

I Ching

I Ching

The Book of Changes
I Ching



The ancient Chinese Oracle

Presented in Modern English by

Andy McCracken

How to use the I Ching

Take any three similar coins. You throw the coins to decide your reading; this is a random access method that somehow seems to provide the reading that you need.

By throwing 3 coins 6 times you can choose randomly between 64 options.

You will need a pen and paper to record your result.

You can ask it a question before you start.

Shake the coins between your hands, randomly, as you feel, and drop them on to the floor.

Note how many heads and tails you got.

There are only four possible results. HHH or TTT or HHT or HTT

Score 3 for a Head, and 2 for a Tail, so each throw can be 9 or 6 or 8 or 7.

You have to do 6 throws – this is why you will need a pen and paper.

A throw that adds up to 7 or a 9 is a Yang line, and an 8 or a 6 is a Yin line.

You draw a horizontal line for a Yang ----- or a broken line for a Yin --- ---

Important: The first throw is drawn at the bottom and then you pile them up until the 6th throw is on the top.

There is a chart to convert this pattern into a chapter number.

Where you have got a **9** or a **6**, either **three heads** or **three tails**, you get an extra reading in the **Lines** section at the end of each chapter.



The I Ching Chapter Finder

LAST THREE (TOP)		HEAVEN	THUNDER	WATER	MOUNTAIN	EARTH	WIND	FIRE	LAKE
FIRST THREE (BOTTOM)		HEAVEN	THUNDER	WATER	MOUNTAIN	EARTH	WIND	FIRE	LAKE
HEAVEN	↑	1	34	5	26	11	9	14	43
THUNDER		25	51	3	27	24	42	21	17
WATER		6	40	29	4	7	59	64	47
MOUNTAIN		33	62	39	52	15	53	56	31
EARTH		12	16	8	23	2	20	35	45
WIND		44	32	48	18	46	57	50	28
FIRE		13	55	63	22	36	37	30	49
LAKE		10	54	60	41	19	61	38	58

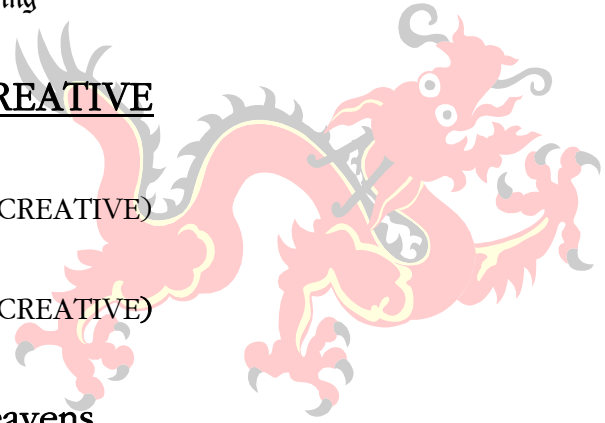
1 THE CREATIVE



HEAVEN (CREATIVE)

HEAVEN (CREATIVE)

The Heavens.



IMAGE

*Creativity.
Perseverance leads to
great success.*

SYMBOL TRADITION

*Heaven moves
unstoppably.
A wise man uses
creative energy
to keep moving
forward.*

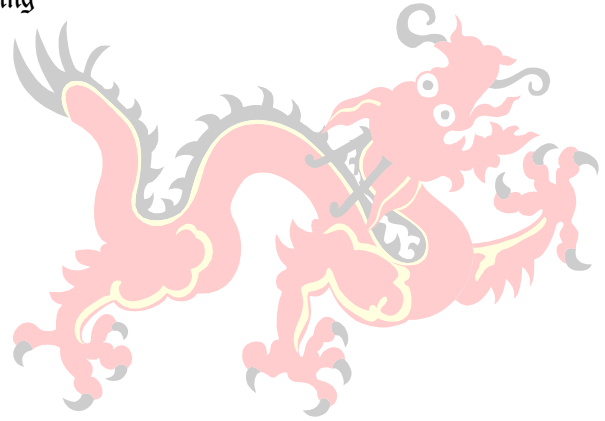
The meaning of this chapter is that you are in harmony with Heaven. The natural way of things is for increasing chaos and decay, but Heaven is strong, energetic, and creative.

