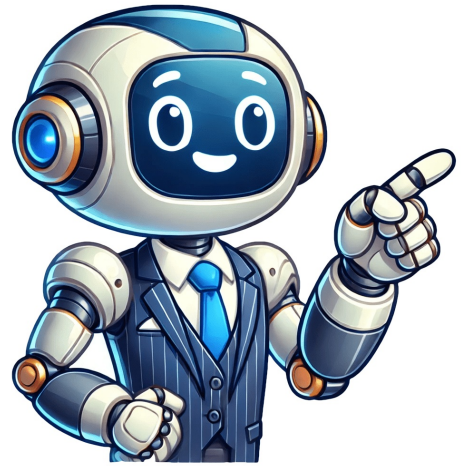


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Hey everyone...I rewrote this intro a few years ago, but I've updated it in Spring of 2019. Below is a cheat sheet (aka summary) of The 48 Laws of Power by Robert Greene. This book may seem strange and evil at times, but it's an interesting read that shares the story of influential people throughout history. There's plenty of valuable info here, too, with some questionable advice, so be cautious not to follow everything the book suggests. PS: I created these guides for free. If you decide to buy the book, please use my link! Note #1: This cheat sheet is a good summary and fits perfectly if you've already read the book. If you wanna buy the book, which I recommend, please use this link. That link will take you to Amazon and I'll make \$1.5 for the sale. Here are the key laws: Law 1: Don't outshine your superiors. Keep them feeling superior and show less of your talents so they won't feel insecure. Make the master seem more brilliant than they really are. Law 2: Be cautious with friends, use enemies instead. Friends will betray you easily, hire former enemies to be loyal. Law 3: Hide your intentions. People can't prepare if they don't know what you want, guide them down the wrong path to keep them off-balance. Law 4: Say less than necessary. When trying to impress people, talking more makes you seem ordinary and unconfident. Powerful people impress by being vague and not saying too much. Law 5: Reputation is key – protect it at all costs. Destroy your enemies by attacking their reputation and let the public hang them. Law 6: Court attention at all times. People judge by appearance, what's unseen doesn't matter. Be mysterious and unique to stand out from the crowd. Law 7: Let others do the work for you, but take credit yourself. Use other people's skills to do tasks efficiently, make it seem like you're doing everything yourself. Law 8: Make opponents come to you – use bait if necessary. When you force others to act, you're in control, lure them with gains and then attack. Law 9: Win through your actions, not arguments. You can't win through arguments, resentment lasts long, it's more powerful to demonstrate rather than explain. Law 10: Avoid unhappy people – they can spread misery. People who are unhappy draw misfortune on themselves and others, associate with happy and fortunate people instead. Law 11: Make people dependent on you for happiness. Keep people independent by not teaching them enough so they can do without you. Law 12: Disarm your victims with selective honesty and generosity. A single sincere move can cover over many dishonest ones, use honesty wisely to manipulate others. Manipulate others' defenses by being honest and then deceiving them. The art of deception involves exploiting people's self-interest rather than their mercy. Don't remind people of past mistakes; instead, emphasize how they can benefit from your proposal. Position yourself as a friend to gather valuable information through indirect questioning. Every interaction is an opportunity to spy on others. Crush your enemies thoroughly, as halting halfway often leads to more losses. Create an aura of scarcity by temporarily withdrawing from social circles and then re-emerging. This generates respect and admiration for those who are absent. Maintain unpredictability in your behavior to prevent others from gaining control over you. Avoid isolation, as it can cut you off from valuable information and make you vulnerable to attacks. Be aware of the people you interact with and avoid offending those who could retaliate against you. Maintain independence by not committing to any particular cause or individual. Instead, make people chase after you and play them against each other. When dealing with others, seem dumber than they are to catch them off guard and hide your true intentions. Use the surrender tactic to transform weakness into power. By giving in, you can infuriate your enemies and turn their victory into a defeat. Concentrate your resources and intensity to achieve greater results than spreading yourself too thin. Master the art of indirection by being subtle yet powerful in your actions. Re-create yourself to command attention and maintain an image that never bores others. Keep your hands clean by using scapegoats to disguise your involvement in mistakes. Create a cult-like following by appealing to people's need to believe in something. Offer them a cause or new faith, and emphasize enthusiasm over rationality. Give your followers rituals to perform and ask for sacrifices. Enter actions with boldness, as timidity can be disastrous. Plan ahead to the end of any scenario, taking into account all possible outcomes. By doing so, you'll guide fortune by thinking far ahead and avoid being overwhelmed by circumstances. Law 30 implies that one's accomplishments should be presented as effortless. This means concealing the clever tricks or strategies used to achieve success, thereby making it seem natural. It's essential not to reveal how hard you work or teach others your techniques. Law 31 suggests controlling opinions by giving people options that ultimately benefit you. The best deceptions appear to give the other person a choice, allowing you to win regardless of their decision. Law 32 emphasizes playing on people's fantasies rather than revealing unpleasant truths. This tactic has great power and can be used to create romantic or idealized images. People are often drawn to things that resonate with their deepest desires. Law 33 advises discovering each person's weakness, which is usually rooted in insecurity, uncontrollable emotions, or secret pressures. Understanding these vulnerabilities allows you to tailor