

# **Manual of the Warrior of Light Study Guide**

**Manual of the Warrior of Light by Paulo Coelho**

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## Plot Summary

The Warrior of the Light is an enlightening, philosophical book about a young boy's path through spiritual battle. At the beginning of the book, the boy is talking to a woman, who tells him the story of an island with a temple. The temple has many bells, and she tells him it is worth his while to go to the edge of the village and listen for them. He does as the mysterious woman tells him to do but does not hear a thing. He asks a fisherman in the village about the island, and he tells the boy there had been a temple on the island, but an earthquake made the building collapse. Even though the island is no longer visible from the village's shore, the people can sometime still hear the bells when the wind whistles through the island. The boy becomes obsessed with hearing the bells and loses interest in school, his friends, and family. People tease him for wanting so desperately to hear the bells, yet he never gives up faith that he will hear them one day.

Six months after having talked to the mysterious woman, the boy was still waiting to hear the bells. Fishermen passed by, insisting they had heard them, hoping it would give him a bit of a reprieve. Then one day, a fisherman tells him perhaps it is only fishermen who can hear the bells, and with that, the boy decides he will study to become a fisherman so that one day he can hear the bells. He looks around and at the ocean, more calm and relieved that he can return to play with his friends. He knew he had not wasted time, and that one day he would be able to hear the bells when he was grown and would become a fisherman. He could hear the sea again, the seagulls, and the wind that rustled through the palm trees. It had been more than six months since he had heard these sounds because he was so obsessed with listening for the bells. When finally he heard the voices of his dear friends, he also heard the first bell ring, then another, until all the bells were ringing in the drowned temple.

He did not have to grow up to hear the bells after all. Years later, he went back home to that same beach. He was no longer obsessed with the bells and thinks perhaps it was his imagination that he had heard the bells. Still, he decided to try to listen for them among the cry of the seagulls, just to see if he could. To his surprise, he saw the mysterious woman from his childhood. She has not changed or aged a bit. He asks her what she is doing at the beach. She hands him a blue notebook and tells him to write about being a Warrior of the Light. These are the pages that he has written.



# Pages 1-16

## Pages 1-16 Summary

The Warrior of the Light is philosophical book about a young boy's path through spiritual battle. A woman is telling the boy the story of an island with a temple. The temple has many bells, and he should go to the edge of the village and listen for them. He does so but does not hear anything. A fisherman in the village tells the boy there had been a temple on the island, but an earthquake collapsed the building. Even though the island is no longer visible, the people can sometimes hear the bells when the wind whistles through the island. The boy becomes obsessed with hearing the bells and loses interest in everything else. Though teased, he never gives up faith that he will hear them one day.

The man writing the book says that a Warrior of the Light has a lot for which to be grateful. Angels accompany a Warrior of the Light and celestial forces keep him focused so that he always does his best. People say he is lucky, because the Warrior achieves greatness far beyond his capabilities. The Warrior of the Light is always grateful and never forgets those who have spilled their blood on the battlefield with him. He always knows that his help is needed and does not need to be reminded to share the rewards of his lifetime. The heart of the Warrior runs the world, and without him, there would be chaos. Warriors are free to choose whatever they desire; they can choose to fight or not. The Warrior of the Light always makes his decisions with courage, detachment, and a bit of madness when need be. A Warrior also embraces his passions and never loses sight of the things that matter most.

A Warrior relies on his strength and the strength of his opponent. He is always strong and enthusiastic during battle and knows that what counts the most is experience. The Warrior of the Light opens his heart to God and asks for the inspiration to learn from his enemy and be able to defeat the enemy. Warriors are very superstitious and will stop at the right time during a battle to pray. A Warrior's companions mock him for being so superstitious, thinking it a weakness to show respect for an opponent. The Warrior knows that without inspiration, experience, and faith, no amount of training will help him.

Warriors never resort to trickery because there is no pride in that but will use any legitimate strategy to win. Sometimes he is judged, but he wastes no time convincing others he is making the right decision. A wise Chinese once said that it does not matter who wins single battles, but who wins the war. The wise man believes a warrior should never be ashamed to fake weakness to fool his opponent into believing that he is losing control. The key to winning is to surprise your opponent. Many people boast, yet they are lonely behind an air of independence, thus the Warrior is wary about appearances. He seeks the truth in people, because he can use other people's fronts to better himself. He is always learning from other people. Sometimes the Warrior fights those whom he loves, but he is quick to defend his friends and always comes through for them.



A Warrior has to show his followers how to use a sword. His students sometimes provoke him; he immediately disarms them and returns order to his classroom. He does this because by challenging them, he is able to keep them on their toes. Before going on a battle, a Warrior questions his abilities and thus learns more about fighting. Once a battle is over, the warrior decides if he has fought a battle based on a lie, or if he risked his life for people who do not even care about him or his efforts. He, though, is a victor, and a victor will never make the same mistake twice and is willing to risk his life for something worthwhile.

A Warrior believes in the I Ching, which means "to persevere is favorable." A war that lasts longer than it should destroys the victors, too. When a warrior realizes he has been in the same place before, he realizes that he needs to strive to go beyond that place. This is how the Warrior evolves to become unpredictable. A Warrior is never scared to cry about the past or to be happy at new things and does not waste time thinking about what others think of him. His madness is just a disguise in order to keep his opponent guessing.

