A Thorough Description
of the Free Knightly and Noble Art of Combat

with all Customary Weapons,
adorned and presented with many fine and useful illustrations

Book 3: The Rapier
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Book 3: The Rappier

by

By Joachim Meyer, Freifechter of Strassburg, 1570

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Chapter 1: Contents of this Treatise on Combat with the Rapier, and in What Order It Will Be Presented and Described

As regards rapier combat, which at the present time is a very necessary and useful practice, there is no doubt that it is a newly discovered practice with the Germans and brought to us from other people. For although the thrust was permitted by our forefathers in earnest cases against the common enemy, yet not only did they not permit it in sporting practice, but they would also in no way allow it for their sworn-in soldiers or others who had come into conflict with each other, except against the common enemy, a custom that should still be observed today by honorable soldiers and by civilian Germans. Therefore rapier combat would be superfluous, were it not that thrusting, as well as many other customs that were unknown to the Germans of olden times, take root with us through interaction with foreign peoples. And since such foreign customs increase with us from day to day in many places, it has now also become more necessary not only that such customs of alien and foreign nations should be familiar and known to us, but that we should practice and adapt ourselves to these customs no less than they, as much as should be useful for necessary defense, so that when needed, we can encounter them to protect ourselves that much more better and be able to triumph.

Therefore I will present and describe rapier combat in orderly fashion, as I have learnt it from these people and experienced it through daily practice, showing how a man shall conduct himself with this or similar weapons. Now to do this for the greater benefit of students, I will first explain one element after the other, each individually in this order:

- Namely first, since here the opponent is divided further and otherwise than previously, to show the use of this, along with the division of the weapon;
- Then to teach how one shall execute the postures, cuts, and thrusts, along with their particulars in the work;
- Next how one shall transform the cuts into thrusts, the thrusts into cuts;
Item, to present the deceiving, correct stepping, and how one shall use all kinds of parrying, in orderly and comprehensible fashion.

And I will discuss and teach all this in the first part.

Then in the second part I will undertake to discuss the practice in itself, and how one shall execute the previously taught elements against the opponent:

And at the start I shall begin with some necessary and useful instruction on how one shall slice off, set off, and deceitfully provoke the opponent, diagonally from one posture to the other, and also change off from one into the other;

Next I will describe combat with the common Straight Parrying;

And since with every single cut, thrust, or parrying, one falls, travels, or must stray into one of the postures, I will, under the rubric of the aforementioned parrying, show and teach how you can quickly recover from each of them when you have arrived in one of them in the midst of combat, and can encounter him so that you are not rushed upon;

And next I will conclude the Straight Parrying by introducing many shrewd and advantageous instructions and devices;

And lastly I will append some brief instruction how one shall at need use a secondary weapon, such as a dagger, cape, and so on.

Therefore I hope, when you shall take the weapon in hand and read with attention, that you will well understand everything I have described in this order, and be able to make use of it.

Chapter 2: Concerning the Division of the Combatant and the Weapon and their Use

Although the division of the combatant has already been sufficiently discussed, such that anyone could easily manage with this weapon according to it, yet I have thought it necessary to offer fuller discussion of it, according to the particulars of the rapier, since this is different in use from the German weapons, so that you might learn to send the subsequent cuts against the opponent's body high or low with
greater understanding and confidence. And the division works this way:

As before, the combatant is divided into left and right by a vertical line; however two more vertical lines are added to this one, slicing down through the right and left shoulder on the sides [see Image A].

Secondly he is also divided and distinguished into four parts by three downward sloping lines, such that the first line begins on his left shoulder right near the neck, runs over the upper part of his chest, and ends under his right arm; the second begins above his left hip, runs diagonally through his belly, and ends at the beginning of his right thigh; and the third begins in the thick of his left thigh, and ends on the other side by his left knee. Now when you draw three more lines diagonally through the opponent opposite these from the other side in the same manner, then there will be three crosses as you will see it illustrated later [see Image A].

Thirdly, three more lines are drawn in the same way across through the opponent, by which he is again divided into four parts.

These divisions I have taught serve you firstly and chiefly for this, that you can use them as a guide in moving your body in various ways as needed for the cuts you send in either toward his upper or lower body. For when you send in your cuts against his upper part, whether they take place from above, diagonally downward, across, or from below, you must remain upright and high with your body, so that, as far as your height allows, your shoulder stands level with the upper part at which you are cutting or thrusting.

This shall not take place with the other cuts that you send against his lower body, but the lower you cut, the more you shall lower your upper body, which must be achieved with stepping, as you will find it described later in more detail in the section on cuts. For if you bring your body down for the cuts that you intend to deliver against his upper body, then
your stroke is shortened; likewise when you intend to cut below, and your body remains upright and high, then your cut is not only shortened, but you also make your upper body entirely open.

Now the weapon is here divided no differently than has taken place before with the longsword, namely into the same four divisions, according to which you can learn how to conduct yourself, depending on whether you are near or far from the opponent, and what sort of techniques you shall use with each part.

Thus when you are so near him that you can just reach the foible of his blade with your foible in the bind, then you may well execute sweeping cuts and thrusts against him, either with deceiving or else with other pulled cuts. For although he should crowd in at your opening when you come around with your weapon, yet he still cannot rush upon you, since you can be ready to crowd in with your incoming stroke as quickly as he can with his.

But when you have come so near one another that both blades bind in the middle, then you must not cut around, nor go away from his blade without particular opportunity, for as soon as you go away from his blade, he can rush upon you with chasing. But be mindful of the techniques that can be executed on his blade, and if he overcommits to a cut or else makes himself open, be sure to crowd after him.

But if you come even closer, having bound with the middle of your blade in the middle of his, then be quick with gripping, wrestling, and casting, for then you have no other choice, unless you step back from him.

Chapter 3: Concerning the Guards and Postures with the Rapier

The main guards with the rapier are reckoned to be five, each of which can be executed straight in front of you and also to both sides. I will present and explain for you how they are named and shall be executed, in order as follows.
High Guard [Oberhut] and the Ox [Ochs]

The High Guard on the sides is classified and executed in two forms, namely one for the thrust, the other for the cut. Position yourself for it thus: stand with your right foot forward, hold your hilt by your right side, extended forward, up, and out to the side, as shown by the large figure on the right in Image B, such that your point or tip stands against the opponent's face. This is also called the Ox, because in this guard you threaten a thrust from above with your weapon, for the Ox is essentially just the position for a thrust from above.

Now when you hold your weapon with the hilt as I have taught, with your arm extended up to the side, but you do not extend the blade forward toward the opponent, but away from the opponent behind you, then this is called the High Guard for the stroke, as the other is the High Guard for the thrust.

High Guard on the Left

Stand with your right foot in front as before, hold your weapon with the hilt up by your left side, with your arm extended upward, so that the point again stands against the opponent's face; and thus you stand correctly in the High Guard of the Ox on the left. But if you thus hold your hilt up beside your left, and your arm extended as before, but you turn or reverse your blade so that the point extends up behind your left shoulder, then you stand in the High Guard for the stroke on your left side, as before on your right.
**Straight High Guard**

The High Guard is also executed straight before your face with your arm extended up and forward, so that the point again extends up and forward, but this is not for a thrust, but only for a cut, although it can be transformed into a thrust.

Thus you have the High Guard on the right and left, for the thrust and cut, and also one straight out and upward in front of you.

**Low Guard [Underhut]**

The Low Guard likewise extends below in three directions, namely straight before you, and to both sides. Now the straight version is simply the end of a straight High Cut, as those to the sides are the end of the diagonal Wrath Cuts; for at the end of the High Cut you come with your weapon such that you extend your blade stretched out to the furthest with the point toward the ground against the opponent, and your hilt is also sunk toward the ground well in front of your bent knee, with extended arm and body leaning after it. It is seldom used as a guard or defense.

**Low Guard on the Right**

In this guard position yourself thus: stand with your right foot forward, hold your weapon with your arm fully extended down beside you outside your right thigh; let the tip or point lie outward before you toward the ground, as can be seen in the large figure in Image D.
Low Guard on the Left

As you now have learnt the Low Guard on the right, likewise understand the Low Guard on the left, except that you always set your right foot forward. Thus you stand as I have said concerning the Change in the treatise on the dussack, and you have done it correctly.

Irongate [Eisenport]

For this, position yourself thus: stand with your right foot forward as always, hold your weapon with your arm extended down and forward before your right knee, so that the point extends forward up against the opponent's face, as shown by the figure hereafter in Image C. It is called the Irongate, because in this posture you are not only well protected from your opponent's thrusts and cuts as behind an iron door, but also you
can confidently crowd upon him from here with all kinds of devices, if you use the weapon and techniques correctly in this posture, each according to the situation. You can also hold your weapon this way, and pull it toward the right and left side, or send it to the side as well as straight before you. Thus you have the Irongate straight before you and to both sides.

**Plow [Pflug]**

The Plow is essentially just a Low Thrust, but as a posture. Use it thus: stand with your right foot forward as before, hold your weapon down before your right knee with the quillons horizontal, such that in holding the weapon your thumb extends over the quillons onto the flat of the blade; this flat shall stand turned up toward you, the other one down away from you toward the ground. In this position, you shall stand with your feet wide apart and with your front knee flexed well forward, so that your body hangs well forward over it after the weapon; also your tip shall be extended well forward toward the opponent's belly. This posture is also executed on both sides in the work, that is to the right and left, like the Irongate.

**Longpoint [Langort]**

The Longpoint in the rapier is the end of all thrusts that take place long from you, for all thrusts that in hitting do not end in the Longpoint are too short, at least with flying thrusts. Now as regards the reversed thrusts or other shortened thrusts, they can in fact be executed in other ways than Longpoint, yet such that you can at once turn back from them into the Longpoint. This guard is also executed three ways, not sideways along the horizontal line, but along the vertical length of the opponent, that is, the first Longpoint extends toward his face, the second against his belt, the third at his belly or groin. For the Longpoint in general, position yourself thus: stand with your right foot forward as always, hold your weapon with fully extended arm toward your opponent's face, such that your shoulder always stands at the same height as the point at which you have thrust. Now when you send your thrust at his face, then you do not have to step too broadly, but it is enough to step just far enough that your upper body hangs well over after the thrust, so that you do not come too low with your shoulder. However when you wish to thrust at the belt or lower,
then you must step wide enough with your feet that your shoulder stands as low as the point to which you have thrust; but concerning this you will find fuller instruction later.

**Posture 5 Langort**

**Chapter 4: Concerning the Classification of the Four Cuts, and How They Shall Be Carried Out and Executed, with Their Particulars, against the Opponent in the Work**

Since essentially there are no more than four chief cuts (as I have often said), and yet in this weapon as with the weapons that have already been discussed, many other cuts happen and are executed, I will classify for you these four cuts to both sides, and high and low as indicated by the lines, and teach you how they shall be executed variously toward the opponent's body, high and low, so that you can have a thorough instruction in all cuts.

And firstly, three types of cuts are executed and derived from the High Cut, among which the first is delivered straight from above down the middle vertical line toward the head, and is called the Scalp Cut or Brain Blow. The second, where you turn your hand as you cut down so that you hit with the short or rear edge, is called the Squinting Cut. And the third, executed by cutting down to the two side lines as described hereafter, is called the Suppressing Cut.

Now the second cut is delivered along the diagonal hanging lines in three different ways, high and low, among which the
first and highest is called the Shoulder Cut and Defense Stroke, the second the Hip Cut, the third the Thigh Cut.

Likewise the Middle or Horizontal Cut is also sent through at three points against the opponent's body, and is also named with three distinct names, namely the Neck, Belt, and Foot Cut.

Now the Low Cuts are delivered upward through the same lines [through which the High Cuts are sent down from above, straight or diagonally, without any distinct names, except insofar as one speaks of Winging and Scalping.

Thus you now understand that although these four cuts remain entirely consistent in their manner of cutting on your part, yet as they are cut in, they are distinguished with names based on the body parts or their effect, depending on whether you send them high or low against his body. Now I will present and explain for you all the cuts that are derived from them, in orderly fashion one after another, thus:

The First Scalp Cut [Schedelhauw] or High Cut [Oberhauw] (In the Vor) (In the Nach)

What a High Cut is in essence you have already learnt sufficiently in the treatises on the longsword and dussack. I will therefore now only teach how it is to be used, and show for what occasion it is useful and serviceable.

Thus in the Onset, if an opponent stands before you in the Irongate or Straight Parrying, then position yourself the same way. From there, raise your weapon straight up with extended arm, yet such that as you raise it, your weapon remains before your face. And note meanwhile on which side he is most open to you; cut to that side in the manner of a slice, straight from above near his blade, so that it seems as if you intended to cut in front on his point.

Spring quickly to the other side, and pull your weapon back up for the stroke toward the side to which you have sprung, and quickly deliver a straight High Cut down through at the same side close to his blade, in the manner of a slice; in this cut you shall step wide with
your feet, and have your forward knee well flexed forward, so that your upper body sinks well forward with the cut, and your weapon falls to the ground with the blade as horizontal as possible.

Go quickly back up with your weapon into the Longpoint for parrying; with this, pull your forward foot back to you and come back upright with your body; and as you thus make yourself upright, drop the hilt of your weapon into the Irongate; thus you stand as at the beginning.

And so much for this cut in the Before. Now in the After, note this opportunity:

- In the Onset when you have both come into the aforementioned guard or parrying, and you realize that your opponent is ready to cut first, then take heed when he cuts in, and pull your forward right foot back as far as the left, and at the same time as you pull back your forward foot, send your weapon extended up in the air before your face, and thus let him miss with his cut, falling before you toward the ground; or even if he should hit, he cannot reach more than your hilt.

Now as soon as his cut has come past in front of your hilt, then cut down from above at his head in the manner of a slice, with a spring forward on your right foot; and this shall take place quickly, so that your cut hits before his cut has fully dropped to the ground. Then come back into the parrying as I have just taught.

**Suppressing Cut [Demffhauw]**

Now as it occurs in combat that you sometimes cut before, and sometimes after, so it often happens that both of you cut at the same time. Therefore since the Suppressing Cut is derived from the High Cut for this purpose, I will present it to you in this way, namely thus:

- When you perceive that your opponent will cut at you from his right, whether it happens diagonally, across, or from below, then note just as he pulls up his weapon for the cut, and at the same time also pull
your weapon upward; with this pulling upward, spring quickly out from his cut toward his left side, and as his cut flies in, send your High Cut against his right shoulder, so that your hilt somewhat precedes your blade in going down, and so that you step wide with your feet, so that your upper body sinks well after the cut, as I have also said above.

Thus you will either hit on his right arm, or on his forte; with this cut you shall suppress his blade to the ground, and so weaken him that you can well give him a cut or thrust before he recovers. But if he should work back out from under your blade so quickly, and pursue you with cuts so rapidly, that you may not attack at his opening, then step quickly with a double step out to his right side, and pull by your left side back to a High Cut. As he cuts in, send it outside over his right arm at his left shoulder; thus you again hit down from above either on his right arm or on his blade as before.

The Suppressing Cut is also executed from the other side, in this way:

- Position yourself in front in the Irongate, and as he pulls up for the stroke, whether from the right or left side, then quickly raise your weapon, and cut at the same time as him onto the forte of his blade, yet such that as your cut goes down, your blade extends upward, and your hilt hangs down toward you.

Cut thus onto all cuts that he executes against you, both from the right and the left, with extended arm and body sunk downward, which you can do by stepping wide with your feet, until you feel that he is sufficiently weakened, so that you can attack at his opening before he comes up and recovers. In all this, note that the lower he sends his cuts at you, the lower you shall come with your upper body by stepping broadly, so that in the cut, your pommel drops well toward the ground, such that you hit all his cuts rightly with your Irongate, high or low always depending on how he sends is cuts.
Next comes the third, namely the Squinting Cut, which is a High Cut with reversed hand, thus:

**Squinting Cut [Schielhauw] (In the Vor) (In the Nach)**

This is appropriate against those who remain with extended arm firmly in front of their face to parry, since you can use it to drive him up out of his parrying. Execute this cut thus:

- When you have pulled up your weapon with extended arm before you into the High Guard for the stroke, and he meanwhile sends a cut against your body, from whatever side it may be, then step to the other side away from his cut, and cut down from above onto the forte of his blade, yet such that as it goes down you turn your hand around, so that you hit his blade not with the long edge but somewhat with the short edge or flat. As soon as the weapons connect, if you have not hit him with the short-edge foible of your blade, then thrust on his blade in before you at his face. In this thrust inward, turn the long edge down, so that at the end of the thrust you stand in the Longpoint.

