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The Hanshi Reader

...words that matter!

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A weekly sampler of Hanshi Stephen Kaufman's writings.

World-renowned Author, Universally Acknowledged Distinguished Grandmaster and Educator

A True Founding Father of American Karate – since 1958



Hanshi Stephen Kaufman

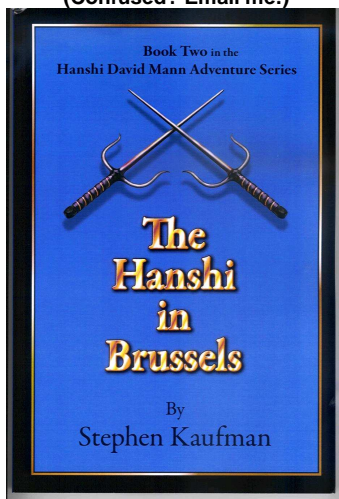
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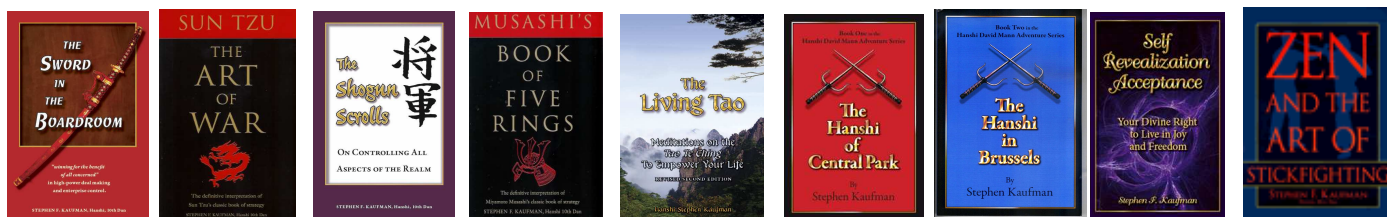


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THE HANSHI READER®

From the *Hanshi's Book of Apothegms*

If you can't do it right, you can't do it gnorw! ©SFK



See last page of newsletter for links to Hanshi's *Red Room author page*, *Video presentations*, *The Art of War interview* and *Hanshi - "In His Own Words."* Also visit Peggy Thompson's site where you can view her photography.

Q&A and Reader Comments

Dear Mr. Kaufman,

I have recently read your interpretation of Musashi's, *Book of Five Rings*, which I have thoroughly enjoyed. I see that the copyright is 1994 and that you live in New York City.

I live in Pacific Palisades which is in Los Angeles. I would like to know if there is anyone in the United States and preferably in the Los Angeles area in particular that you would recommend as a sensei that is qualified to teach Musashi's two-handed swords and spiritual ideas? I would be most grateful sir if you could provide me with any contacts in regard to a master that is competent to teach me about Musashi and the wisdom contained in his spiritual teaching. To my knowledge there is no one in L.A. that is capable of teaching Musashi's art of swordsmanship or strategy.

Your book was beautifully written and I intend to read all of your books in the future. I am a humble student of the martial arts. You write like someone who knows what he is talking about from personal experience. I would be honored to meet you one day. Any help that you can provide would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Dear Mr. Allan,

Thank you for your kind comments. As the book enters its 14th year of success I feel that I have been most fortunate to have been able to provide direction for so many people and I appreciate when I receive letters (email) from persons such as you.

The reality of the situation is that because of the necessity to actually "live the life" few, (if that many) are capable of understanding to the depths Musashi's ideas much less be able to teach them properly irrespective of the martial style or form being used for demonstration. One would certainly imagine that in an area like LA with its enormous martial arts populace there would be, but alas, I don't know of any. The same would apply to other areas such as New York, Chicago, wherever. There is however an unusually large percentage of folk who think they do and that is primarily an intellectual supposition on their part, competency notwithstanding. As a result of the insipidness of the vast majority of boneheads I have decided to withdraw from commonality and prefer to teach directly in a one on one situation to those I feel are qualified for the transmission.

