

THE SAMURAI SKILLS OF NATORI-RYŪ

A COMPLETE LIST OF THE SKILLS FROM THE SCROLL HEIKA JODAN

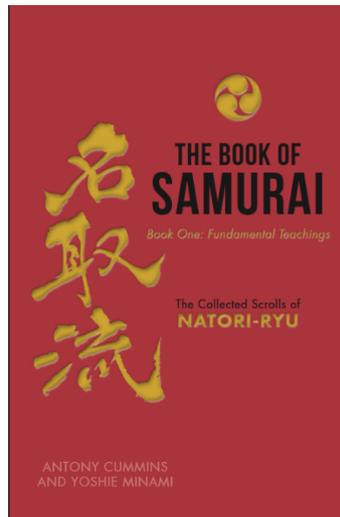
BY

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VERSION 1.2

Natori-Ryū is a complete gungaku (軍学) military warfare school which dates to the second half of the 16th century and which was combined with Kusunoki-Ryū and other schools in the mid 17th century. The following list is a breakdown of the scroll Heika Jodan (兵家常談), the first scroll in all the teachings of the school. It concentrates on the skills a samurai is required to know to fulfil their position as samurai and is considered as foundation principles for all warriors. The scroll is divided into themed sections which guide samurai through the different areas of the life of a warrior. For those who wish to follow the way of the samurai, these teachings are the core elements that are needed and which must be absorbed to bring about a correct character. Through constant study and application of the principles found within, the true way will become evident and further teachings can be studied.

Antony Cummins gives his permission to copy, translate and circulate this bullet point list but for a full understanding, the complete translation can be read in Book of the Samurai: Book One. Click on the image below for more details.



五始

Goshi

1. Understand the origin of the universe
2. Understand chi within humans
3. Understand and use the *Way* - Dō
4. Understand and use virtue - Toku
5. Understand and use benevolence - Jin
6. Understand and use righteousness - Gi
7. Understand and use courtesy – Rei
8. Know that literacy is not wisdom
9. Understand and use Fidelity - Shin
10. Know that the way penetrates all things
11. Know that actions must be in accordance with the way
12. Understand the parable of fish in trees and birds in water
13. Know that ignorance is to be without reason
14. Heaven does not reward personal desire
15. True virtue fulfils wishes
16. If virtue meets the way then all is straight
17. A true human needs, to be honest about their own nature
18. You must have affection and compassion for everyone you meet
19. Benevolence is the foundation of virtue
20. Praise that which is good, punish that which is bad
21. Understand the concept of ri 理 – the path of principle
22. All your decisions must be based on the concept of ri – the Principle
23. Know that righteousness develops a sense of shame
24. Know that without a sense of shame there can be no benevolence
25. Work hard from morning until night time
26. Know that courtesy is the foundation of morality
27. Be mindful in everything that you do
28. Develop the ability to perform spontaneous courtesy
29. Know that if you never deceive people you will be brought into the way

十二德

Jūnitoku

30. Use a grappling hook to secure the saddle
31. Use the grappling hook to bind people
32. Use the grappling hook to ascend and descend walls
33. Use the grappling hook to cook rice over a fire
34. Use the grappling hook to alight and disembark from a boat
35. Use the grappling hook to secure luggage
36. Use the tenigui three-foot cloth to tie over the head
37. Use the tenigui three-foot cloth as a spare obi belt
38. Use the tenigui three-foot cloth to carry rations at the waist
39. Use the tenigui three-foot cloth as an identification mark
40. Use the tenigui three-foot cloth as a headband