## Pages 1-16 Analysis

A Warrior needs to have a touch of madness because it is not easy going into battle. During battle, the Warrior has to charge at full speed and forget about everything that he has because all he has is his sword, and all he knows are his soldiers that surround him, and his enemies that confront them. If a Warrior's head is not in the game, then he is not only putting himself in danger, but he is surrendering his friends and family on the battlefield, and those that await his safe return. Warriors embrace their passions because they know that they could be short lived. They have to enjoy every moment of their lives in order to stay focused.

It seems a bit contradictory when the man begins to write about the Chinese man. The Warrior originally writes that it is not fair to use trickery against an opponent, and that only honest measures of winning should be used. However, the Chinese man says it is fine to use trickery, so long as it is simply distracting the opponent in order to get him to think that the Warrior is weak. When the opponent thinks the Warrior is getting weak and defeated, the opponent attacks too soon, only to be surprised by a still-strong Warrior.

A Warrior is aware that the warrior may have fought a battle that is based on a lie. An example of this is in modern wars where people fight for political gain. Though the population may not believe in the war, and cannot appreciate people fighting over something they do not believe in, the soldier still goes out and fights because it is his job to do so. A warrior does not question his orders. It is part of the job description to go when the order is given.



# Pages 17-35

## Pages 17-35 Summary

The Warrior of Light walks on a path created by God. Though he suffers, he knows he chose the path. He studies strategies carefully to win in battle. To overcome obstacles, he has alternative strategies, is determined, and figures out a way to advance. As he advances, he is faced with things he did not imagine, but he still moves forward or he will not win. A Warrior knows his own faults and his qualities. He does not think about others who have it better than he does, and he makes the best of his virtues. He always carries faith, hope and love, which give him strength to do battle.

Every Warrior has been afraid, betrayed, lied to, gone down the wrong path, suffered for small things, and failed his spiritual duties. He has said yes when he should have said no, has hurt a loved one, and doubted himself. Yet, a Warrior never loses sight of his goal of being better than he already is. A Warrior believes in the words of T.H. Huxley, who said the world is like a chessboard, and the decisions we make are the pieces of the game. The players always act rationally, and God never overlooks the moves people make, nor excuses the mistakes of his favorite players. Warriors remain calm to analyze each step carefully, however small a decision it may be. The Warrior will win if he has made the right decision; otherwise, he will have to start all over again, the second time with more wisdom.

A Warrior shares his life with his loved ones and encourages them to live with courage and devotion. When the enemy tries to get the Warrior to doubt himself, the Warrior has to convince himself of the same things he tells his family. He cannot doubt himself, and has to continue with all of his faults, knowing that he can persevere with the love of his family members. The Warrior often refers to the words of La Tzu, who warns the Warrior to never get sloppy. The second he slips up could be the exact moment when he could have won the battle. A Warrior of the Light meditates often to allow his gifts to emerge. He is guided by his heart, which answers the questions of his mind. A Warrior must also know that while he has to act, he has to let the universe take its course, too. He cannot win every battle, no matter how hard he tries.

When a Warrior faces an injustice, he seeks solitude to grieve, but a Warrior has to learn to suffer in public because being alone is never the optimum solution. It is also impossible for a Warrior to ever be completely relaxed, and he has to balance rigor and mercy. A Warrior needs "a strong will and an enormous capacity for acceptance." He uses a combination of discipline and acceptance to gain enthusiasm and to avoid a routine, which can stop advancement. A Warrior is like water, which can destruct, move around obstacles, but also be dammed by obstacles. Water is strong because it cannot be hammered or shredded by a knife. The river can adapt to any obstacle by changing its route and can gather enough strength and mass to overflow a dam. Even though the Warrior is like water, he also has the qualities of a rock in that he is stable, and people rely on him. When he is on a slope in an unstable environment, he can roll towards the



enemy with devastating force. A Warrior acts during peace and war consistently as the same person.

## Pages 17-35 Analysis

A warrior is a protector of ideas. The world is a game that is played mainly by the Warrior, directed by his leader, or the one that tells him to go into battle.

A Warrior helps his family members and companions to persevere and believe in themselves. The reason the Warrior does this is to give his family courage so that his own courage is increased for battle. He cannot go into a battle thinking that his family members will expect him to fail, or that they will fall apart while he is gone. He needs to know that they can take care of themselves when times are bad and should he not return, that they are strong enough to go on without him.

A Warrior has to avoid falling into a routine or a rut. This is because a routine can hinder the ability of a new movement. If everyone thinks alike and falls into doing something the same way everyday, without question, then there cannot be any room for improvement. There is no invention in a routine, and if a routine is completely set in stone, the Enemy can come in, learn it, and know exactly how to defeat the Warrior.



# Pages 36-51

## Pages 36-51 Summary

A Warrior never trusts his opponent too much and never forgets that sometimes strength is more important than strategy. If the Warrior encounters strength greater than his, he withdraws himself from the battle until his opponent is weakened. He may be called cowardly, but the Warrior knows that his strategy is smart and that insults will lead to his demise if he pays any attention to them. A Warrior is never cowardly, and will not retreat because if he flees, this gives the opponent more power. A Warrior knows time is on his side. A Warrior needs patience and speed. Sometimes a Warrior loses heart and cannot find a way to rebuild his enthusiasm. He feels pain and confusion but is too stubborn to give up on his goals. Then when he least expects, something helps restore his faith, and he can see the light again. Though it is difficult, a Warrior tries to keep his heart free of hate. Though he needs to learn how to forgive, he does not bow his head to an opponent or past enemy. It is too dangerous, and he could lose sight of his goals if he understands the opponent too much. A Warrior should learn from the past. The Warrior knows the importance of intuition because it is God's language.

