

# The Strongest Rope

## Seven Principles for Effective Human Action

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Never mistake motion for action.

*Ernest Hemingway*

### 1. Introduction

- (a) The Strongest Strategy
- (b) Ontology, Epistemology & Ethics
- (c) East and West

### 2. How Things Work (Ontology I)

- (a) 

<i>The Laozi Daodejing</i>	dao ↓ ziran	↔	de ↓ wuwei
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- (b) ziran ~ Autopoiesis
- (c) Autopoiesis ~ Complex Adaptive Systems (CAS)
- (d) The Scottish Enlightenment — Adam Smith and James Watt

### 3. Less Is More (Ontology II)

- (a) Thomas Cleary — “Little Tale of the Physician”
- (b) *The Laozi Daodejing* — “Making the Difficult Easy”
- (c) *The Sunzi Bingfa* — “The Way of Victory”
- (d) Touchpoints & Kangaroo Care — “Trojan Mice”
- (e) *The Laozi Daodejing* — “The wu-forms”

### 4. Know Yourself (Epistemology I)

- (a) *The Laozi Daodejing* — Equilibrium (jing) Grant
- (b) *The Sunzi Bingfa* — “The Five Pitfalls” Bruce

- (c) *The Laozi Daodejing* — Acuity (ming) Iceman
- (d) *The Sunzi Bingfa* — “Make His Form Visible”
- (e) *The Zhuangzi* — “The Story of Cook Ding”
- (f) David Whyte — “How Good Work Gets Done”
- (g) Daniel Kahneman & Gary Klein — “Intuitive Expertise”
- (h) Ellen Langer — “Mindfulness”
- (i) *The Zhuangzi* — “The Fish Trap”
5. Know the Situation (Epistemology II)
- (a) *The Laozi Daodejing* — “Drawstring of the Dao”
- (b) *The Sunzi Bingfa* — “Formlessness”
- (c) *The Zhuangzi* — “Hinge of the Dao”
- (d) Mica Endsley — “Situational Awareness” Guderian
- (e) David Snowden — “The Cynefin Framework”
6. Solve for Pattern (Ethics I)
- (a) *The Laozi Daodejing* — “Three Prized Possessions”
- (b) *The Sunzi Bingfa* — “Preserving the Whole”
- (c) Wendell Berry — “Solving for Pattern”
- (d) Jim Collins — “Catalytic Mechanisms”
- (e) Bruce Perry — “Biologically Respectful Caregiving” Slim
7. Embrace Paradox (Ethics II)
- (a) *The Laozi Daodejing* — “The Subtle Within the Evident”
- (b) *The Sunzi Bingfa* — “Potential Energy” Bruce
- (c) *The Sunzi Bingfa* — “Empty and Full” Grant
- (d) *The Sunzi Bingfa* — “Direct and Indirect” Guderian
- (e) *The Sunzi Bingfa* — “Crooked and Straight”
8. Command with Character (Ethics III)
- (a) *The Laozi Daodejing* — “The World is a Sacred Vessel”
- (b) *The Sunzi Bingfa* — “The Way of Defeat”
- (c) Jim Collins — “Level Five Leadership” Guderian
- (d) Donald Vandergriff — “Spirit, Blood, and Treasure”
- (e) James Parker — “Do the Right Thing”
- (f) Stephen Covey — “The Speed of Trust” Bruce
- (g) Jean Edward Smith — “The Peace Presidents” Grant

