

The Whetstone: How Vertical Relationships Sharpen Men

THE JOURNEY OF THE BLADE



Belief Arrives Before Evidence
Men rise to the level that respected leaders expect of them.

The Watch-Help-Do Cycle



Watch

Growth moves from observation to assistance, and finally to independent action.



Help



Do



Friction is Required for Sharpness

Comfort never sharpens; hard truths and "wounds" from a friend produce character.

THE ROLE OF THE WHETSTONE



The 3P Structural Rhythm



Proximate

Hard looks and straight talk require being in the same room.



Purposeful

The relationship must aim at a real outcome, not just social.



Periodic

Growth happens on a deliberate, protected rhythm.



Closing the Hypocrisy Gap

Teaching a standard forces the mentor to live up to it himself.

"Build Men, Not Monuments"

A leader's goal is to become dispensable by raising men who surpass him.