Warriors often talk about their battles. Comrades let the Warrior know he is not alone, and others understand him. Warriors tell their stories passionately. A little exaggeration makes the stories better, but not exaggerations laced with pride and vanity. A Warrior has to make decisions to the best of his abilities with the information that he has and believe he is doing the right thing. Sometimes friends say he is not free because of the way he has to act and the people he has to serve. He tells them he is free, but that "an open oven bakes no bread."

Warriors have to pay attention to small things that hamper their ability to succeed. There are moments when a Warrior wonders anything is really worth his efforts. But he continues because he has to move forward. This is what he is trained to do. He has to help his friends, and there is no time to question his actions.

## Pages 36-51 Analysis

A warrior has to learn to detach himself from the battle and from the people he is battling. If he forgives them and bows his head too soon, he could fall into a trap, and lose a battle in which he does not even know he is involved. When his friends tell him that he is not free, rather controlled by some other person or being, he tells them that "an open oven bakes no bread." This means that he has to remain under pressure to better himself. If he did not have something to fight for, which is freedom in every warrior's case, then his life would be meaningless. Yes, he is controlled, but forces that make him better control him.





Each warrior needs his battle friends. They work as a unit, and when one is not doing his part and not pulling his share, the entire structure collapses and the battle can be lost. This is why there is no time to think, and only time to act. Every warrior needs to be prepared to think quickly, be on their toes, and react in unison to threats.



# Pages 52-72

## Pages 52-72 Summary

The Warrior rests in between battles, but is always alert. He knows fear creates two things—aggression and submission. He reminds himself that the other person is scared and surrounded by similar obstacles. The Warrior uses fear as an engine and learns from his opponent.

Silence before a battle is important and the Warrior listens intently, knowing that beyond his senses there is something happening. He is not scared, because he is prepared. He knows that miracles and love exists. He has learned that it is best to stay positive and follow the light. Even though his line of work has made him act badly by lying, stealing, and betraying, everything was for a larger purpose. In the end, God forgives him, but it is up to the Warrior to forgive himself. As a result, he is always trying to improve himself. With every blow of his sword, he learns to be better. The Warrior knows there are pauses in the struggle for freedom. This is perhaps the hardest time for a Warrior to exist, because he has to train every day, waiting for a fight to break out. He draws his sword often during battle to help another, clear a path, and fend off danger. The Warrior has to be certain it is needed when he raises it. Sometimes he takes a wrong step and falls into the abyss and is terrified and panics, but only until his master comes and tells him that he can't drown simply from falling into the water, but only from placing his head beneath the surface.

People forget that even a Warrior needs to have fun and act immature. Through this he remains in touch with God, but never loses sight of his mission. He is ready to react and respond at the first sense of danger. Sometimes he has not acted so wisely, or responsibly, but he always learns his lesson. He learns to deal with each challenge as it comes at him. He only fights when it is absolutely necessary to do so. He is terrified when he has to make such important decisions. He spends time mulling over a decision and emerges with his plan to continue on the path. While he does not want to cause any unnecessary suffering, he also does not want to abandon his path and throw away all the progress he has made in the war. When he has to say yes to battle, he says so bravely, and when he says no, there is not even a touch of cowardice in his voice.

A Warrior accepts his personal legend, and many people are in awe at his faith. He feels proud, yet ashamed because he doesn't have as much faith as everyone thinks he does, but his angel comforts him. Pride can lead to false confidence. After speaking to his angel, the Warrior is more calm and secure. People point out that regardless of the Warriors of the Light, there is still suffering in the world. There was never a Warrior of the Light that agreed with a man such as Hitler, because a Warrior "never accepts what is unacceptable." He does not bother talking to defeat because he knows that God watches over everything and has seen the suffering in the world and will do something when the time is right.



## Pages 52-72 Analysis

The warrior always tries to stay positive. He sacrifices a lot of himself by lying, stealing, and betraying for the battle. He has sacrificed his goodness and has "courted with darkness" in order to be part of something that is greater than he is. While most people would turn down such an opportunity, the Warrior knows that he is doing more than just working for his own selfish causes. He is always getting better at what he does. He follows tradition and throws punches and sways his sword just as his ancestors did, but he does it better because he learns from faulty swings and technique and makes his own technique better.

When the Warrior takes a wrong step and lands in some sort of danger, his first response is fear. He acts primitively until he hears the voice of his master, who tells him that he has to fight to stay afloat. Nobody ever died from just falling into water; they died when they gave up and could no longer keep their head above the surface. A Warrior has to learn to fight for his life and know that he is helping a greater cause than his own life is worth. If he loses sight of this, then he becomes overwhelmed with emotion, questions his life, his actions, and wonders if he is being driven by the devil. His angels, or his conscience, checks him and reminds him that he is only a small part of the cause, but an important one. He cannot win all the battles by himself, nor can one action that he does win the entire war. He has to know that God is watching over everything that he does, and God sees all the bad things that are happening in the world. There is a time and place for everything, and when the time is right, God will use his power to help ease the suffering, region by region, act by act. But only when the time is right. This makes the Warrior impatient, and patience can run thin. This is the most dangerous time for the Warrior because if his patience goes, then it opens the door of doubt that welcomes Evil to enter and fill his head with nonsense. A Warrior must always remain strong, focused, and good. He must never accept what is wrong, and the fact that he worries about the evil of the world means that he is doing the right thing. He still has a conscience, still worries, and still cares. This is an important aspect of being a Warrior because a Warrior that does not care has lost his way on the path.