If you have got this chapter, then you only need to follow your own path in the direction that you wish to go in. You will do the right things, at the right times, and success will come to you as if sent by Heaven. Strength and perseverance are needed since it all takes time. If you follow your path you will find the help that you need at the time when you need it.

There are many creative directions and you could, for instance, become a musician, or a holy man, or an engineer. The main thing is to follow your own creative path with a strong, caring, and persevering attitude. You should not try to take 'short cuts' or do anything evil.

The dragon is the Chinese symbol of the power of Heaven, and the dragon is therefore mentioned in the 'lines' section. The 'lines' describe the stages you may go through, on the way to becoming a 'dragon', a creative and constructive individual, in tune with Heaven, the 'Great Harmony'.

1 LINES



- 1) 9 at the start
- a) *Hidden Dragon.*
Do not try to use it.
- b) *You cannot use an inner light.*

This means that you have the character of a dragon, in harmony with Heaven, but it is not yet the time for doing great things. The time will come when it is the correct time. Until then, you should follow your own lines of interest in learning things, but only be creative in small ways.

Confucius said about this line:

“This means a person who has the character of a dragon, but remains concealed. He does not change to suit the world outside and he makes no name for himself. He withdraws from the world, yet is not sad about it. He receives no recognition, yet is not sad about it. If lucky, he carries out his principles; if unlucky, he withdraws with them. Verily, he cannot be uprooted; he is a hidden dragon.”

2) 9 in 2nd throw

a) A dragon appears in the field.
Visiting important people brings benefits.

b) The influence, caused by attaining the way of Heaven,
spreads everywhere.



Here you are in the middle of the “lower Heaven”. This is a situation where you are not well known, or important, but you influence your environment through good character. You begin to be noticed in your chosen field of activity.

Confucius said about this line:

“This means a man who has the character of a dragon and is moderate and correct. Even in ordinary speech, he is reliable. Even in ordinary actions, he is careful. He does away with what is false and preserves his integrity. He improves his era and does not boast about it. His character is influential and transforms men. He becomes generous in his nature and kindly in his actions.”

3) 9 in 3rd throw

a) A wise man completes the day: Creative! Creative!
At night, your mind is still busy with problems.
No blame.

b) You go backwards and forwards on the correct path.

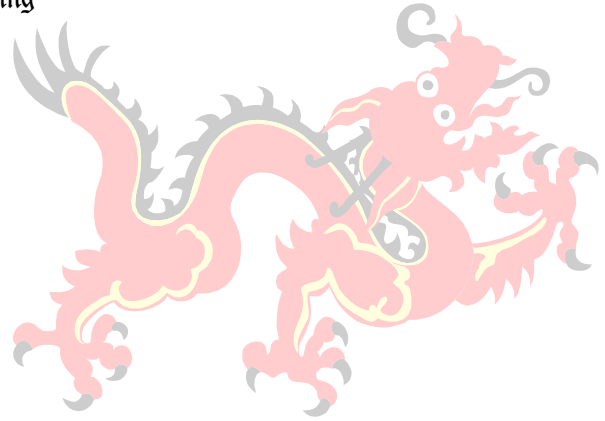
There are times when being strong and creative is difficult and dangerous. This does not mean that you are on the wrong path since the problems will be overcome and you will gain strength and wisdom. In this way you make progress and gain experience.

Providing you are careful, and do not take foolish risks, you will be able to carry out your intentions without coming to harm.

