

The Thirty Six Stratagems

Unknown (Chinese Ming or early Qing dynasty)

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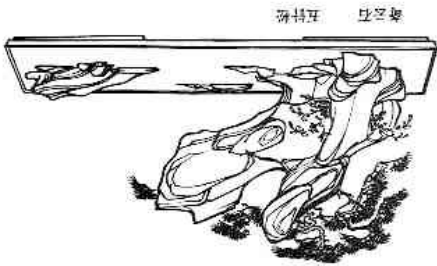
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勝戰計 Stratagems when in a superior position

Fool the Emperor to Cross the Sea
Moving about in the darkness and shadows, occupying isolated places, or hiding behind screens will only attract suspicious attention. To louver an enemy's guard you must act in the open hiding your true intentions under the guise of common every day activities.



策云石 五針松

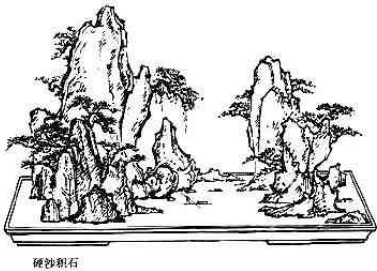
Besiege Wei to Rescue Zhao
When the enemy is too strong to attack directly, then attack something he holds dear. Know that in all things he cannot be superior. Somewhere there is a gap in the armour, a weakness that can be attacked instead.



英石 金錢松

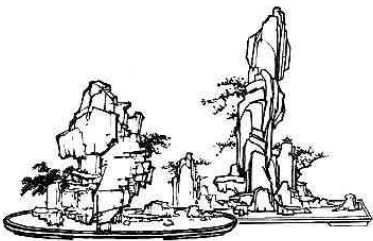
溜戰計 Stratagems for confused situations

Shed Your Skin Like the Golden Cicada
When you are in danger of being defeated, and your only chance is to escape and regroup, then create an illusion. While the enemy's attention is focused on this artifice, secretly remove your men leaving behind only the facade of your presence.

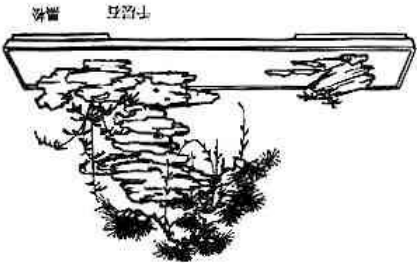


確砂明石

Shut the Door to Catch the Thief
If you have the chance to completely capture the enemy then you should do so thereby bringing the battle or war to a quick and lasting conclusion. To allow your enemy to escape plants the seeds for future conflict. But if they succeed in escaping, be wary of giving chase.



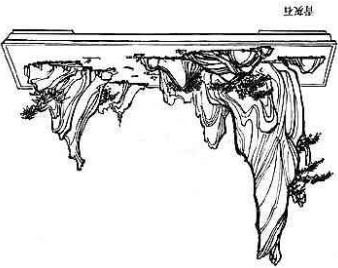
英石 斧劈石



千岩石 黑松

Trouble The Water To Catch The Fish

Before engaging your enemy's forces create confusion to weaken his perception and judgment. Do something unusual, strange, and unexpected as this will arouse the enemy's suspicion and disrupt his thinking. A distracted enemy is thus more vulnerable.



青英石



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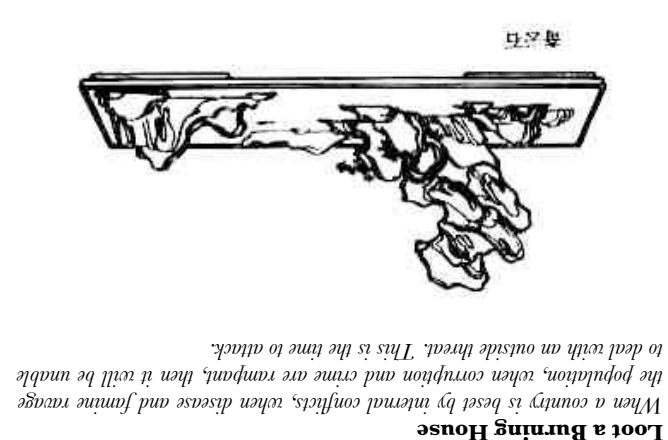
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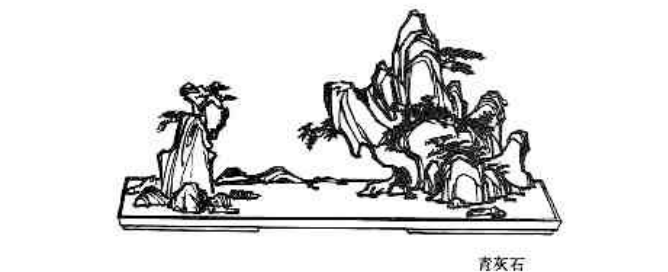


Clamor in the East, Attack in the West
In any battle the element of surprise can provide an overwhelming advantage. Even when face to face with an enemy, surprise can still be employed by attacking where he least expects it. To do this you must create an expectation in the enemy's mind through the use of a feint.

