There are only five musical notes, yet the arrangement of these yield more songs than can ever be heard. There are only five primary colors, yet the arrangement of these yield more paintings than can ever be seen. There are only five cardinal tastes, yet the arrangement of these yield more dishes than can ever be tasted.

In battle there are only two methods of attack, the direct and the indirect, yet the arrangement of these yields endless possibilities for unpredictable maneuvers. The direct and indirect precipitate each other. It is like moving around a circle: you never come to an end and you never exhaust the possibilities for their combination. The effect of heavy troops acting through direct tactics must be like the onrush of a mighty river which will even hurl boulders along its course. Force the decision of the battle quickly, and like the swoop of a falcon it paralyzes its victim. The able fighter will be terrible in his onset and exact in the timing of his decision. The energizing of the army may be compared to the drawing of a crossbow and the decision of the general to the release of its trigger. Throughout the maneuvers and signals of battle your army will seem disordered but you must anticipate the pattern of it all. Throughout the marches and countermarches your army should appear to be without