



HANNIBAL

An impossible, yet plausible, 2014's Summer interview

FEATURED WRITER



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Nihil difficile volenti

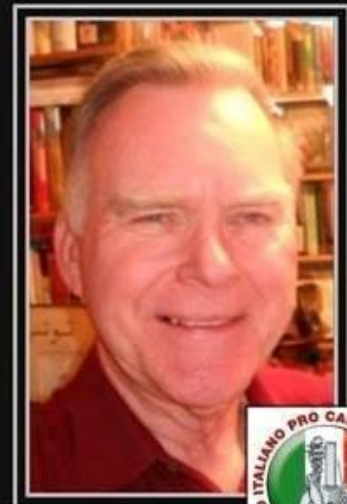
Comitato Italiano Pro Canne della Battaglia

Volontariato, Beni Culturali, Turismo... dal 1953

Yozan Mosig

U.S. Foreign Member

Yozan is The History Herald's expert on the great Carthaginian general, Hannibal (his Hannibal Library contains over 7000 items!). He has taught around the world, and since 1977 has been Professor of Psychology at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. He is also a Zen Buddhist monk and 8th Degree Black Belt in Okinawan Karate and Kobudo (weaponry) with over 50 years of training in the martial arts.



Can you state your name, please?

Han'baal Brkh, although you may know me as Hannibal Barca.

When and where were you born?

In the year 567 of Qart Hadasht, in your calendar 247 before the common era. I was born in an island part of the greater Qart Hadasht, what you would call the Carthaginian domain.

What school and university did you attend?

The Barcid Academy in Carthage and the advanced military training Academy of Iberian Qart Hadasht. Mostly I was tutored by my father, the great General Hamilkar Barca, and the distinguished scholars, Sosylos and Silenos.

What is your title and profession?

I am the stratego autokrator or commander in chief of the Carthaginian army. I regard myself as a general and as a liberator.

What languages do you speak?

Phoenician and Qart Hadashtian, plus Greek, Lybian, Numidian, Iberian, Celtic, Ligurian, and I also understand the Latin tongue of my enemies. Languages have always been easy for me.

Are you married?

Yes, to the beautiful Princess from Cástulo, Himilke, the love of my life.

How would you describe your character?

Using the temperaments of the Greek healer Hippokrates, sanguine but not sanguinary, and with a touch of the phlegmatic. (*chuckles*)

And your personality?

Psychologists from another era tell me that I am an intuitive introverted thinker. I think they are probably right, although they are usually full of hot air.

What is your favorite color?

Blue, definitely blue, like the sea of Qart Hadasht.

What is your strongest virtue?

I never act impulsively, although I am able to analyze situations in an instant and decide upon the best course of action.

What is your greatest weakness?

Perhaps caring too much about the welfare of others. As a military man, I dislike unnecessary bloodshed.

What do you hate the most?

The stubbornness of the damned Romans, although I do not hate them as people.

What do you love the most?

I love my native land, Qart Hadasht, and my sweet wife, Himilke, and my son, little Hmlk.

What is your dream?

I dream that Qart Hadasht will prevail and that there will be peace and prosperity for many, many years.

What is your greatest fear?

That the myopic politicians at Qart Hadasht will not understand the importance of giving their total support to my war effort in Italy. They are so stupid, always thinking of the silver mines in Iberia and of their profits. They cannot see that the Romans will not follow the unwritten rules of Hellenistic war and come to terms when defeated, unless they are forced to do so with overwhelming strength. The politicians are blind to the fact that the very survival of Qart Hadasht depends on the success of my campaign.

Who is your best friend?

Sosylos, and also good old Maharbal, although we have our differences. And naturally my brothers, Magon and Hasdrubal, although they are more than friends.

Who is your worst enemy?

You would think a number of the Roman generals, particularly the ones I have already defeated, but no, my worst enemy is that fat idiot Hanno in Qart Hadasht, a politician who hates my family and tries to block my success in every way he can. Jealousy mixed with greed motivate him; he does not care for the survival of his homeland.

Do you have a lover or a mistress?

No, I do not, although many have offered. Why is it so hard to believe that a general can remain faithful to the memory of his wife throughout the vicissitudes of war?

Do you have any hobbies?

I enjoy playing strategic games with some of my officers, and I occasionally indulge in writing some poetry, but the necessities of my campaign leave me little time for hobbies.

What would you be doing, if you were not a commander in a military campaign?

I think I would love being a builder, a city planner, or an architect.

What is your favorite book?

The Epic of Elyssa, by the great Carthaginian bard, Abdl Mlkr, although I have also enjoyed greatly the tales of the blind Greek sage, Homer.

What is the last book you have read?

A life of Alexander the Great, and before that, The Politics of Aristotle, who so justly praises the government system of Qart Hadasht.

What is your favorite sport?

Kicking the butt of the Roman commanders who think they can beat me! They are so predictable, and so easy to manipulate, due to their hubris.

What do you think of the region of Puglia in Italy?

It's lovely, I like it very much, it reminds me of some beautiful landscapes in Iberia. It's too bad a lot of brave soldiers will have to die here, before the Romans understand they are beaten. Right now I'm looking at a lovely grain depot at Cannae, which seems like a perfect place to stop for a while.

Thank you for your time. It was an honor and a pleasure to have met you!

Tanit bless you!