

Resist without Resistance



Stoop to conquer¹

From *Aesop's Fables: A New Revised Version from Original Sources*, 1884; (translator not identified)

A very large Oak was uprooted by the wind, and thrown across a stream. It fell among some Reeds, which it thus addressed:

I wonder how you, who are so light and weak, are not entirely crushed by these strong winds.

They replied:

You fight and contend with the wind, and consequently you are destroyed; while we, on the contrary, bend before the least breath of air, and therefore remain unbroken.



From F. Hartmann, *With the Adepts, an adventure among the Rosicrucians*, 2nd ed., London: William Rider & Son, 1910; ch. 3, "Unexpected Revelations."

One element necessary for the development of strength is resistance.²



¹ [For in-depth analysis of the veracity of this statement consult "Humility is no virtue," in our Buddhas and Initiates Series.]

² [Full text under the title "With the Adepts by Franz Hartmann," in the same series.]

The following excerpts are from W.Q. Judge's *Letters That Have Helped Me*, advising on how to cope with "bad" Karma. See more "Karma Nuggets" in our Secret Doctrine's Second Proposition Series.

What despair and agony of doubt exist to-day in all places! In this time of upturning, the wise man *waits*. He bends himself, like the reed, to the blast, so that it may blow over his head.³

Do you know what it is to resist without resistance? That means, amongst other things, that too great an expenditure of strength, of "fortitude," is not wise. If one fights, one is drawn into the swirl of events and thoughts, instead of leaning back on the great ocean of the Self which is never moved.⁴

No one should be taking information to another, for it fans a flame . . . Retire into your own silence and let all others be in the hands of Karma, as we all are. "Karma takes care of its own." It is better to have no side, for it is all for the Master and He will look out for all if each does just right, even if, to their view, another seems not to do so. By our not looking at their errors too closely, the Master will be able to clear it all off and make it work well. The plan of quiet passive resistance, or rather, laying under the wind, is good and ought to work in all attacks. Retreat within your own heart and there keep firmly still. Resist without resisting. It is possible and should be attained.⁵



³ *Judge Letters*, I (XI) p. 37

⁴ *ibid.*, (EXTRACT ON WISDOM IN ACTION) p. 126

⁵ *ibid.*, p. 124