

# TREATISE ON SPIRITUAL COMBAT

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### THE CONQUEROR'S PRAYER

"I arise today through God's strength to pilot me:  
God's might to uphold me,  
God's wisdom to guide me,  
God's eye to look before me,  
God's ear to hear me,  
God's Word to speak to me,  
God's hand to guard me,  
God's way to lie before me,  
God's shield to protect me,  
God's host to save me,  
From snares of demons,  
From temptations of vices,  
From everyone who shall wish me ill,  
Afar and anear,  
Alone and in multitude.

I summon today all these powers between me and those evils,  
Against every cruel merciless power  
that may oppose my body and soul,  
Against incantations of false prophets,  
Against black laws of pagandom,  
Against false laws of heretics,  
Against craft of idolatry,  
Against spells of witches and wizards,  
Against every knowledge that corrupts man's body and soul.

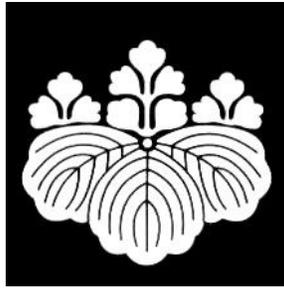
Christ as a light, illumine and guide me!  
Christ as a shield, o'ershadow and cover me!  
Against poison, against burning,  
Against drowning, against wounding,  
So that there may come to me abundance of reward.

Christ with me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ on my right,  
Christ on my left,

Christ when I lie down,  
Christ when I sit down,  
Christ when I arise,  
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.

I arise today  
Through a mighty strength,  
the invocation of the Holy Trinity,  
Through belief in the Threeness,  
Through confession of the Oneness,  
Of the Creator of Creation".

- St.PATRICK (390-461)



'In the dark I drew my sword and I heard the sword's song and it was beautiful'.

Brothers and Warriors, a long time ago the great Apostle John exhorted us: "I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the WORD [Tao/Logos] lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one". Therefore, if you, too, wish to be engaged in spiritual warfare and be victorious ponder the words of the wise and to follow their example.

You should know that to sense and comprehend after action is not worthy of being called comprehension. To accomplish after striving is not worthy of being called accomplishment. To know after seeing is not worthy of being called knowing. These three are far from the Way of the warrior, when he truly feels a spiritual sensing before action, and therefore responds to warfare accordingly.

Indeed, to be able to do something before it exists, sense something before it becomes active, and see something before it sprouts, are the three great abilities of the warrior that should develop interdependently. Furthermore, comprehension in a state of quiescence (revelation and illumination) can comprehend anything, accomplishment without striving (grace) can accomplish anything, knowing without seeing (discerning and understanding) can know anything - these are the true qualities of a spiritual-warrior and his proper response to the ever working Tao/Logos.

Brothers, let me start from the beginning.

As you know, the wars that the descendants of Adam are waging today are not true holy

wars. Taking other lives in the name of religion or God is not true religion at all, is not your warfare. We will have to answer for that kind of cruelty and crime when we are questioned either in this life or in the grave. Well, some may say: warfare is fought for the sake of men, for the sake of earth, for the sake of one's children, one's wife, and one's possessions. But, in fact, your selfish intentions are intermingled within such combat. God knows man's heart, and he is not at all misled by man's arguments.

True warfare is to praise God in all life's difficulties and to cut away inner enemies which deceive and binds us up.

When wisdom and clarity come to us by the Spirit of Tao/Logos, we will understand that the enemies of Truth are within our own hearts. There are many spiritual enemies within our bodies and our mind: sensual pleasures, backbiting, deceit, jealousy, envy, idolatry, treachery, theft, lust, murder, arrogance, the separation of I and you, mine and yours, falsehood, illusion, occult arts or magic, love of money, and so on. These are the enemies which separate us from the Holy God, from His Truth, from true worship, from good actions and good thoughts, and from faith, certitude, and determination. These are the greatest enemies which create divisions and enmity among the children of Adam and prevent us from attaining a state of harmony, love and peace.

Among many of those who claim the Truth, there are only a few who truly understand and fight the war against the enemy within, the enemy who stands between them and God, the enemy who does not accept God's will, thus never bowing down and prostrating oneself before Him. To cut our connection from this enemy who is leading us to hell is true spiritual warfare, the "holy war" which finds appreciation in the Trinity. In this meaning, the LORD Yeshua said, 'Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction..., but small is the gate and narrow road that leads to life, and only a few find it'.

Therefore, a spiritual-warrior learns to discern the various forms of this warfare: the different wiles, the incredible military ruses, which our invisible enemies use against us through the senses, through sin, through fantasy, through the loss of the fear of God; and through the five suggestions, which enter into the mind and heart - unbelief, vain glory, fear, despair, and the deception of demons who we assume to be the angels of light, thus breeding heresy. But in discerning all this, spiritual-warriors learn at the same time how to frustrate these wiles of the enemy and to resist them. They learn of a strategic action to take and what spiritual laws of war they must follow in each particular case, and the way to obtain true courage necessary for the battle. In brief, then, I would say, that every man who desires salvation, must learn how to wage this "unseen warfare" and to conquer his invisible enemies, or he himself will be defeated. So, he must acquire the treasure of true divine virtues and knowledge and wisdom from God, in order to be rewarded with an incorruptible crown, the token of eternal life, which is the union with God, both now and in eternity.