Confucius said about this line:

“The superior man improves his character and labours at his task. It is through loyalty and faith that he fosters his character. By working on his words, so that they rest firmly on truth, he makes his work enduring. He knows how this is to be achieved and achieves it; in this way, he is able to plant the right seed. He knows how it is to be brought to completion and so completes it. Thereby he is able to make it truly enduring. For this reason, he is not proud in a superior position or disappointed in a humble one. Thus he is creatively active and, as circumstances demand, careful, so that even in a dangerous situation he does not make a mistake.”

- 4) 9 in 4th throw
- a) Maybe leaping at the edge.
No blame.
- b) Advancing is not wrong.



Here, in the upper half of the Heavens, the dragon learns how to fly. This is the point where you begin to “go for it”, and dare to let go and test yourself. You have to trust in your own abilities and you have to trust in God to save you if your early attempts go badly. You may be lucky at times, when you need it, but things will not go smoothly yet, so you will need your wits about you, as well as perseverance and strength.

Confucius said about this line:

“In ascent, and descent, there is no fixed rule, except that one must do nothing evil. In advance or retreat, no sustained perseverance avails, except that one must not depart from one’s nature. The superior man fosters his character, and labours at his task, in order to do everything at the right time. Therefore he makes no mistakes.”

5) 9 in 5th throw

a) *flying dragon in the heavens.*
It will be favourable to see important people.

b) *Great people creating.*



Here you are a creative person in a leading position. You are a creative person who is in a position to carry out useful and creative work, and you will bring benefit to other people.

Confucius said about this line:

1) “The great man accords in his character with Heaven and Earth; in his light, with the Sun and Moon; in his consistency, the four seasons; in the good and evil fortune he creates with gods and spirits. When he acts in advance of Heaven, Heaven does not contradict him. When he follows Heaven, he adapts himself to the time of Heaven. If Heaven itself does not resist him, how much less do men, gods and spirits!”

2) “Things that accord in tone vibrate together. Things that have affinity in their inmost natures seek one another. Water flows to what is wet, fire turns to what is dry. Clouds follow the dragon, wind follows the tiger. Thus the sage arises, and all creatures follow him with their eyes. What is born of Heaven feels related to what is above. What is born of earth feels related to what is below. Each follows its kind.”

- 6) 9 at the top
- a) Arrogant dragon will have cause to repent.
- b) Going too far is not allowed to continue.



The last line carries a warning. If you get this line, it means you will become arrogant if you are not careful about your attitude. If you do not consider your limitations fully you will develop a bad attitude and lose harmony with Heaven and then suffer some consequences.


When you are strong, and things usually go the way you wish, it is easy to take things for granted, and to think you are always right without careful thought. This is arrogance, and it will get you into trouble, but it is not too late, providing you take notice of this warning.

Confucius said about this line:

1) “He who is noble and has no corresponding position, he who stands high and has no following, he who has able people under him who do not have his support, that man will have cause for regret at every turn.”

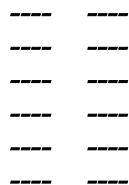
2) “Arrogance means that one knows how to press forward but not how to draw back, that one knows existence but not annihilation, knows something of winning but nothing of losing. It is only the holy man who knows how to press forward and how to draw back, who knows existence and annihilation as well, without losing his true nature. The holy man alone can do this.”

If all the lines are nines:

- 
- a) Seeing a flight of dragons without a leader.
Good fortune.
- b) An oracle of nines.
You actualise the Tao, it cannot be deliberate.