If you would care to maintain a dialog then by all means do so and I will answer your questions as adequately as necessary. I would need to know a bit more about you and what your level of experience is both martial and otherwise.

I have also taken the liberty of including your email address on my private newsletter mailing list for the weekly *Hanshi Reader*. I am available for seminars and group study in your area if you are so interested. As well, feel free to visit www.hanshi.com to order any of my books and familiarize yourself with what I offer.

Best regards, Hanshi S. Kaufman

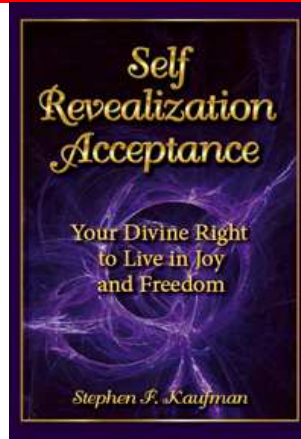
P.S. Don't be humble – you may be too important for that.

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Getting the most out of a Self-Revealization Acceptance

The prescribed method for getting permanent value from the weekly Self-Revealization Acceptance is to listen to it a few times. They are not that long and will not take that much of your time. Once you have the idea that is being presented you should print out the copy on the newsletter and read it while making various changes to it that will enhance your own life experiences. When you read about a particular situation that you want to correct, put in your own words and you will make the Self-Revealization Acceptance your very own. As an example, the words such as changing a situation could also be defined as the cessation of smoking, the refusal to ingest junk food, a new vision of yourself as healthy and without any physical problems, etc. You are always invited to email me with your ideas for a specific Self-Revealization Acceptance such as the one you will listen to now.

This Week's Self-Revealization Acceptance



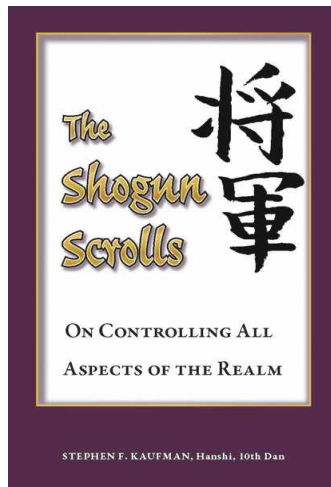
I Accept the Authority to Change the World

I come to understand the simplicity of creating a life experience for myself that enables me to change the world for the benefit of all concerned with myself as the primary recipient of good. I accept the reality of the definitions for things that I want manifested in my life. The ability to do this is based on my evolving awareness of the power of **Self-Revealization Acceptance** that I learn to use with more ease and grace each time I invoke its authority. I take the required time to define exactly what I want to experience in my life relative to my health, my finances, my work, and my relationships, regardless of the present conditions. When something happens in my life that is not in accord with my desires, I instantly redefine my objectives with more care for what I demand that the **Spirit of the Thing Itself** delivers to me. I am more firmly convinced than ever before that this is the right thing for me to do. Because I am capable of determining my own destiny, I know that I am free from the confines of being unduly influenced by others to act in accordance with their wishes. I do not permit my life to be governed by wishes but rather a strict verbalization of my desires in easy to understand words that keep me from being interfered with by random and incorrect thoughts while I am focusing on my new ideas. As I enter into this wonderful and marvelous holiday season I am filled with the knowingness that the more I concentrate on my own desires, without imposing my attitudes on anyone or anything, I become freer in my life to experience all the good there is by my **Divine Right to Live in Joy and Freedom** by clarity of thought and clarity of purpose. I give thanks to the Creative Power of the universe for this inordinate ability of **Self-Revealization Acceptance** that has been revealed to me. I use my new accepted authority for my own good and I use it to better experience all the good there is in the world as having been put there for my pleasure. I accept my gifts with complete gratitude.

