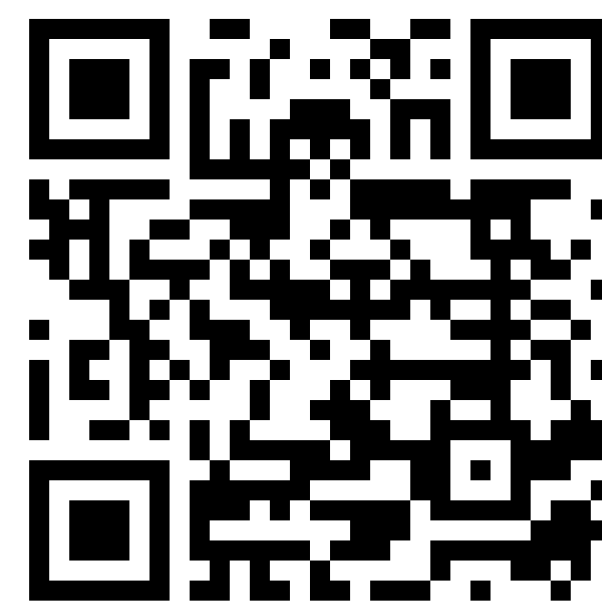




How to Fight a Hydra

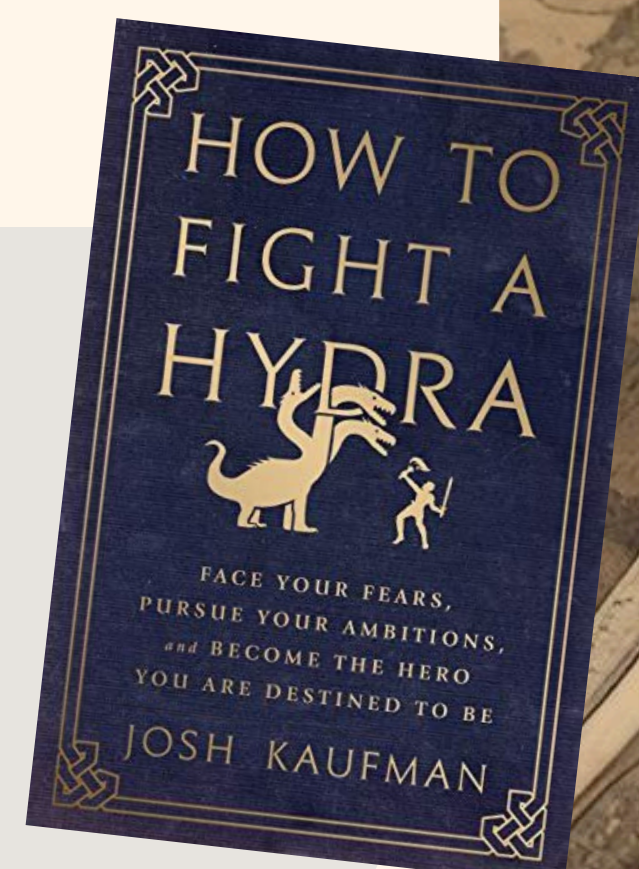
Josh Kaufman



A WORTH IT MEDIATION

- “I have decided upon my purpose: I will slay a Hydra and claim its treasure, like the heroes of old. Adventuring is dangerous, but if I continue my present course, I will go insane. I've had enough of sitting in a dusty room, hunched over a desk, my fingers cramped and stained with ink. I'm not sure what calls to me about this particular ambition, but it is important to me. If I do not act, I consign myself to a life of regret. For better or worse, I must do this.”
- “My friends express similar concerns. "Be sensible. You are not Hercules. You are not a mighty warrior or a powerful sorcerer. This is a task for heroes, people of destiny. You're a scribe. What makes you think you can do this?" When I told my master about my plans, he shook his head, then handed me another scroll to copy. "The legends have gone to your head. Do not desire what you cannot hope to accomplish." I know why my loved ones do not support my choice: they are afraid. Afraid it will be a terrible decision. Afraid I will sacrifice much and gain nothing. Afraid I will come to harm, or die in the pursuit.”
- “Before you engage, you won't know the outcome of the struggle. You may win the day easily, with barely a scratch. You may prevail, after much effort and after earning a few battle scars. You may fall, never to rise again. There may be treasure in the back of the cave, enough to live on in splendor for the rest of your days. There may be nothing. You may win glory and renown, or be considered a fool, worse off than you were before. This is the essence of life. The outcome of your actions and decisions is unknown and unknowable. What separates the adventurer from the bulk of humanity is the willingness to fight in spite of the risks: to meet the enemy on the field of valor, trusting in skill, instinct, and determination to see them through to a good end. There are no certainties and no guarantees. The hero fights anyway.”
- “No matter how much we desire certainty, predictability, and guaranteed results, the nature of human existence is fundamentally opposed to any attempt to control what will happen next.”
- “Ending a chapter of your life on your own terms is a feat worthy of respect and admiration.”
- “You're facing a monster. Of course you “don't feel like it.” Strap on your armor anyway.”

Our Question



— Josh Kaufman, *How to Fight a Hydra: Face Your Fears, Pursue Your Ambitions, and Become the Hero You Are Destined to Be*