
The Way of Walking Alone

(or The Way of Self-Reliance)

- ◆ Do not turn your back on the various Ways of this world.
- ◆ Do not scheme for physical pleasure.
- ◆ Do not intend to rely on anything.
- ◆ Consider yourself lightly; consider the world deeply.
- ◆ Do not ever think in acquisitive terms.
- ◆ Do not regret things about your own personal life.
- ◆ Do not envy another's good or evil.
- ◆ Do not lament parting on any road whatsoever.
- ◆ Do not complain or feel bitterly about yourself or others.
- ◆ Have no heart for approaching the path of love.
- ◆ Do not have preferences.
- ◆ Do not harbor hopes for your own personal home.
- ◆ Do not have a liking for delicious food for yourself.
- ◆ Do not carry antiques handed down from generation to generation.
- ◆ Do not fast so that it affects you physically.
- ◆ Do not be fond of material things.
- ◆ Do not begrudge death.
- ◆ Do not be intent on possessing valuables or a fief in old age.
- ◆ Respect the gods and Buddhas, but do not depend on them.
- ◆ Though you give up your life, do not give up your honor.
- ◆ Never depart from the Way of martial arts.

Second Day of the Fifth Month, Second Year of Shoho (1645)

Miyamoto Musashi