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This week's excerpt

The Shogun Scrolls



Chapter One How Power Comes to Be

Power comes to a man in various ways. Undoubtedly, it is granted to a man by his personal choice. It is based on his desire to rule or to be ruled. The extent to which that desire is expressed will be made manifest in his life. It does not matter if it is the desire to control an entire country or a desire to control a small faction with a private interest. It depends on a man's thoughts and the manner in which he accepts the truth of his own greatness.

Such was the thinking of your brother, Yoshitsune, when he wrested control from the Taira clan. He observed their obvious weaknesses, which became more evident when they expressed a preference to live the aristocratic life and forgot the ways of the warrior. They forgot how they took control from the Fujiwara clan and soon became arrogant and slovenly in their attitudes and actions. Your brother imposed his desire on those circumstances and it permitted him to become a great general.

Power is a private matter, recently structured as new or passed from generation to generation, being subject to the fates and a man's desire. The civil domain is maintained by means of subjecting the population by force, irrespective of appearance, and only works when there is respect for the leader. It does not matter if this respect is in the form of love or fear. Leaders maintain power by a consensus of opinion and the timely showing of strength: their own. As shogun, you control the entire country and should anyone interfere with your authority they should be eliminated, including their entire bloodline. This is always reasonable if anyone interferes with the shogun's control.

There is little difference in civil or private control; it is always based on desire and the personal ability of the leader. To maintain control in either public or private matters you must understand the rules which you yourself establish for control. You must be quick of mind to change these rules when it befits the needs of the moment. It is also important to understand the temperament of the people you presently command and those you wish to command. Then, with correct action, changes can be made and you can progress to your liking. Under no circumstances can you ever remain passive and static. If you are indecisive you will jeopardize your authority. There are times, however, that your strength can be reinforced through leniency, but without indulgence when dealing with dissenters.

It is also a requirement that you come to terms with and appear to be friendly with all of the people in your domain. Your feelings must be sincere when they are expressed, although your thoughts may be grounded in deception. There can be no room for mediocrity in the shogun's thinking. This will permit insolence and subterfuge to develop which must be guarded against wholeheartedly with regards to both friends and enemies. It will also permit flatterers to interfere with your decisions.

Flatterers must be especially guarded against but they can be used to your advantage by deceiving their affections. It is better to use them if you feel they have any value at all, and it doesn't matter who they know or the power they may think they wield. If they are useless, rid yourself of them.

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Remember, if you will, when Nobunaga Oka was governing Miai Province. He constantly found himself surrounded by well-wishers who only sought to maintain their own positions when Emperor Antoku gave him special consideration during the Taira reign. The people in his domain continually sent him gifts of all types entreating him to intercede on their behalf with the emperor until Oka became enamored of himself. It was then that he found himself unable to deal harshly when it was required. He soon lost control of the government, fell out of favor with the emperor, and was deposed by his own generals. They saw he was not being sincere with anyone, including themselves, unless he was approached with a gift. Nobunaga's acceptance of flattery led him to arrogance and he thought he could demand anything of anyone in his court. Eventually, no one would heed his orders. In dishonor, he was requested to commit suicide.

If you are in power then everyone must know you are in command or simply, you are not. If you maintain control in this manner, all the people will think they are deriving advantage and enjoying your personal guarantee. If you do not act in such a manner, you may be considered weak-minded and it will cause your downfall. Everyone, me included, should be used as a tool for the realization of your greatness.

There are many things to know and there are many things to learn. It is a never-ending process.

Want more?

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The Shogun Scrolls

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Author's Red Room blog

<http://www.redroom.com/author/stephen-kaufman-0>

Video presentations for Hanshi's books

<http://www.youtube.com/user/hanshi422>

The 'Infamous' Art of War interview

<http://www.sonshi.com/kaufman.html>

Hanshi Kaufman "In His Own Words"

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Peggy Thompson's Photography

<http://www.youtube.com/user/northwestshutterbug>

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