your approach and maximize impact. Law 34 suggests being royal in your own fashion by carrying yourself like a king. The way you present yourself determines how others treat you. Appearing vulgar or common can lead to disrespect, while confidence inspires the same level of respect. Law 35 emphasizes mastering the art of timing, never seeming in a hurry but appearing patient. This approach allows you to sniff out trends and find opportunities that will give you power. Learning when to strike is crucial for success. Law 36 suggests disdaining things you cannot have. Acknowledging petty problems gives them existence, making your enemies stronger. By ignoring something you want but can't have, you maintain superiority. Law 37 encourages creating compelling spectacles through striking imagery and symbolic gestures. These visual displays of power draw people in and make them more likely to respond positively to you. Law 38 advises thinking as you like but behaving like others. Flaunting unconventional ways makes people think you seek attention, which can lead to being punished for making them feel inferior. Blending in helps avoid this issue. Law 39 suggests stirring up waters to catch fish by using anger or emotion against your enemies while remaining calm and objective yourself. This approach ruffles the opposition but keeps you grounded. Law 40 warns about despising free lunches, which are often traps. Paying your own way maintains power and avoids guilt or gratitude that can come with someone else's generosity. Law 41 advises avoiding stepping into a great man's shoes because what happens first appears better than what comes next. Following in the footsteps of greatness means you'll have to double their power to make an impact, which is challenging. Law 42 suggests striking the shepherd (the leader or key individual) and scattering the sheep (those influenced by them). Troublemakers can be identified as individuals who will influence others negatively; it's essential to address this problem directly rather than trying to negotiate. Law 43 encourages working on the hearts and minds of others, using persuasion rather than coercion. Seduce people into wanting to move in your direction by operating on their individual psychologies and weaknesses. Soften them emotionally and what they fear, and ignore their hearts and minds at your own peril, as this can lead to hatred. Law 44 advises disarming and infuriating with the mirror effect: when you reflect back exactly what your enemies do, they're left puzzled, unable to figure out your true intentions. To achieve success, it's essential to understand how to manipulate others without appearing too perfect, respect the natural hierarchy, and maintain a balance between revealing and concealing information. Laws of Power suggest that preaching change is crucial but should be done gradually, rather than reforming everything at once. It's also vital not to appear too perfect, as this can be perceived as insincere or even dangerous. When achieving success, it's essential to know when to stop, as going too far can lead to more enemies. To stay adaptable and on the move, assuming formlessness is key. This involves having a visible plan while remaining open to attack and change. Bruce Lee emphasizes the importance of staying flexible and accepting that nothing is certain. Additionally, maintaining a subtle approach can be beneficial. Avoiding excessive praise or recognition for oneself can help avoid being seen as arrogant, while also creating mystery that keeps others curious. Being concise in communication demonstrates confidence and encourages people to engage with you. Finally, it's essential to remember that relationships are complex, and loyalty is not always where you expect it to be. Keeping an open mind and maintaining a balance between revealing and concealing information can help you navigate these challenges effectively. Your influence and reputation are delicate balances that can easily tip one way or the other. A single misstep can have long-lasting consequences and damage how others perceive you. It's crucial to think carefully before acting, as a good name is like a hard-earned credit score - it takes time to build but can be ruined in an instant. Imagine being in a crowded market where everyone is vying for attention; if you don't make your presence known, you'll get lost in the noise. To stand out, you need to be bold and memorable, not just loud. This means finding ways to leave a lasting impression through your work, ideas, or personality. Involving others in your projects or ideas is also key. Their input can help you grow and improve, but it's essential to maintain control over the outcome. Chasing after people or trying to force them to notice you can make you look desperate and put you at a disadvantage. Instead, focus on creating situations where they need you. Offer something of value that addresses their problems or needs, and let your results speak for themselves. Negativity is contagious, so surround yourself with positive influences who uplift and inspire you. By doing so, you'll naturally build trust and value in the eyes of others. Timing and balance are crucial for building trust, connection, and strong relationships. It's not about deceiving others but rather being strategic about what you reveal to avoid misunderstandings. Instead of relying on people's kindness or sympathy, show them how helping you benefits them. This approach encourages cooperation and understanding. Effective relationships are built by listening and observing. People often reveal more than they realize when they feel comfortable around you. Approach this process like a detective, being friendly, approachable, and always paying attention to gather