to see if there is more appropriate action and intent in further planning.

The warlord must always keep in mind the requirements for success in any endeavor. These attitudes will permit the heavens to see more clearly into the true desire because you will have shown the proper respect to the heavens by knowing about the five virtues of a great warlord.

1 - The distance to be traveled on earth and in heaven is the proper presentation of your conduct towards victory. The warlord knows how far he must travel and knows how far his troops can carry his desires.

2 - He knows the value of the supplies to be carried into battle and those that should be left behind as reserves if the heavens should turn aside from his quest.

3 - Calculations of manpower should be considered in the same manner as knowing the strengths and weaknesses of each warrior's ability as part of the total war machine. The warlord knows when each man is in proper position to do the best with the weapons the man is capable of using. He does not make archers of cooks.

4 - The warlord knows the differences between the enemy and himself in terms of strength and position. He also knows when it is appropriate to make the attack that will benefit all concerned: including the enemy. The great warlord is trusted by his enemy.

5 - The warlord considers the costs on all levels of battle. He examines the possibilities of defeat as well as victory. He does not place himself or his men in position of defeat under any circumstance. This is not to be confused with placing your troops in positions of peril if they would fail.

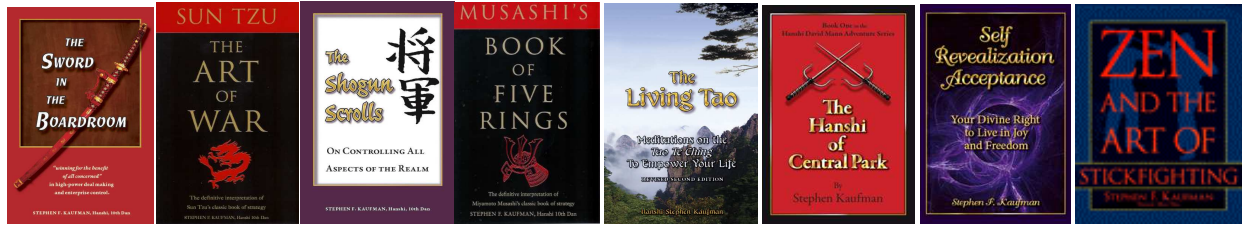
In these matters, a man of wisdom, a great warlord, will emerge victorious from conflict. His armies will revel in glory and they will see him as a great leader. He will acknowledge their tribute but he will not dance in his own light.

It is because of understanding these things that the victorious warlord will see his men fight with the fury and joy of expected victory in their hearts.

If the warlord does not do these things he should never have gotten to this position.

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