

Systems for the Strategic Self

Every decision you make without a system is decided by something else. Fear of the downside. Ego defending a past call. Exhaustion at 11 p.m. You analyze until the window closes, commit while emotion is still steering, and repeat the error because nothing reviewed it. The choice felt like a verdict on who you are, so you defended the position instead of reading the evidence.

The usual advice is to trust your gut and decide faster. That holds until the stakes are real, and then instinct is the system that got you here.

Stoic Systems for Decision-Making treats Stoicism as what it always was: not a mood, not a wall of quotes, but a technical discipline for governing judgment under pressure. Marcus Aurelius was not journaling. He was running a protocol. This book reconstructs that protocol as STOIC: five trainable skills, grounded in modern decision science, that install good judgment as infrastructure rather than hope.

The five skills:

- Selective Attention: control what is even allowed to reach your judgment.
- Temporal Distance: open space between the impulse and the irreversible call.
- Outcome Detachment: separate your worth from the result, so you read risk clearly.
- Intentional Architecture: set pre-commitments, kill criteria, and pre-mortems before the moment.
- Continuous Review: turn each decision into a feedback loop, not a story you tell yourself.

The result is not a calmer person who decides the same way. It is an operator whose judgment holds when the runway is short, the data is thin, and the room is waiting.

If you are tired of deciding on instinct and calling the wreckage experience, this is the system you have been improvising without.

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