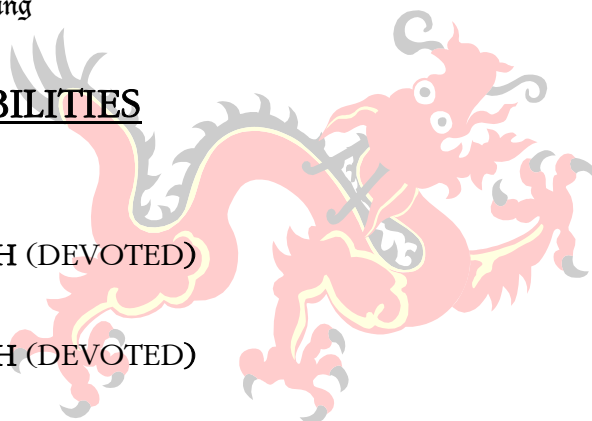
This means you rule, or carry out your creative works, while appearing not to be doing anything, just by being yourself. You are the unseen leader of the flying dragons. This is a correct and modest way and it will bring good fortune to those involved.

2 POSSIBILITIES



THE EARTH (DEVOTED)

THE EARTH (DEVOTED)



The Earth is deep.

IMAGE

The surface of the Earth.
Perseverance combined
with spirit and strength
brings great success.
A wise man works towards
achieving something.
At first confusion,
but afterwards gains.
A lord harvesting.
At the place of harvest
there will be helpers.
At the place of winter retreat;
alone.
Quiet perseverance will
bring good fortune.

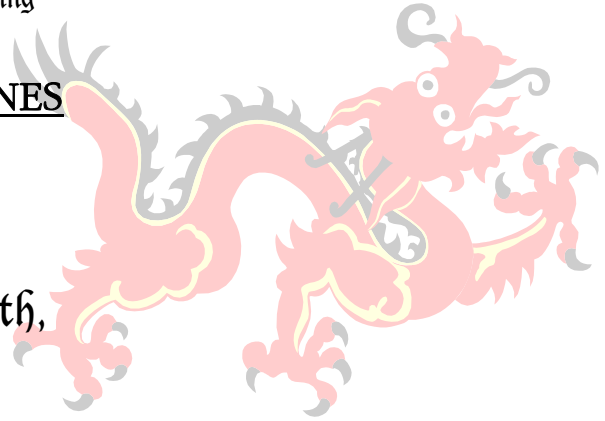
SYMBOL TRADITION

The potency of the Earth.
Endless possibilities.
A wise man uses the
generous ways of heaven
to produce abundance,
and to provide for all the
creatures of the Earth.

This chapter represents the surface of the Earth, the place where life is possible. It is recommended that you work towards achieving something that is possible, even though you may not be sure at the beginning exactly how it can be done.

If you have the necessary spirit and strength you will do very well, but you will do best if you try to provide for all, not just for yourself. This is the way of the Earth the mother and provider of the physical things.

2 LINES



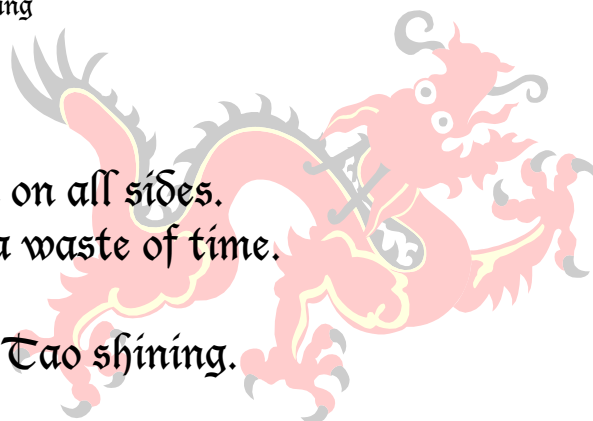
- 1) 6 at the start
- a) When there is frost on the path,
solid ice is developing.
- b) By letting it continue, you allow it to become solid.

This means that by the time a frosty or bad atmosphere is visible to people outside of a close relationship things have gone past a point where they will improve. People usually prefer to argue in private and keep a happy face while guests are present. If they no longer care about this it must be a serious and bitter disagreement.

Confucius said about this line:

“A house that heaps good upon good is sure to have an abundance of blessings. A house that heaps evil upon evil is sure to have an abundance of ills.

