

THE "KUNG-FU" OF THE TORAH SCHOLAR WARRIOR

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The Torah lesson about Ya'akov Avinu teaches one great thing more than any other and that is that life is full of conflicts and struggle. Unless one rises up to the occasion, confronts conflicts and struggles with them head on one will face humiliating defeat one after another. Life is struggle. This harsh reality cannot be denied; what's more, it should never be avoided.

The definition of psychological/spiritual maturity can be defined as one who successfully confronts conflict. Success in conflict does not always mean that one has to go to war, in the normative sense. There are many ways to fight a war. One can learn these ways of battle by observing how Ya'akov dealt successively with Laban, Esav and Shekhem. In each of these cases, Ya'akov was faced with a harsh conflict and responded differently, yet successfully to each. Indeed, his role model of being a wise warrior would have impressed even the likes of Sun Tzu, the famous Chinese General and author of the military classic, The Art of War.



Confronting conflict is a necessity. Fighting, however involves many options. More wars are won through words than through bloodshed. Yet, there is a time for bloodshed, even as there is a time for words. Successful conflict resolution must take into account when each is to be used. Only the foolish rely exclusively on bloodshed. Only the suicidal rely exclusively on words. There is a time and a purpose for all things under Heaven.

Those who abhor conflict and take flight instead of fight should be ashamed of themselves. Cowardice is a sure sign of personal immaturity and a lack of healthy psychological development. Mature and responsible individuals stand up for themselves and for their beliefs, defending them when necessary using whatever methods that are appropriate for the conflict at hand. Those who cower deserve to be overcome and denied the expression of that which they willingly chose not to defend.

FREEDOM IS NOT GIVEN; IT IS EARNED.
FREEDOM ONLY SURIVES FOR THOSE WILLING TO FIGHT FOR IT.

Ya'akov Avinu was a crafty individual. His wiles won him much, but at the same time, his wiles were turned against him causing him great suffering. Crafty wiles have their place, but beware, for they are a two-edged sword. When you act with craft against others, you stand the chance of others learning from you how to be crafty and then to use your own craft against you. Laban experienced this with Ya'akov and Ya'akov experienced this with his own sons (remember the Yosef cover-up).

Life itself is one great learning experience. Heaven sends our souls down here into this mess of a world in order for us to become educated. Essentially, life is school. Conflicts are our tests and the Watcher Angers (Dan. 4:14) are the grading teachers. We can pass through school getting grades ranging from "A" to "F." We can choose to pass with flying colors; we can choose to fail miserably or like most we can choose to come out somewhere in-between. "B's" and "C's" are acceptable grades, but they are not outstanding.

Only those outstanding rise to the head of the class. They graduate school (life in this world) and translate into Angelic Entities in Heaven. All others have to continue their education. "B" and "C" students continue their education. Each "grade" is a new life time filled with more and more challenges and conflicts. The more one learns, the better one progresses through the "school of life." Those however who fail, receiving an "F" grade in life, like in school are "left back." These under-achieving souls often are reincarnated into lower life forms because they are no longer able to maintain being human and handing being an entity "created in the Image of G-d." They go back down, but eventually they must rise back up. There is no dropping out of the school of life. One must make it through, no matter how long it takes or how hard one makes it for oneself.

Long ago our Sages taught us, "ma'aseh avot siman l'banim" (the deeds of our ancestors are role models for us). This is how Moses recorded for us the arts of war centuries before Sun Tzu ever came to Earth. The role models of our ancestors have much to teach us about real life and living in the real world. There is no way to avoid conflicts; yet there are many ways to resolve them. Learning how to properly resolve conflicts, each in their own unique way, each according to their own unique set of circumstances is the lessons that we are sent here to Earth to learn. This is why we have Torah. It teaches us to become wise.

Wisdom is the greatest weapon of war. Mastering Torah thus makes one a General in the great fight against ignorance and evil. Yes, ignorance is evil. But evil has many different faces. Only with wisdom can one come to recognize them all. Only with wisdom and Torah will one cultivate the ability and the know-how when to use craft, when to use words and when to use bloodshed, all in the never-ending conflict.

A master of Torah is the true Scholar-Warrior. His "kung-fu" is the wisdom Torah teaches. He fights with all weapons at hand. Defeat is not an option. Victory is required and victory must be absolute.

Torah is the true Art of War, for it teaches us not only about the external enemy and how he is to be confronted, Torah also teaches us about the greater enemy, the one within ourselves, and how it must be confronted and defeated. For there can never be victory over external enemies in the world at large prior to their first being victory against the enemies of bad character within each individual.

ONLY STRONG INDIVIDUALS CAN CREATE A STRONG SOCIETY.

ONLY FREE INDIVIDUALS CAN CREATE A FREE SOCIETY.

THERE CAN BE NO STRENGTH WITHOUT EXERCISE;

THERE CAN BE NO FREEDOM WITHOUT STRUGGLE.

NO PAIN, NO GAIN!

The true children of Ya'akov merit a new name and are called the Sons of Yisrael. They are children of steel who never yield to the curse of a coward's fear. They burn with dreams and turn their dreams into history. 600,000 brave and bold source souls, they embrace what they are told. The Sons of Yisrael fight even the angels of G-d and defeat them. True Sons of Yisrael, the Scholar-Warrior masters of Torah fight for right with might.

Who today rises up to the call to be a true child of Ya'akov, a true Son of Yisrael? Let such a one (male or female) then follow Ya'akov/Yisrael and stand up and be counted as an "A" student in life. Rise up and confront life's challenges with Torah wisdom. Be able to fight each battle properly, each with the right tools.

Take the world, shake the world, and as our Sages said so long ago, in a place where there no longer are any men, strive to be a man! Only then will one become a true Son of Yisrael and a Scholar Warrior master of Torah, as was our father before us!