valuable information. When dealing with opposition, resolve issues thoroughly to avoid half-solved problems that can reignite and become even bigger challenges. Sometimes, less is more; being always available can make people take you for granted. Take occasional steps back to let them miss your presence and appreciate your value. Maintaining unpredictability in relationships or work keeps others guessing and respects your space. This approach also encourages them to hesitate before making decisions that might harm you. Stay connected to others, open yourself to collaboration, feedback, and new ideas to stay strong and aware. Understanding the people you're dealing with is crucial; some are harmless, while others have more power or connections than you realize. Be mindful of the stakes and choose your battles wisely. Committing too early to a person or cause can limit your options; keeping them open maintains flexibility and control. By being adaptable and open to new opportunities, you can avoid getting stuck in commitments that don't serve your best interests. Your ability to gather information and stay one step ahead is crucial in many areas of life. By feigning ignorance or playing the part of a novice, you can gain valuable insights into others' weaknesses and intentions. This tactic allows you to anticipate their moves and strike when they least expect it. Sometimes, relinquishing control can actually be a strategic move, as it disarms your opponent's defenses and enables you to regain the upper hand. Focus all your energy on a single objective, rather than spreading yourself thin across multiple projects or goals. This concentration of efforts increases your chances of success and makes your actions more powerful. To achieve this, adopt the art of subtlety, using charm, flattery, and social maneuvering to navigate the complexities of power and influence. Embracing self-reinvention gives you the power to shape your identity and project a new image to others. This can be done through small changes in behavior, such as how you dress or speak, or by adopting a new attitude towards life. By hitting the reset button and re-creating yourself, you can break free from the past and align better with your goals. When involved in questionable activities, it's essential to keep a low profile and avoid direct involvement. This allows you to remain blameless when things go wrong. On the other hand, if you can tap into people's desire for purpose or belonging, you can build a loyal following by offering something larger than life. To be effective, always take bold action with confidence and decisiveness. A sense of uncertainty or hesitation can deter others from following your lead. It's equally important to have a clear end goal in mind when planning any course of action. Effective Strategies for Success Sometimes it's smart to blend in and get people on your side by being like them. This helps you avoid getting attention you don't want and makes others trust you more. But if you really need something, sometimes you gotta shake things up and make a bit of chaos happen. By doing that, you can distract people or throw 'em off guard, making it easier for you to get what you're after. It's all about mixing things up and making others scramble while you quietly position yourself for success. When someone gives you something without asking anything in return, be careful - it might have strings attached. Accepting freebies can make you feel obligated or dependent on that person. Instead, rely on your own strengths and resources to stay independent and powerful. Don't just follow in someone else's footsteps, especially if they're a big deal. People will always compare you to them, which can be tough pressure. It's better to forge your own path and create your own legacy, rather than living in the shadow of others who have already made their mark. If there's a leader causing trouble or leading people in a direction you want to change, try removing or neutralizing that person - when they're gone, the rest will fall into place. To really influence people, you need to connect with them on an emotional level by appealing to their desires, fears, and dreams. When you have people's hearts and minds, they'll trust you, listen to you, and follow your lead. Building strong emotional bonds can make people support your ideas or goals without even being asked directly. By mirroring someone else's behavior, you can catch 'em off guard and put them on the back foot. But be careful not to overdo it, as this can backfire and cause problems. People are often resistant to change, so if you want to inspire it, do it gradually. Start by pointing out why change is needed, but take small steps rather than trying to make drastic changes all at once. If you push too hard or too fast, you might face strong opposition. Steady progress usually works better than sudden, radical change. And remember, if you seem flawless, people may feel insecure or jealous and create distance between themselves and you. By showing some vulnerability or imperfection, you appear more relatable and human, which helps build trust and makes others feel more comfortable around you. When you achieve your goal, know when to stop and be satisfied with your success - pushing further can cause you to lose what you've gained or even make things worse. Being adaptable and unpredictable makes it harder for others to pin you down. The more flexible you are, the less likely you'll be caught off guard. Don't take everything at face value - some rules might be too extreme or even morally questionable. This book is meant to provide insights into human behavior and relationships, not a rigid guide to follow blindly. Take what resonates with you and leave the rest.