Now in the reversing of the cuts note this precept:

- If he cuts from his right at your left, and you will fall on it with a Squinting Cut, then reverse your cut outward in cutting, the short edge down from you. But if he sends his cut from his left at your right, then as you cut down, reverse your hand inward toward your body, the short edge down. And it doesn't matter whether you come on his blade with the flat or the short edge; but the closer both fortes come together, the more readily your foible will hit behind his.

**Diagonal High Cut [Oberhauw schlims]**

This cut has two names in the rapier, namely the Wrath Cut and Defense Stroke. It is called the Wrath Cut when you deliver the cut at his body without hindrance in the Before. You will be able to gather from the following examples how you shall execute this cut usefully at his opening depending on how he holds his weapon, thus:
If he holds his weapon low, then cut quickly and suddenly above his weapon diagonally through his face, and then quickly back from the other side opposite it. But if he holds his weapon high, then cut below his weapon, also diagonally through his body, and quickly as before; then cut from the other side opposite it.

And that is concerning the Wrath Cut. However, it is called the Defense Stroke when you send his cuts and thrusts away from you with this cut. For whatever cut or thrust he may deliver from above, this diagonal High Cut takes it away, if you send it through his face and against his hand. Now if he cuts further down, that is at the middle of your body, then send your cut also down diagonally against his hand, so that you hit his blade. If he cuts yet further down, namely toward your lower legs, then cut with lowered body and hanging blade also against his lower legs; thus the blades in hitting together form a cross below, as can be seen in Image B.

From these two Wrath Cuts comes the Cross Cut, namely when you send two of them from both sides opposite one another, high or low, as the three crosses in the following image show.

Lastly you shall also learn to deliver these two diagonal Wrath Cuts high or low from both sides through the three crosses, just as before from one side, with their steps, suitably and long from you, not with violence, but in the manner of a slice with drawn cuts.
For the first and highest, conduct yourself thus:
stand with your right foot forward, but with your body upright, as I have said before; cut with extended arm from both sides diagonally through his shoulder. And in this cutting turn your right side well after the cut toward him.

Now for the second middle cross, conduct yourself in this way:
come again with your right foot forward, such that in stepping your feet are about one foot’s length or more further apart than before; and bend your knee well forward, so that you are sunk somewhat down with your right shoulder from which you launch your cuts, and your shoulder stands at the same height as the intersection of the middle cross. Cut thus from both sides diagonally in combination through the middle of the opponent's body, as before you have cut through his upper body.

Now for the lowest cross you must stand with your feet even further apart, and you shall also have your forward knee flexed further forward than before, so that you stand sunk downward with your upper body that much more than has taken place before; and as with the others, you come with your right shoulder to the height of the target. If your body will not allow you to do this, then you should not execute the lower Cross, for it is not for everyone, etc. For when you cut at his lower legs, and yet remain upright with your body, then he can rush immediately at your face with a straight thrust, although one can unexpectedly execute a Foot Cut at him on the side before he realizes it.

You shall learn to cut each of the three crosses individually along with their steps forward and backward, so that you will be well trained at them ahead of time when you
should have occasion to use them, yet such that in stepping you always keep your right foot in front. Also you can usefully exercise yourself further according to these three crosses, thus:

- Cut the first against the upper cross, through the same left diagonally hanging line; cut the second from your left against his right diagonally through the middle cross with a further step forward; cut the third back from your right against his left lower cross diagonally through his lower leg, with a further step forward on your forward foot. These three cuts shall be executed quickly with three steps forward on the forward foot. As you now have changed off from the upper to the lower, so you can also change off from one to the other from the lower to the upper line.

**Hip Cut [Hüffthauw]** ([Version 1] [Version 2])

- Do this thus: send a powerful High Cut against his head, but don't let it hit or connect, but as your cut goes down, turn the short edge outward from you against his left ear, and thus sink the point deep at his face; thus you not only compel him to parry, but you also gather for the following cut. When he goes up to parry, then at once pull your hilt around before your face, up toward your left, and when he has gone up, cut from your left outside his right arm, diagonally down from above at his right hip. This shall take place in a single step and pull, so that with the first pulled High Cut you raise your right foot, and you set it back down at the same time as the completion of the Hip Cut; thus you have executed it rightly.

This takes place to both sides. You can also execute this cut with a thrust, thus:

- Thrust out of the Irongate straight up at his face; as soon as he goes up with his hilt, then cut as before at his hip.
Round Stroke [Rundstreich]

Do it thus: if you stand in the Irongate, then pull your hilt up toward your left into the guard of the left Ox; from there draw a Middle Cut across against his right, right through against his face. Deliver the second cut in the same drawing motion from your right against his left, also right through his thigh or knee. These two cuts shall take place quickly in a single pulling motion, with a step forward, the first above through his right, the second below through his left, in a circle that runs through the opponent's face above and his thigh below. It is named the Round Stroke because of this circle that it makes in going around.

Double Round Stroke [Doppel Rundstreich]

For this, conduct yourself thus: cut the first across from your right at his face; yet do not let this hit, but as you cut in, pull your hilt between you and him toward your left into the same guard of the Ox, and turn your right side well toward your left after the hilt; but you shall not tarry in this place for even a moment, but as you pull upward, sink your head down, and cut the second around your head against his right side across to his middle or shoulder, yet such that this cut also does not come through but only as far as his parrying (if he has turned it forth); and in this cut go up again with your hilt toward your right; let your blade go back around again and cut the third from your right across through his lower leg, actually completing it this time.

Now for the stepping conduct yourself thus: for the first two Middle Cuts; advance your right foot only a little bit, but not hard upon the ground, rather gather your weight with this step so that you can advance with the same foot that much more readily for the third cut; for as soon as your foot touches the ground in the first step, you shall raise it up again, and shall set it forth with the third cut. You shall complete these three cuts quickly in a single pulling
motion like the letter S, with two steps. And the last cut shall be delivered most strongly and right through; the other two shall not be cut through but rather only to the openings, and then pulled back from them; and all that in a single motion as I have said.

Now when you learn to do these two Round Strokes, namely the single and the double, rightly and well—since finesse and not force is the key to all drawn cuts—you will know how to execute many very fine and artful devices from them.

**Neck Cut [Halßhauw]**

- Execute it in this way: hold your weapon on the right in the Low Guard or Irongate, and see whether he will lay on against you from his right. If he thrusts or cuts in at your left, then spring well to his left out from his thrust or cut, and as you spring, strike with the inside flat across down onto the forte of his blade. And when the flat of your blade connects on his, then spring at once further around toward his left side; once you have pressed his blade down with the flat, draw your sharp edge through his neck against his right.

As you now have executed it from this side, so you can also do it from the other side. You can also execute the cut freely without any preparation, after he has fallen or reached the furthest point of his cut, with a Middle Cut across against his neck, as you will have plenty of examples of it later in the devices.

**Foot Cut [Fußhauw] and concerning the ‘Middle Cut’ [Mittelhauw]**

The ‘foot’ here refers to the entire lower leg from the knee to the sole of the foot, to which one can cut horizontally and diagonally. The horizontal cut is called a Middle Cut, whether it takes place high or low; the diagonal is the Wrath Cut. However you shall not cut to the lower leg, unless you have weakened him with suppressing (concerning which you have previously learnt), or taken his blade through another technique, or unless he is neglectful with long waiting, or else has gone too far upward.
Hand Cut [Handthauw]

The Hand Cut can be executed in many ways, as you will well gather from the section on devices. But here note that whenever he cuts at your lower legs, he must stretch his hand well away from him; therefore you can readily evade him with your lower leg, and at the same time cut at his hand, as shown by the two figures in Image B.

In addition you can also cut to the hand whenever an opponent sweeps around too high or too wide. This Hand Cut is one of the chiefest in the rapier, for it puts a person on the defensive so that he has already half lost, if not entirely. Now as to what further pertains to the deceitful and reversed cuts, you will hear enough about it later in the second part in the section on devices.

Double Cut [Doppelhauw]

Do this thus: if an opponent cuts from his right against your left, then deliver a Horizontal or Low Cut against his cut, and catch his cut, the higher in the air the better. And note as soon as his cut clashes on your blade, and turn your short edge inward on his blade, and draw your long edge away from his blade rapidly through at his face. With this cut, pull your hilt upward, and let the blade run through under his right arm toward your left; with this, spring well out to his right side with leaning body, and cut with your long edge outside over his right arm at his head. These three cuts, if you do them correctly, are done swiftly in a single motion.
From this Double Cut one may easily gather how one shall double all other cuts.

Now as to what further pertains to the Foot Cuts, diagonal and horizontal, along with the blows, which like the cuts come in four kinds, namely High, Diagonal, Horizontal, and Low Blow, and can also be done with the inside and outside flat—since all this can be learned later in the section on devices, so that it would be needless to deal with them individually here, I will therefore now proceed to list and describe the thrusts, how many of them there are and how one shall execute them.

Chapter 5: Concerning Thrusts

There are three chief thrusts, from which all the others arise and originate, namely the first from above, the second from below, each of which is done from both sides; the third goes from your middle straight in before you into the Longpoint. I will present something here about these three chief thrusts, as I have said, from which you will be sufficiently able to understand and learn all other thrusts. Now this is how you should execute the High Thrust, which shall be done from the right Ox against the opponent's face or chest:

- Position yourself in the High Guard of the right Ox, concerning which you have already been instructed. Raise your right foot for a step forward, and as you raise your foot, pull your hilt back behind over your right shoulder to gather for a forceful thrust. From there, thrust at his chest with a broad step forward on the foot you have raised; but just as this thrust shall hit, turn the long edge down toward your left in the manner of a slice, so that at the end of the thrust your front knee is flexed well forward, and your upper body leans well over it forward toward the ground after the thrust; and so that after completing the thrust you bring your blade with extended arm long in front of your foot in slicing down toward the ground. From there, recover your foot and go with your long edge back up into the right Ox, just as you stood in the beginning. This goes on both sides.
Face Thrust [Gesicht Stich]

Learn first to thrust this one from your left with your palm away from him, thus:

- Position yourself in the guard of the left Ox; if he thrusts in at your right, then spring well out from his thrust toward his right, and as he thrusts in, thrust at his face with extended arm from your left above his right arm.

- Item: position yourself in the guard of the right Ox, and note as soon as he thrusts in at you, and step with your left foot toward your left side out from his thrust, and follow quickly with your right foot out toward his right; and at the same time as this stepping let your blade run off toward your left, and snap around by that side into the guard of the left Ox. From there, thrust as before, as he is thrusting in, over his right arm at his face; thus you hit as can be seen in the small figures in Image A on the previous page, and you stand in the Longpoint. This must take place quickly as he is thrusting in.
Throat Thrust [Gurgel Stich]

This thrust is carried out in many ways, one of which I will present thus:

- In the Onset, when you find your opponent in the Irongate, then threaten to thrust from the left High Guard of the Ox outside over his right arm at his face, stepping out, yet such that you keep your hilt high. If you see meanwhile that he goes up with his hilt toward his right intending to send away or parry your thrust, then let your point drop beside his right shoulder, and go through or change through with your point under his right arm. At once deliver a thrust, actually completing it this time, inside his right arm up from below at his throat, so that as you send in your thrust the long edge stands below, the short edge upward, and after completing the thrust you have your weapon up in the Longpoint. Thus it is correctly executed; it must be done swiftly and suddenly.

Heart Thrust [Herz Stich]

The Heart Thrust can be done from above, from the middle, and from below in the work. Now among all of these, note here this way:

- If an opponent cuts from his right, then cut also from your right, across against his weapon; with this cut, step with your right foot well through under his blade toward his right, so that you catch his stroke on the forte of your blade, the nearer to his hilt and the higher in the air the better. And when the blades clash together, then turn the point inward at the left side of his chest, yet such that your blade remains on
his, so that the short edge is turned onto his long edge; and thrust in, remaining on his blade, as shown by the large figures in Image G. In all this, note diligently if he intends to go away from your blade; as soon as you feel this, then turn your long edge back against his blade; thus remain on his blade with the slice, and continue forward against his body and meanwhile try to set your weapon upon him according to your opportunity.

Groin Thrust [Gemecht Stich]

Do this thus: if an opponent cuts outside at your right thigh, knee, or lower leg, then catch his blade with a counter cut from your left, stepping with your left foot well out toward his right. As soon as the blades connect, then step yet further to him with your right foot; meanwhile turn the point in and upward under his blade, and thrust at his groin.

Or if he initially thrusts at you from below, then step out sideways with your left foot, again toward his right, and send out his incoming thrust from your left toward your right with hanging blade. And as soon as your blade clashes on his, at once step forward to him with your right foot, and thrust under his blade at his groin as before.
Reversed Thrust [Verkehrter Stich]

Although this can be begun in many ways, yet it always is ended in one way. Execute it thus:

- If your opponent stands before you in Straight Parrying or Irongate, then thrust at his face out of the right Low Guard straight up inside his weapon close to his blade, and as you thrust in, turn your long edge up against his blade and toward your left. If he pushes or sends your blade out toward his [?read: your] right up or to the side, then let it snap around above back toward you, so strongly that your blade swings around down in by your left side and the point goes back up from below under his blade. Thrust thus with reversed hand beside his right arm under his blade, as you can see it in the small figures on the left in Image C.

In this thrust, the point must be set upon him in the initial impetus of snapping around, otherwise the thrust is too weak. At once pull your weapon away to your left, and from there deliver a Defense Stroke through his right shoulder, face, or side, or let it snap around again, palm away from him, and thrust outside his right arm back at his face, so that as you thrust forth your palm stands above, and your short edge is turned against his weapon; in all this, lean your head well down toward your left out from his weapon. He must ward off and turn away this thrust; as soon as he does this, send the point around outside his arm, so that in going around you reverse your hand.
again as before, and thrust with reversed hand as before under his right arm at his body. Follow up with the Defense Stroke as I have taught.

Double Thrust [Doppel Stich]

- If an opponent encounters you in the Irongate straight before him, then thrust from the Low Guard from your right inside close to his weapon beside his hilt up at his face. Thus you compel him to go up with his hilt; as soon as you see that he goes up with his hilt to parry, then also lift up your hilt as you thrust in; transmute your Low Thrust into a high one, and thrust behind or beside his hilt from across at his body.

Another Double Thrust (First) (Second)

- Or else thrust inside at his body; as soon as he intercepts the thrust with parrying, then turn the short edge in against his body, and let the blade run through under his arm toward your left side under his blade, and let it thus snap around by your left side in the air into the guard of the left Ox. From there thrust outside his right arm at his face, with a step out toward his right. These two thrusts shall run quickly one after the other.

- Or thrust outside over his right arm at his face; if he turns out your thrust toward his right side, then let your blade at once snap around to your left back into the guard of the left Ox; step meanwhile with your left foot well behind your right arm [?read: foot] to him toward his left side. Thrust thus from the left High Guard of the Ox inside his blade at his face, with a step forward on your right foot.

The thrusts can be doubled in many ways; you will hear more about it in the second part.

Deceitful Thrust [Verfierte Stich] (Second Version)

- In the Onset, send a powerful thrust from the right High Guard of the Ox at his face; but as you thrust in, turn your thrust up from below with a broad step forward on your foot, and thrust under his hilt up at his belly. When you correctly reverse this High Thrust
into a Low Thrust through the Rose, then it seems at first as if you were thrusting from above, then before he realizes it, you have hit below.

**Item:** if your opponent stands before you in the Irongate, then thrust inside his weapon up at his face without hitting, so that your blade snaps around again toward your right and into the right Ox. Act as if you intended to thrust at him outside over his right arm; but deceitfully change your thrust in the air, and thrust at him from above under his weapon inside at his face.

