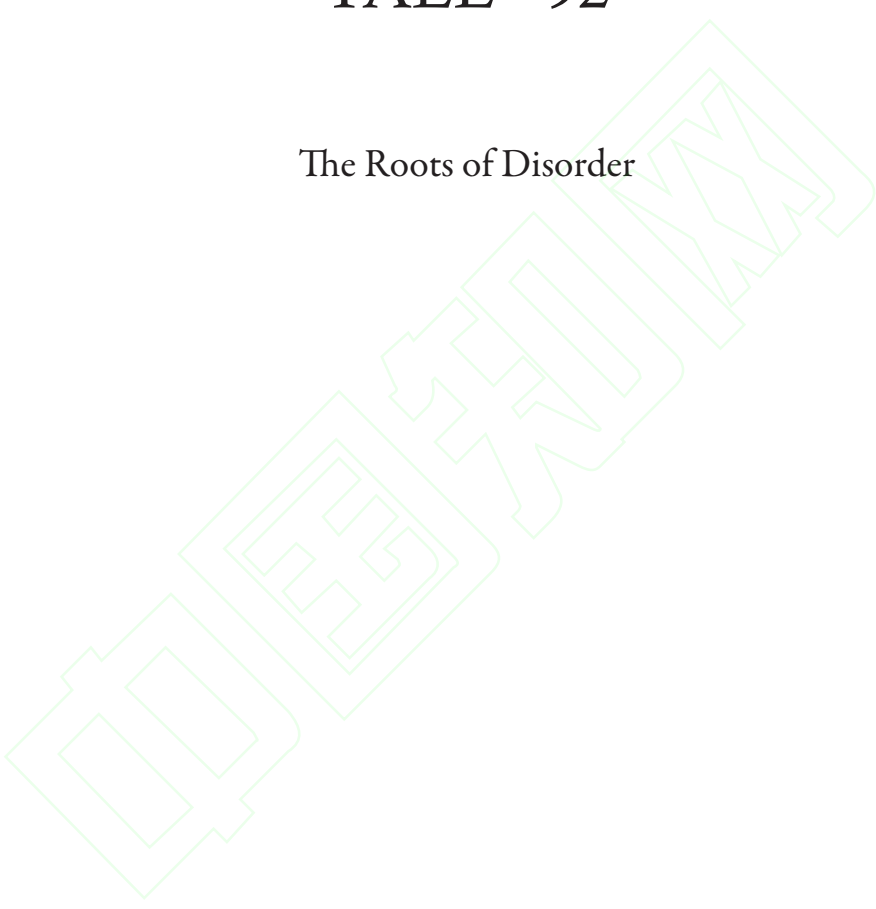


TALE 92

The Roots of Disorder



Turmoils always occur in sequence. After several big turmoils, there will be a few small turmoils and a few suppressions of turmoils. The Book of Odes, therefore, says, “Pass not the door of one who causes a turmoil.” It is a way of keeping oneself away from a turmoil.

The way to preserve oneself is not to overestimate one’s good fortune and underestimate the arrival of disaster. King Wu conquered the country with military force and maintained his rule with civil measures. He laid down the halberds and unstrung the bows to show the world that he was not going to use military force and was, therefore, able to maintain his rule.

Since ancient times, turmoils had occurred more than once. But those who had brought about a turmoil all thought that the turmoil would occur only once. What they thought differed from the fact. Their thought differed from the fact because their way of thinking was different. As a result, those who brought about a turmoil could rarely escape from the disaster themselves.