

A Demonstration of Combat between a Man and a Woman

From a Fectbuch by Hans Talhoffer

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The purpose of this demonstration is to educate the audience on the combat moves between a man and a woman as instructed by Hans Talhoffer. Talhoffer's book has nine wood cut illustrations and short commentary on this topic. The book does not describe the context for the combat. It does not explain why a man and a woman would fight like this. It does not describe victory conditions such as to the death, surrender, or incapacitation.

We will go through each of the woodcuts individually; the commentary and follow through as well as what we learned by trying these moves out.



*Da Statt Wie Man vnd Frowen / mit ainander kempffen soellen vnd /
stand hie In dem anfang.*

*Da statt die frow / fry vnd wyl schlagen vnd / hatt ain stain In dem Sler
/ wigt vier oder finf pfund.*

*So statt er In der / gruben bis an die / waichin vnd ist / der kold so lang /
als Ir der Schleer / von der hand.*

Here is how a man and woman should fight each other, and this is how they begin.

Here the woman stands free and wishes to strike; she has in the cloth a stone that weighs four or five pounds.

He stands in a hole up to his waist, and his club is as long as her sling.



Hie hatt Sie ain schlag / volbracht.
 Nun hatt er den schlag versetzt / vnd gefangen vnd wyl Sie zu / Im ziehen vnd noetten.

Here she has struck a blow.
 Now he has deflected the blow and caught it, and wishes to pull her to him and subdue her.



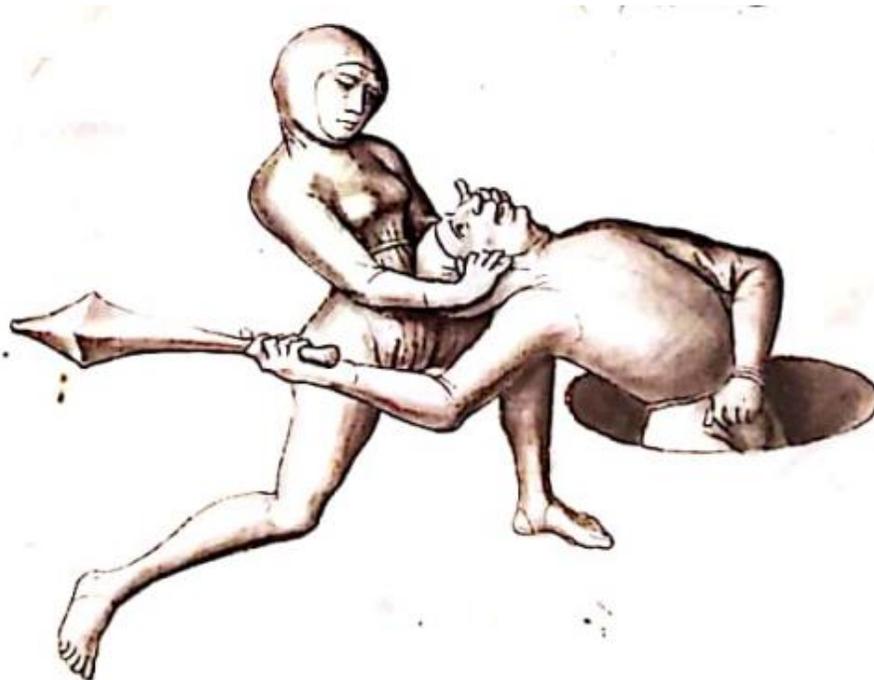
Da hatt er sie zu Im gezogen vnd vnder sich / geworffen vnd wyl sie wuergen.

Here he has pulled her to him and thrown her down and wishes to strangle her.



Da hatt sie sich vsz Im gebrochen vnd vnderstatt / Sie In zu wirgen.

Here she has broken away from him and attempts to strangle him.



Hie hatt sie In gebracht an den Rucken vnd / wyl In wirgen vnd ziehen vsz der grub.

Here she has laid him on his back and wishes to strangle him and drag him out of the hole.



Da hatt er sie zu Im / gezuckt vnd wuerfft sie / In die gruben.

Here he has pulled her to him and thrown her in the hole.



als sie schlahen wylt. So ist sie Im zu / nach Tretten das er sie ergryfft by / dem schenckel vnd wirt sie fellen.

Als sie schlahen wyl So ist sie Im zu / nach Tretten das er sie ergryfft by / dem schenckel vnd wirt sie fellen.

Since she wishes to strike, she has stepped too close to him, so that he grabs her leg and will throw her.

er sie für die brust.

hals gestolze



So schlecht er sie fuer die brust.

Da hatt sie Im den schloer vmb den / hals geschlagen vnd wyl
In wuergen.

Here he strikes her on the chest.

Here she has wrapped the sling around his neck and wishes to
strangle him.



Da hatt sie In gefaszt by dem halsz vnd by sinem / zug vnd wyl
In vsz der gruben ziehen.

Here she has grabbed by the neck and by his member and
wishes to drag him out of the hole.