41. The tenigui three-foot cloth is kept under the collar
42. Use the sageo sword cord to secure the sword
43. Use the sageo sword cord to bind someone
44. Use the sageo sword cord to climb a wall with a sword
45. Use the sageo sword cord to carry a decapitated head
46. Use the sageo sword cord to perform “three-foot crossing”
47. Use the sageo sword cord to tie your swords together before you sleep
48. Use the sageo sword cord as an identification marker
49. Use the back of your tasset to write notes upon
50. Use your spear scabbard to write notes upon
51. Use a kozuka knife as a divided identification marker
52. Leave your personalised kozuka to prove you made an achievement
53. Use the fan to command troops
54. Use the fan to give signals to others
55. Use the fan to present decapitated heads on
56. Use the fan to receive money and gifts on
57. Use the fan to make notes on
58. Use bow strings combined to cross a river
59. Use bow strings to tie long grass into bundles to make space
60. Use bow strings to create boundary ropes
61. Use the bow string as emergency horse reins
62. Use bow strings as emergency ropes
63. Use the sword to explore in the dark
64. Use the pommel of a sword as a way to identify someone who has hidden their face
65. Use the pommel to stab through the eyes of a helmet
66. Use the hidden dagger in combat
67. Use hidden dagger to decapitate people
68. Use the hidden dagger when you need to conceal a weapon
69. Use the hidden dagger to perform the skill of santō issō – three stabs to one place
70. Know to use a smaller hilt on a hidden dagger
71. Use a kogai spike to push the tongue of a decapitated head into the mouth
72. Use the kogai spike to pierce a hole in the ear of a decapitated head to attach a tag
73. Use the kogai spike to attach a decapitated head to a presentation tray
74. Use the udenuki sword cord to prevent you dropping a katana
75. Wear the udenuki sword cord at your waist
76. Hold the udenuki sword cord when mounted
77. Use different medicines to treat people
78. Use different medicines to maintain health
79. Use purging medicine to cure poisoning
80. Use medicine as a preventative
81. Use medicine to protect yourself from cold
82. Use medicine to protect yourself from heat
83. Use medicine to defend against heat stroke
84. Understand how to treat sword wounds
85. Use the nandina plant to clean your hands
86. Use the nandina plant to present a decapitated head on

87. Use the nandina plant to cleanse your hands after a nightmare
88. Use a nandina plant leaf in the mouth to prevent collapsing
89. Use the nandina plant on wounds
90. Use the nandina plant as a temporary riding crop

平

Hei

91. Understand that in peace, prepare for war, in war prepare for peace
92. Know the five Chinese weapons
93. Understand the use of the words samurai 侍 and hei 士
94. Know and use ikusa kotoba - bellicose language
95. Understand the difference between generational retainers and newcomers
96. Understand which men have military prowess
97. Study the way of the bow
98. Study mounted combat
99. Study the way of the sword
100. Study the way of the spear
101. Study the arts of war
102. Study grappling and striking arts
103. Study the way of the gun
104. Study the way of military swimming
105. Know the duties of a gunposha
106. Know the duties of a gunbaisha
107. Know the duties of a gunsha
108. Understand that you must use the correct terminology when discussing warfare
109. Know the five constant factors of Sun Tzu
110. Know the seven considerations of Sun Tzu
111. Know the concept of four – (1) strong, (2) weak, (3) rigid, (4) yielding
112. Value both your name and your honour
113. Understand your own fear of death
114. Know and understand what makes a “dog’s death”
115. Avoid being flustered a person
116. Know how to die in the correct place
117. Know and understand the concept of chugi – loyalty and justice
118. Be truthful, are you a warrior or a peasant?
119. Deeply study martial ways
120. Study a little of the tea ceremony
121. Study a little of poetry
122. Study a little of the Chinese literary classics
123. Know and have inner discipline
124. Master both your mind and your body
125. Know how to correctly carry basic weapons
126. Avoid places you know trouble will start
127. Keep your gear clean and prepared
128. Know how to maintain your swords
129. Know the correct procedure for any emergency

