

well acquainted with the configuration of the country but from home he will be unable to turn that knowledge into field

decisions. Even though the sovereign is experienced with the nine varieties of ground, and even though he is experienced with the five essentials

of heaven, even so he will be unable to make the best use of the army. The wise sovereign considers the advantage and

disadvantages of his directive word and will balance them together. He must modify his directives to succeed in the essential

part of his plan. However while our army is maneuvering he must have a reserve ready to hold what we have or lift us from disaster.

Keep enemies at bay by inflicting damage on them, by creating trouble for them and by keeping them constantly distracted.

Hold our baits and keep them rushing about. Be prepared! Never rely on the chance of the enemy's not coming but on the fact of our ability

to hold him. Never rely on the chance that he may not attack but on the fact that we have made ourselves

undefeatable. Here are the five faults which may afflict the general and bring defeat. 1 Recklessness, which brings destruction

by ambush. 2 Cowardice, which brings capture through dividing bluffs. 3 A quick temper, that can be provoked by insults, which leads to

4 A hasty temper, which leads to rashness. 5 A double-mindedness, which leads to a waver- ing course.

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