**Flying Thrust [Fliegender Stich]**

This Flying Thrust is the most essential, and is very necessary for every combatant to know. Do it thus:

- In the Onset, position yourself in the Low Guard on the right, so that you stand with your feet not too far apart, such that you may have a step forward for every thrust; also you shall keep the elbow joint of your right arm firm and as straight as possible in all thrusts. Then vigorously act as if you intended to thrust in, but although you appear to thrust your tip somewhat toward him, yet keep control of your weapon, so that you as soon as you see your opportunity (after you have deceived him somewhat with serious comportment), you thrust in a sudden flight against him when and where he least expects it, with a step forward, as quickly as if it had been shot from a crossbow. As quickly as you now have thrust in, equally quickly you shall pull your weapon back again into the same Side Guard; from there if he should thrust further, you shall slice off from both sides.

- And so that you shall be better trained at this thrust, choose a particular place at which you can thrust, and thrust in before you from the right Low Guard with a step forward, so that when the thrust hits you stand as shown by the figure in Image A. Then pull your weapon back into the previous position; along with this, move your foot back to its previous place. From there, again thrust rapidly at him with a step forward; pull your weapon and foot quickly back
again from the thrust to its place, etc. Do this thrust one to six times.

But since this cannot be described so much as shown with the living body, you shall study it diligently with earnest practice and the fencing master's help.

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**Chapter 6: A Good Lesson and Precept How One Shall Transform the Cuts into Thrusts, the Thrusts into Cuts**

Now that I have briefly presented and taught the cuts and thrusts, I will next briefly show how one shall transmute the cuts into thrusts and the thrusts into cuts. For it is a particularly fine master technique to perform this transforming rightly, and execute it according to opportunity. And since this can be done in many and diverse ways, it would be quite pointless to recount them here at too much length. I will simply present and teach it through some examples from the four cuts, namely:

- In the Onset, when you can reach his foible with yours, then deliver a powerful High Cut diagonally at his left, and as your cut flies in, turn your hand
such that the short edge is reversed inward at him; as you cut in, hold your hilt imperceptibly somewhat up in the air, until your blade has meanwhile shot in for the thrust; then thrust the other way fully at his chest with a broad step forward, in such a way as you have already been taught concerning the High Thrust.

Item: deliver a Middle or Low Cut from your right against your opponent's left, and note diligently as soon as he goes against it to parry, and your cut should just about hit, and before it hits, turn the cut quickly into a thrust. Now if your cut hits on his blade, whether it takes place with a High, Diagonal, Horizontal, or Low Cut, then just as the blades connect and clash together, turn the point inward against his body; thrust in on his blade, as I have taught concerning the Waker in the dussack.

And turn your thrusts into cuts in this way:

- Send a powerful High Thrust against your opponent's face, and halfway through, when you see that he goes up to parry, then just as your thrust should hit, rapidly pull your hilt a little bit up and cut through sideways beside or under his hilt.

- Item: send a thrust straight forward at his face; and just as it should hit, turn your hilt up toward your left, and let your blade go around your head. Cut outside diagonally through his right, either below or above. But if you are rushed upon with a cut, so that you must parry, then as soon as his cut hits on your blade, turn your blade inward on his with the tip at his body; thus you gather yourself to cut at will.

From these devices I have taught, you can sufficiently understand how the cuts are to be converted into thrusts, the thrusts into cuts, if you will diligently study it. Now from this arises the deceiving, as follows.

**Chapter 7: Concerning Deceiving**

At this point I have sufficiently explained the cuts along with all their particulars. Now since I will frequently mention
deception later in the devices, it has become necessary to say something about it, so that I should not be held back in writing during the section on devices.

Now there are two types of deceiving: the first is executed with the weapon, the second with body language. I consider it unnecessary to discuss deception with the weapon at length, since I have already spoken of it often in the two previous weapons: namely, deceiving is when I send in my stroke at an opening, and then see that he goes against it to parry it, so that this cut becomes useless to me, so I let it run past without hitting, and quickly pull it in the same motion to the nearest opening elsewhere.

Now for such deception you should be well instructed and trained in the four openings along with other divisions, so that as you cut in, you can masterfully, artfully, and imperceptibly draw back a cut that you send toward a high opening, and without interrupting its initial course on that side, can send it through underneath, or complete it to an opening. Take this example of it:

- Send a powerful Wrath Cut at his left; when or before that cut has run halfway, then while the blade is still in the air going in, turn the short edge in against him, so that it seems as if you intended to thrust at his face. With this transforming you gather yourself in the air for another cut, which you shall execute at once through his left, actually completing it this time, either below or above.

In sum, if you wish to hit the opponent above, then first glance or threaten below, or if you will hit him on the left, then threaten him first against his right, so that he must slip after with his weapon, and thus give you space on the other side, as will be taught more extensively in the devices.

Now this deceiving includes the other, which is executed with body language; from both of these techniques many and diverse wonderful devices are executed. And so that you can achieve a particular understanding of this deceiving with body language, I will explain it for you somewhat more fully through examples and so on. And since deceiving with body language, as
with the weapon, is basically to threaten to execute one cut or technique, and to complete it in another way, you must here well observe and consider the provoking, taking, and hitting, concerning which you have already been instructed in the treatise on the dussack.

For all provocation with body language or otherwise will be chiefly intended to provoke him out of his advantage to cut or thrust; as soon as he cuts or thrusts, then secondly you hold off or forcefully take out the cut to which you incited him with your provocation, and so weaken him, that thirdly you can hit and reach him without harm before he recovers; then even if he recovers, you are ready to intercept him with defensive strokes as quickly as he can attack. Yet so that you may better understand this, I will present some examples for you, not that it must be exactly this way, but as an introduction into better devices, namely:

If you wish to deceive an enemy with body language, then you may make use of the following performances, thus:

- **When you find an opponent in the Low Guard on the right, then position yourself in the Irongate, and act as if you intended to thrust earnestly at his face. For this, raise your right foot and stare hard at his face, and thus with your arm and hand vigorously pressed forward, and with sneering nose and upraised foot, send the point at his face, as if you intended earnestly to thrust. And as you thrust in, turn your long edge up toward your left; unnerve him thus with the thrust so that he precipitously goes up to parry it. Then let your thrust travel around your head as he goes up, and cut outside at his right thigh, with a broad step forward and your body leaning; be on guard quickly with Defense Strokes to protect you.**

- **Item:** position yourself in the Irongate as before, and act as if you intended to cut at his lower leg, in this way: in the Onset, stare with earnestly open eyes hard at his forward foot; meanwhile raise your weapon and lean your body with upraised foot, as if you intended to cut at him below with a step forward; but when you set your foot back down in stepping forward,
then thrust straight in at his face from the point to which you have lifted your weapon. In this thrust keep your face and body language focused on his foot; thus he will not perceive your thrust until it has taken place, for by raising your weapon for the cut, you gather for the thrust, and the step and thrust both finish at the same time.

And you shall use and learn all this against those who stand firmly in their parrying and will not work, to wait until you are fully extended with cutting or thrusting. You must thus incite and provoke him out of his advantage, since you cannot attack without some opportunity, for you must worry that he will overreach or catch you in your own device. Therefore you must see how you can bring him out of his advantage. So that you can better understand this, I will briefly repeat the provoking, taking, and hitting, which I have presented previously.

If you find your opponent in a guard or quarter in which he waits for your thrust or cut, then cut through to his nearest opening, not that you intend to hit him; also be sure that you are not too near him, and take heed that you do not overcommit to this cut, or let your weapon go too far out of your control, but keep control over your weapon without him realizing it, while you act as if you had overcommitted to your cut. At once as he rushes to the opening you have made with cutting or thrusting, then recover for the stroke, and cut out his incoming cut or thrust with your forte, or deliver a Suppressing Cut down onto it, depending on the situation; and that is called the Taker, since you forcefully take out his weapon, which he has not expected. As soon as you have thus taken his stroke or thrust, then rush to the nearest opening with cutting or thrusting; these counterstrokes are called the Hitter.

Thus you have provoking, taking, and hitting, which is to provoke the stroke, to parry or set off the stroke you have provoked, and at once to counter cut back to the opening. And I do not mean that you should not hit with the Provoking Cut or also with the Taker if you can; it is so named only because the chief intention is either to provoke him out of his advantage or to take out and bear off his cut—whether you can also hit him.
with this doesn't matter. You can also well complete these three elements with a single kind of cut, as for example:

- Prepare yourself for the Wrath Cut, that is the Defense Stroke, and see whether he holds his weapon above or below the belt. If he holds his weapon above the belt, then cut the first under his weapon through the lower line from your right. Cut the second also from your right through one of the upper lines. Afterwards, cut the third through the upper or lower line, according to where you find him open.

Also this order is not always followed, since you can just as well provoke, then hit, and finally take. Now since generally experience must teach these techniques, which can be learned only through daily practice, I will just let it pass with this example, namely:

- If you find an opponent in one of the low postures, then in the Onset deliver a Middle Cut suddenly through his face from your right. With this cut you will cause him to go quickly upward, and thus he becomes open below; therefore cut the second quickly from your left through his lower leg before he realizes it: that is the Hitter. After this he will be quick to rush upon you, therefore thirdly deliver a Defense Stroke from your right, so that you take out his incoming blade: that is the Taker. The two Middle Cuts shall take place quickly one after another, so that the second cut hits while he is still going up to parry the first, so that the third will be the Taker.

Concerning Parrying and how many forms of it are particularly used in the rapier compared to other weapons

Seven types of parrying are found here, called setting off, slicing off, going through, suppressing, hanging, barring, and sending out or away with upright and with hanging blade.

Setting Off [Absetzen]

Setting off is when, from one of the four guards, you turn the long edge against his weapon, and turn into the Longpoint.
Thus if you hold your weapon in the Low Guard on the right, and your opponent cuts or thrusts at you, then step out sideways from his weapon, and go forward with extended weapon up into the Longpoint, and catch his incoming thrust or cut on your long edge; and when you catch his cut, then meanwhile thrust in with the Longpoint. Do this from all four postures.

**Slicing Off [Abschneiden]**

Do it thus: position yourself in the Low Guard on the right, and note as soon as your opponent pulls up his hand to cut or thrust at you; then raise your weapon at the same time, and extend your hand and weapon from your right against his left; as you extend, drop your hilt to the level of your knee, or even lower if possible, so that your blade stands with the point somewhat up and forward; catch his blade on your long edge, and send it in the manner of a slice down before you toward your left. This also takes place on both sides.

**Suppressing [Dempffen]**

Suppressing is derived from the High Cut, for that is essentially what it is. All other cuts can be suppressed and countered with this High Cut in the following way:

Position yourself in the Low Guard on the right; when he cuts at your left from his right from below or above, then note when he extends his arm for the stroke, and raise your weapon at the same time as him, yet such that as you raise it, your blade extends up away from you, and your hilt down toward you. With all this, step double out from his cut toward his left, and cut from above at his right following the vertical line, with the long edge and lowered hilt, along with a broad step forward on your right foot. Thus you hit on the forte of his blade, so that in this suppressing your upper body leans down after the cut well forward over your bent knee, and so that your hilt in going down somewhat precedes your blade toward the ground, with extended arm. However, if he withdraws his blade out from under yours and sends back another cut at
your right, then rapidly spring double with both feet well toward his right, and cut again from above outside over his right arm, in the same way as before, yet such that the cut follows his left vertical line, as the previous one followed his right line; and thus you hit on his forte.

Thus you can suppress with the High Cut from all the postures, until you so weaken and tire his arm that you can easily attack at his body.

**Going Through [Durchgehn]**

This is when you go through under his blade to the other side as he sends his blade in, and then send away his incoming stroke from the same side, toward the side where you first held your weapon.

- Thus if you hold your weapon in the Low Guard on the right, then note when he sends in his weapon for the thrust or cut, and rapidly send or transfer your blade through under his blade, hanging a bit toward the ground, toward your left side, and from there, slice off his incoming cut or thrust toward your right before he has fully completed it, so that with this slicing off you come back into the right Low Guard. And you can do this from all the postures on both sides.

**Hanging [Verhengen]**

Hanging is the type of parrying where you send your hilt above your face with your arm extended forward and your blade hangs toward the ground, and you put off his thrusts or strokes with your flat to both sides. It is called Hanging, because in this parrying your blade hangs before your face to protect it. And although it also is executed from all the postures, yet it is chiefly and most comfortably executed from the postures on the right side, in this way:

- Position yourself in the Low Guard on the right; if your opponent thrusts or cuts at you, then step out toward his left with your left foot behind your right; follow quickly with your right toward him; at the same
time go up with your hilt and send his blade away from your right toward your left on the flat of your hanging blade, as you can see in the two figures on the upper right in the following Image E.

![Image](image.png)

**Barring [Sperren]**

- Note if your opponent cuts outside at your right lower leg when you stand in the Irongate, then drop the point of your blade toward the ground, stretched straight out before your lower leg, and slip a bit sideways by stepping out from his cut toward his right, barring his blade so that he cannot come through.

Thus you can bar and hold off all cuts that he will cut through below. You will find barring described more fully in the treatise on the longsword.

**Striking Out with Hanging Blade [Außschlagen mit hangender Kling]**

This striking out follows from the barring, thus:

- If an opponent cuts or thrusts straight to your lower body, then as he sends in his weapon, pull your right foot back to your rear foot, and at the same time lift up your weapon; thus cut out his blade down from above from your left toward your right, with extended weapon, yet such that the blade hangs somewhat downward.
Or position yourself high in the Longpoint; if your opponent thrusts at you below, then let your blade sink somewhat down from your left toward your right, and cut out his blade away to the side with lowered weapon between you and him; pursue quickly with your devices.

**Taking out with the Short Edge [Außnemen mit halber Schneid]**

Position yourself in the Low Guard on the left, like the Change, so that the short edge stands toward your opponent. If your opponent thrusts toward your face, then take it out with the short edge strongly by slashing from your left up toward your right, so that your blade shoots back around above your head into the right Ox. From there, thrust at his chest; and with this thrust, turn the long edge down, and come back into the left Low Guard. From there, take out again as before.

As you now have learnt to take out upward with the short edge, so you can also strike out upward with the long edge and with the flat; and this can be done from both low postures.

You have previously heard at length in the treatises on the longsword and dussack whatever else is necessary concerning parrying.

**Chapter 8: This Chapter Discusses Changing [Wechsehn], Chasing [Nachreisen], Remaining [Bleiben], Feeling [Fühlen], Pulling [Zucken], and Winding [Windem]**

Changing is of two kinds, one that is executed ‘through,’ underneath his weapon, which is therefore called changing through, the other executed above, around your opponent’s blade from one side to the other, which is called changing around. Execute changing through thus:

- When you first send a cut at your opponent’s body, whether above or below, then note as you cut in whether he goes up against your cut to parry it. If you see this, then do not let your cut connect on his
parrying, but pull and send your cut through under his blade, and thrust at him on the other side. Thus from whichever side you cut, always send or pull your cut through under his hilt or blade just when it should hit on his parrying, and work on his other side, either with thrusting, cutting, suppressing, or slicing off.

Secondly, execute changing through from your parrying thus:

- When he cuts at you from either side, then note diligently if he sends his cut too high, or against your blade, or else not enough toward your body. As soon as his cut flies in against your parrying, then slip a bit back with your forward foot toward your rear foot, and pull your blade through underneath his, toward the other side. Thus let his cut miss, and thrust at him to the same side from which he has sent in his cut, so quickly that your thrust hits before he has come up again from the fallen cut.

This changing through can be executed in many ways, as the devices will show.

Changing around requires no further explanation, since I have often discussed it previously.

Now execute chasing thus:

- If your opponent holds his weapon down to his right, then wait for him to go away from there, and when he sends his weapon away, thrust quickly in at the same place. Likewise note diligently when he holds his weapon to his left; when he takes it back from that side, then just as he goes away, thrust at him quickly and deftly at that side. Likewise when he goes up from below, then as he goes up, pursue him with a thrust from below. Thus also when he falls with his cutting, then pursue him quickly from above.

And in this chasing, when you hit with your thrust, you should always be diligent to turn your long edge back against his incoming weapon, if he should happen
to cut or thrust. For as soon as he becomes aware of your chasing, he will rush at once with his weapon back to yours, and with this he will rush to the opening you have made with this chasing and extending, and fall on it, which you can then turn, set off, slice off, and take with counter slicing.

