

Sun Tzu Ping-Fa (Sun Tzu's *Art of Warfare*)

Why and how is this book of “military strategies” also so profoundly philosophical and relevant to everyday life as well? Try and look for some clues.

*Warfare is

- a. An Art of State Management [Ch I]
- b. An Art of Deception [Ch I]
- c. An Art of Appropriation [Ch II]
- d. An Art of Timing [Ch II]
- e. An Art of Using Troops [Ch III]
- f. An Art of Knowledge: self-knowledge and knowledge of the other [Ch III]

A Few Sample Key Quotes (Locate them on your own in the textbook)

- Warfare is the art (tao) of deceit. Therefore, when able, seem to be unable; when ready, seem unready; when nearby, seem far away; and when far away, seem near.
- He who knows the enemy and himself will never in a hundred battles be at risk; He who does not know the enemy but knows himself will sometimes win and sometimes lose; He who knows neither the enemy nor himself will be at risk in every battle.
- That the velocity of cascading water can send boulders bobbing about is due to its strategic advantage (shih). That a bird of prey when it strikes can smash its victim to pieces is due to its timing. So it is with the expert at battle that his strategic advantage (shih) is channeled and his timing is precise. His strategic advantage (shih) is like a drawn crossbow and his timing is like releasing the trigger. Even amidst the tumult and the clamor of battle, in all its confusion, he cannot be confused. Even amidst the melee and the brawl of battle, with positions shifting every which way, he cannot be defeated. Disorder is born from order; cowardice from courage; weakness from strength. The line between disorder and order lies in logistics (shu); between cowardice and courage, in strategic advantage (shih); and between weakness and strength, in strategic positioning (hsing).
- The art of using troops is this: Do not depend on the enemy not coming; depend rather on being ready for him. Do not depend on the enemy not attacking; depend rather on having a position that cannot be attacked.