Where a servant murders his master, or where a son murders his father, the causes do not lie between the morning and evening of one day. It took a long time for things to go so far. It came about because things that should have been stopped were not stopped soon enough.”



- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
- a) Great reform and restoration on all sides.
Nothing that is done will be a waste of time.
- b) The influence of the Earthly Tao shining.

This means you have a correct attitude and follow the correct path. You know what to do and get on with it. In this way you get things done and you influence others to follow your good example.

Confucius said about this line:

“Straightness means righting things, squareness means fulfilment of duty. The superior man is serious in order to make his inner life straight. He does his duty in order to make his outer life square. Where seriousness and fulfilment of duty stand firm character will not become one-sided.”

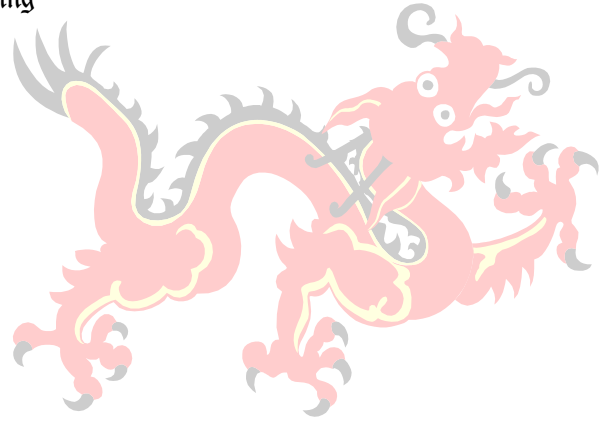
- 3) 6 in 3rd throw
- a) Possessing the necessary qualities for perseverance.
Possibly following the affairs of the king.
Without contest you achieve your ends.
- b) Ready to push forward at the right time, understanding what will mean great progress.

Here you should do the work that is at hand and also bear in mind that there could be new possibilities coming that are not yet in sight.

Confucius said about this line:

“The dark force possesses beauty but veils it. So must a man be when entering the service of a king. He must avoid laying claim to the completed work. This is the way of the earth, the way of the wife, the way of one who serves. It is the way of the earth to make no display of completed work, but rather to bring everything to completion vicariously.”

- 4) 6 in 4th throw
- a) Tied up in a bag.
No blame, no praise.
- b) Caution is not harmful.



Keeping still and staying under cover is the best thing to do at the moment. There is no blame in this, even if nobody is pleased. There may be people who would like you to be doing things for them, but they will have to wait.

Confucius said about this line:

“When Heaven and Earth are creating, in change and transformation, all plants and animals flourish; but when Heaven and Earth close, the able man withdraws into the dark.”

- 5) 6 in 5th throw
- a) Yellow clothes.
Supreme good fortune.
- b) Beauty is within.

This means that, even when in a good situation, you keep a good and modest attitude. This is unusual and leads to good things.

Confucius said about this line:

“The superior man is yellow and moderate; thus he makes his influence in the outer world through reason. He seeks the right place for himself and dwells in the essential. His beauty is within, but it gives freedom to his limbs and expresses itself in his works. This is the perfection of beauty.”

- 6) 6 at the top
- a) Dragons fight in the fields.
Their blood is indigo blue and yellow.
- b) Their way comes to an end.



Here there is a conflict, or perhaps a struggle for control, between two individuals, and both sides take losses as a result. You may be involved, even though you do not want to be, or suffer from some of the consequences. There is no prediction of misfortune or humiliation, so it may not be serious losses, you will just have to wait and see.