- **Item**: if you bind his blade with yours, then note and feel as soon as he goes away with his blade from the bind to strike around, or to thrust to the other side, and as he goes away, follow him with a thrust straight at his body; and always turn your long edge against his blade both as you thrust in and as you go out. Thus ‘feeling’ is to test and discover how and when he will go away from your bind, so that you can at once pursue him confidently, as is also said in the section on the longsword.

Remaining and pulling you have also been taught previously in the section on the longsword.

Now although you have also been taught winding previously, yet here it is used otherwise, and that is as follows:

- Whenever you bind your opponent in the middle of his blade, then you shall not go out from there without particular opportunity, since he might rush upon you with chasing as I have taught before; but remain hard on his blade with the bind, and turn the short edge or the point in at his body, and set your weapon on him. If he parries that and pushes your blade out to the side, then quickly pull through beneath, and thrust on the other side with a back-step.

However if you see that he does not send it out to the side, but as soon as he perceives your winding in, crowds straight before him with a thrust in at your body, then keep your point at his body, and turn your hilt and long edge down against his blade; thus turn out his point, and crowd further on him with a thrust, palm away from him, meanwhile stepping out.
I have written about all this only as a memorandum for you, on which you shall diligently reflect, so that later in the section on devices when one of them should be presented, you can understand and see it that much more quickly, and also may that much more quickly grasp the devices.

**Concerning Stepping**

As regards stepping, it is not necessary to discuss it, since with each device in the following material on combat there will be individual discussion concerning the appropriate stepping.

*End of the first part of the rapier*

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**The Second Part of Combat with the Rapier**

At this point, one technique after another has been presented and explained such that anyone who will read it with diligent attention and reflection, and earnestly practice it, can well understand and learn it, if he has already had a teacher. Therefore since I now intend to describe the practice in itself, and how you shall carry it out against your opponent in the work, I will return to the postures, and since it is necessary and very useful, I will teach how to slice off, set off, and change off diagonally from one into another, as follows:

- Position yourself in the High Guard of the right Ox, and approach him with your body presented upright, such that your right foot always goes in front; provoke him thus to the work with lively or defiant comportment.

If he meanwhile thrusts in at your body, then as he sends in his thrust, step with your right foot around to him toward his left, and at the same time turn your long edge down toward your left; and as you turn down, lean your body well forward after your weapon with flexed knee; and thus slice or send his blade down from you with your long edge.
Thus after this slicing off, you come with your weapon and with lowered body down into the left Low Guard. From there, as soon as he thrusts or cuts back to the right opening you have presented go rapidly with your hilt and long edge and upright body back up into the High Guard.

And if you will, you may quickly counterthrust at his face from this High Guard with a broad step forward; but when you wish to do this, then as you thrust in and step forward, turn the long edge forcefully down with your body lowered after it. Then rapidly turn your weapon back beside your left for a stroke, and cut from there with extended arm diagonally against his right through his face, so that at the end of this cut you come into the Low Guard on your right.

In this guard you again stand before him with your face open; therefore watch diligently for when he thrusts to this opening of yours, and step out with your left foot behind your right toward his left, and send your hilt and long edge with extended arm out of this Low Guard up toward your left into the same High Guard of the Ox. From there, when he thrusts further at you, rapidly turn the long edge back down toward your right; and in this turning, step well out from his thrust toward his right side; thus send his blade down with extended long edge, from the left Ox back toward your right Low Guard.

And when you slice off his thrust as I have said, you shall extend after the cut well over your forward bent knee with lowered body; then when this has taken place, you stand back in the right Low Guard as at the beginning. If he should thrust at you further, then go in the same way with the long edge back up into the left High Guard. From there thrust quickly long before you at his face, with a spring out toward his right; in this thrust you shall again turn the long edge strongly down toward your right, and with this slicing
off you shall turn your blade beside your right for the stroke, so that afterwards you may have a swift cut for a Defense Stroke diagonally through his left shoulder.

When you have completed that, then you will have your weapon on the left in the Low Guard; from there you can parry with the long edge back up into the right High Guard, and so on.

Thus you have now been taught to parry from the right High Guard and from the left Low Guard, down and up diagonally opposite one another, along the diagonal line, and then change around from the left Low Guard with a Defense Stroke through his right to the other side into the right Low Guard; then from that guard as from the other, to parry diagonally up and down, and change around again according to your opportunity with a Wrath Cut or Defense Stroke. In this way you can always parry, slice off, and send up from one guard into the other, down and up with the long edge, diagonally and horizontally opposite one another.

Further you can also set off from all four side postures into the Longpoint, with stepping out, as follows:

- Position yourself as you have been taught in the High Guard of the right Ox, and approach him thus. If he thrusts forward at your face, then turn the long edge out of the High Guard against his blade, extending your arm into the Longpoint; and meanwhile as you thus set him off, then at the same time also step out sideways from his blade with your left foot behind your right, and thrust on his blade in before you at his face or chest.

As you now have set off downward from the High Guard, so you shall also set off upward from the right Low Guard, also into the Longpoint; and this shall be executed from both sides.

Now we continue with how you shall change off from one guard into another, thus:
Changing Off [Abwechseln]

- When you come before your opponent, then position yourself in the Irongate or in the Straight Parrying, and from there send your weapon up into the right Ox. If he will not yet thrust, then go back down through the Stroke Line in the manner of a slice into the left Low Guard. If he still will not work, then go from there up into the left High Guard; from the High Guard go diagonally back down into the right Low Guard. In this changing off, always hold the tip before you; if he thrusts in the meantime, whenever he will, then slice it away from you with the long edge in the aforementioned manner through the Cross Line from one guard into another as you have already learned.

Thus you can step around and change off from one posture into another, presenting openings before him, until you see your opportunity. And you have heard in the section on the dussack whatever else is necessary to know about the use of the postures.

How you shall fight and defend yourself from the Straight Parrying [Gerade Versatzung]

Now I will deal with the common or Straight Parrying, and firstly teach you how you shall parry him and counterthrust or counter cut against all four targets; then secondly how you shall protect yourself against deception; and thirdly how you can conduct yourself against him when he will neither cut nor thrust, and fight against him in the Before; and I will do this as clearly as possible as an introduction to the other devices.

How you shall catch a cut he sends at you from his right, and quickly thrust straight at his left

- In the Onset, position yourself in the Straight Parrying, as shown by the solitary middle figure in Image F; approach him thus with extended and firm parrying. If he cuts or thrusts from his right diagonally toward your left, then turn your long edge and hilt up against his incoming cut or thrust; and as you thus parry, step out sideways from his thrust or cut with your rear left foot behind your right toward
your opponent's left; and with this stepping out that you have been taught, catch his blade upon your forte near your hilt. Just as the blades connect in the bind, then step with your right foot to him toward his left side, and at the same time as you step forth, thrust on his blade (or off of it straight in before you) at his face, into the high Longpoint. As soon as the thrust has hit or is completed, then turn your long edge back against his blade and pull back into the previous parrying; with this, protect yourself until you see your opportunity for another device.

Posture 6 The Straight Parrying

How you shall catch his thrusts and cuts from his left, and before he recovers, quickly counterthrust against his right

Now if he cuts or thrusts from the other side (that is from his left) at your right side, also diagonally from above, then again turn your long edge and hilt with extended arm against his incoming blade to parry or catch it; as you thus extend your hilt to parry against his weapon, then at the same time step out sideways from his blade with your left foot toward his right. Then as soon as his blade clashes on yours in this parrying, pull your hilt back out behind you above your right shoulder to gather for a powerful thrust; thrust straight at his face on his right side, with a step forward on your right foot, so that at the end of this thrust you again stand with your weapon extended in the high Longpoint. After this thrust, be
diligent to turn away his cuts and thrusts from this parrying, until you have an opening.

How you shall conduct yourself against an opponent who is overly aggressive against you with strokes

- Now if an opponent will cut and thrust at you from both sides so quickly that you cannot come at him with any of these thrusts, then remain with straight arm strongly extended before you in parrying, and turn all his cuts and thrusts away from you to both sides. And meanwhile note diligently just when he has worn himself out (for he cannot do this for long without losing the advantage), and turn your hilt up against one of his incoming cuts or thrusts that you deem opportune for it, and quickly cut diagonally through the same shoulder from which side he has sent in his cut or thrust, right through, so that your weapon shoots around to the other side back over for the High Thrust. That is, if you cut through his right shoulder, then let your blade run through back beside your right in the motion of this cut, and snap around into the right High Guard for the thrust; however if you counter cut his cut through his left shoulder, then let your blade run through back by your left side, and snap around into the left High Guard for the thrust. When you have let your blade quickly snap around into one of the High Guards from this cut, you shall thrust from there rapidly and quickly, forcefully at his face or chest, and as you extend, you shall lean your upper body well over your forward bent knee after the thrust. When this cut and thrust take place quickly and strongly one after the other, you also make room for yourself for another opening.

How you shall intercept and counterthrust from the Straight Parrying against an opponent who cuts at you from below

- If he thrusts or cuts at you from below or across, whether from the right or left, from whichever side he thrusts or cuts, then step out from his incoming thrust or cut with your rear foot (that is with your
left) toward the other side, and send it down away from you out sideways with extended long edge. Now as soon as your weapon connects on his in this parrying, then step to him with your right foot and thrust quickly off of his blade straight at his face, before he recovers. All this, that is the parrying, step, and thrust, shall take place together in the blink of an eye. This applies to the Low Cuts that he delivers against the middle of your body or higher.

How you shall parry from above and thrust in under his weapon

- **Item**: if he cuts or thrusts again from below or underneath your weapon at your body, then fall from the aforementioned parrying with your long edge down from above on his blade, so that your blade in the parrying hangs out to the side and downward, as this parrying is illustrated in Image C in the small figure on the far left; and at the same time as you parry, step out from his blade with a springing double step well toward his right side, and thrust quickly under his right arm at his body, as shown by the other figure facing the previous one. From this thrust, pull your weapon quickly toward your left shoulder and deliver a Defense Stroke diagonally through his right shoulder. Thus you come at the end of the cut into the right Low Guard, from which you should go quickly back up into the Straight Parrying to protect yourself further.
However if he sends his cut well down at your lower leg, then do not parry it, but pull back or evade his cut with your forward foot, as far as the rear one, and thrust directly at his face as he is cutting in, as you can see in the middle scene in Image F. For with all cuts that he delivers below your belt, he will make himself open above as he reaches out; therefore as he extends his hand and weapon, you can quite confidently thrust or cut at his face according to this precept.

How you shall further conduct yourself when he has struck away or borne off your counterthrust

You have just learned how you shall quickly counterthrust from the parrying with stepping out, but since he can take out and bear off this thrust of yours, then note secondly this precept: when you catch his thrust or cut on your parrying, and then thrust in at his face, and he quickly strikes you out, then note diligently from which side he strikes you out; step toward that side and in the very momentum he has given your blade by striking it out, let it snap around for the thrust, and thrust at him to the same side from which he has struck you out.

So for example if he attacks from his right against your left, and you parry him with extended weapon from your right and step out toward his left (as I have taught), and you thrust from the parrying straight at his face, he must ward this off if he doesn’t want to get hit, and strike out your blade toward his left. As soon as he does this, then step well out toward his right side, and meanwhile let your blade snap around into the right High Guard of the Ox, to which he has assisted you by striking you out; and then thrust in
quickly and forcefully outside his right arm from this High Guard. As you now have carried this out against his right, so you can also do it from your left.

**How you shall change through and thrust to the other side against an opponent who strikes out your first thrust**

- Note when you send his cuts and thrusts away from you with extended blade, and will counterthrust, as I have just taught, and you meanwhile realize that he will parry, then see that you do not step too close to him, and note diligently when he goes up with his hilt to parry, and do not complete your thrust, which you shall have threatened with your comportment, but go through with your weapon under his while he has gone up, and thrust in at him to the other side forcefully with extended arm; along with this changing through and thrusting, you shall spring well out toward the side to which you have thrust off of his weapon.

**How you shall pull back the thrust as if you intended to thrust in elsewhere, and just as he will parry it, thrust back in where you had first threatened the thrust**

- Again when you observe or realize that he will parry the thrust you intend to execute from the initial parrying, then pull the thrust earnestly toward yourself as if you intended to go through underneath and thrust on the other side; and as soon as you see that he goes there with his hilt to parry, then as he goes away, thrust quickly back where you originally intended to thrust. Concerning this you will find more in its place in the section on deceitful devices.

**How you shall counterthrust at the same time as he cuts**

- Note when you are in the Onset with the aforementioned parrying, and your opponent meets you in similar Straight Parrying, then approach close to him earnestly with strong parrying, so that you can reach and bind the middle of his blade with yours, as shown by the two upper figures in Image C. Then take heed
diligently when he will go away with his weapon from yours, either to cut or thrust, and as he pulls his weapon around, thrust straight before you in at his face, chest, or belly. And so that he will be incited to go away and cut that much more readily, you may deceitfully present him an opening, albeit without actually losing your advantage. Concerning this there will be more later on.

How you shall catch your opponent's cuts and thrusts, and counter cut

- Approach your opponent with this same Straight Parrying, and note from which side he will thrust or cut, from below or from above. Now if he sends his cuts and thrusts from above from his right against your left, then turn your long edge and hilt with extended weapon against his incoming blade, and as his blade is coming in, step out sideways at the same time with your right foot toward his right, so that as soon as your his blade falls or hits on yours, you can pull your weapon back around and quickly counter cut in the same step, through his right side, through his body either high or low according to opportunity. At the end of this cut your weapon comes into the right Low Guard; from there go back up to parry.

- Do the same to him when he will cut from his left at your right, and parry this also with extended weapon on the forte of your blade, and as you extend your hilt to parry, step with your right foot toward his left. As soon as his blade clashes on yours, then let
it go back around your head again, and thus with the aforementioned step, cut through his face against his left side from which he has sent in his weapon. Then quickly go from the Low Guard (into which you have come with this cut) back into the Straight Parrying.

How you shall conduct yourself against the Low Cuts with counter cutting

If an opponent cuts at you from below, against whatever side it takes place, then as he cuts in, step laterally out from his blade toward the other side; and as you spring out, fall with extended weapon down onto his blade, the nearer to his forte the better, so that you hold off his weapon below the level of your belt. Then before he brings his weapon up again, quickly cut through across at his neck or face.

However if you cannot hold off his cut, but he breaks right through upwards against your parrying with his Low Cut, then keep your weapon strongly extended before you down to the side in the parrying, so that he cannot harm you, and as he is going up with his weapon, cut across from below right through his face or chest, while he still has his arm in the air. These cuts must follow quickly after he breaks through upward, so that you hit him from below before he has completed his Low Cut, so strongly that at the end of this cut you have swung your weapon to your shoulder on the other side, such that your blade hangs down behind you at the end of the swing. From there quickly cut after with two diagonal Wrath Cuts through the upper Cross.

Another, teaching how you shall chase with a thrust from below

Also you can pursue him with a thrust, thus: when you will parry his Low Cut as I have taught, and he breaks through against you with force, then note when he has broken through with his weapon against yours, and is still going upward, and turn your point out of the parrying toward his body, and before he has completed his Low Cut, thrust from below at his chest, into the
middle Longpoint. Then take heed if he sends his blade back in, and turn the long edge out of the Longpoint against his blade to catch it with parrying. Then execute any previously-taught techniques depending on how you can gain your advantage.

**How you shall lay on against him from the parrying with two Middle Cuts and follow up with a thrust**

- Or when you thus have approached your opponent in the Straight Parrying, then remain with extended arm firm in the parrying and always turn the long edge against his incoming cuts or thrusts, whether he cuts from above, across, or from below; bear these off laterally out from you with your hilt. And look diligently for your opportunity when he least expects it, and pull around your head and deliver the first Middle Cut across from your right through his face, so that at the end of this cut you come into the Middle Guard on the left, which you see illustrated previously in the treatise on the dussack on pages 5 and 43 in Image C. From there, cut the second also powerfully across against his right through his face, so strongly through that your blade swings beside your right into the right High Guard of the Ox; and meanwhile as your blade thus goes around over your head, step with your left foot well out sideways toward his right; follow quickly with your right foot toward him, and with this step forward on your right foot, thrust from above forcefully at his face. When you thrust forth, flex your front knee well forward as you set down your foot, and lean your upper body well down and forward after the thrust. Now with
this thrusting in, when you turn your long edge down strongly, then you come at the end of the thrust into the Low Guard on the left; from there rush quickly back into the Straight Parrying.

