



King Hsiao-Ch'eng: "And may we ask what ways and what modes of action the true king should follow in employing soldiers?"

Counselor Hsun Tzu: "Such detailed matters are of minor importance to Your Majesty, and may be left to the generals . . . If the ruler is a worthy man, the state will be ordered; if he is incompetent the state will be disordered. . . . He who uses his soldiers with caution will be strong; he who uses them rashly will be weak. He whose strategies proceed from a single source will be strong; he whose strategies proceed from several sources will be weak. This is the abiding rule of strength and weakness."

Hsun Tzu, *Basic Writings*, translated by Burton Watson (New York: Columbia University Press, 1963)

Image : Zocho-ten (Nara Period) from Nishihozo Treasure Hall, Horyu-ji Temple, Asuka, Japan.