130. Be loyal to those who provide for you
131. Understand how to curb your lust
132. Know that the people around you will have an effect upon your mind
133. Know that desires are activated by environment
134. Know how to use the parables of the red brush and the water jug
135. Always keep your wazikashi short sword on your waist
136. Wear practical but tasteful clothes
137. Decide how much care is required in a situation
138. Know the difference between cowardice and consideration for danger
139. Know and understand the parable of “a long journey starts with a single step”
140. Know that burning passion without inner desire dies soon
141. Know how to use the quick rope
142. Know how to use a compass
143. Know how to use a set square
144. Carry something to write with
145. Always carry enough money
146. Check your appearance in a mirror
147. Comb and attend to your hair
148. Clean your katana with a cloth and powder when travelling
149. Know how to use fire starting equipment
150. Always be friendly to all people
151. Understand the concept of karma
152. Understand and practice zen
153. Research the way of enlightenment
154. Understand that which is important and that which is not
155. Have faith in the divine
156. Only speak 10% of what you think and only give 7% detail
157. Know and practice the concept of ikkō kenshin – the sword like heart
158. Avoid soft speech in your manner
159. Make sure to have the correct military tools
160. Understand the teaching of bōkei sanwa ichigō (unknown at present)
161. Never write things down you do not wish to be repeated
162. Learn how to write in code
163. When you first meet someone speak with gentility then move to strength

家

Ie

164. Maintain a simple house with a stylish look
165. Construct traps and tricks inside your house if needed
166. Never open the door for night callers without investigation
167. Observe someone’s speech at night to assess if they are a threat
168. Open a sliding door to the left
169. Build a secret exit out of your house
170. Sit with a spear on the right and katana on the left
171. Position spears with their blades facing the exit when they are on a wall
172. If staying somewhere new make a detailed investigation of the building

- 173. Never bang your sword against anything
- 174. If you suspect a thief, never call out with names of your group
- 175. Know how to use two men to deal with a thief or thieves
- 176. Do not try to stab people on walls, instead, wait for them to land
- 177. Strike people when they exit a narrow area
- 178. When you move out of a narrow space, do so with care
- 179. Use walls as a defence
- 180. Use thorny bushes as a defence
- 181. Use ropes as tripwires
- 182. Use caltrops to defend
- 183. Know how to break down defensive spikes
- 184. Know how to climb over defensive spikes with bamboo or cloth
- 185. Design your home as you would design a castle
- 186. Build an underground storehouse for your treasures
- 187. Build your garden with military principles
- 188. Know how to deal with injured people who arrive at your home
- 189. If shinobi approach, turn all the lights on and open the doors
- 190. Position a fan to fall to wake you up if needed
- 191. Secure doors with cord from the inside
- 192. On a night where something critical may happen sleep as a bird sleeps – lightly
- 193. Secure and protect both inside and outside of your position
- 194. Rise at dawn each morning

雜

Zō

- 195. Never tell lies (unless acting as a shinobi)
- 196. Settle arguments so that all involved are content
- 197. Sit between people who are arguing
- 198. Find a balance between being an introvert and extrovert
- 199. Do not exaggerate
- 200. If you happen to be present when someone gossips, take care in your actions
- 201. Never talk about others behind their backs
- 202. If people talk to you about others, they will talk to others about you
- 203. Do not serve too much alcohol
- 204. Do not be over polite
- 205. Know how to apologise if you hit another person's weapon by mistake
- 206. Always be polite about any food served
- 207. Understand hierarchical seating arrangements
- 208. If invited to an event investigate who will be in attendance
- 209. Avoid and never provoke imbeciles
- 210. When witnessing an argument do not call for back up, the situation will worsen
- 211. In an argument call for an arbitrator
- 212. Refrain from arguing as the end result will be death
- 213. Deliver messages with unhostile and softer speech
- 214. Know that the written word sounds harsher than speech
- 215. Never give in to emotional outbursts