**How you shall suppress and counterattack in parrying**

- When you realize that your opponent will drive you back forcefully with violent cuts, then parry him with extended parrying as I have already taught, one cut, two, three, or four, until you have an opportunity for the cut I am about to describe.

As soon as you perceive it, and he pulls his weapon back toward himself from a cut he has executed, then as he pulls his weapon up for another cut, raise your weapon too, and meanwhile spring out sideways from his cut quickly toward his other side, somewhat further to him, and as he is cutting in, cut straight down from above between his head and his blade, as if you intended to cut off his weapon-arm at the shoulder; and as your cut goes down, let your hilt somewhat precede the blade toward the ground; and step wide with your feet, so that you can further sink your upper body down and forward after the cut over your forward bent knee.

Now when you spring out from his incoming cut in this way, and as he cuts in, cut thus between his head and weapon straight down from above at his right shoulder, so that not only does your upper body sink well down and forward after this cut through wide stepping, but also as you send the cut down your hilt somewhat precedes the blade toward the ground, as I have said, yet with extended arm, then if you should happen to miss his right arm, you hit his blade on the forte near his hilt, and weaken him enough that you can well thrust or cut at his body before he recovers.

However, if you cannot sufficiently weaken him with one, then suppress one or two of his cuts from both sides; when you do it rightly, he will be not be able
to complete more than three cuts at you without being weakened. I have particularly described this device, with some repetition, not only because it is inherently a very good device, but also because it is inherently difficult, and it is hard to learn unless one shows it with the living body; and it must be executed in the work with particular adroitness.

**How you shall protect yourself against deceit, and how you shall conduct yourself against deceitful cuts and thrusts**

Now that you have heard in very comprehensible and simple form how you shall catch your opponent's cuts, set them off, and quickly counterattack, it is now also necessary to know how you shall conduct yourself against those who pull their cuts, so that you are not deceived in this parrying. For if your opponent is somewhat experienced and trained, he will not always let the cuts hit, when he perceives your strong parrying, but he will pull them from you, change around, and cause you to miss. Therefore so that you are not deceived by this, but can anticipate it, I will explain it for you through the following precept.

Thus **firstly note** that in all parrying you should not go out more than a hand’s-breadth to the side, up, or down from the Midpoint where you hold your parrying, but always keep your parrying and hilt within a good hand’s-breadth or a foot in a circle around the Midpoint. Now since your body is not always sufficiently covered or protected with this parrying, you shall pull away or withdraw your upper body by stepping out or by leaning your head out from his cut away from his blade, such that you always send your hilt before you as a shield with extended arm. And if he cuts or thrusts in, send your long edge against it, and withdraw your head and face from his blade behind yours. However if he should thrust far down, then you shall not only go down with your weapon, but also sink your entire body with extended weapon, unless you have seen an opportunity to execute a device. Or if he does not thrust so far down at you, then pull your lower body from him by evading, and meanwhile thrust straight in before you at his face.
This leads now to the second precept, which is this: in all parrying, send the point straight or toward his face, and if he cuts in, then turn the long edge against his cut, as I have already taught. And meanwhile note very diligently if he will pull his incoming cut or thrust back away. If so, then you shall not slip after it with your hilt, but only turn your long edge around, and follow with your steps, or step quickly toward the side from which he has pulled his cut away; and as he is pulling away or going around, thrust straight in before you at his face. Thus you do not quite parry, that is by going against it with your hilt, but as soon as you see that he will pull away, then you step to the other side, and merely turn the long edge around, and thrust at the same time straight in before you: thus you have parried. For whoever will deceive his opponent by pulling around or changing through, makes himself open or shortens his reach, unless he is very quick as he executes the deceiving with the appropriate body language; but against the inexperienced and untrained combatant this is certain to hit. Concerning this there will be more later.

Thus you have now heard firstly how you shall put off his cuts and thrusts, and counterattack; secondly how you shall prepare yourself against his deceiving, and counterthrust or crowd in at him as he changes around or through. Therefore I will now further teach how to conduct yourself with combat in the Before, and lay on against those who neither cut nor thrust, but only parry and wait for a chance to counterattack. But first it is necessary to present here a little device, which I will teach and briefly discuss first, thus:

**How you shall cause your opponent to miss with his violent cuts, and counterattack**

- In the Onset, when you have come to your opponent with Straight Parrying, then remain in the Straight Parrying with extended weapon firmly before you, and take heed when your opponent presses upon you violently with cuts and thrusts from both sides: turn his cuts and thrusts away from you, once or several times, with good extended parrying, until you perceive your opportunity, which is when he fights most earnestly and confidently with his cuts. Therefore
note diligently when he sends you an appropriate cut for this, and evade with your forward right foot to the rear foot, and just as his cut should hit, pull your parrying from him up to you toward the side against which he sends his cut, so that he does not hit your parrying with his cut, but falls right through just in front of it; and before his cut has entirely come to the ground, cut quickly at his face, chest, or hand with a broad step forward on your right foot. This is a very good device that you shall make familiar to you through practice, and study with diligent observation.

How and in what way you shall lay on and fight against an opponent who will neither cut nor thrust in the Before

- In this laying on in the Before, you must take heed of the four openings, and diligently observe where he holds his weapon in the Onset; and I will lead you from one opening to another with examples as simply and clearly as possible. Thus in the first Onset, take heed if he holds his weapon before him up to his right side, and thrust under it inside at his belly, with your arm reaching and extended far. He must turn away, parry, and ward off this thrust, if he doesn’t want to get hit. Therefore note diligently when he is falling down with his weapon to parry the thrust, and pull the thrust back away, and as he is falling down, go through with your blade under his, and as you go through, spring well toward his right out from his weapon; and before he recovers with his weapon, thrust quickly outside over his right arm at his face or chest, as shown by the two small figures on the left in Image F. As soon as you have hit with this thrust or completed it, then let your blade drop from there toward your left, pull your weapon with hanging blade toward your left shoulder, and deliver a Defense Stroke from there diagonally through his face. This pulling away, going through, and the thrust, along with the stepping and final Defense Stroke, shall be
executed quickly one after another, and it will proceed well for you.

Another

- Or cut through with earnest comportment under his weapon against his body, and with this cut, step well with leaning body toward his right side after your cut, so that it seems as if you have overcommitted to the cut. He will certainly rush earnestly toward your opening; therefore note when he sends his weapon in, and again thrust outside over his right arm at his face with a step out as before.

- Also, after you have thus intentionally overextended into your cut, you can quickly cut away his incoming blade from you with a Defense Stroke from the left side, to which you have come with your cut, or else strike it out, and after striking it out, let your weapon go above in the air around your head, and thrust or cut back against his right side.

How you shall encounter him when he holds his weapon too far down to the left side

- As soon as you can reach him in the Onset, then thrust suddenly and quickly outside over his right arm at his face. And take heed as soon as he goes up to parry, and turn your hilt up toward your left; gather yourself thus for a cut, and while he has gone up with his weapon, rapidly cut through under it at his thigh with the second attack. Thus you come into the right Low Guard; from there, cut at once diagonally through his face, back again into the Low Guard on the left, and fight further.
Another, teaching how you shall lay on against him when he holds his weapon too far to the side

- Thus: if he holds his weapon too far to his left, then cut from outside over his right arm at his head, with a step out toward his right side, and as soon as he goes up after it to parry, then just as it should hit, pull your weapon back away from his arm, and go through with it under his weapon, and thrust inside his weapon at his belly. When you have completed this thrust, then go quickly with extended weapon straight up into the High Guard for the stroke extended in front of you, so that when he will further thrust at you below, you can suppress it downward from above.

How you shall act against someone who holds his weapon too far toward his right

- Now if he holds his weapon too far to his right, as I have said, then note as soon as you can reach him, and rapidly thrust straight in front at his chest, before he realizes it. If he wards this off or parries it, then turn your short edge down against his weapon; thus let your blade sink through under his toward your left, and afterwards cut quickly from your left against his right diagonally through his face, so that in this cutting through, your blade runs through back by your right side behind you, and shoots around again into the High Guard of the right Ox; with this snapping around, step well out toward his right side, and thrust from above against his face, turning strongly, so that with this thrust your weapon falls into the left Low Guard. From there execute the devices that you will find described later in the section on this guard.

Another against someone who holds his weapon on his right side

- In the Onset, send a powerful cut at his left, but on the way as you are cutting in, turn the short edge inward against him, so that it seems as if you were going to thrust from above; note as he goes up to parry, and just when this thrust should hit, let the
blade hang well down toward the ground, and pull the hilt further up with your arm extended from you. Thus if he should meanwhile thrust in, send his blade out to the side with hanging, that is with hanging weapon; with this taking out, pull your hilt thus with hanging blade toward your left shoulder; also turn your right side well toward your left side after your weapon; and from there cut over his weapon against his right, diagonally through his face, with a double step out toward his left, so that at the end of the cut you come to your right in the Low Guard. From there thrust quickly straight in before you at his face into the Longpoint. If he attacks you further, then slice his blade away from you.

With what devices you can lay on against him when he stands in Straight Parrying

Now if he holds his weapon so strong and firmly before him in the Straight Parrying that you can break in on him neither to the left nor the right, then try these crafty devices, with which you entice him out of the posture or out of his advantage, so that you can come to his opening as he goes away. Now since the Craft is so diverse that it is impossible to present in a single form, I will offer some examples from which you can sufficiently deduce and learn how you shall act in any given situation.

The First Example

- Quickly lift your weapon, and act as if you intended to cut aggressively at his lower leg, and actually cut in a little way; with this cut, lean your body well forward after the step and cut, so that it seems as that you have made yourself quite open, but see that you do not lose control, but keep full command over your weapon. And note diligently as you thus cut in, whether he will rush to your opening; if so, then pull your threatened cut back up against his incoming blade, and strike it out upwards to the side with this pulling upward, and thrust at his nearest opening before he recovers. For as soon as he extends his arm to thrust, he holds his blade that much weaker, so
that it can be struck and taken out easily, and before he fully recovers, you can thrust to the opening.

Another

Act earnestly as if you intended to cut at his lower legs as before, but as he rushes to the opening you have made, then spring quickly out sideways away from his thrust, and while he is extending his weapon, thrust across over it at his face, which you certainly can reach and hit, if he thrusts before you.

How you shall take out his blade forcefully and counter cut

Thrust over his blade straight in before you at his face; and in thrusting in, turn your hilt up toward your left, and turn your right side well after the hilt, and strike with the outside flat by your left side strongly up against his right, through his blade, so that you forcefully take it out up from below. Thus let your blade go above around your head toward your right, and cut the second also from your left, but diagonally from above, through his right with a broad step forward; this second cut must come so quickly that it hits before he has recovered from being struck out. Cut the third at once from your right through his left into the left Low Guard. From there thrust quickly straight in before you at his face into the Longpoint, springing out from his blade. Fight further from this as you will be taught concerning the Longpoint.

Another

If your opponent meets you in this firm Straight Parrying, concerning which I have already taught, then approach him with the same parrying, and when you can reach the middle of his blade, then rapidly lift your weapon with extended arm up into the right High Guard for the stroke, and from there cut suddenly from above, diagonally through the middle of his blade, with a further step forward on your right foot, so strongly that your weapon comes with this cut into the
Middle Guard on the left. From there, cut again quickly across against his right side through his face, and it doesn't matter whether you execute it with the long edge, short edge, or flat, yet such that your weapon in this strong flight shoots around beside your right above again into the High Guard for the thrust. From there thrust forcefully at his chest, turning strongly, so that as you thrust forth, your long edge comes downward through the turning, and falls into the left Low Guard. From there go quickly up into the High Guard of the right Ox, from which you shall execute the devices that will be described later in that section.

Another

- In the Onset, send your weapon also in the Straight Parrying, but high, and note as he holds his weapon thus extended in before him, and suddenly strike his blade out with hanging blade to the side, as shown by the figure on the left in Image C; with this striking out, spring well out toward his right side, and let your blade snap around again from his blade toward your left into the guard of the left Ox beside you as before, but not so high; and thrust straight in before you at his face, palm away from him. This thrust and springing out must be executed quickly after striking him out, before he recovers with his weapon.
Another

- In the Onset as soon as you can reach your opponent, then suddenly strike out his weapon in a jerk to the side, but in striking him out see that you do not stray after his weapon, but keep full control over your weapon, and thrust rapidly straight in before you at his face, before he has recovered from being struck out. When you thus suddenly strike him out and follow up with a thrust, he will want to go up precipitously to parry; therefore as he goes up, see that you cut quickly at his forward lower leg.

Another

- Or if he will not let himself be driven or brought out of his advantage with any device, then cut through against him from both sides crosswise under his blade near his hilt; and note meanwhile when he goes out of the parrying to thrust, and cut his incoming blade out from you, and rush quickly to the opening. For by delivering some cuts through his parrying from both sides, you make him angry, so that he will be inclined to attack to the opening that you give him with this cutting through. Then as soon as he extends his weapon, he is already weaker in the parrying, so that you can easily strike out his blade and counterattack.

You can also send your weapon up into the High Guard and thus present your body open to him in front.

High Guard

Now since throughout the fight you always come from one posture into another, I will, deal with one posture after the other, as I said initially, and teach you through examples how you may fight from them.

The First Example how you shall thrust in at the same time as your opponent from the High Guard

- In the Onset when you come before your opponent with the Straight Parrying, but he will not let himself be enticed or provoked out of his advantage with any device, then send your weapon up into the right High
Guard of the Ox, and thus hold the point toward his face with your arm extended up and forward. Then as soon as he thrusts at you, evade with your left foot behind your right toward him, and step quickly with your right foot further toward him; and with this stepping turn your long edge against his incoming thrust, and thrust in at the same time as him; thus you parry and hit at the same time, as shown by the large figure on the left in Image F. You can also execute this device from all other guards, just as from this High Guard, namely that you evade his thrust, turning your long edge against his blade, to send it out to the side, while thrusting in at the same time as him.

Another how you shall slice his blade away from you and counterattack

- When you have come up into the High Guard for the thrust, and your opponent thrusts or cuts in against you from his right, then double-step out from his thrust as before toward his left side, and quickly turn your long edge down out of the High Guard; and in this turning downward, cut right through against his blade in a single motion, extending your body after it, into the left Low Guard. From there, cut or thrust at his face before he jerks his blade out from under yours. This is also a good precept to follow from all postures, namely to cut his blade away from you diagonally downward from one side, and then rapidly cut the second from the other side at his body, either
below or above his blade, depending on how quickly he has come back up.

**How you shall take him out with hanging, and counterattack**

- When you hold your weapon in the High Guard for the Thrust, and your opponent thrusts in at you, then hold your hilt up before you, extended somewhat to the side, and let your blade and point hang down straight before you; thus turn your hilt toward your left with hanging blade while he thrusts in, as I have said; in this way send his blade out to the side. When you have thus struck out his blade with hanging blade, and stepped out, at once after striking him out you may let the blade go around your head, and deliver the second cut strongly through across from your right at his left, with a broad step forward on your right foot, straight from above with a drawn Suppressing Cut through his face; thus in cutting down, your hilt precedes the blade toward the ground, as shown by the large figure on the right [read: left] in Image G. From there, thrust quickly at his face before he recovers from this suppressing.

- Or when you have thus struck him out with hanging blade, then let your blade again go around your head, having stepped out toward his left; with this, let the point shoot forth against your opponent's face into the guard of the left Ox; from there, thrust at his face along with the aforementioned stepping out. Then
cut through diagonally from both sides crosswise against his hilt.

- Or after you have thus struck him out, then let your blade shoot around into the guard of the left Ox as before. Threaten to thrust at him, palm away from him; he will go up against this thrust to parry it; and as he goes upward, step with your right foot around to his right, and cut through at his right thigh. Cut the second quickly diagonally through his face from above, so that your weapon comes into the Low Guard on the left. From this Low Guard slash quickly with the short edge back up toward your right, let your blade go around your head, and cut against his right diagonally through his face.