# Pages 73-95

## Pages 73-95 Summary

A Warrior's weapon has an expiration date, but the Warrior does not. He knows that his sword could rust and crumble any day, but he has the faith to know that he can use the strength of another sword, or find another weapon entirely. He is the master of any sword, and a weapon is nothing without the Warrior that uses it. A Warrior is always aware of his surroundings and always waiting for an attack. Because of this he swings his sword the second he is in danger. In the beginning, the Warrior has dreams. Years later, he sees that his dream are not beyond his grasp, but stops to think about those that suffer and are incapable of reaching their goals. He feels lonely and frustrated and wants to do something better for humanity. At that time, his angel tells him to give it all up, and hand over all his conquests to God. Surrender is a part of life for the Warrior, and therefore he never falls into the trap of the word "freedom." When freedom is put in the same room as oppression, it is easy to understand freedom. But sometimes it isn't clear when people claim they are free, yet bored with life. A Warrior is free to act, but he is an eternal slave to his dreams and will never be bored by life.

"You can always recognize a Warrior of the Light by the look in his eye." They fail and are always searching for the meaning of life and their purpose within the world. When the Warrior feels useless, he has to change to rid himself of this feeling. When he pushes away the word feel, he can accept his legend once again and continue along the path. A Warrior should only be allowed to feel during very small stretches of time.

The Warrior of the Light must know the five rules of combat: faith, companions, time, space, and strategy. He never knows the result of a battle before it is over. If he asks his heart if he has done the best he could and the answer is yes, he has succeeded; if no, then he trains to do better the next time. Each Warrior has a spark of God within him. When he needs to see or feel this spark, he meditates. A Warrior always needs time for himself. He occasionally sits down to relax and think about the world as a spectator and not a Warrior.

When a Warrior knows how to use his sword, he then needs armor. He only chooses the cloak of faith, and this is all he needs. Even though the salesmen try to sell him items that will only hinder him, he still knows it is important to trust people. He does have limits to his trust because a Warrior cannot always look towards what others are telling him. He takes each piece of advice and compares it to what his overall objective is. The Warrior views life with tenderness and determination and often sees that the world is insane. He can't see into the future, and while life is insane, he has to choose his own insanity wisely.



## Pages 73-95 Analysis

A Warrior does not have ordinary dreams and ambitions. He does not wish he could have a big house or nice car. He simply dreams of winning the battles he is asked to do. He knows that he will be rewarded with victory, and when he is victorious, he is happy, but also guilty that he has stripped others of attaining their dreams. With every victory comes the price of another's defeat. While he feels terrible, he has learned to surrender his victory and all that makes him happy so that God can cleanse him of his guilt. He does well when he wins a battle, and even better when he surrenders his glory.

Freedom is a tricky concept. It is easy to want when a person is oppressed, but sometimes people want it, attain it, and do not appreciate it. For instance, when a person retires from work they proclaim that they are finally free. After a few weeks or months, if the person does not have any other ambition, they are bored with life and their freedom no longer feels good. They do not appreciate their freedom, and wish they were under the servitude of their job again. A Warrior never has this option because his dream is his job, and his job is to defend and walk along the path to righteousness. A Warrior never retires; he can only quit. This is neither honorable nor acceptable, and thus the Warrior is never free from his job, but free to act within it, which is a much better option for him.

A Warrior should not allow himself to feel for very long. If he does, it could be to his own detriment. If he stops to think about all the terrible things that he has done, things that are part of his job description, then he will be defeated. He has to know that he fights for a purpose, and even when it is not clear to him, he has to continue.



# Pages 96-115

## Pages 96-115 Summary

The Warrior is constantly faced with two doors—desire and fear. The world is dangerous and unpredictable, and he has to choose wisely. The door of fear says he will leave everything familiar to him, and all he has learned is useless beyond the door. The door of desire says pretty much the same thing. He laughs and goes through whichever door he wants because he does not fear a thing anymore. When the Warrior crosses paths with ordinary people, sometimes he censors himself because he fears being envied. Envy cannot harm a person and it is a natural part of life. The Warrior rarely discusses his plans, and this can be perceived as fear of envy. He knows that whenever he talks about his dream it takes a bit of energy to do so. It takes away from the rareness and preciousness of the dream to say it aloud.

A Warrior knows he has to have courage and persistence. He receives blows he doesn't expect but knows they are necessary and bound to happen. A Warrior also knows when a battle is worth fighting and bases his decision on his own faith and inspiration. There are times when his friends want him to fight their battles on their battlefields. He sincerely declines and tells them he cannot fight any battles but his own, and they must be on his battlefield.

In addition to winning, a Warrior knows how to lose. When he loses, he does not pretend that it was nothing; rather, he accepts the loss whole-heartedly, even though defeat leaves a bitter taste in his mouth. A Warrior knows that the universe will shift to give a person what he truly desires; therefore, a Warrior is always careful about asking for favors. This is because the thing that he wants may bring bad things to other people, so for him to ask for it, it has to be worth the cost. When he asks for something, or agrees to something, he is sincere. His word is solid as stone, and he never makes promises he cannot keep. The Warrior will sometimes make a bad commitment with which he follows through. He learns from the mistake and never makes it again.

A Warrior knows how to celebrate when he wins a battle. Celebration is a rite of passage and has been so for centuries. One day in the life of a Warrior, he will not be as passionate as he once was for the fight. He continues to fight because that is what he knows and for what he has trained. He has to realize that the angel that usually guides him is simply off taking a break and will return.