- 216. If you never speak out when situation demands then know you are a coward
- 217. Never confirm a rumour
- 218. Know that people ask for advice because they want you to understand a situation
- 219. Be very careful on what advice you give as it can cause more trouble
- 220. Understand something from its beginning until its end
- 221. Understand the concept of honmatsu 本末 – roots and branches
- 222. Know that things have roots and branches while events have a beginning and end
- 223. Get advice from someone disconnected to you and the situation
- 224. Never pass on a difficulty to others
- 225. Never steal another person's ideas
- 226. Do not taint yourself to help others
- 227. Never discuss money
- 228. Never deprive people of their honour
- 229. Lead by example
- 230. Fully investigate someone before hiring them
- 231. Understand and practice the concept of intoku – hidden virtue
- 232. Know the intent of a written oath
- 233. Know that a promise is a promise
- 234. Maintain calmness in an emergency
- 235. Only ever use righteousness for your life goals
- 236. Only ever use judgment for problems within your life
- 237. Know the difference between cowardice and a natural phobia
- 238. Understand the positive and negative effects of adrenaline
- 239. As samurai never state that you dislike warfare
- 240. Prepare your sword with a covert identification mark
- 241. When lending out a sword inform the recipient that they can use it to test cut
- 242. Do not allow people to kill out of anger
- 243. When acting as a squire hold the hilt towards the right hand
- 244. Avoid being asked favours by others

旅

Tabi

- 245. Carry more than double the money you will need for travel
- 246. Use the tsukabukuro – travelling sword cover
- 247. When a sword is bent, break the scabbard and put the scabbard in a cover
- 248. Always follow the laws of another country
- 249. Use conversation to discover information on an area
- 250. Identify the cardinal directions when travelling
- 251. Check around the building and local area of a place you stay in
- 252. Do not be over friendly with other guests
- 253. Place a guard over your equipment when you bathe
- 254. Know how to sleep under a netting with swords
- 255. Keep an eye on who comes and goes from the lodgings
- 256. Be aware of thieves' tricks
- 257. When at lodgings keep a watch system
- 258. Travel with a thief for safety

259. Make sure to book lodgings in advance
260. To gain emergency lodgings pretend to buy expensive items
261. When travelling take regular rests
262. Try not to arrive at a location after nightfall
263. When in dangerous areas, move in stealth
264. Kill anyone who approaches as an obvious thief
265. When approached by a gang, kill the first one to force the others to flee
266. Offer small amounts of money to bypass thieves on the road
267. When opposed by a gang, start to fight before they can organise themselves
268. Never complain about fees to the service provider
269. Disembark from a ferry after lower people and carry your spear
270. If there is a problem with your transport, complain at the end of the journey
271. To cross water use ikki - bounding on tiptoes
272. Embark and disembark with controlled speed
273. When on a ship follow the orders of the crew
274. Know how far a journey will be
275. Use a circular cape to travel as it is easier to fight
276. When a ship is sinking, find something that floats and stay calm
277. At checkpoints always be polite
278. Create a gap in your *tabi* to allow trapped stones to exit
279. Carry instant soup with you
280. Know how to safely reheat food
281. Follow an animal which knows its way in the snow
282. Know tricks to keep you warm
283. Pay attention to your feet when travelling fast
284. Understand how to use relay systems
285. In narrow places carry your swords in hand
286. Use visible markings for items to avoid losing them
287. Never pass your weapon over to an inspector
288. Calculate how much food you will need per day of a journey
289. Never let anyone interfere with your servants
290. Do not agree to carry communications which contain money
291. Know how to cook rice by burying it in straw

夜

Yoru

292. At night pay attention when you walk if you see a human prepare for combat
293. Travel with a torch bearer to the rear
294. Avoid drunken people
295. When approached by a hostile shine a light in their face
296. In sword combat, move the light to the front
297. Hide your stance in the shadow of the light bearer
298. Have the torch bearer move forward and light the enemy face, move to the rear and kill
299. With a torch, aggravate the enemy with the light and strike the moment they strike
300. To observe a situation hold a torch up high