Confucius said about this line:

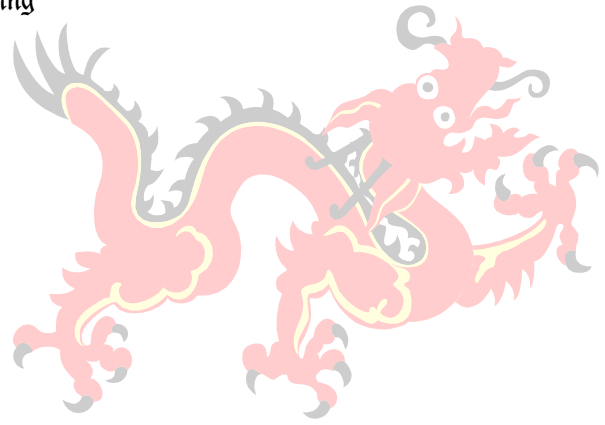
“When the dark seeks to equal the light principle, there is certain to be a struggle. Lest one thinks that nothing of the light remains, the dragon is mentioned. Indigo and yellow are the colours of Heaven and Earth in confusion. Heaven is indigo, and Earth is yellow.”

If all the lines are sixes:

- a) Lasting perseverance will be favourable.
- b) An oracle of sixes.
Lasting perseverance.
The great will help in your work.

Keep on, in this way, and you will achieve something important.

I Ching



3 DIFFICULTY AT THE BEGINNING



WATER (DANGER)

THUNDER (SHOCK)



Thunder and Rain.

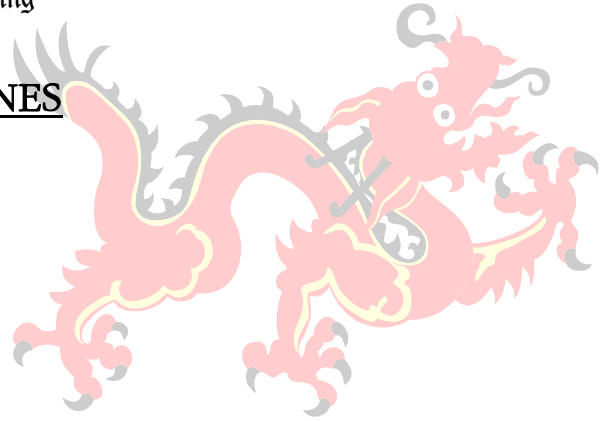
IMAGE

Sprouting.
Perseverance leads to
great success.
Do not try to
carry out plans yet,
but it will be favourable
to install helpers.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Clouds and thunder.
Sprouting.
A wise man uses
knowledge in order to
weave things together.

This chapter is about a new beginning and how things often seem strange and disorderly at the start of a new situation. It is like a violent thunderstorm which marks a change in the weather as the new spring arrives. You should not try to do too much at this time but you can make plans and find people who may help you later.



- 1) 9 at the start
 - a) A stone pillar.
Carry on persevering.
Appoint helpers.
 - b) By giving dignity to the poor the great can win over the lowly.

This is the beginning of the difficulties. The advice given here is that you should not do too much, but not give up either, and you should find people who can help.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
 - a) Beginning here,
then stopping there.
Riding and travelling,
camping there.
No robbery,
but an alliance.
few results at first
but eventually a blessing.
 - b) The hard times are reversed after a cycle of time.

This is a situation where the difficulties put an end to many hopeful beginnings. However, a relationship with someone is established at this time, and although nothing much is gained at first, later on it is a great advantage.



3) 6 in 3rd throw

a) Hunting deer without caution,
going towards the centre of the forest.
A wise man would not hunt in this manner.
To go on will bring humiliation.

b) A wise man does not chase a chicken through a forest.

Expert help is needed; an experienced guide in dangerous places. Following a desire into a dark area that is unfamiliar will lead to unexpected troubles. During difficulties at the beginning you must seek help and advice and be patient.

4) 6 in 4th throw

a) Riding and camping thus.
Seeking marriage and alliance.
To go brings good fortune.
Everything acts in your favour.