A Warrior will share what he knows best with those people who want to listen. He spends hours around a fire, talking about the battlefield because he wants others to learn—not because he wants to boast about his successes. He knows that God teaches him important lessons by showing him the opposite of what he wants him to learn. God teaches him about water by using fire. God will use illness to show the importance of staying and being healthy and silence to emphasize the importance of words.



A Warrior will always give before he is asked. He knows that there are some people that will never ask for help, no matter how desperate they may be. He does this because he knows that people who live content or indifferent to the suffering of others are the most miserable people in the world. A Warrior has an easy-going personality because he cannot spend all his time anxious and tense. He has to be prepared, but not stressed out. Sometimes his time becomes threatened by the dreaded routine. When this happens, he turns to the teachings of Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, who advises to say a word over and over until it loses its original meaning and brings on a whole new meaning altogether. By doing this, God will open doors, and the Warrior can use that one word to say everything that he ever wanted to say. In other words, the Warrior uses this tactic to transform his routine work into prayer.

A Warrior of the Light is never certain of anything. He cannot be, because he never knows when he is going to be called to battle. A Warrior knows that regrets can kill. Regrets can slowly eat away at a person's soul and lead to self-destruction. A Warrior cannot afford to live with regret, because he does not want to die with any. If he has a regret, he asks for forgiveness, and forgives himself, too. He does his best to right the wrong, even if the person he has wronged is dead. A good Warrior has no regrets and will humble himself to undo the wrong that he has caused.

## Pages 96-115 Analysis

A Warrior never wastes his time telling people about his plans. In addition to wasting time, he wastes energy speaking the words and mapping out his strategy for his dream. He wants to persevere this energy to actually reach his dream. A person that spends all day talking is not acting. Sometimes, a Warrior's friend wants him to fight a battle for him. People can be selfish and take the Warrior for granted. However, a Warrior always knows when to say no to a friend or family member that wants him to enter a battle. In reality, a person who wants their friend or family member to fight when he does not have to is no friend at all.

Warriors know how to lose, meaning they are not sore losers. They take each loss and learn from it, benefiting in the end so long as they are still surviving. This is part of the learning experience and only makes them better, giving them more to work on and more to train for. Warriors have to celebrate whenever they win a battle, because celebration is a rite of passage. A Warrior needs to have fun to, and know that his efforts were not in vain. Victory is a great feat and a fantastic way to boost morale and personal pride. A Warrior should celebrate, because he has put his life at risk. There are times when a Warrior does not feel as great about fighting as he once used to. He has lost his passion because his angel has strayed somewhere. The angel has left only because he knows that the Warrior is self-sufficient and strong enough to do without him for a while, otherwise he would not leave him. The Warrior stays focused, and does his job and the angel will return when he is really needed.

A Warrior of the Light is a good person, and never waits for someone to ask him for help. He offers his help when he sees that it is needed. He also remembers to enjoy



himself, even when he is not in the mood. This is because he has to take advantage of every moment that he is not in battle, because he never knows when he will be called to fight and never knows if that moment will be the last. He knows how to enjoy the moment and to ignore the days and hours that pass. The only way to enjoy his time is to focus on small things that can build up if ignored. By doing this, he can avoid tragedy and enjoy life better.





# Pages 116-136

## Pages 116-136 Summary

Every Warrior was once a child, and has a mother that deeply cares for him. A Warrior's mother always forgives his faults and sins and explains to people that he was not thinking straight when he did harm in battle. Even though a Warrior ultimately respects his mother, he knows that he has to use common sense to judge his intentions and his actions. He takes responsibility for everything that he has done and will pay a price for his mistakes. He is not immune to his other's love, but he cannot live by the logic of her love either. This is because "God judges a tree by its fruits and not by its roots."

Before making a decision, the Warrior has to ask how his action will affect the future and his descendants. He knows that everything he does has consequences, and that he wants to leave a good world behind for the fifth generation after his. He has to remain courageous to protect himself and his own. Even though the world is threatening and dangerous, he is no coward and will remain strong. "Cowards end up making the bars of their own prison," and the Warrior does not want to enslave himself with his own fear. He fights the Good Fight and helps others, even when he is not sure why he does.

Warriors focus on small miracles of daily life. He is capable of seeing the beauty in small things because he needs to carry that beauty with him during battle. He knows how to filter the beautiful from the ugly, and knows how to save valuable memories and rid himself of the bad ones. He gets rid of the emotional rubbish because it will only hurt him in the long run. Even though it is part of his history, it will not help him in any way. He knows it exists, uses it when he needs to, and then discards it, never to think of it again.

During the middle of a battle, a Warrior will have an idea that helps him win the battle quickly. He often recalls those moments and wonders why he worked so long for something that could have been resolved in a few seconds. The truth is that everything seems easier once it has been resolved, and a Warrior cannot objectively go back and judge his past.

There are two types of prayer. The first type is when a person asks for certain things. When the person does not get what they want when they want it, they think their prayers have been left unanswered. The second type of prayer is when the person does not really understand God's intentions, but has faith that God's plans are for the best and will be followed in a way to limit the amount of suffering in the world. This is the way that a Warrior prays.