- 301.If someone is being aggressive to an official, stay calm, take a seat and become inactive
- 302.Place a sukedachi aid to the rear the of an enemy and the torch bearer at a right angle
- 303.Have the sukedatchi aid distract the enemy by shouting, then make the kill
- 304.In a full moon stay in the shadows
- 305.Know that in a new moon, shadows will be very dark
- 306.Know how to pass someone to the left or the right
307. When passing by another, lift the light and observe
- 308.Use a cane when walking at night
- 309.Know how to make and use a chigiriki - cane with chain and weight
- 310.Know how to make and use a shikoizue – cane with hidden element
- 311.Know how to talk your way through a street gang
- 312.Make sure to avoid street gangs as best you can
- 313.If a gang forces conversation on you strike and kill with speed
- 314.If the enemy is standoffish bring them in with words and then kill
- 315.If on the ground, lure them in and strike from a prone position
- 316.If surrounded, apologise and appear unthreatening, then kill with speed
317. If forced to the ground and swords taken, apologise but kill when swords are returned
318. If your swords are stolen, follow the thief home, make plans and raid their house
- 319.If the enemy takes a lantern from you, kill them when they turn and move away
- 320.In combat stay out of the light and stick to the darkness
- 321.Move to the side of a road when someone approaches
- 322.When travelling in a vehicle at night, keep a light ahead of the vehicle
- 323.Pre-seat a guest in your house by positioning a light for them
- 324.Prepare lights for guests that are leaving your house
325. At night, listen for the enemy, strike out when you hear them close by
326. At night move your back to a wall, fence or rear defence
- 327.Crouch down low and strike out when you hear the enemy
- 328.Call out to others by using your own name
- 329.If called out to, give a false name
- 330.After making a kill, when chased, kill torch bearers first
- 331.Strike from the same direction and from the dark multiple times, then change and kill
- 332.To defend against thrown stones, use the kimono sleeve as a shield
- 333.If hiding in a bushy area, do not come out, even if they throw in stones
- 334.If you need to throw stones back at an enemy, get in close first and aim for the head
- 335.When looking for an enemy in hiding, they can see you from inside the darkness
- 336.Throw torches into an area you suspect an enemy to be hiding
- 337.Throw torches into a house where you believe an enemy is hiding
- 338.Throw torches into any narrow place where you suspect an enemy to be hiding
- 339.Consider this theory: spirits only show themselves to the very strong or very weak
- 340.Venture at night to haunted places to steel your nerves
- 341.Before a journey, record and leave a planned route with someone
- 342.Know how to perform hokō ashimoto – the way of walking with a smooth connection
- 343.Never let fear manifest itself in your form
- 344.The blind can move in a familiar area with ease, do not always rely on your eyes
- 345.In the dark use shinki - all your senses to “see”

346. Close your eyes before moving into a dark area
347. If faint, crouch down and all will be well
348. Tie white paper to your feet in the dark to get a sense of your footing
349. Practice walking with your eyes closed
350. Know how to construct and use the pocket candle
351. In difficult areas move with swords on your back
352. On a dark night, your ears become your eyes
353. Know how to identify different footstep types in the dark
354. Keep a mental note of buildings so that you can memorise where they are
355. Pre-plan a route by counting the steps and turns so that you can retrace it at night
356. Know how to use saguriashi – the probing step

變

Hen

357. Understand the concept of kiki – premonitions
358. Never overreact to a situation
359. In an emergency observe people's speech patterns
360. Have evacuation protocols in place
361. Make proper preparations for natural disasters
362. Create fire assembly points
363. In a fire, leave the building and take no property
364. Prepare a meeting point for if a group is separated
365. Use cotton fire jackets that have been soaked in water
366. Understand the teaching of the way of flying birds
367. Know that fear is only found in a confused mind
368. If experiencing fear, concentrate your chi and focus your mind
369. If there is an earthquake, evacuate the building
370. Know and use ashinami – walking with concentration on the big toe
371. If houses nearby are on fire, send people on to the roofs to stop fire spreading
372. In fires give precedence to human life, not to treasure
373. In a fire, identify windward and leeward
374. For lesser fires demolish the houses around the main blaze to stop the spread
375. Know that a house will tell you if it will collapse
376. In a great storm take shelter in the mountains
377. In a great storm stay away from large trees
378. When you arrive to give aid in an emergency, announce yourself
379. Never move about in a fuss
380. Use a piece of radish in the mouth as a filter for smoke
381. Understand the concept of gunshi no kokoro – a military death
382. In smoke, crawl along the floor
383. Know that an outlandish appearance shows a weak mind
384. Use intimidation with mentally ill and violently drunk people
385. To calm a crowd summon their leaders for a meeting
386. Observe a rowdy crowd from a height
387. Understand how to identify a truth inside of rumours
388. Keep your distance from the mentally ill