**A Good Device that can be executed with Hanging**

- In the Onset when you have come into the High Guard of the right Ox, and you see that your opponent thrusts in at you forcefully, then spring out sideways from his incoming thrust well toward his left, and turn it out with hanging blade toward your left as before; and with this taking out, step with your left foot behind your right foot toward him; and rapidly follow forth with the right foot after the thrust, and with this, turn your back to him; thrust thus under your right arm with a reversed thrust from behind at his belly. Then turn your face quickly back toward him and cut with extended weapon in a wheel straight down from above through his face, with a step backward on your right foot. Then go back up with your hilt, and change your feet at the same time so that the right stands in front again.

**Precept**

From this Ox, attack chiefly at his arm, for example when he attacks from below or straight in at you, then withdraw your body from him by slipping your front foot back to join your rear foot, and as he extends his arm, cut or thrust at that arm, hilt, or weapon-hand.

- **Item**: when you thus stand in the High Guard before your opponent, and he thrusts in at you from below or
straight, then step with your left foot well out
toward his right, and meanwhile turn the point of your
blade out behind you for the stroke. Then cut out his
incoming blade from your left toward your right with
hanging blade, as shown by the large figure on the
lower left in Image C. With this striking out, step
with your right foot further toward his right. From
this parrying, pull your weapon back away toward your
left, around your head, and before he brings his
weapon back up or into his control, cut above it from
your right diagonally through his face or against his
arm and weapon-hand; thus you come into the left Low
Guard.

When he will neither cut nor thrust, how you shall
thrust and miss before him, take him out, and
counterthrust

- **Item**: in the Onset come up into the High Guard; when
you thus stand before him and he will not work, then
step toward him with your left foot, and as you step
forth, thrust from above outside your left foot past
him without hitting, such that at the end of the
thrust you come back into the guard of the left Ox.
From there slash his incoming blade with the short
edge down toward your right; and with this taking out,
step with your right foot well toward his right around
to him. Thrust at his face from above, turning
strongly, with a broad step forward on your right
foot, so that at the end of the thrust you come to the
left in the Low Guard.
Item: in the Onset when you thrust beside your forward left thigh past him without hitting, then you make your face entirely open; therefore he will certainly counterthrust quickly as you thrust past him. Therefore when you see his thrust, step out with your right foot to him toward his right side, and at the same time as him, thrust outside his right arm in at his face from the left Ox, into which you have come from thrusting past him; and note diligently that as you thrust in, you at once turn your long edge against his blade, and withdraw your head well to your left side away from his blade behind yours. Thus you will certainly hit, if he has thrust.

From this guard you can also suppress, go through, bar, and execute any similar techniques against him.

Do barring thus:

- When you thus stand in the guard of the Ox on the right, if your opponent cuts in at your lower leg, from whichever side it may be, then drop your point from the other side against his cut toward the ground with extended hanging arm; thus the blades make a cross, as you can see in Image B. Thus bar his cut so that he cannot come through with his cut, and at the same time step out sideways from his cut. And as soon as it clashes, quickly thrust on his weapon over or under his blade at his body. Quickly pull your weapon back and cut after with the Cross.
From this guard you naturally have the Wrath Cut; when you deliver it through his left, you come into the Low Guard on the left. Fight from there as follows.

**Low Guard on the Left**

**How you shall take out and counterattack from the Low Guard on the left**

- When you have come into this guard, whether it should happen through slicing off or else through cutting, and he then thrusts in from above at your face, then strongly take out his incoming blade with your short edge by slashing up against his right and toward your right, with extended arm. With this slashing out, let your blade snap right around above your head into the guard of the right Ox. From there, thrust quickly at his face with a step forward on your right foot; and in this thrusting forth turn your long edge down, so that you turn out his thrust with yours, if he should also thrust during this.

- Or when you have thus taken out his thrust, then let your blade go around above your head after taking him out, and step meanwhile with your right foot well out toward his right; and with this, cut through outside at his right thigh, so that at the end of the cut your weapon comes into the right Low Guard. From there, again rapidly deliver a Wrath Cut diagonally strongly through at his left with extended blade; thus you come back into the Low Guard on the left.

- Or when you have thus taken him out, then again let it snap around above your head into the guard of the right Ox, and threaten to thrust at him from above. He will want to parry this, but as he goes up to bear off or parry this thrust, then do not let the thrust hit, but pull your blade back toward your left around your head, and cut through against his left at his forward thigh across from your right, with extended weapon and your body well lowered. Then cut the second from your left through his right, down through the uppermost
diagonal line, as a Defense Stroke, into the right Low Guard.

Thus you have learnt to counterattack in three ways after taking him out, namely with a high thrust, secondly with a cut, thirdly with a deceitful cut.

**How you shall take out from the Low Guard and counterattack from below**

- In the Onset, position yourself in the left Low Guard; as soon as he thrusts or cuts at your right, then at once step out sideways toward his right, and with this stepping out, turn your blade out behind you for the stroke; deliver a strong Suppressing Cut across on his blade from your left from above. And then before he brings his blade out from under yours, thrust up at his face, into the Longpoint. From there if he should thrust at you from below, then slice this off away from you down into the left Low Guard.

- **Item:** when you have thus suppressed his cut down from above and counterthrust, then note when he goes up and intends to parry your thrust, and send your tip around beside his right arm, and thrust in at him under his arm as he is going up.

**Another device directed at his right thigh**

- When you stand in the Low Guard on the left, and your opponent thrusts or cuts in from above, then turn your blade out behind you for the stroke, and cut with your long edge up from below against his blade. And as soon as the blades clash together, then turn your short edge inward against his blade, palm away from him; and while the blades are thus connecting, turn your pommel well up; thus you gather for a cut. Next, cut quickly off of his blade, outside at his forward thigh. Thus you have executed two cuts from one side, the first from below against his blade, and the second from above outside at his right thigh.
Another how you shall go through from the left Low Guard

When you hold your weapon in the Low Guard on the left, then note when he thrusts in, and send your blade under his with the point near the ground, from your left through toward your right, so quickly that you can strike out his incoming blade from your right toward your left; and as you strike out his thrust, at the same time step well toward his left; and thrust inside at his chest, which will certainly succeed if he thrusts forth, and you execute this correctly against him.

Another, how in slashing out upward and in going down, you shall cut through and thrust to the other side

In the Onset, position yourself in the left Low Guard, and watch diligently for when he thrusts in at you, and take out his blade with your short edge with extended arm strongly up toward your right, so that you come up with your weapon into the High Guard for the Stroke. From there, cut quickly back from above under his blade through at his belly, back into the left Low Guard, while he still has his weapon in the air to gather it again. From there, thrust quickly over his right arm at his face, with a spring out toward his right.

How you shall respond to all his thrusts from the left Low Guard, whether they come from above or below

All thrusts that your opponent sends at you from above or at your face, you shall strike out up from below following the diagonal line, and you can do this with the short or long edge, and also with the outside flat. Then as soon as you have taken him out, you may counterthrust or counter cut to whichever side you wish, provided that you do this quickly, before he recovers.

Now if he thrusts from below, you shall strike him out diagonally down from above toward your right, also with the long edge, short edge, or flat. When you take these thrusts out from above or below, then at the same time you shall step well out from his weapon toward his right; thus the taking out will be
that much stronger. Afterwards quickly counter cut or counterthrust; and as soon as you have counterthustred or cut, at once you shall be back on his blade with a setting off, to protect yourself further if he falls upon you.

In this way you can now readily fight against him from this Low Guard, if you have cut into this position.

**High Guard on the Left**

Now when you stand in the Low Guard on the left, raise your hilt up beside your head into the left High Guard, and fight from it as follows.

- Note when you stand before your opponent in the left High Guard and he thrusts at your face, then as he thrusts in, spring well out from his thrust toward his right side, and thrust at the same time as him outside over his right arm, in at his face; and in thrusting in, turn your long edge against his blade; thus you parry and hit simultaneously.
- Or set off his thrust with your long edge as you thus step out, and then quickly counterthrust.

**Two good thrusts to execute from both Oxes**

- When you hold your weapon in the left High Guard and he thrusts at your face, then thrust from this High Guard outside his weapon against his incoming blade at the same time as him forcefully in at his right arm; and as you thrust in, turn your hilt through under his blade up toward your right side, so that with this winding through, you turn out his blade and send it away toward your right side. Afterwards quickly thrust in at his chest inside his hilt as he is gathering his weapon; at the same time as this thrust, turn your hilt and long edge back down toward your left side; thus you again send out his blade, in addition to hitting.

**Another**

- Now if your opponent will neither thrust nor cut at you, then execute this thrust against him: thrust
first from the left High Guard earnestly outside his right arm; and as you thrust in, turn your hilt and blade through under his, up toward your right, and thrust quickly at his chest inside his hilt, while he has gone with it against your first thrust; he will have made his chest entirely open with his parrying.

You can also turn away all cuts and thrusts from this guard with the long edge into the Longpoint.

From this guard you can slice off, suppress, strike out up from below, bar, and any similar techniques, all of which you will find described more fully in the other postures; based on those descriptions, you can also learn to do it well in this guard with practice.

How you shall fight from the Low Guard on the Right, which is also called the Side Guard

- Fight from it thus: when he thrusts at you when you have come into the Side Guard, then step with your left foot well behind your right toward him to his left side, and then step to him with your right; and as you step, thrust from the Low Guard straight at his face; and as you thus thrust in, turn the long edge and hilt against his blade, so that you turn away his blade with it, and as you parry, you simultaneously hit with the tip. As soon as you have completed the thrust, lift your blade with extended arm up toward your right, and cut quickly back down from above onto the middle of his blade, so that you strike out his blade strongly. And before he recovers and comes up, thrust rapidly straight back in before you at his face.

How you shall slice off and counterattack from this guard

- If your opponent thrusts or cuts at you from his right, then lift your weapon up toward your right as he thrusts in; meanwhile step forward with your right foot, and at the same time as this stepping forward, cut against his incoming blade diagonally from your right, strongly through; and in this cutting you shall
send your hilt somewhat before the blade as it goes
down, and lower your upper body well forward and down
by stepping broadly. Thus send away his blade with
this cut with extended arm down from you in the manner
of a slice. Then quickly thrust up at his face before
he brings his blade out from under yours, so that when
the thrust hits, you stand up in the Longpoint. And if
he meanwhile is ready in response to thrust in
underneath your weapon at your belly, then hold your
hand and hilt thus extended before your face, and
meanwhile let the blade drop toward his right, and
strike out his thrust to the side with hanging blade
from your left toward your right, using the inside
flat; at the same time as this striking out, step well
out toward his right with your left foot. Then pull
your hilt up toward your left, and meanwhile step with
your right foot further out sideways toward his right;
then thrust or cut quickly from your left at his face
or arm.

How you shall go through with your blade under his

- Item: note diligently when he thrusts in from above,
  and go through with your blade under his, and send his
  blade away by slicing off from your left toward your
  right (as you can see in the lower middle scene in
  Image D), and thrust quickly at his face.

- Or after you have gone through against him with your
  weapon, and have sliced off his weapon, then let your
blade go out beside your right, and cut forward at his face with a great step out toward his right before he fully comes up.

**How you shall cut away all of your opponent’s cuts and thrusts from the Low Guard crosswise from both sides, and counterattack**

When you stand in the Low Guard on the right, then cut all of his cuts and thrusts away from you from both sides with Defense Strokes, that is with diagonal Wrath Cuts, through the diagonal line from both sides crosswise, strongly and in the manner of a slice, either high or low, with upright or lowered body, depending on whether he sends his cuts high or low, until you either make him tired and weaken him, or else have an opportunity to execute other devices.

And it doesn't matter from which side he first sends in his cut, since when he sends his cuts from his left against your right, then you shall go through below with your blade, and again cut against it from your left against his right, as I have just taught concerning going through; but if he cuts from his right, then lift your weapon and cut through against his blade from your right.

**Another how you shall strike his blade out upward and weaken him with a Middle Cut, suppress with a High Cut, and rapidly counterthrust**

- If an opponent encounters you in the Straight Parrying when you have come into the right Low Guard, then rapidly send your blade through with the point, that is the tip, down by the ground under his as far as the middle of his blade; in going through, turn the long edge up, so that the back of your hand stands toward you; cut through thus from below up against his blade. Next, draw your weapon around your head, and secondly deliver a Middle Cut from your right strongly across through his face, so that your weapon flies around your head back toward your left side. Then cut the third quickly down from above, drawing it straight through his face; with this cut you shall lower your
upper body well down by stepping wide with your feet; also, in cutting down, let your hilt precede the blade toward the ground by a good bit, with extended arm, so that you can weaken his blade that much more and press it down. As soon as you have completed this cut, at once thrust straight in before you, whether he has brought his weapon back out from under yours or not; and in thrusting in, turn the long edge against his blade; thus you will readily parry him.

**How you shall strike him out with hanging blade and counterthrust**

- Also you can use the end of the fifth device before this one in the Low Guard [See “How you shall go through with your blade under his” above, second version] against the Straight Parrying, in this manner: raise your weapon up from the right Low Guard beside your right, and at the same time step out sideways with your left foot toward his right, and with this, strike his blade out with your inside flat from your left toward your right between you and him, so that in this striking out your blade hangs down, and your pommel stands upward. As soon as the striking out has taken place, then spring further around toward his right, and thrust quickly at his face before he recovers from being struck out.

**How you shall change around from one side to the other with the cuts**

- When you have come into the right Low Guard, and your opponent cuts or thrusts at you from above, then cut with the long edge diagonally up from below strongly against his incoming blade and right through toward your left shoulder, indeed so strongly that with the impetus, your weapon runs off toward your left around your head again. Then pull your hilt fully around your head, and cut the second also from your right diagonally from above through his left shoulder; with both these cuts you shall step wide with your feet, so that you can extend your upper body that much further after the cuts. Afterwards when you have come with the
second cut to your left Low Guard, and he cuts or
thrusts in at you again, then cut from this Low Guard
just as before, from below toward your right, and
against his right, against his incoming blade
diagonally upward and strongly through, so that your
blade runs off above beside your right. And pull your
weapon from your right side fully around your head,
and cut the second through his face, also from your
left against his right, but diagonally from above,
with your body hanging well after it; thus your weapon
comes back to the right into the Low Guard.

How you shall change through as you thrust in

- When an opponent encounters you in the Irongate, then
  let yourself seem with earnest comportment and
  stepping as if you intended to thrust forth at his
  face, but as you act as if you were going to thrust,
  and partially thrust in, then take diligent heed
  whether he responds to your thrust, and intends to
  intercept it with a parry. If you see this as you are
  thrusting in, then send your thrust through under his
  blade at his right arm as he goes up against it. As
  soon as he sees you thrusting through, he will
  rapidly turn around his hilt and try to parry the thrust.
  Therefore although you act earnestly, yet you shall
  not be too hasty with your thrusting in, so that when
  you see his parrying, you will let your point drop
  somewhat beside his hilt, and can send it through
  underneath; then thrust quickly from inside at his
  belly. Then quickly raise your weapon up toward your
  right, and rapidly deliver a Cross Stroke through his
  face. All this shall be executed rapidly and quickly.

- Also you shall pay heed in this changing through that
  he does not thrust in unchecked straight before him at
  your face while you are going through, since that is
  the counter for this changing through. Therefore if
  you see this as you are changing through, then you
  shall quickly go up with your hilt with extended arm
  so that it goes in front of your face to put off his
  thrust, and counterthrust quickly back again; for it
is impossible for him to recover from his precipitous rushing so swiftly.

**How you shall send away his blade with a counter cut, and counterthrust**

- In the Onset, note when your opponent gathers his weapon for a cut or thrust; at the same time, raise your weapon diagonally up toward your right, and as he sends in his weapon, either for a cut or thrust, then strongly cut diagonally through against his blade, so that you forcefully strike out his blade to the side. At once before he brings his weapon back up again, thrust straight in before you at his face.