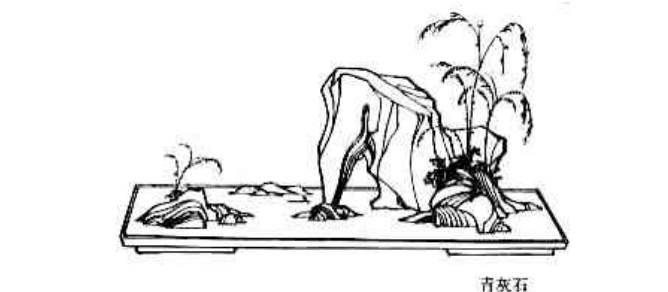


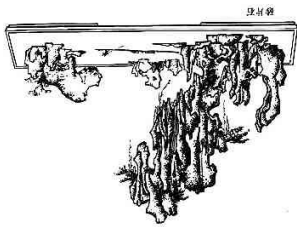
Kill with a Borrowed Sword

When you do not have the means to attack your enemy directly, then attack using the strength of another. Trick an ally into attacking him, bribe an official to turn traitor, or use the enemy's own strength against him.



Await the Exhausted Enemy at Your Ease
It is an advantage to choose the time and place for battle. In this way you know when and where the battle will take place, while your enemy does not. Encourage your enemy to expend his energy in futile quests while you conserve your strength. When he is exhausted and confused, you attack with energy and purpose.



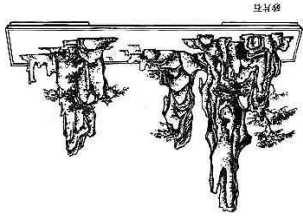


be dissuaded from attacking.

your situation this unusual behavior will arouse suspicions. With luck he will
preparedness and act casually. Unless the enemy has an accurate description of
expect to be overrun at any moment, then drop all pretence of military

When the enemy is superior in numbers and your situation is such that you

The Strategy of Open City Gates



Send your enemy beautiful women to cause discord within his camp. This
strategy can work on three levels. First, the ruler becomes so enamored with the
beauty that he neglects his duties and allows his vigilance to wane. Second, other
males at court will begin to display aggressive behavior that inflames minor
differences hindering co-operation and destroying morale. Third, other females at
court, motivated by jealousy and envy, begin to plot intrigues further exasperating
the situation.

he Strategy of Beautiful Women

敵戰計 Stratagems for desperate situations

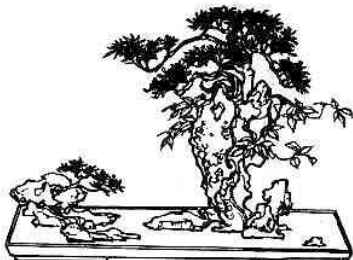
The Strategy of Sowing Discord

Undermine your enemy's ability to fight by secretly causing discord between him
and his friends, allies, advisors, family, commanders, soldiers, and population.
While he is preoccupied settling internal disputes his ability to attack or defend,
is compromised.

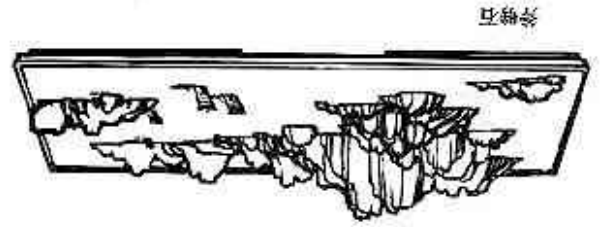


The Strategy of Injuring Yourself

Pretending to be injured has two possible applications. In the first, the enemy is
lulled into relaxing his guard since he no longer considers you to be an immediate
threat. The second is a way of ingratiating yourself to your enemy by pretending
the injury was caused by a mutual enemy.