Every Warrior knows that his opponent is wise. He has to assume that his opponent is as wise as he is. He also uses every bit of gossip that he can, because this is the best information that he has on his opponent. However, the Warrior can also be a victim of this trick. If he becomes a victim of this, he suffers quietly for falling for such a trick and



moves on. A Warrior should be wary of taking information and advice from others. When he takes too much advice from a person, he will end up making something that is not really his. He won't own his creation and will only be following in the footsteps of someone else, which is not part of his own path, rather that of another's. He also is wary to give advice to other people because those people that give advice are not tending to their own matters.

"A Warrior knows that the ends do not justify the means" because there are only means in this world. Each moment is filled with mystery, and the Warrior does not know where he is going, rather he gets where he does solely by chance. He cannot think of only the goal because if he does, then he won't pay attention to the signs along the way. He has to concentrate on the entire story, and not simply look for the answers to his own questions. A Warrior knows all about the waterfall effect and respects it. He has seen a person being unfair or mean to another, and the mistreated person fail to react. Out of resentment, that person who did not react will turn his attention to someone who is weaker than he is, and the waterfall continues. Nobody focuses on the consequence of their own cruelty. For this reason, the Warrior is careful of every move he makes and every use of his sword. He does not want to unnecessarily offend or hurt someone if it is going to have a detrimental effect to his purpose on the earth. Finally, when it is time for the Warrior to move on, he thinks about everyone that he met and that helped him along his path. His heart is sad, though he knows his sword is sacred and he has to obey the orders he is given. He thanks his traveling buddies and moves on with happy memories. His purpose is served, and it is time to move on.

It is dark by the time the woman finishes speaking. The two of them watch the moon rise. The man tells her that a lot of the things she said contradict each other. She gets up and says goodbye. She reminds him that she had faith in the bells, even when he could not hear or see them until he accepted that everything around him was part of those bells. She reminds him that a Warrior knows that everything around him forms part of his Good Fight. She tells him that a Warrior does not try to find the meaning in everything he does, and he learns to live with his own contradictions. The man asks her who she is just as she walking over the waves and towards the heavens.

## Pages 116-136 Analysis

A Warrior has a mother, and his mother will defend everything that he has done, even if it is unforgivable. But he has to remember that it does not matter whether his mother thinks he is the most wonderful person to walk the earth. God will not ask his mother for a character reference. God looks to see what the Warrior has done in his life, and then will judge him based on that. In the end, his mother may not be around, anyway, to vouch for him, so he has to take his life into his own hands and make sure that when judgment day comes, he is well prepared.

A Warrior carries with him the beauty of everyday life during battle. He has to do this in order to have something for which to fight. If he does not believe in the beauty of life, then he is fighting in vain and will not fight to the best of his ability because he won't



have anything to go back to. Warriors can use gossip as a tool against his opponent. He uses it as intelligence, but he has to respect the fact that he could be set up by a smarter opponent, who is putting out negative information to mislead the Warrior about his opponent. This is called counterintelligence and could be detrimental to the Warrior.

In the end, a Warrior has to be a well-rounded person, that appreciates life, and who can love and move on whenever he has to. He cannot dwell on the negative and has to learn from every experience, whether it is good or bad. The mysterious woman is never uncovered. She floats away into the sky, denoting that she is a superior spiritual being. Her aim was to teach the man that he has to appreciate life and never forget about those that love him. He cannot become obsessed with the little things because he will lose everything that has meaning in the end.



# Characters

## The Warrior of Light

The Warrior is the main character of the book. The Warrior is courageous, yet humble. He knows that every minute of his life counts and cherishes everything he loves. The Warrior also knows how to forget everything that matters to him during battle and focus on winning the war. Every warrior needs to be able to tune in and out of the part of their life that they are living. When he is at home and with family and friends, he plays one role, and when he is in a battle, he plays another role. He needs to have a touch of madness to be able to do this, because the warrior needs to turn from family man to fighter, and rush into a battle completely vulnerable to death.

A Warrior know the importance of the Good Fight. He fights for himself and his family and for the fifth generation after him. He is wise and often refers to other wise men and wise Warriors so that his fight will go smoother. Though smoother, a fight is never easy, and the Warrior never forgets this. He has to be prepared at all times, at all seasons, and under any circumstance. Knowing this, he never takes a moment for granted, and even if he is not in the mood, he will spend time thanking God and celebrating victories, sharing stories with other Warriors and reminding those he loves that he is protecting them and will do his best to make them proud. The Warrior spends his entire life battling against evil and turning towards the angels that guide him throughout his life. At times, he is left alone, without anyone to guide him, and it is up to him to survive.

## The Boy

The boy at the beginning of the story is very curious and consistent. Because he is young, he becomes obsessed with wanting to hear the bells at the collapsed temple. He spends months listening for those bells and ignores everything and everyone that was once important, just to hear the chimes. He stops going to school, stops spending time with his friends, and even learns how to tune out the beautiful ocean sounds that he once loved. Finally, when several fishermen tell him that they have heard the bells, he decides that he will be a fisherman when he grows up, and eventually he hears his beloved bells.

He learns what is important at an early age—to not obsess over something so much that you lose touch with reality. He learns a wise lesson at an early age, and this lesson helps him throughout his life. Though we don't see him grow up, we know that the boy lives his life honorably because the mysterious woman comes back to see him at the ocean village one day to ask him to write a manual on how to be a Warrior of Light.



## **Mysterious Woman**

The mysterious woman appears to the boy on the beach and teaches him a very important lesson about patience, faith, and learning what is important in life. It is never revealed whether she is a real person or an apparition because once she appears, she disappears as fast as she came. She is only there to offer wisdom to the boy, then to motivate him to write the book when he is a man.

