

- book review

[Whole Earth Review](#), [Winter, 1992](#) by [Jean Gilbert Tucker](#)

See http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1510/is_n77/ai_12919295

The Leader as Martial Artist: An Introduction to Deep Democracy by Arny Mindell

"What is the spirit of the times - Democracy? Tyranny? - the Tao in turbulence? Can we develop something more exciting than war and also more sustainable than peace? How do we become leaders that support community within conflict?"

This volume begins with the author's question: "Am I sufficiently developed to write this book?" This spirit of humility suffuses a remarkable study of psychological and political insight addressing the growing problems of conflict and leadership. What follows is a provocative appraisal of an invigorated human spirit. A spirit that employs intriguing new visions: the metaskills of leadership; deep democracy; social entropy, timespirits; ideas constructed as the tools and conditions for working in the third millennium - "... a world with five thousand languages and religions and whose inhabitants seem to know more about launching space vehicles than about getting along with each other." This book is significant passionate, important

As we enter the twenty-first century, we have the separate worlds of politics, psychology, spirituality, and physics. There are field theories, dreamwork and bodywork, relationship and transnational organizational work. It is now time to develop our "worldwork," a method that helps small and large groups of people to live, work, and grow together within their environment. We need worldwork that employs but is not limited to our knowledge of psychology, the sciences, and spiritual traditions. We need to develop a new profession that works with large groups as well as individuals to create a more meaningful and exciting world. Our new profession must put the older ones together and interact usefully with the environment and the physical universe and profit from the spirits of the times in which we live.

Leaving the Field

Retreating If you have adequately found out which side you were on, expressed that side, and followed all the changes, you may find both yourself and your opponent automatically retreating. This is a subtle moment to notice. Use your awareness to see if there is a slight moment of relaxation, a flicker of a smile, a small sigh of relief. If so, let go and leave the field.

This is an extremely important moment in a conflict. it is easy to miss signals of deescalation because most people avoid conflict for so long that when they finally enter it, they become addicted to the state and resist leaving it behind. Notice your deescalation signals and then forgive your opponent and yourself as well.

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