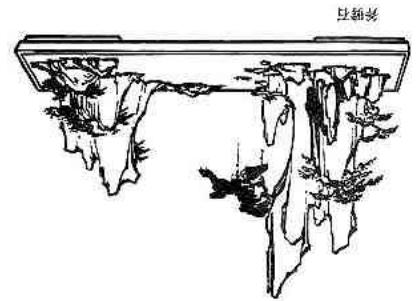


神乳石 罗汉松



you more against him in secret.
charm and ingratiate yourself to your enemy. When you have gained his trust,

Hide Your Dagger Behind a Smile



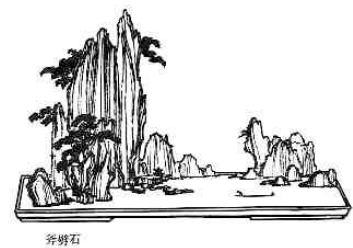
exhausted fighting amongst themselves. Then go in full strength and pick up the
pieces.
Delay entering the field of battle until all the other players have become

Observe the Fire on the Opposite Shore

敵戰計 Stratagems for confrontation

Create Something From Nothing

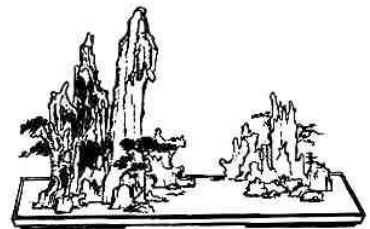
You use the same feint twice. Having reacted to the first and often the second
feint as well, the enemy will be hesitant to react to a third feint. Therefore the
third feint is the actual attack catching your enemy with his guard down.



斧劈石

Openly Repair The Walkway, Secretly March to Chencang

Attack the enemy with two convergent forces. The first is the direct attack, one
that is obvious and for which the enemy prepares his defense. The second is the
indirect, the attack sinister, that the enemy does not expect and which causes him
to divide his forces at the last minute leading to confusion and disaster.



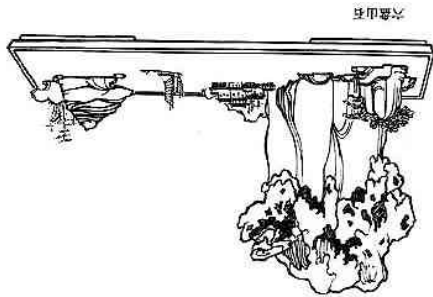
芦管石

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Lure Your Enemy Onto the Roof, Then Take Away the Ladder

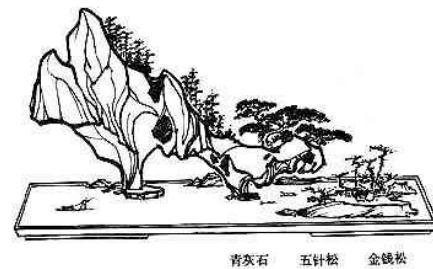
With baits and deceptions lure your enemy into treacherous terrain. Then cut off his lines of communication and avenue of escape. To save himself he must fight both your own forces and the elements of nature.



Hide behind the mask of a fool, a drunk, or a madman to create confusion about your intentions and motivations. Lure your opponent into underestimating your ability until, overconfident, he drops his guard. Then you may attack.

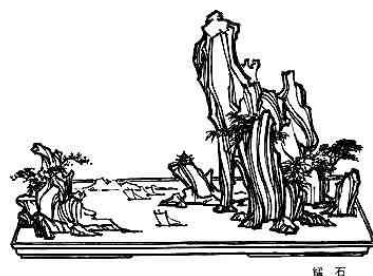
Feign Madness But Keep Your Balance

Tie silk blossoms on a dead tree gives the illusion that the tree is healthy. Through the use of artifice and disguise make something of no value appear valuable; of no threat appear dangerous; of no use, useful.



Exchange the Role of Guest for that of Host

Defeat the enemy from within by infiltrating the enemy's camp under the guise of cooperation, surrender, or peace treaties. In this way you can discover his weakness and then, when the enemy's guard is relaxed, strike directly at the source of his strength.



Borrow a Corpse to Raise the Spirit

Take an institution, a technology, or a method that has been forgotten or discarded and appropriate it for your own purpose. Revive something from the past by giving it a new purpose or to reinterpret and bring to life old ideas, customs, and traditions.



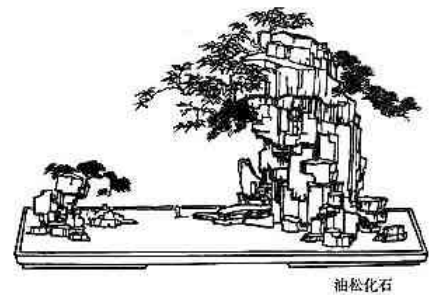
When you cannot detect the opponent's plans launch a direct, but brief, attack and observe your opponent's reactions. His behavior will reveal his strategy.

