

SQRT(48) Laws of Power - Survival of the Fittest

As you might guess, I've only picked my 7 favorite laws, and the ones I thought would be most applicable today. And one more law as a bonus...

Never Outshine the Master (1)

Unlike the author, I believe it's better to move silently rather than diminish yourself to please your boss. In competitive fields like finance or tech, making your boss feel superior or downplaying your ideas as mere echoes of theirs can make you seem replaceable.

Never Put Too Much Trust in Friends, Use Your Enemies (2)

I don't think working with friends professionally is a smart choice. We often overestimate their abilities and hire them, expecting a relaxed work environment full of trust, sunshine, and daisies. But letting this bias cloud our judgment can hinder professional progress. I'd even go as far as to say, "Keep your work life and personal life separate."

On the other hand, if you can remain impartial and accurately assess your friends' skills and goals, working together is possible—but the odds are about as slim as my dog flying.

Conceal Your Intentions / Always Say Less Than Necessary (3-4)

The concept of the Evil Eye in many Eastern cultures is rooted in a valuable truth: boasting about or even mentioning good fortune or future plans can attract envy, potentially leading to bad luck or misfortune. You don't need black magic to protect yourself from this—just keep your plans, goals, and successes to yourself. As Aaron Burr says in Hamilton: "Talk less, smile more." (Hamilton might not fare so well in today's world!)

Win Through Your Actions, Never Arguments (9)

The first and third rules share a common thread: people are often envious and defensive, and they dislike being proven wrong. Winning a verbal argument achieves little, as it only builds up resentment that could surface later. However, if you win with solid evidence, the impact is lessened.

It's crucial to frame your goal as "helping them grow and improve" rather than "proving them wrong." Ensure your tone, word choices, and overall attitude reflect this intention.

Avoid the Unhappy and Unlucky (10)

Misery loves company, but don't be that company. Some people are inherently cynical and unhappy, and despite our efforts to help, they may never change. Life is too short to get dragged into their despair—it's essential to move forward instead of sinking with them.

Enter Action With Boldness (28)

You won't succeed by being afraid to take risks or seize opportunities. You need to take that leap, and if challenges arise, it'll be easier to address them as you move forward. I'm not talking about a timid, hesitant step—I mean a bold move to see what happens. There are countless ways things could go wrong, but they likely won't. Even if a few things don't turn out exactly as expected, you're capable of handling whatever comes your way if you're daring.

And even if that particular venture doesn't pan out, you'll gain valuable experience and skills that you couldn't acquire any other way.

Master the Art of Timing (35)

Long Time: If you rush without proper planning, you'll find yourself stuck in a "I'm already behind, what do I do now?" mindset. This doesn't mean wasting time, but more often than not, you have more time than you think. Use it wisely to plan and address potential challenges with caution.

Forcing Time: This applies mostly to others. Since many people overlook long-term planning, they can be pressured into making hasty decisions. If you make them feel like the window of opportunity is closing, they may become anxious and fail to think clearly.

End Time: It's all for nothing if you can't stick the landing. So be bold and close the deal.

Get Others to Play With the Cards You Deal (31)

Color the Choices: Highlight the benefits of the option you prefer while downplaying the others. In a sales pitch, emphasize the advantages of the choice you want the customer to make, while subtly pointing out the drawbacks of the alternatives.

Force the Resister: If your opponent is stubborn, get them to choose the option you want by advocating for the alternative yourself.

Alter the Playing Field: Innovate or pivot to change the competitive landscape. This might involve introducing new technology, adopting a disruptive business model, or rebranding to position yourself ahead of the competition.

The Shrinking Options: Create urgency by signaling that opportunities are becoming scarce. For example, “It’s 12 now, but tomorrow it’ll be 13. The window is closing...”

The Weak Men on the Precipice: Use fear and uncertainty to prompt weaker individuals to make quick decisions they might normally avoid. Highlight potential risks or the fear of missing out (FOMO) in your marketing campaigns to encourage them to act.

The Horns of a Dilemma: Present two equally undesirable options, forcing someone to choose the lesser evil, which still benefits you. This works best when you strike fast, not giving them time to reason their way out and realize “what about the third option”.

Resources

