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Stone Soup The Wisdom of Sharing

Imagine a world in which we all shared our gifts and bounty with each other rather than focusing on self preservation.

There are many variations on the story of stone soup, but they all involve a traveler coming into a town beset by famine. The inhabitants try to discourage the traveler from staying, fearing he wants them to give him food. They tell him in no uncertain terms that there's no food anywhere to be found. The traveler explains that he doesn't need any food and that, in fact, he was planning to make a soup to share with all of them.

The villagers watch suspiciously as he builds a fire and fills a cauldron with water. With great ceremony, he pulls a stone from a bag, dropping the stone into the pot of water. He sniffs the brew extravagantly and exclaims how delicious stone soup is.

As the villagers begin to show interest, he mentions how good the soup would be with just a little cabbage in it. A villager brings out a cabbage to share. This episode repeats itself until the soup has cabbage, carrots, onions, and beets—indeed, a substantial soup that feeds everyone in the village.

This story addresses the human tendency to hoard in times of deprivation. When resources are scarce, we pull back and put all of our energy into self-preservation. We isolate ourselves and shut out others.

As the story of stone soup reveals, in doing so, we often deprive ourselves and everyone else of a feast. This metaphor plays out beyond the realm of food. We hoard ideas, love, and energy, thinking we will be richer if we keep to them to ourselves, when in truth we make the world, and ourselves, poorer whenever we greedily stockpile our reserves.

The traveler was able to see that the villagers were holding back, and he had the genius to draw them out and inspire them to give, thus creating a spread that none of them could have created alone.

Are you like one of the villagers, holding back? If you come forward and share your gifts, you will inspire others to do the same. The reward is a banquet that can nourish many.



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Gunfight Rules

"Peace is that brief glorious moment in history when everybody stands around reloading."

In a gunfight, the most important rule is ... HAVE A GUN! These are shooting tips from various Concealed Carry instructors. If you own a gun, you will appreciate these rules... If not, you should get one, learn how to use it and learn the rules.

RULES

- 1 Guns have only two enemies: rust and politicians.
- 2 It's always better to be judged by 12 than carried out by 6.
- 3 Cops carry guns to protect themselves, not you.
- 4 Never let someone or something that threatens you get inside arm's length.
- 5 Never say "I've got a gun." If you need to use deadly force, the first sound they should hear is the safety clicking off, or the hammer cocking.
- 6 The average response time of a 911 call is 23 minutes; the response time of a .357 is 1,400 feet second.
- 7 The most important rule in a gunfight is: always win -

there is no such thing as a fair fight. Cheat if necessary. Second place doesn't count.

8 Make your attacker advance through a wall of bullets ... you may get killed with your own gun, but they'll have to beat you to death with it because it will be empty.

9 If you're in a gun fight: If you're not shooting, you should be loading. If you're not loading, you should be moving. If you're not moving, you're dead.

10 In a life-and-death situation, do something ... it may be wrong, but do something!

11 If you carry a gun, people will call you paranoid. Nonsense! If you have a gun, what do you have to be paranoid about?

12 You can say "stop" or any other word, but a gun pointed at someone's head is pretty much a universal language, and you won't have to press 1 for Spanish, or 2 for Chinese, or 3 for Arabic.

13 If you have to shoot, shoot to kill. Never leave an enemy behind. In court, yours will be the only testimony.

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