predicaments associated with the battle: 1 certain victory, 2 certain defeat, 3 soldier's faith, 4 unopenness, 5 unreadiness, 6 disadvantages.

1 If battle is certain to result in victory then the general must fight, even though the sovereign forbids it. 2 If battle is certain to result in defeat then the general must not fight even at the sovereign's demand. The general who attacks without seeking honor and retreats without fearing dishonor, whose primary ambition is to protect his nation's people and serve his sovereign well is the gem of the nation. The sovereign must give him faithful encouragement and support. 3 If the general treats his soldiers as little children they will follow him into the most dreadful situations. If he looks on them as his beloved sons they will stand by him even unto death. But if he is indulgent and can't make his authority felt, or softhearted and can't enforce his commands, or weak and can't quell disorder, then his soldiers will become worthless as spoiled children and incapable of any organized activities. 4 If we know our men are fully prepared to attack, but we are unaware the enemy is fully prepared to be attacked, we have gone halfway to defeat. 5 If we know the enemy is unprepared to be attacked but we are unaware our men are not fully prepared to launch an attack, we have gone halfway to defeat.