- 389. Be wary of people who are inconsistent, who change from silence and talkativeness
- 390. Prepare: chainmail, an armoured headband and clothes for future emergencies
- 391. In an emergency have someone meet you at the location with more equipment
- 392. When moving out take a snack with you
- 393. Never have anyone wait for you
- 394. If your own guards are slack, leave suspicious tools to stimulate them
- 395. Know that death is only another form of change
- 396. To fear death is the same as to hold your breath to stop the ageing process
- 397. In fires, move with controlled speed
- 398. Concentrate on the time you wish to wake up before you fall asleep
- 399. Know the method of hayashi futō – fast travelling

討

Utsu

- 400. Kenka are unexpected fights
- 401. Uchihatashi are duels and organised violence
- 402. If you witness a fight, do not allow any of them to flee
- 403. Know that the man who loses a feud is the least determined person
- 404. After you have made an assassination – retreat to safety
- 405. Separate duellists with ladders, doors or the like
- 406. Talk calmly but with strength if someone is trying to provoke you
- 407. Know that when fighting indoors swords can stick into the building framework
- 408. In combat and on open ground move to a higher position
- 409. Understand the concept of doshi no yū – the courage of a furious samurai
- 410. If the situation demands – do not retreat a single inch
- 411. Never hesitate if you have entered combat
- 412. When others fight, cover the exits
- 413. Never return to the scene of a crime that you have witnessed
- 414. Never talk about a criminal or violent act you have witnessed
- 415. Know how to act as sukedachi – assistant in a duel
- 416. Know the three coups de grace
- 417. Give a mercy kill to anyone you have mortally wounded
- 418. If you have resolved to kill a man, never consider their social status
- 419. Beat lower people with a stick not the back of a sword
- 420. Sheathing a katana is stronger than drawing it
- 421. Never shy away from an act of virtue
- 422. Do not threaten others with facial gestures
- 423. Know how to clean your sword blade without equipment
- 424. Understand the construction and use of the hayaneraba – moleskin sharpening
- 425. Use two rivets in your sword
- 426. Only cut with the sword when close to the enemy
- 427. Swordsmanship: 3 parts mind, 3 parts hand, 3 parts sword, and 1 part movement
- 428. Know how to hold a sword
- 429. Use the pull–push cut and breath out of the strike
- 430. The depth of a cut changes depending on the direction the enemy moves
- 431. Practice cutting objects

- 432. Thrust in narrow places
- 433. Thrust with short weapons
- 434. For private messages, send two messengers so that no details are forgotten
- 435. Send a single messenger in war
- 436. Know how to perform as a kaishakunin – assistant to seppuku
- 437. Understand the details of the ritual of seppuku
- 438. Steel yourself by observing executions
- 439. When moving a prisoner the captain should stay at the rear
- 440. Understand uchimono – killing at the lord's order
- 441. Know how to perform uchimono with two people
- 442. Get used to the obnoxious smell of blood and gore
- 443. Skills for when someone grabs the handles of both katana and wakizashi
- 444. Know what to do when someone grabs just the handle of the katana
- 445. Know how to draw your katana in a crowd
- 446. Know how to draw your sword when someone restrains your right arm
- 447. Know how to straighten a bent blade
- 448. Never make excuses to avoid taking revenge
- 449. Forgive people who have attacked you by mistake
- 450. Understand the different levels of sword fighting
- 451. Consider the actions of your enemy through their eyes