**How you shall strike out his cut, and cut through his lower leg**

- Do to him thus: as soon as he cuts or thrusts in at you, then cut out his blade forcefully, as I have just taught, so that with this cut you bring your weapon to your left side. When you have thus struck out his blade with strength, then he will slash back upward with his weapon for fear of the thrust; therefore while he is going up, cut across from your left right through his right leg, with your body well lowered after it. Do not let your weapon stray too far after the cut, so that you may have a powerful and swift Defense Stroke from your right at his left through his face.

**Another device how you shall pull your thrust from him and fight with hanging from the Low Guard**

- In the Onset as soon as you can reach him, then thrust suddenly from the Low Guard at his left; rapidly pull your weapon back away from the thrust, toward your right Low Guard. And as you pull away, he will swiftly counterthrust at you; therefore as you draw your hilt to you, turn it with extended arm up in the air until it is in front of your face; but let your blade hang down meanwhile; thus strike out his incoming thrust with hanging blade from your right toward your left; and in this striking out, spring well out toward his
left side. And after striking him out, let your blade snap around by your left side into the left High Guard; from there, with this springing out, thrust quickly and strongly against his left at his face.

Or after you have struck out his incoming blade with your hanging weapon and with your arm extended high toward your left, then pull your weapon fully around your head and cut from your right at his left across through his face, so that your weapon comes to your left in the Middle Guard; then quickly spring out toward his right side; and in this springing out, cut diagonally from your left against his right strongly through his face, so that your blade snaps back by your right side into the right High Guard of the Ox. Then spring further toward his right and thrust forcefully at his face.

Here Follow Some Devices to Execute from the Plow

In the Onset, come with your right foot forward, hold your weapon with horizontal quillons inside by your right thigh, so that your arm is extended downward and the point upward toward your opponent's face; approach him with your body leaning well down and forward after your weapon. If he thrusts meanwhile, either from above or straight at you, then keep your tip level against his body; and turn your hilt up from below toward your right, so that in this turning up, you strike out his incoming blade upward with the flat which previously stood down facing the ground; and with this turning out upward, let your point drop somewhat beside his hilt, and go through under his blade to the other side. Thrust quickly from across inside his hilt at his chest; and with this thrusting in, turn your hilt rapidly down; thus you come back into the left Plow in which you first approached him.

A shrewd device from the Plow, changing through to both sides and thrusting inside at the chest

In the Onset, hold your hilt outside by your right knee, in such a way as you previously have held your weapon inside your lower leg; approach him again with
your tip turned upward. If he thrusts or cuts at your face or chest, then turn your hilt up toward your left, so that you turn away his incoming blade upward with your outside flat, as you have sent it away upward previously from the other side. And when you have parried his thrust or cut upward with your flat, then let your point go through under his blade to the other side. Thrust thus outside his blade at his right arm; with this thrusting in, again turn your hilt through from beneath up toward your right, and quickly thrust at him from across inside his hilt, at his chest as before; turn your hilt back down toward your left as before; then you come back into the left Plow.

Both of these devices shall be executed with quick agility of body in the work.

**Another device with setting off**

- In the Onset, position yourself in the Plow, as I have taught; present your face to him with your body defiantly leaning well forward; and meanwhile note diligently as soon as he thrusts in, and turn your hilt up toward your left side, and set off his incoming thrust with it with the outside flat forcefully toward your left, such that in setting him off your point remains aimed at his left. As soon as the blades connect, then turn your hilt back around and thrust inside his hilt at his chest. As soon as the thrust has hit, then turn your hilt back down toward your left, so that if he thrusts in again, you will turn it away. This device goes on both sides.

**Three thrusts, running one after another, with which you can practice to develop quickness**

- Do them thus: position yourself in the Plow on the left, and take heed as soon as he sends his weapon into the Irongate or into Straight Parrying before him, and from the left Plow thrust the first straight up outside close to his weapon at his face. He will turn this thrust away toward his right, therefore in thrusting in, as soon as you perceive his turning away, let it run off by his right side as you thrust
in, and run through back toward your left, so that your blade snaps around beside your left into the High Guard; and as your blade snaps around, at the same time step well out to his left with a double step to the side; and with this stepping out, thrust the second from the left Ox inside his weapon at his chest. He will want to parry this thrust toward his left; therefore when you see this, then turn the short edge inward against his blade, and with this turning inwards, let it run through under his blade toward your left, and snap around again beside your left into the Ox again; in this running through and snapping around of your blade, spring well out toward his right side. Next, thrust thirdly from the left Ox outside his right arm at his face.

How in thrusting in you shall turn the High Thrust into a Low Thrust

- When he holds his weapon before him in Straight Parrying, then thrust quickly and suddenly inside up at his face, so that in this thrusting in, your blade remains hard on his, such that as you thrust in, you also press his blade out to the side. Thus he will go up in the air with his hilt; therefore as soon as you see this, then jerk your hilt rapidly up and let the point drop around beside his hilt, and thrust in from above under his weapon at his belly. But if he presses your blade out toward his left when you deliver the first thrust, then turn your hilt rapidly up and complete the thrust as before.

Concerning Running In

- In the Onset, position yourself in the right Plow; if he cuts at you from above, then as he cuts in, turn your hilt with extended arm up through between you and him, toward his right shoulder; thus your blade stands across before your face, and you catch his incoming cut on the flat of your blade; with this parrying, while you are still holding off his blade in the air with your parry, at the same time step through under his blade toward his right side with your head.
leaning, and turn your weapon out of the parrying into a thrust; thus you hit before he realizes it, as shown by the figure on the left side of the scene in the middle left of Image G2. You can protect yourself further by setting off, but when you execute this device with sharp blades, you will not need to set him off. From this device certain thrusts are derived for earnest combat, but since this does not pertain to common use, I have let it go with this, from which you can well learn something by diligent reflection.

![Image G2](image_url)

**How you can take his weapon**

- Position yourself in the Plow on the left; if he cuts or thrusts at you from above, then turn your hilt and blade up and catch his cut in the air with horizontal blade near his hilt, so that in this parrying your hilt extends horizontally toward his left and your blade toward his right; and when you thus go up to parry, spring with your left foot well under his stroke toward him. And
while his blade still lies on yours after this stroke has hit, grip through with your left reversed hand under your blade onto his hilt. Turn it out of his hand toward his right by twisting around, as shown by the figure on the left in the uppermost scene in the previous Image G2. If he will not let go promptly, then jab at one of his joints with your pommel.

Another

If an opponent cuts at you from above, then again spring well under his stroke, and catch it near his hilt with your blade horizontal and turned upward from below as before. And as his stroke falls and clashes on your blade, grip through with your left hand under your right onto his pommel, and meanwhile turn your blade out over his, and press it down against him. Draw his pommel toward you thus with your left hand, and with your weapon press his blade away from you against his body, as is shown in the figure on the right in the scene on the upper right in Image G2. You can thus take his weapon from him, and harm him with your weapon or his own according to your opportunity and desire.

Another

Run under his High Cut and parry it as I have just taught, so that you again catch him on your blade, as you can see this parrying in the following Image I above on the right side; and as you parry, turn your left side toward him and grasp his arm by the wrist as shown by the figure that has parried as
I have just taught. Hold it fast and turn it, wrenching down and around toward your left. Thus you can break his arm, or else he must bend deeply forward. If he does that, then catch with your pommel in the crook of his elbow; force with it to your right side; thus he falls forward on his face.

If you are without a weapon, and an adversary overruns or attacks you with a sidearm, and you cannot in any way escape him unharmed, then lay your hands crosswise over one another, the right over the left, and see that you spring or evade out from his cut, so that he cuts and misses in front of you. And as his cut is still falling to the ground in this way, then spring rapidly to him so that you come under his weapon as he is drawing back up for another stroke, and rapidly grip his right arm between your hands, and quickly turn it down in a jerk around to your right side. Hold his hand with your left, and with your right reversed hand grip his hilt; turn it out and downward. Now if he is ready with his stroke meanwhile as you spring in, and cuts, then take heed against which side he sends it in; strike strongly with the same arm against his blade on the forte, or the nearer his hilt the better. And although he will somewhat harm you, yet it will not be as bad as otherwise, if you do not strike against it. Spring further in and do not let him come to any further stroke, but rapidly grasp his right arm with reversed hand; with whichever hand you thus grasp his arm, turn him around to that side, and with the other hand jerk his weapon. Concerning this see the two figures on the upper left in Image H.
Summary

When find yourself in rapier combat or any other weapon, then approach him with extended, straight, and firm parrying, and take heed what he will execute against you and from which side he will cut or thrust in. From whichever side he sends in his cut, catch and parry his cut, and cut or thrust in at him to the same side from which he has sent in his cut, before he has entirely finished it, or at least before he has recovered from it again. Also on each side of him you have three routes through which you can send your cuts at him, one from above, the second from across, the third from below; and each of those will be parried or varied in three ways, high or low, as you have learnt in the first part.

But if he will not cut or thrust first, but encounters you in similar parrying, and waits for you to lay on, then you shall again take heed of the three routes to both sides, and note against which it will be best and safest for you to cut. Various craftiness is called for with this cutting in the Before, for you can easily see that since you can neither cut nor thrust without making yourself open, he will have positioned himself in this parrying so that when you sees you make yourself open by cutting, he can at once crowd in at your opening. Therefore if you will cut or thrust against him in the Before, then you must use the first cut more to provoke and goad him than to hit, so that when he cuts at the opening that you have offered with this cutting, you are positioned to strike and take it out; at once after you have weakened him and made him open, you will thirdly rush to the opening, actually completing the attack this time.

From this arise the three cuts that one shall truly consider a test of a master. These three cuts were greatly valued by the combat masters of old, since the five (master cuts) arose from them. This is not to imply that no other cuts are worth reckoning, but rather that all cuts are divided into these three types, namely that some are used to provoke the opponent out of his advantage; others to parry and send away your opponent's cuts; and some are used to hit, chiefly to harm the body. And it doesn't matter if you use one or two or even more cuts for each one of them, or with what cuts this is executed.
Therefore I should also say something here about the qualities of people, who in this art of combat can naturally be divided into four categories, and thus four kinds of combatants are to be found based on diligent observation. Now so that you may have an introduction to reflect usefully about these, I will firstly enumerate them to you, and then offer a short lesson and precept how you shall conduct yourself against each of them.

And the first are those who, as soon as they can reach the opponent in the Onset, at once cut and thrust in with violence. The second are somewhat more moderate, and do not attack too crudely, but when an opponent has fully extended with a cut, fallen low with his weapon, or else has bungled in changing, they chase and pursue rapidly toward the nearest offered opening. The third will only cut to the opening when they not only have it for certain, but have also taken heed whether they can also recover from the extension of the cut back into a secure parrying, or to the Defense Strokes; I also mostly hold with these, although it depends on what my opponent is like. Now the fourth position themselves in a guard and wait thus for their opponent's device; they must be either fools or especially sharp, for whoever will wait for another person's device must be very adept and also trained and experienced, or else he will not accomplish much.

Now as the first ones are violent and somewhat stupid, and as they say, cultivate frenzy; the second artful and sharp; the third judicious and deceitful; the fourth like fools; so you must assume and adopt all four of them, so that you can deceive the opponent sometimes with violence, sometimes with cunning, sometimes with judicious observation, or else use foolish comportment to incite him, deceive him, and thus not only betray him concerning his intended device, but also make yourself room and space for the opening, so that you can hit him that much more surely.

Now against the first combatants conduct yourself thus:

- When you observe that an opponent is inclined rush and crowd upon you in the Onset with hard cuts or thrusts, then parry his cut or thrust with extended arm on your long edge, near your hilt in the forte, and thus turn
your hilt against all his incoming cuts and thrusts, yet such that in this parrying you do not go too far out to the side from the Longpoint away from your face, since the closer you keep your hilt in front of your face in turning him away, the better it is. And always withdraw your head and face from his blade behind yours. And as you thus hold off his cuts and thrusts, then note diligently if you can pull the parrying from him in the second, third, or fourth cut, with a back-step away, so that he misses with his cut or thrust; then swiftly counterthrust or cut, while he is still falling, or before he recovers.

For when someone thus violently storms in at you with cutting and thrusting, you shall always meet him in the Longpoint or Straight Parrying, and at first somewhat yield and give way to him, yet such that nonetheless you bear out and send away from you all cuts and thrusts. Then just when he becomes tired, careless, or overconfident, and you perceive your opportunity, pursue him quickly and judiciously. For the more you yield, the more violent he becomes, and the easier you can get your advantage over him—yet such that you yourself do not let yourself be forced out of your advantage with this. For anyone who cuts violently will be inclined to overcommit to his cut.

Now against those who will not attack so violently in the Before, but will take heed to attack close behind the opponent's position yourself in the Onset in one of the guards; then change before him judiciously from one guard into another, and offer him one opening after the other, yet such that your point always remains before him, as I have said concerning changing off. Then as soon as he thrusts or cuts at you during this, fall upon it with setting off or suppressing, and rush at once to the opening he has presented.

Against the third fighter practice thus:

- When you observe that your opponent will not cut first, nor rush to the opening before he has it for certain, then position yourself in the Onset in the Side Guard or in the Change. Remain a little while in
it, as if you intended to wait for his devices; but then go back up from the lower guard, and act as if you intended to change into the High Guard; when you almost have come into the High Guard, then rapidly turn your weapon for the stroke; before he realizes it, cut through rapidly to the nearest opening with extended arm, so that you make yourself open again. Without doubt he will quickly cut at this opening, since you have presented it to him thus with a sudden stroke. If he does this, then set him off, and work forth to the opening. If he does not cut, then deliver a strong thrust directly after your completed cut. This is a shrewd deceit, acting as if you intended first to go from one posture into another for a while before him, and partly doing this, but just when you have come with your weapon to the High Guard, and you meanwhile perceive your opportunity, then turning your weapon to a stroke before you have fully come into the posture.

As far as regards how to act against the fourth combatants, you will find that throughout in the previously taught devices.

Thus you shall pay heed to your opponent's custom, type and nature, in order to recognize his intent, so that you will know how to encounter each one according to opportunity. Lastly, you shall always keep the three cuts diligently in mind, so that you provoke with the one; take or parry with the second; and hit with the third.

Example

Now when you thrust in at your opponent, and will be the first to lay on against him manfully, then you must cut at his opening, so that you do not put yourself in danger. Therefore since he is standing in his advantage, cut the first one diagonally, either through his weapon or body, so that you goad him with this cut, and provoke him to go out of his advantage. As soon as he goes up and thrusts in, then take away his incoming cut or thrust with your second cut; and thirdly cut or thrust at his body quickly before he has recovered from the stroke you have taken. And if you wish, or if you need to—since you must make yourself open with your earnest counter cutting—
then also deliver the two diagonal cuts through the Cross, to protect yourself further and recover again.

However if he cuts first, then take his incoming blade with the first, and if necessary, also his second with your second; and when you feel he is sufficiently weakened, then secondly counter cut or thrust at him quickly; then thirdly protect yourself, and recover with Defense Strokes.

And now I will let this suffice, and conclude with this following device:

- When you come before your opponent with your parrying sent forward, and he will not at once cut or thrust, cut the first diagonally through his right shoulder, keeping your right foot forward, so that you fall with this cut into the right Low Guard, and thus you make your upper body open. He will rush quickly to this opening; strongly strike out his incoming thrust from your right toward your left; and thirdly cut from your left across through his right, also a Middle Cut, through his face; it doesn't matter if it is done with the short edge or flat. With this Middle Cut let your blade go around your head, and cut the fourth again diagonally through his right shoulder; after this, quickly cut the fifth diagonally through his left shoulder; with this cut you come into the left Low Guard. From there, take him out forcefully and strongly with the short edge up through his right, let your rapier swing around over your head into the right High Guard, and thrust with determination from above at his face.
Now that I have sufficiently taught how to wield a single weapon in one hand, I will also briefly show you how to use a secondary weapon in addition to the sidearm.

First, hold your rapier in your right hand and your dagger in your left, and approach him thus with both arms extended from you, as the previous image shows.

Now when you go against your opponent in this parrying, then you have three types or principles of parrying you can execute. The first is to catch or hold off all your opponent's cuts and thrusts only with your dagger, whether it happens from below or from above, against the left or the right side, and as you parry, to thrust in with your weapon under or above your dagger, depending on how you have caught and sent away his weapon with your dagger.

