

CHECKMATE

The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still. – Exodus 14:14



Konane is a traditional Hawaiian board game like checkers yet requiring the strategic skills of chess. It was played on sizeable boards called, *papakonane*, or *papamū*. These boards varied in size and surfacing, and the game lasted longer if there were more spaces on the board.

The *papamū* were made by selecting stone or wood slabs and marking out a grid of the desired size. Drilling or grinding depressions for the *lua* (pits), especially the *piko*, the center *lua* of wooden boards were sometimes decorated with human teeth or bone. To complete the set, *pōhaku li'ili'i* (small stones), *'ili'ili*, black lava and white coral markers, completed the set. However, a formal *papamū* was not necessarily needed. Instead, impromptu games were played on *lauhala* mats, or any smooth surface which could be marked. *Konane* was a relaxing and recreational way of enjoyment as well as to reinvigorate oneself after a long day.

Though it was enjoyed by both men and women, the older men played it the most and as tournaments were commonly held, the game of *konane* would last for days. Bets were made and the stakes were high ranging from goods, such as *kapa* blankets and clothing, *lauhala* mats, to larger wagers of jewelry, land, sexual favors, or even one's own life.

A story was once shared of a painting that hung in an art gallery in London of a chess game entitled *The Chess Players*. On one side of the chessboard is the devil, full of laughter. His hand is posed, ready to make the next move. On the other side of the chessboard sits a shaking, frightened young man. Sweat drips down his forehead mixed with tears pouring from his eyes.

One day, a chess champion from another country visited the gallery. The painting naturally caught his attention causing him to examine it for a very long time. In fact, while others had moved on throughout the gallery, the chess champion remained fixated on the game and the devil who was about to make the next move to steal this man's soul. Hours passed as the chess champion continued to study the board from every possible angle. Seeing the sweat on the young man's face begged him to continue. Finally, as the gallery was about to close for the night, people in every part of the enormous building heard a loud scream as the chess champion yelled, "Yes! I've got it! You don't have to lose!" What this chess champion had done was discover another move that the man could take. He had found a way not only for the young man to escape checkmate, but to checkmate the devil with only a few more moves in the game.

Maybe you feel like you are in the same position today and it looks like the devil has won the chess game for your life, family, job, health or in any other area. But what I want you to know is that you have a Champion who will always have the last move! Your victory over Satan has already been secured through Jesus Christ. There is no countermove that the devil can make to limit what Jesus has already done for you! He knows the next move you need to make. Your task is to manifest God's victory over the devil in your life. That's why you need to remember that whatever mess you may be in, right now, you are not fighting *for* victory—you are fighting *from* victory. God's angels are at your side and the game has already been won!