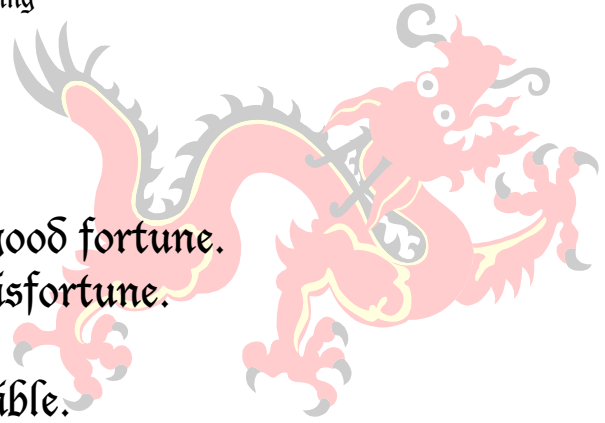
b) Enlightenment indeed.

Now is the time to move out and take the initiative in matters involving seeing people and organising things.

5) 9 in 5th throw

a) *Sprouting your life.*
A little perseverance brings good fortune.
Great perseverance brings misfortune.

b) *The blessings are not yet visible.*



You are one of the rulers of this situation but you are obstructed as a result of the difficulties. By careful and correct behaviour, mainly by keeping still, the blessings appear as the difficulties are overcome. It is important not to do too much, at this time, or you will make things worse.

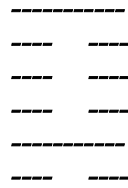
6) 6 at the top

a) *Riding and camping here.*
Tears of blood flowing there.

b) *This could not be continued.*

At a time of new beginnings it is inevitable that some things must end. It serves no purpose to mourn something that was bound to end. You should concentrate on the new things and put the old ways behind you.

4 YOUTHFUL FOLLY



MOUNTAIN (KEEPING STILL)

WATER (DANGER)



A stream begins in the mountains and rushes into dangerous places.

IMAGE

Youthful folly has success.
It is not I who seeks
the young fool.
The young fool seeks me.
At the first question
I inform him.
Two or three times
will be annoying.
If so, I give no information.
Constant perseverance is needed.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Below the mountain
a stream appears.
A wise man produces
rewards to motivate
virtuous behaviour.

Youthful folly is about young fools and about teaching. Compared to the I Ching, you are a young fool, so you should treat it with respect. It is foolish to ask it the same question twice because you did not like the first answer. If you are teaching, you are advised that you should motivate your students with rewards and not with punishments.

4 LINES

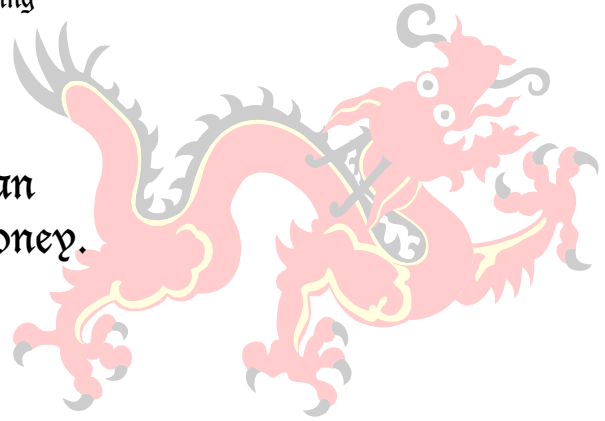


- 1) 6 at the start
 - a) Sending out fools.
You will need to use penalties and restrictions
to make them feel shamed.
 - b) Applying correcting discipline.

If you are sending people out, to do something on your behalf, you must realise in advance that they may not do it as wisely as you would do it. It is your responsibility to foresee the problems and to set them limits because otherwise, when things go wrong, your people will say “but how were we to know?”

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
 - a) Taking care of the immature.
Good fortune.
Giving responsibilities to the wife.
Good fortune.
The son takes charge of the household.
 - b) Separate but connected.

This line represents the teacher and the ruler of the situation. The teacher must be strong inside but also must understand other people's way of thinking and adapt his way to suit each individual. It is correct to give responsibilities to other people so that they may gain experience.



