

Learn to keep people dependent on you



## Chapter Summary

Law 11 emphasizes the power dynamics inherent in relationships, advocating for the creation of dependency.

By ensuring others rely on you for their success and happiness, you secure your own position and autonomy. Historical examples illustrate how even the mightiest can fall if they are not perceived as indispensable. Strategies such as fostering unique skills or acquiring sensitive information can fortify your role. Remember, dependency brings not love, but a different kind of power: one rooted in necessity and fear.





To enhance your freedom, cultivate dependency. The more others rely on you, the greater your autonomy. This strategy transforms you into an invaluable asset, reinforcing your own power.



Throughout history, many powerful figures have met tragic ends when they underestimated their replaceability. They became too independent and did not secure their positions through fostering dependency.

#### A Wise Choice.

Bismarck's alliance with a weak king exemplifies strategic dependency. Rather than aligning with the strong, he chose to fortify the weak, turning them into pillars of his power.

"Join forces with weak rulers; make them depend on you."

#### The Nature of Power.

True power is rooted in relationships of mutual dependence, rather than in isolation. The strong master needs the weak servant, and this dynamic locks in control.



"Power involves a relationship between people."

# Cultivate Unique Skills.



Develop talents that make you irreplaceable. Like Michelangelo, forge connections where your unique skill is the linchpin, ensuring your master needs you.

### Information is Power.



Holding secrets can seal your fate with another's. Knowledge is leverage; it grants you a hold over those in power, cementing your role.

#### Fear versus Love.

Do not rely on emotional bonds for dependency. Fear fosters a more controllable relationship than love, making your position more secure.

## The Risks of Dependency.

While creating dependency can bolster your power, you may also find yourself vulnerable. Mutual dependence is crucial to avoid isolation.

### Avoid Isolation.

Complete control can lead to self-destruction. Strive for a network of relationships that bolster your power while minimizing risk.



## The Path to Security.



In the game of power, mutual dependence is the key to longevity. Nurture your position so that others' need for you creates a web of security.

### Recap

- "The more you are relied on, the more freedom you have."
  - "You will someday be forced to cross your own Bridge of Sighs."
    - "Make it clear that doing away with you would mean disaster."
- "By knowing other people's secrets, you seal your fate with theirs."
  - "It is better to be feared than loved."

### Thank You

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