## **Wise Chinese Man**

A man that has written about what a Warrior should be. The man pulls the Chinese man's philosophies into his own. The Chinese man writes that it is not disgraceful to toy with an enemy mentally, and nothing to be ashamed of to lose single battles, because it only matters who wins the war.

## **Fisherman**

The fisherman is the one that told the boy that he and other fishermen have heard the bells. He tries to get the boy to relax and to ease his obsession so that he can go on with regular life again. The fisherman's goal is accomplished, and the boy decides that he will become a fisherman, too, just so he can hear the bells.

## **Traveler**

A traveler asks why a Warrior should bother to train his students so well and let them attack him. The Warrior tells him he does it to make his students better.

## **John Bunyan**

He was quoted by the Warrior in the book. John Bunyan said that he does not regret anything he has been through. Every scar he has is worthy of being on his body, and he has grown to where he can talk about his own tales of bravery should he wish to do so. But because he is a Warrior, he knows that he does not need to boast about his moments of bravery.

## **T.H. Huxley**

A wise thinker to whom a Warrior often refers. Huxley said that the world is a chessboard, and the decisions that people make are the pieces of the game.



## **The Enemy**

The one that the Warrior is constantly battling. The enemy often tries to get the Warrior to think about himself and be selfish and to see his own faults. The enemy wants the Warrior to doubt himself and fail so that the enemy can win the battle.

## **Lao Tzu**

Another great thinker to whom the Warrior refers. He advises the Warrior to pay attention to detail and to never get sloppy. He can shoot one hundred arrows in a row, and the hundred and first could defeat the opponent, but only if he fires it just as he fired the first one.

## **God**

The being that controls the Warrior and guides him through his path

## **Devil**

The being that tries to defeat the Warrior

## **Angels**

The beings that help the Warrior on earth, guiding him through his spiritual path towards God.

## **Chuan Tzu**

faith, companions, time, space, and strategy.



# Objects/Places

## Sword

The weapon that the Warrior uses during battle.

## War

A state of being where the balance of peace is disrupted.

## Battles

Disruptions of peace that together create a War.

## Peace

The absence of conflict.

## Path

This is the path that the Warrior creates. Each path is different, full of obstacles and dangerous battles. But every path leads to victory and virtue, so long as the Warrior is smart and devoted enough to conquer the path and continue on it until he reaches the light.

## Cloak of Faith

This is the only armor that the Warrior of the Light needs in order to survive. Other salespeople try to sell him armor that he does not need, and all it does is weigh him down. Without faith, the Warrior is not protected, and with it, he is indestructible.

## Faulty Armor

This is armor that salespeople try to sell to the Warrior throughout his life, trying to convince him that he needs it. All he needs, however, is his cloak of faith.

## Bells

The mysterious woman at the beginning of the chapter uses the bells that are in the sunken temple to teach the boy that he needs to be aware of his surroundings and



appreciate the everyday things in life before he can hear the magical bells. Without appreciation, nothing else exists.

## **Temple**

The sunken temple houses the magical bells that the boy wants to hear so desperately.

## **Evil**

Evil is the thing that convinces the Warrior that he is losing. The Warrior turns to his angels and God to rid himself of the Evil that challenges his journey.

## **Warrior's Heart**

The Warrior's heart is the biggest, fullest, entity that exists. Many wonder whether a Warrior has a heart or not because of his "job title". In fact, he has to have a huge heart in order to survive and win his battles. Without heart, he wouldn't get as far as a single stroke of his sword.





# Themes

## Madness

A Warrior of the Light has to go head first into a bloody battle. To do this, he needs to have a touch of madness, which gives him the strength and detachment he needs to go into a fight. A Warrior is much like a normal person and has family and friends about whom he cares. A normal person would find it exceedingly difficult to leave behind everything that he or she knows to go and fight a battle that he or she may not benefit from directly, if at all. Regular people would not give up their comfortable lives to fight for another person's cause, and could never say goodbye to their friends, convinced that he or she may never see them again. But a true Warrior can do this, and does it often. He can accept the tears of his family and friends, and leaves them knowing he may not be back. He needs to know when to detach and be a warrior, and when to attach and be a family man. After detaching, he has to run into a battle, with his entire heart out on the line—both his symbolic heart and his physical heart. If either give out on him, then he dies. He knows of what he is capable, and what is required of him, and therefore that touch of madness needs to be enough to send him back onto the battlefield. Anyone can go into battle once, but going back is what makes a Warrior a Warrior.

## Continuous Training

A Warrior of the Light is continuously training and working to be a better Warrior. The more he trains, the better he will become and the easier it will be for him to stay on the path to virtue. There are several instances when a Warrior is confronted by hardship and a desire to quit his path. Evil can influence him, making him want to desert the life that he has lead and stray from his path. He is often counseled by angels, who give him strength to continue training and to stay on his path.

This spiritual training is much like physical training that a traditional warrior has to go through. A traditional warrior is familiar with the hurry up and wait phenomena, where he trains repeatedly for months to years with no outlet for energy. He just knows that one day his services will be needed, and the better he is trained, the easier it will be to complete a mission and win a battle. This is what the Warrior of the Light has to do. He has to train and learn all he can about his opponent in order to be stronger than he is when it comes time to battle. The training is what makes the motions more fluid and like second nature. The better a Warrior is at throwing his sword, the easier it will be to throw it when his life depends on it.