Beat The Grass To Startle The Snake

攻敵計 Stratagems for attack

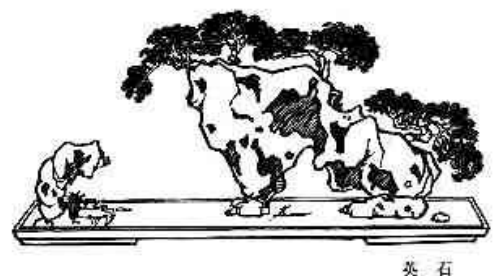
Sacrifice the Plum Tree In Place of the Peach

There are circumstances in which you must sacrifice short-term objectives in order to gain the long-term goal. This is the scapegoat strategy whereby someone else suffers the consequences so that the rest do not.



Seize the Opportunity To Lead a Sheep Away

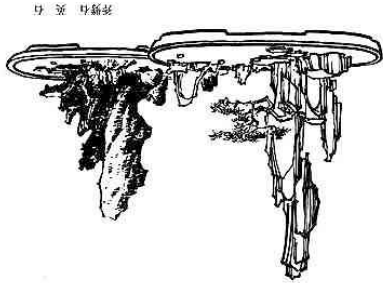
While carrying out your plans be flexible enough to take advantage of any opportunity that presents itself, however small, and avail yourself of any profit, however slight.



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Borrow the Road to Conquer Guo
 Borrow the resources of an ally to attack a common enemy. Once the enemy is defeated, use those resources to turn on the ally that lent you them in the first place.



Befriend a Distant Enemy to Attack One Nearby
 It is known that nations that border each other become enemies while nations separated by distance and obstacles make better allies. When you are the strongest in one field, your greatest threat is from the second strongest in your field, not the strongest from another field.

併戰計 Stratagems for gaining ground

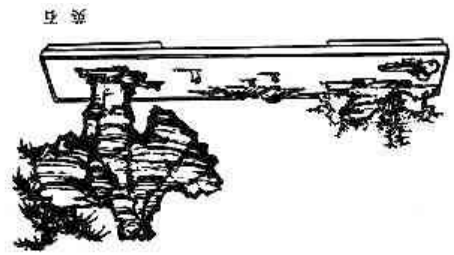
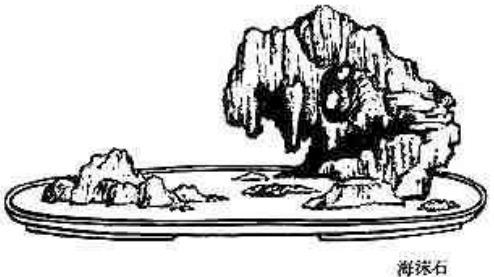
Replace The Beams With Rotten Timbers

Disrupt the enemy's formations, interfere with their methods of operations, change the rules in which they are used to following, go contrary to their standard training. In this way you remove the supporting pillar, the common link that makes a group of men an effective fighting force.

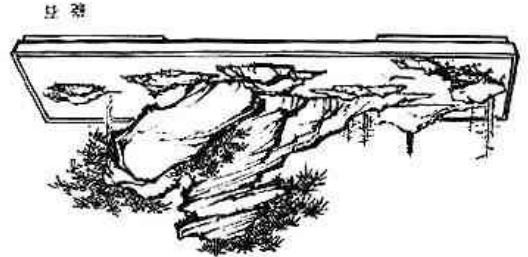


Point At The Mulberry But Curse The Locust Tree

To discipline, control, or warn others whose status or position excludes them from direct confrontation; use analogy and innuendo. Without directly naming names, those accused cannot retaliate without revealing their complicity.



To Catch the Bandits First Capture Their Leader
 If the enemy's army is strong but is allied to the commander only by money or threats then, take aim at the leader. If the commander falls the rest of the army will disperse or come over to your side. If, however, they are allied to the leader through loyalty then beware, the army can continue to fight on after his death out of vengeance.



Toss Out A Brick To Attract Jade
 Prepare a trap then lure your enemy into the trap by using bait. In your bait is the illusion of an opportunity for gain. In life the bait is the illusion of wealth, power, and sex.

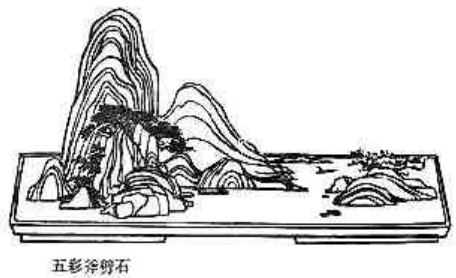
Lure the Tiger Down the Mountain

Never directly attack a well-entrenched opponent. Instead lure him away from his stronghold and separate him from his source of strength.



To Catch Something, First Let It Go

Cornered prey will often mount a final desperate attack. To prevent this you let the enemy believe he still has a chance for freedom. His will to fight is thus dampened by his desire to escape. When in the end the freedom is proven a falsehood the enemy's morale will be defeated and he will surrender without a fight.



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