

## 36 Stratagems

Written by Daniele Zotti

---

### Stratagems in superior position [上策 – 上策 shēng zhàn jí]

I. Fool the heavens to cross the sea. (瞒天过海, Mán tiān guò hǎi)

II. Besiege Wei to rescue Zhao. (围魏救赵, Wéi Wèi jiù Zhào)

III. Kill with a borrowed knife. (借刀杀人, Jiè dāo shā rén)

IV. Await the exhausted enemy at your ease. (佚以待劳, Yǐ yì dài láo)

V. Loot a burning house. (趁火打劫, Chèn huǒ dǎ jié)

VI. Clamor in the East, attack in the West. (声东击西, Shēng dōng jī xī)

### Stratagems in confrontation [下策 – 下策 dì zhàn jí]

VII. Create something out of nothing. (无中生有, Wú zhōng shēng yǒu)

VIII. Openly repair the walkway, secretly march to Chencang. (暗度陈仓, Àn dù chén cāng)

## 36 Stratagems

Written by Daniele Zotti

---

IX. Watch the fire on the other shore. (隔岸观火, Gé àn guān huǒ)

X. Hide a dagger behind a smile. (笑里藏刀, Xiào lǐ cáng dāo)

XI. Let the plum tree wither in place of the peach. (李代桃僵, Lǐ dài táo jiāng)

XII. Seize the opportunity to lead the sheep away. (顺手牵羊, Shùn shǒu qiān yáng)

### Stratagems in attack [攻 – 攻战 gōng zhàn jí]

XIII. Beat the grass to startle the snake. (打草惊蛇, Dǎ cǎo jīng shé)

XIV. Borrow a corpse for the soul's return. (借尸还魂, Jiè shī huán hún)

XV. Lure the tiger down from the mountain. (调虎离山, Diào hǔ lí shān)

XVI. To catch something, first let it go. (欲擒故纵, Yù qín gù zòng)

XVII. Toss out a brick to get a jade. (抛砖引玉, Pāo zhuān yǐn yù)

XVIII. To catch the bandits, first capture their leader. (擒贼擒王, Qín zéi qín wáng)

## 36 Stratagems

Written by Daniele Zotti

---

### Stratagems in confused situations [混戰 – 混戰 jí]

XIX. Remove the firewood from under the pot. (釜底抽薪, Fǔ dǐ chōu xīn)

XX. Trouble the water to catch the fish. (混水摸魚, Hún shuǐ mō yú)

XXI. Shed your skin like the golden cicada. (金蝉脫殼, Jīn chán tuō qiào)

XXII. Shut the door to capture the thief. (關門捉賊, Guān mén zhuō zéi)

XXIII. Befriend the distant enemy to attack one nearby. (遠交近攻, Yuǎn jiāo jìn gōng)

XXIV. Borrow the road to conquer Guo. (借道伐虢, Jiè dào fá Guó)

### Stratagems in gaining ground [兵戰 – 兵戰 jí]

XXV. Replace the beams with rotten timbers. (偷梁換柱, Tōu liáng huàn zhù)

## 36 Stratagems

Written by Daniele Zotti

---

XXVI. Point at the mulberry but curse the locust. (指桑罵槐, Zhǐ sāng mà huái)

XXVII. Feign foolness but keep your balance. (假痴不癫, Jiǎ chī bù diān)

XXVIII. Invite the enemy onto the roof, then remove the ladder. (上屋抽梯, Shàng wū chōu tī)

XXIX. Deck the tree with bogus blossoms. (樹上開花, Shù shàng kāi huā)

XXX. The guest takes over as host. (反客為主, Fǎn kè wéi zhǔ)

### Stratagems in a desperate situation [困窮 – 窮bài zhàn jí]

XXXI. The stratagem of the beautiful woman. (美人計, Měi rén jì)

XXXII. The stratagem of the empty city gates. (空城計, Kōng chéng jì)

XXXIII. The stratagem of the double agent. (反間計, Fǎn jiàn jì)

XXXIV. The stratagem of injuring yourself. (苦肉計, Kǔ ròu jì)

XXXV. Interconnected ploys. (連環計, Lián huán jì)

## 36 Stratagems

Written by Daniele Zotti

---

XXXVI. Sometimes running away is the best strategy. (三十六計, Zǒu wéi shàng)