Inevitably, strive not merely to fight, but to fight according to spiritual laws, to fight as you should, so that you may be crowned. For, the great Apostle exhorts, 'If anyone

competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules' (2 Tim.2.5). So, as to strike down your inner and invisible enemies - evil thoughts and demons, arm yourself and 'put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil'. Strive, then, with all your might to turn your enemies back, to put them to shame and overcome them with every good virtues, Christ's perfection and holiness in you.

Warriors, once we realize who is the foremost enemy of mankind and this Treasure of Truth, the Holy Seed of Tao/Logos hidden in your own heart, then we can begin our merciless battles against that bloody enemy. And that is the only "holy war" which the Almighty accepts.

Just as God does have a constant not murder others not kill His children because inclination towards evil, we or to cut them down in the of religion or our own killing. Killing only justice. No good can come stimulates more killing they must name from and evil in its domain. We must fight the battle between that which is permissible under God's law and that which is forbidden. If we do not do this and transgress the boundaries of love, then evil will kill that which is good in us, and the Seed of Truth will be destroyed.

Restrain your judgment, criticism and accusation. Instead, we must try to improve and demonstrate our love by showing others compassion, wisdom, patience, and all good virtues (Rom.12). That is our primary concern and responsibility. If we can conquer the worldly mind and its tendencies in us, we will see the Kingdom and Christ's great approval. May every one of us think about this and wage his own inner war, fight the enemy within and prevail.

As our Great God constantly shows compassion to all His creatures even if He knows all our sins and bad tendencies in our hearts -- so we have to do also. In this way, we must help ourselves and others to remove our evil nature by love, to teach what is good, and lead a good example, that we all might become holy priests and princesses of God.

Brothers, if we act with love and compassion and in unity, we can expel all our evil characteristics and live as one family, as one race under the sun, as the enlightened and purified children of God, bowing to the only One LORD. And once we understand and apply this truth we become liberated from greed and egotism. But as long we only understand but do not apply and do not cut all evil bonds which entangle us, then we are far away from the Truth.

In this "unseen warfare", then, when you cut with your holy sword these evil of your own heart, it might hurt you, it might crush you. It might cause anger and suffering. When a child is cut or hurt, the pain makes him cry. He may scream and fight and kick or maybe even bite you. He may shout, 'I hate you, I want to kill you!', but you must embrace him with love and patiently explain things to him, always remembering that the bad within the child is from the adversary, not the child himself.

Warriors, as you know, man has two forms, two faces or personages, each with its own set of characteristics and rules. There is in each of us an inner man, created in the image of its Creator, which should be renewed day by day, and an outer man, a rebellious, a carnal one with an inclination to deception, evil and death. The war then between these two personages is waged on the three levels.

One war is waged in the mind, in the dark kingdom of illusion, in which the evil in us and the enemy operates. Once we win this battle within, then we are ready to begin our work outside. The second warfare is against evil in this world, where all creation is involved and suffers because of conflicts, ideology or religion men profess, and ecological destruction. We fight against this war with love and a good example.

The third warfare is in the heavenly places, against the wicked and satanic spirits which always are looking for dominion and annihilation of everything God has created. This eschatological warfare is against the evil in the spirit realms in this world. There you will see in the spirit; the fallen angelic Rulers, the Authorities, the Powers, and the Forces of evil, and against them you must daily arm yourself (Eph.6.10-20). This warfare you wage in the spirit through the Spirit, by the Blood and the words of your testimony, or better, your holy conduct (Rev.12.11), with fervent prayer and fasting. Therefore, clothe yourself in Christ's righteousness, His purity, and His mighty power. Put on the armor of light, and follow the eternal Tao/Logos, that you won't be defeated, but be victorious.

These three are the major battles we are called to wage daily and to display God's Kingdom in power till He returns.

In all your battles try with all your might to reach the secret place of the innermost heart of God. This is where His essence and the Kingdom can be found. He is your mighty Fortress and your Refuge. All the secrets of the world and the victorious strategy of the "unseen warfare" are contained within this Heart. This Kingdom of justice and purity, compassion and enlightened wisdom can be found also in the pure souls of Christ's representatives, here and there; His angels, prophets, saints, sages, and warriors of the spirit. Therefore, I urge you, Brothers, do not go to this battle without reaching the secret place of God's innermost heart, it is the only place where you can find guidance, nourishment and true peace.

Until we reach a full understanding of the science of "unseen spiritual warfare", we have to wage a "holy war" within ourselves. To show and demonstrate how to cut away this enemy within and to teach ourselves how to establish an unshakable connection with the Holy One. And He will help us in all our endeavors. This battle within should be faced with faith, certitude, righteousness, and determination, holding the Sacred Sword of Yeshua, the Sword of Life, the Sword of Wisdom, the Sword of Peace. As it is written, "The God of Peace will soon crush Satan under your feet" (Rom.16.20). So, we cut away the evil forces that keep charging against us daily in different forms, with the Tao/Logos in our heart and mouth, until all our inner enemies are made a footstool for our feet ( Ps .1 1 0. 1; Hbr. 1.1 3).

Truly, in "unseen warfare" a great warrior must see alone and know alone, meaning that he must see what others do not see and know what others do not know. Seeing what

others do not see is called brilliance, knowing what others do not know is called mystery of strategy, or better, genius. Therefore, brilliant genius wins first, meaning that he defends in a such a way as to be unassailable and attacks in a such way as to be irresistible.

This is the true meaning of spiritual warfare, and this I pass to you.

My Brothers, Warriors, may the peace of our Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ be with us always. He gave Himself for us, to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself holy-warriors that are His very own. God is able and sufficient for all. Amen.

THE END OF THE TREATISE

