

# Art of Conflict

## VNV Nation

The art of war is of vital importance to the state  
It is a matter of life and death  
A road either to safety or to ruin  
To fight and conquer in all your battles is not supreme excellence  
Supreme excellence consists in breaking  
The enemy's resistance without having to fight  
If you know the enemy and know yourself  
Your victory will not stand in doubt  
If you know heaven and you know earth  
You may make your victory  
If you know the enemy and know yourself  
You need not fear results of a hundred battles  
If you know yourself but not the enemy  
For every victory gained you will also suffer defeat  
If you know neither the enemy nor yourself  
You will succumb in every battle  
Treat your soldiers as your beloved children  
And they will follow you into the deepest valleys  
To defeat your enemy you must pretend inferiority  
And encourage your enemy's arrogance  
Making no mistakes is what establishes the certainty of victory  
For it means conquering an enemy that is already defeated  
There is no instance of a nation benefiting from  
prolonged warfare  
Speed is the essence of war  
The art of war teaches us to rely not on  
The likelihood of the enemy's not coming  
But on our own readiness to receive our enemy  
Not on the chance of our enemies not attacking  
But rather on the fact that we have made our position unassailable  
The general who advances without seeking  
fame  
And retreats without fearing disgrace  
Whose only thought is to protect his country  
And do service for his sovereign is the jewel of his kingdom  
The victorious strategist only seeks battle  
After the victory has been won  
Whereas he who is destined to defeat first fights  
And afterwards looks for victory  
Speed is the essence of war  
Speed is the essence of war  
It's only one who is  
thoroughly acquainted with the evils of war  
Who can thoroughly understand how to profit from waging war

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