The second is when you defend and protect each side with the corresponding weapon, and, as before, while you are protecting yourself with the one, you injure him with the other, and so you protect your right side with your weapon, the left side with your dagger.
The third is when you parry with both weapons at the same time, or use one to help the other.

I will cover these three parryings one after the other in order and discuss them very briefly with their examples and devices.

**How you shall conduct yourself against an opponent who thrusts in from his right against your left from above**

- Now when you come before your opponent in the parrying that I have just taught, and hold both your weapons before you with your arms extended forward and somewhat down, if he cuts or thrusts in from above at your left, then parry him with your dagger, as is shown by the large figure on the right in the following image H, and at the same time as you parry him, thrust underneath your dagger at his body.

- Or parry his high thrust or cut as before, and as you parry him, at the same time cut through quickly from your right across at his left to his lower legs, so that at the end of the cut you have your weapon under your left arm; then while you are still holding your dagger in the air, quickly cut diagonally from your left through his right side, high or low, depending on where he makes himself open. These two cuts shall be executed quickly one after another while you are still parrying.
Or as you thus parry him, thrust through under your dagger, outside over his right arm at his face, palm away from him, as you can see in the figure in the upper right in Image H; turn your hilt well up under your left arm, so that you gather yourself for a stroke, and cut from your left at his forward leg.

Or strike out his incoming thrust with your dagger sideways toward your left, and meanwhile thrust from above at his face. He will want to catch and parry this with his dagger, so pull your thrust around beside his dagger, and thrust from below at his belly as he is going up after it with his dagger.

Or strike out his incoming thrust with your dagger from your left toward your right, and at the same time cut above your dagger diagonally through his right shoulder. And if he thrusts from below against your left, then turn his incoming thrust out with hanging dagger sideways toward your left, as shown by the figure on the lower right in the aforementioned image H; and meanwhile thrust or cut at his nearest opening.
The Other Parrying

- Now if he cuts or thrusts at your other side, that is at your right, then parry it with your weapon, and meanwhile spring with your left foot to him, and as you are parrying, thrust with your dagger at his right arm.

- **Item**: use the blade of your weapon to parry the cut or thrust that he sends at your right; as soon as his blade connects on yours, then spring to him with your left foot, and at the same time fall on his blade with your dagger also, and use it to hold off his blade until you have injured him with your weapon above your left arm with a thrust, which must take place in the blink of an eye; or choose other cuts and thrusts, of which you will find plenty of diverse examples in what I have already taught on rapier combat. As soon as you have injured him with your weapon, then step back again with your left foot, so that you stand with your right foot in front again, and can further protect yourself with both weapons as at the beginning.

- Now if he thrusts or cuts from below at your right, then parry this with hanging blade, and thrust quickly off of his blade at his face; and at the same time go after his blade with your dagger, with a step forward on your left foot. At once after delivering the thrust, pull your hilt up and at the same time keep your dagger before your face; then cut beside it up from below with the short edge, powerfully through his body, with a step forward on your right foot. And with this, pull your weapon toward your left around your head, and send a powerful cut at his left from above; and as this cut hits on his parrying, then pull your weapon to you, and go around beside his dagger with it, and thrust at his nearest opening; at the same time as you do this, send your dagger with extended arm before your face.

Now the fourth way to parry and fight takes place with both weapons together, namely that as he sends in his cut or thrust, you cross your weapons over one another, and catch his blade between both your blades. Then as soon as you have caught it,
you keep the dagger on his weapon to hold it off, and with the other you rapidly thrust or cut to the opening, before he has lifted and taken away his blade from your dagger, which I will also relate to you briefly.

Now there are five kinds of counterthrusts, namely two from your right at his left, of which the one is executed from above, the other from below; the second two are executed and thrust at his right, the one above, the other below; the fifth is a thrust straight before you in at his chest or face; this sometimes will be sent in above, sometimes below your dagger, depending on how you must parry with your dagger.

Now as there are five thrusts, so you also have five counter cuts, the first of which you direct toward the head, the second toward the neck and shoulder, the third to the hand, the fourth to the hip, and the fifth at the lower legs. This can be executed from above, diagonally, across, and from below, as I have already taught, and all of these to both sides.

Then when you can correctly execute all cuts and thrusts, and send your dagger judiciously to protect you, you shall then diligently pay heed to the Before and After, and also the word Instantly, through which the true and appointed time of each cut and thrust must be learnt, and when each of them should be executed and may be useful to perform. Now so that you can execute and learn it that much more readily in the work through diligent practice and investigation, I will offer you some examples in order, thus:

Example

- In the Onset when you hold out both your weapons in the manner depicted previously, with your arms extended and somewhat down, then rapidly cut before he realizes it with a spring forward on your right foot, straight down from above, in the manner of a slice that you draw through his face; meanwhile as you thus cut down, go up before your face with your dagger. With this cut you will provoke him so that he will certainly rush quickly to the opening, either by cutting or thrusting; therefore as soon as he thrusts or cuts in, go with your long edge and horizontal
blade up outside your dagger, and with this going upward you shall strike out his incoming blade upward. Then just as his blade connects on yours, step with your left foot to him somewhat toward his right side, and with this, thrust quickly through under your dagger outside his right arm at his face; in this thrusting in, turn your hilt or long edge well up toward your left; and when he intends to put off and parry the thrust, cut at once outside at his forward right leg; and meanwhile guard yourself diligently with extended dagger. When your weapon has now come with this cut into the right Low Guard, then go quickly back up with horizontal weapon outside before your dagger, so that you have both your blades crosswise before your face with your arms extended; and as you thus go up with your blade out of the Low Guard, step back again with your left foot.

Now as I have taught you to deliver this High Cut in the Before to goad him, so you shall also learn to deliver the other three, namely the diagonal, horizontal, or the one from below, from your right against his left, high or low through against his body, at whatever part of the body you best to think to reach him. And as you deliver one of these cuts through against his body, at the same time go up with your dagger to protect yourself as before. As soon as you have cut through with one of the cuts against his left, then go again with your weapon outside your dagger to turn away his incoming blade upward as before, and at once execute the thrust along with the Foot Cut, and end it as before or according to opportunity.

The Second

When you come before your opponent in the aforementioned manner with both weapons, then rapidly let your dagger sink forward, and pull your weapon around your head; cut diagonally through his right shoulder over your arm; with this cut, step to him with your left foot; and with this, go quickly back up with your dagger horizontal, with your arm extended before your face; as you thus go up with your dagger, then thrust under it with your rapier earnestly and strongly at his belly. Now if you meanwhile see that
he is going to put off and parry the thrust, then pull your weapon rapidly down toward your left side; strike him from the left side under your dagger with the flat of the blade strongly against his blade, so that you somewhat deaden it and strike it out. And rapidly thrust straight in before you at his nearest opening, while he is struggling to regain full control of his weapon, or to recover from being struck out.

The Third

In the Onset, if he thrusts in at you from his right underneath against your left, then parry his thrust down away from you with your dagger, and as you thus parry, thrust in from above at his face. And note diligently meanwhile, as soon as he goes up with his dagger against your thrust to parry it, then change through underneath with the point beside his left arm, and thrust between his weapons inside at his body. If he parries this again, then pull your rapier back away again, and thrust in at him from above between his arms. And with this thrust, break through down toward your left between his weapons; and as you thus wrench, then yield backward with your dagger, back by your left side, so that at the end of this wrenching you can come unhindered with your rapier to the left side. Slash from the left side with the short edge toward your right side and against his right, strongly through his two weapons, along with a step forward on your left foot; and send your dagger quickly after your rapier, also on the blade of his rapier, and hold it off until you can reach and rush upon him with a thrust above or below your dagger; for if you correctly execute the device, you will certainly find an opening, etc.

The Fourth

In the Onset, note if your opponent holds both his weapons in before him in strong parrying; then rapidly deliver an earnest High Cut at his left shoulder; he will go up against this cut with his dagger and parry it; therefore do not let your cut hit, but pull your
weapon to you as it goes down, and as he thus goes up with his dagger to parry, thrust under it at his body.

The Fifth

 Vandem In the Onset, hold your rapier on the right in the Low Guard, and your dagger in the left High Guard; as soon as he thrusts in at you, then go up with your rapier across into the Longpoint, and at the same time also turn your dagger hilt down, over your right arm, so that the point of your dagger stands out across toward his right shoulder; thus you have both your weapons crosswise over one another. Thus catch his incoming rapier blade between your weapons; with this, step out sideways with your left foot toward his right, and push his blade sideways out toward your right; as you are thus stepping out and pushing him out, thrust with your rapier inside on his blade in at his body. At once change through with your weapon under his toward your left side, and deliver a Defense Stroke under your arm through his right side; meanwhile guard your face with your dagger.

The Sixth

 Vandem Position yourself in the Onset with your rapier in the left Low Guard, and hold your dagger also on your left side, behind you. If he thrusts in at your face, then go with your long edge and extended arm up against his blade; as soon as you have caught his blade, then go through with your dagger underneath both your weapons, and use it to wrench his blade from your right strongly toward your left, and when you have wrenched him, thrust from above at his face; yet do not complete it, but pull it rapidly back to you, and then thrust quickly and strongly inside between his weapons at his body, actually completing it this time. With the pulling that you have been taught, you will deceive him about his parrying.

The Seventh

 Vandem Again, when you come with your right foot forward, then position yourself with your rapier in the left Low Guard, and hold your dagger with extended arm
before your face up in the Longpoint. If he cuts or thrusts at you, strike out his incoming thrust forcefully from your left up toward your right, and before he has recovered his weapon from being struck out, then secondly cut quickly under your dagger across through his lower leg, with a broad step forward on your right foot, with your body leaning after it and reaching far; meanwhile keep your dagger before your face to protect it; after the cut has taken place, you stand again as at the beginning. If he crowds upon you further with thrusting and cutting, then forcefully strike his blade out again with your rapier diagonally down from above against his right and toward your right—yet such that you keep your dagger in the parrying—so that your blade runs through back by your right out to the side, and snaps around into the right High Guard of the Ox. From there, thrust powerfully from above at his face; and as you thrust in, turn the long edge down, so that with this thrust your weapon comes back into the left Low Guard. From there, finally deliver a Defense Stroke through his right shoulder, with a back-step on your right foot.

The Eighth

- When you thus have stepped back and delivered a Defense Stroke through his right shoulder, then you stand with your left foot forward, and you have your weapon in the Low Guard by your right side, the dagger before your face with extended arm. Now if he thrusts in again at your face, whether it happens against your right or left side, then turn the long edge of your dagger against his weapon, so that you catch his blade, or put it off from you without harm; at the same time as you parry with your dagger, go up with your weapon under his blade to help your dagger, so that you parry with both weapons at the same time. As soon as his blade clashes or connects on yours, then thrust under your dagger at his belly or to the nearest opening.
Now if he thrusts at you below, and will parry with his dagger above, then fall with your dagger from above on the blade of his rapier, and at the same time cut with earnest face and comportment at his left ear; and just as the cut should hit, turn the short edge outward against him, such that you gather for another cut. With this, pull around before your face, and cut rapidly diagonally through from your left against his right shoulder underneath his dagger, while he has gone up with it.

**Summary:** as regards the dagger in conjunction with the rapier, I advise the German that he accustom himself to parry with both weapons together, and meanwhile take heed whether he can harm his opponent with the weapon or dagger, yet such that he does not bring his weapons too far from one another, to make sure that he can always come to help the one with the other. For experience has shown that when a German has accustomed himself to parry only with the dagger, then it has sometimes led to harm in serious combat, since it is contrary to their character and nature—for in this case, the nearer one remains to nature with one’s custom, the more one will accomplish.

**Rapier and Cloak**

A cape or mantle is also sometimes used as a supplementary or emergency weapon. If you want to use it, you must first learn to wrap it correctly around your arm, so that you do not get hurt in the arm when you parry with the cape. And if you cannot correctly wrap it around your arm, then do not use it, so that you do not hinder yourself. Now if you wish to employ the cape usefully, then be diligent to catch all his cuts with your blade, and then catch his weapon with your cape; hold it off, until you have hurt or hit him with your weapon. All of this must take place nimbly and in a continuous motion. Take this example of it:

- When an opponent will rush upon you and attack with serious intent, then draw your weapon, and grip your cape or mantle with your left hand by the collar or edging, inside by your left shoulder; pull it from your body, and wrap it around your arm. If he cuts or
thrusts in at your face or body, catch his cut with your weapon with a spring forward under his weapon, and just as his blade connects on yours in the cut, then rush on his weapon with your left arm and cape. And you can also hold off his weapon with your cape by pursuing and remaining, until you have injured, hit, or overcome him at your will.

This is the best precept, that you catch his stroke with your weapon when an opponent cuts at you, and just as it connects, fall with your cape on his blade, to hold it off, and meanwhile see where you can rush upon him with cutting or thrusting.

Now if you are ready and confident with the wrapping around, then parry his cut with your cape, and cut at his nearest opening at the same time as you are parrying.

Another

- When you have drawn your weapon, having been forced to it, then grasp your cape above by the collar, and hold
it with your arm hanging down by your left side. Meanwhile note diligently as soon as he cuts in, and throw the cape from across around his incoming blade, and as soon as you have struck out his blade, then cut above it at his head, as the shown by the small figures on the right in the previous image.

**How You Shall Conduct Yourself with a Sidearm against a Partisan or Similar Weapon**

- Do to him thus: when you are rushed upon and overrun with a partisan, then after you have rapidly drawn your weapon, send it to the right into the Low Guard, so that you stand with your left foot forward. And take heed as soon as he strikes in at you from above, and spring well to him under his stroke; with this, turn your weapon upward and pull your head away from him with your body leaning sideways, under his staff; thus catch his blow on your flat hanging blade, as you can see in in the figures on the left in the same image; and meanwhile grasp with your left hand under your weapon on his staff. Now if he pulls the staff up away from you, so that you cannot grasp it, then as he is pulling up, cut at his forward hand, and at the same time spring further in at him under his spear,
with your parrying turned back up in the air again, while he strikes back in from above, so that you do not allow him any space to work—for the nearer you come under his staff, the less he can achieve.

Now if you do not believe you can run under his first blow, then evade his first blow, and let it strike and miss. And when he pulls back up for the second stroke, see that you quickly come under his staff with a spring forward; as soon as you have run under him, then grasp his staff with your left hand as before, and attack to the opening with your weapon according to your opportunity.

However if he sends in a thrust at you, then meet him with your weapon in the right Low Guard, and go up from it with your hilt with your arm extended forward, so that your blade hangs toward the ground; and strike out his thrust from your right toward your left with hanging blade; at the same time as this striking out, spring out from his thrust well toward his left side, so that you not only strike it out, but at the same time also spring out from it, in case the striking out is too weak by itself; and with this, again grasp his staff with your left hand as before. Now if he pulls the thrust away from you, so that you strike out in vain, and then thrusts quickly back, keep your hilt up in the hanging, and strike out his second incoming thrust again with hanging blade from your left toward your right; and as you strike him out, spring out from his thrust toward his right, just as you have previously sprung out toward his left. Thus you can meet all his pulled thrusts with hanging blade with
your arm extended before you, and strike them out to both sides, until you rush upon his staff.

Another way to run under him

- Hold your weapon in the right Low Guard as before, and note just as he strikes in from his right, and go through with your weapon under his staff toward your left side, and at the same time, step with your right foot between you and him through toward his right side; in this stepping through, rapidly cut from your left against his incoming staff, strongly against his forward hand. All this, namely the going through with the weapon and the stepping, must take place quickly with a spring; also you must rapidly escape through under his stroke, leaning your head; thus the device proceeds well for you. Then crowd forcefully upon him, and do not let him come to any further completed stroke.

Another in which you strike out his thrust

- After you have drawn your weapon, send it into the right High Guard for the stroke. If he thrusts in at your lower body, pull your weapon around your head, and cut out his thrust strongly to the side from your left toward your right with hanging blade, and along with this, spring forcefully in toward his right. If he thrusts at your upper body, take that out and parry it as I have taught previously.

End of the Rapier
Images from the 1570 and 1560

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