

"I hope martial artists are more interested in the root of martial arts and not the different decorative branches, flowers, or leaves. It is futile to argue as to which design of branches, or which attractive flower you like; when you understand the root, you understand all its' blossoming."

- Bruce Lee



CHAPTER I

DEFINING THE SECRETS OF WARRIORSHIP

THE LAW OF BEING DILIGENT IN ALL THINGS (1.1.1)

"THE ART OF WAR" IS WRITTEN TWO AND HALF THOUSAND YEARS AGO, IN CHINA, BY THE STRATEGIST AND, EXTRAORDINARILY, INSIGHTFUL, GENERAL, SUN TZU. IT BEGINS:

*"The art of war is of vital importance to the state.
It is a matter of life and death, road either to safety or to ruin.
Hence under no circumstance can it be neglected."*

- Sun Tzu

In reading Sun Tzu, the emphasis Sun Tzu places on mastering "warriorship" need not only be for preparing oneself in peacetime for war and in war for peace, as one might interpret Sun Tzu's entire works to suggest. Like Machiavelli's, *The Prince*, Miyamoto Musashi's, *The Book of Five Rings*, and Sun Tzu's, *The Art of War*, all of these treatise on how to wage war, equally, show how the same, once highly guarded, "secret ways" to achieve victory on a battlefield can be deployed in the day to day struggles we all must endure, that includes everything going on from the infighting taking place in a corporate environment to what people commonly refer to as "the war of the sexes."

THE ART OF WAR SUN TZU EDITED WITH FOREWORD BY JAMES CLAVELL, DELL PUBLISHING 1983

Like the very nature of martial arts these aforementioned works are all in essence all alike and, nonetheless, they are each distinctly made different. Principally, this is largely due to the fact that regarding any subject, no matter how sincere, forthright and unbiased one may earnestly strive to be, there exist no means of escaping or abandoning one's own personal experiences, insights and prejudices - "truths." For example, in the 1970's, I was one of the few martial art practitioners who actively engaged in resistance/weight training and cross training, having seen no evidence that it "slows you down," as the martial art masters who were condemning me for doing so insisted that it would. This condemnation was occurring at a time when "purity" was seen in the form of traditional study. Staying the course and "being pure" was being stressed to me as the only acceptable and "authentic"



path to one's attaining true skill and enlightenment, regarding warriorship. Bruce Lee had yet to make his indelible imprint upon the world with the exception of his acting debut, as Kato, the sidekick to the Green Hornet. In fact, Bruce Lee was openly chastised and labeled a "heretic," and "just another Hollywood wanna-be hip, slick and cool, opportunist" for ascribing to and promoting the same belief, back then. Eventually, as the truth made itself known, Bruce Lee, the "heretic," now epitomizes the image of what "an authentic" martial artist is suppose to be. The fervent argument is now a mute point, as resistance/weight and cross training is not only an accepted practice but such training is made mandatory by today's physical challenges in and out of the martial art arena.



I came away from this experience recognizing the fact that the way of the warrior is not conformity; it is not even tradition. It is rather the unwavering pursuit and defense of the truth and only the truth, as it is the root of all knowledge, which governs all things, including, all forms of combat. Notably, with one's transition from neophyte to warrior one easily recognizes that the truth alone does not command a decisive advantage over any adversary that is or is not, operating in ignorance. Knowing the truth only empowers those who KNOW...who CAN AND WHO WILL ACT, upon it! Nevertheless, knowing the truth is why the warrior makes a practice out of knowing their enemy, first, and draws a comparison between them before deciding and setting out on any course of action.

*Putting one's faith in the truth and acting in accordance to it,
by not straying from it, is akin to the precept professed in Bushido,
the ancient Samurai warrior's code of conduct.
It is all that is required of one for attaining true victory or supreme skill.*



Obeying the truth is to follow the path that leads one to enlightenment, in all things. It is why ancient books on swordsmanship and their strategies and tactics, that reveal certain truths, consistently, are finding their way into the boardrooms of imperial, powerful, multi-national corporations. Consequently, it is what martial art masters have, metaphorically, been describing as, "The view from the mountaintop that all martial arts, eventually, lead to" or what others, humbly, prefer to refer to as, "The Toolbox."