讐

Kataki

- 452. Katakiuchi is to undertake an act of revenge
- 453. If a member of your family is killed it is your duty to take revenge
- 454. Send a written report to your commanding officer concerning the situation
- 455. Send a written explanation to your family and friends
- 456. Wear chainmail at all times during revenge
- 457. Save money for such circumstances
- 458. Study the art of iai – sword drawing
- 459. Study the art of torite – capture
- 460. Understand the concept of bokei – plans and tactics
- 461. Understand kanja no hō – the way of the spy
- 462. Understand shinobi no hō – the way of the shinobi
- 463. The moment you come across your enemy, kill them
- 464. Only lend support to a man taking revenge and never vice versa
- 465. Know how to lend out your sword in a duel you observe
- 466. Protect sanctuary seekers fleeing after a revenge killing
- 467. Help sanctuary seekers cross the border
- 468. Know that some “sanctuary seekers” are just trying to obtain money
- 469. Investigate the story of any sanctuary seeker and take away their swords
- 470. Understand the different rules for dealing with sanctuary seekers
- 471. Know how to trap bogus sanctuary seekers
- 472. Know that you should capture samurai with speed for their resolve never slackens
- 473. Know to capture low people with patience because their resolve will lessen
- 474. Torimono is to capture the enemy alive

- 475. Know how to capture with fire
- 476. Know how to load a musket with ash to aid in capture
- 477. Use armour to aid capture
- 478. Know and use the three tools of capture – tsukubō, sasumata and kumade
- 479. Know how to chase down someone with a firearm
- 480. Understand how to let your mind escape the forest of thorns
- 481. Understand that people who are in hiding or holed up are scared
- 482. If someone comes out to fight from a place of hiding, know it will be a hard fight
- 483. Understand how to capture from the rear
- 484. Know how to plan and execute building raids
- 485. Know how to demolish buildings to capture those inside
- 486. Know how to make an incendiary attack on a building
- 487. Capture an enemy with quick rope first and then use secure bindings later
- 488. Know how to capture with the hananeji tool
- 489. Remove your swords when capturing a samurai
- 490. Retain your swords when capturing lower people
- 491. When someone chases you stop and crouch so that they collide and fall
- 492. When chasing another run alongside them
- 493. When chasing someone and they rush into a house, follow instantly
- 494. If a person does not enter a house directly, they do not have authority
- 495. When it is time to capture, do so without any hesitation
- 496. Know how to use a chain and ball
- 497. Hook a person in; the ear, mouth or hand with a thin hook and cord

訟

Shō

- 498. Never add or subtract from a message
- 499. When attending official business do not attend to personal matters
- 500. Know how to borrow a katana
- 501. Never contradict a superior in public
- 502. Be firmly impartial in any debate
- 503. Never side with someone in a debate because you know them
- 504. Know and remember that humans tend to disbelieve an unsavoury face
- 505. If possible, in a dispute listen from behind a screen
- 506. The fundamental principle a judge requires is virtue
- 507. Always listen to both sides of a story
- 508. Remember that humans are tempted to believe the first account they hear
- 509. To know if someone lies, ask them about things you already know about
- 510. Do not display emotion in your face or voice
- 511. Know the difference between bravery and foolhardiness
- 512. When you make changes only ever make changes for the better
- 513. Understand the concept of dōri 道理 – the Principle
- 514. When being interviewed, concentrate fully
- 515. Make sure what you say adds up to anything you have said before
- 516. On the whole, people think in the same manner but talk differently
- 517. There are different ways to talk to the socially high and low

- 518. To give a message, deliver the basic outline and then fill in the detail
- 519. Understand the parable of “mounting the same horse”

強

Kyō

- 520. Strong does not equal victory and weak does not equal defeat
- 521. Know that being the victor in something does not make a person correct
- 522. Accept that people are born with different strengths
- 523. Being of strength does not mean that the mind is correct
- 524. If someone is strong, kill them using a weapon
- 525. Never grapple with anyone physically stronger than you
- 526. Do not fight people with their preferred weapon
- 527. Build a military arsenal
- 528. Understand the protocol of orders for war
- 529. Know that if you do not train, you will fail
- 530. Know how to don armour
- 531. In single combat take a lower position
- 532. Know if you should or should not draw a sword in any given situation
- 533. Understand how to sweep with a spear and stab in the dark
- 534. Know that you should never use a hooked spear in a thicket or woods
- 535. Save money for if you go to war
- 536. Ensure that your wife knows that you are a warrior
- 537. Maintain the correct amount of courage
- 538. Build an emergency food store
- 539. In peace, pay and retain others for times of war