## Double Life

A Warrior, whether a traditional one or a Warrior of the Light, leads a double life—on hand, he lives as a normal person with family and friends, picnics and walks through the park, and even a normal job. On the other hand, when he is called to fight he has to



leave his ordinary life behind to fight in a battle with which he may not agree, but that adds virtue and victory to his spiritual resume. The more victories a warrior has, the better Warrior he is and the longer he will be able to stay on his path. Much like a traditional Warrior, the Warrior of the Light needs to stay focused and ignore the demands of his family in order to persevere and attain his dream of victory.

The Warrior of the Light and the traditional Warrior are constantly faced with having to leave behind his family. This is why as a Warrior, he makes sure that his family is well trained and that they know how to protect themselves if their loved one should not return. While in battle, a Warrior needs to be able to completely forget his family. His head needs to be in the game, and he has to be his super ego in order to win. If scenes from his domestic life come at him on the battlefield, it could be dangerous for him, his war companions, and the battle. At times, he feels obliged to live a life he does not want to live. He is forced to do things he does not want to do, that only bring him suffering. Sometimes he lets his two lives get close so he can see the bridge between them. Then when he compares the two, he realizes his dream all over again, and it becomes easy to see on which side of the bridge he wants to remain. With just a little determination, he can blend the two lives and make them one.



# Style

## Point of View

The book is written in the first person limited point of view. The reader sees the entire picture, but only really knows what the boy is thinking and his motives for listening for the bells at the beginning of the story. After the initial story line is established, the rest of the book is a narrative between the woman and the boy, now a man. The woman dictates to the man what she wants written in a book that is to be about what it means to be a Warrior of the Light. The notes that she tells him are what is written in the book.

## Setting

The book begins in a small ocean village. The main character, a boy whose name we never know, is staring out into the horizon, waiting for the sound of bells from a temple that was on an island that fell during an earthquake. After he spends months waiting for the bells, and eases his obsession over them, the mysterious woman who originally told him about the bells tells him to write a book. After this, there is no mention of time and place, besides a few interruptions from the woman, who reminds us that she is dictating the notes to the boy, and that reminds the reader that they are still on the beach.

## Language and Meaning

The language of the book is very philosophical. It is written as a manual for people to learn how to live the life as a Warrior of Light. Some of the passages are pretty abstract and need to be reread, but each passage is wrought with meaning and deserves special attention. The reader needs to pay close attention to each page because there are only a few lines and sentences on each one. This is done to single out individual thoughts and expand upon them. The wording is very straightforward for the most part, and the writer uses some analogies when it conveys meaning better. The most obvious analogy is that between a traditional warrior who literally fights bloody battles, and a Warrior of the Light, who fights symbolic battles.

## Structure

The structure of the book is unconventional for a fiction story. It starts with a prologue, which introduces the boy and his encounter with a mysterious woman. Years pass, and the boy, now a man, goes back to his village where he sees the woman again. She tells him to write down everything she says, word for word. Her words are dictated to the man, and this is what he writes down and what is written in the book. There are no chapters, just pages of notes that seem to have no direction or evolution and could stand on their own anywhere within the book. They are all notes on what it means to be

a Warrior of Light. At the end, there is an epilogue, which describes how the book is received by the woman.

This structure is good for people who are using the book as a manual, which is what it was intended to be. It is also successful as a fiction book, because it is so straightforward and makes the person feel as though s/he is reading the man's journal.



## Quotes

"A Warrior of Light values a child's eyes because they are able to look at the world without bitterness. When he wants to find out if the person beside him is worthy of his trust, he tries to see him as a child would." Prologue, Pg. xviii

"It is not winning or losing the battle that matters, but how the war ends." Pg. 5

"He makes these decisions with courage, detachment, and - sometimes - with just a touch of madness." Pg. 2

"A prolonged war finally destroys the victors too" Pg. 9

"Accumulating love brings luck, accumulating hatred brings calamity. Anyone who fails to recognize problems leaves the door open for tragedies to rush in." Pg. 26

"All the rage and courage of a little bird are as nothing to a cat." Pg 37

"A Warrior never picks fruit while it is still green." Pg. 40

"An open oven bakes no bread." Pg. 47

"Warriors of light never accept what is unacceptable." Pg. 70

"A Warrior does not try to appear one way or the other, he simply is." Pg. 73

"God judges a tree by its fruits and not by its roots." Pg. 115

"The child who got beat because his father lost a battle will bear the marks for the rest of his life." Pg. 132

"You can give a fool a thousand intellects, but the only one he will want is yours." Pg. 129

"No one is entirely good or evil; that is what the Warrior thinks when he sees that he has a new opponent." Pg. 130

"You can give a fool a thousand intellects, but the only one he will want is yours." Pg. 129

"No one is entirely good or evil; that is what the Warrior thinks when he sees that he has a new opponent." Pg. 130



## Topics for Discussion

What are the three things a Warrior needs to survive?

How does a Warrior of the Light differ from a traditional warrior? What are the similarities? Do you think a traditional warrior sees himself in the Warrior of the Light?

A Warrior can attain armor that he does not need, such as a shield of fear, for example. Besides his sword of which we are often told, what other weapons could a Warrior use?

Love is very important to a Warrior. Can a Warrior succeed without a strong family? Can a Warrior succeed without family at all?

Does a Warrior consider himself a good person? Is a good person synonymous with a good Warrior?

What purpose do the angels serve on the Warrior's path?

Can the Warrior survive without his angels?

What was the purpose of the mysterious woman in the boy's life?