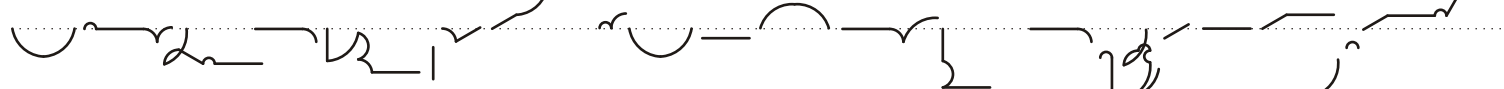




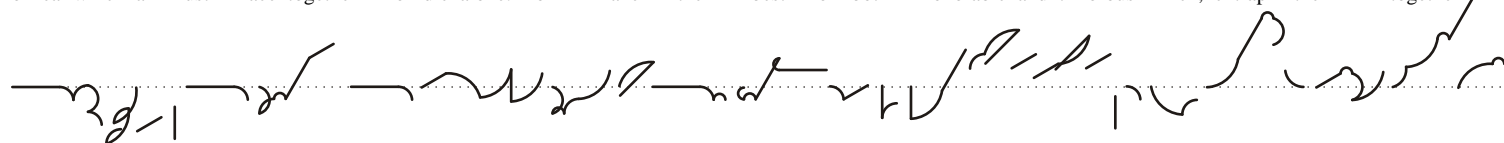
In the face of a battle a general would be foolish to hobble the war horses or fasten the fighting equipment to the ground, for that



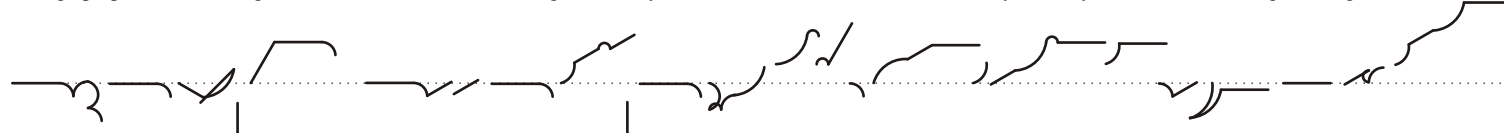
will neither prevent the flight of his soldiers, nor will it make them fight. The unifying principle is to set up one standard



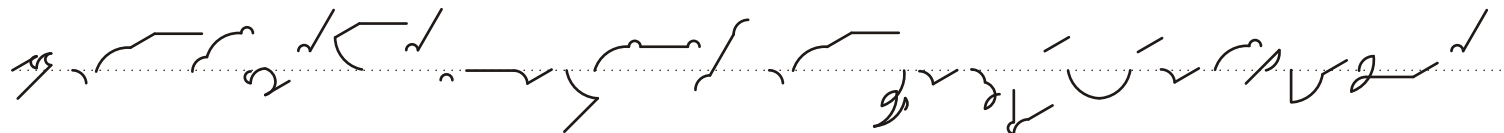
of fear which all must face together or die alone. To make the best of both honorable and timorous men, entrap them together



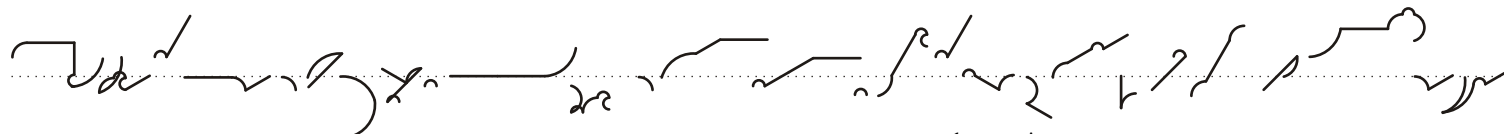
through proper use of the grounds. The skillful general may then conduct his fear-filled army as easily as if he were leading a single blind man



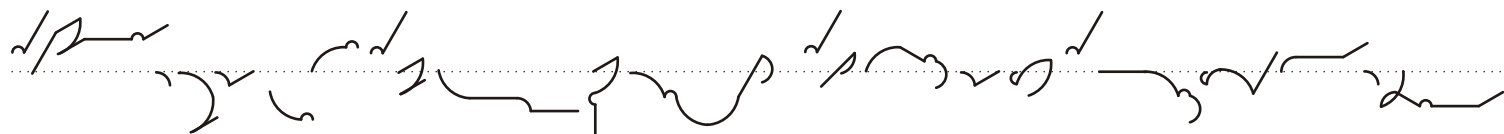
through the valley of death. This is the business of the general alone and he must be silent about his plot, to secure absolute



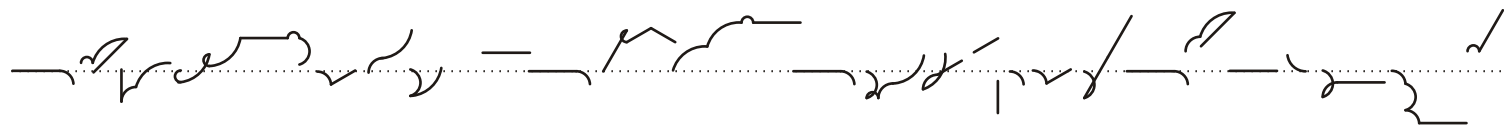
secrecy. He must remain courageous and just and in this way maintain order. He must perplex his higher officers as well as his men by false reports and



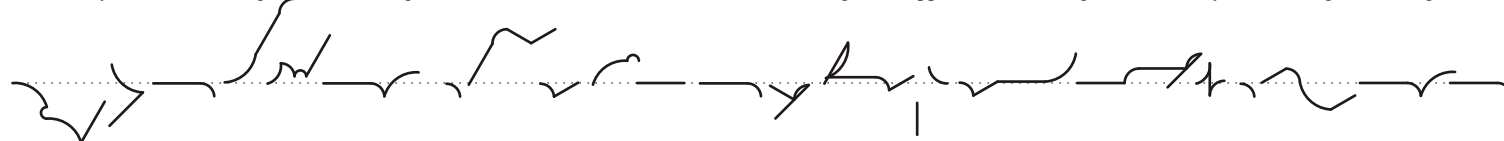
artificial appearances and thus he may keep everyone in total ignorance. He must insist on obedience and never give reasons for any order. By altering his plans



and dispositions he keeps his own men and spies without specific knowledge. And by moving his camp and taking crooked routes, he prevents



the enemy from calculating his real goal. At the decisive moment the general appears as if he has guided the army to a great height and



kicked away the ladder behind them. He drives his men to the very depths of a hostile territory before he shows them the