3) 6 in 3rd throw

a) Do not take a grasping woman
who wants a man made of money.
You could not keep her.
Nothing that is favourable.

b) She will not be docile.

You should avoid being seduced by someone who is only interested in what they can get from you.

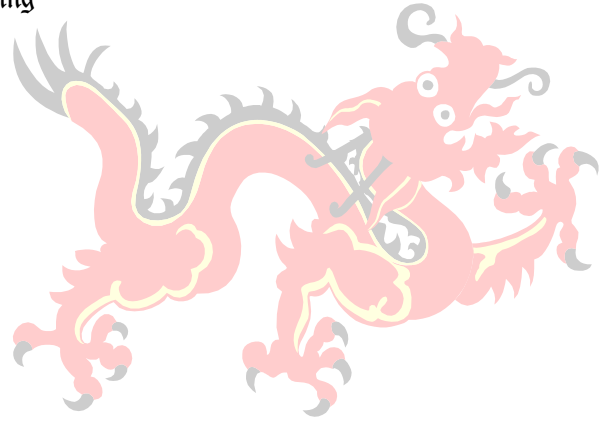
4) 6 in 4th throw

a) Stubborn foolishness.
Humiliation.

b) This leads to alienation and isolation.

Some fools will not listen to the truth. It may not fit in with the things that they want to believe. If they know some others who will agree with them, then they are satisfied. This line says they will learn the hard way when their delusions are shattered by events they did not expect.

- 5) 6 in 5th throw
- a) Childlike questioning.
Good fortune.
- b) flexibility allows possibility.



If you approach life with an open mind, like a child, you will learn the things that you need to know. Even a highly-placed person should approach a wise man in a humble childlike manner. Then he may learn something useful. This line represents a good pupil.

- 6) 9 at the top
- a) Hitting fools.
Causing resentments brings harm.
Resisting criminals is beneficial.
- b) It is best to resist law breaking; those above, and those below, agree.

Sometimes, a fool must be punished, but it must be done in the right way. Punishment should not be done angrily with an intention to hurt. Instead, it should just be enough to prevent the bad behaviour. This creates order without creating resentments.

I Ching

5 WAITING



WATER (DANGER)

HEAVEN (CREATIVE)



Clouds in the sky; waiting for rain.

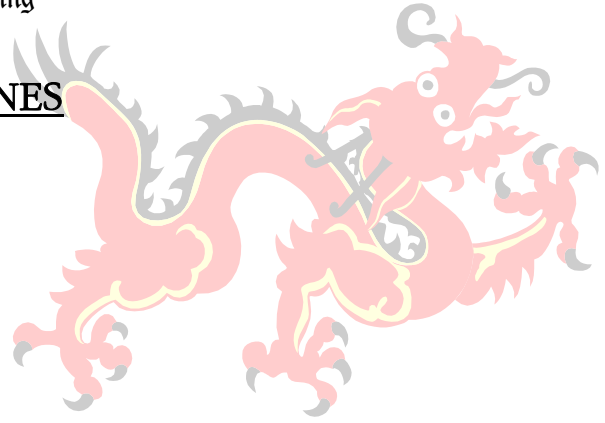
IMAGE

Waiting and serving
is correct.
Great success.
Perseverance brings
good fortune.
It is favourable
to do great works.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Clouds above, positioned
in Heaven. Waiting.
A wise man uses eating,
drinking, and music,
to relax and be happy.

Strength, in the face of danger, does not rush in. Instead it bides its time and waits for the right moment. Self-control and inner strength are needed. This is like waiting for the rain while hoping the crops will not die. Fortunately, the presence of clouds points to success. In the meantime only small preparations can be made, so that you are ready to move when the waiting is over. Other than that, you can rest and relax while you are waiting.



- 1) 9 at the start
- a) Waiting in the suburbs.
It is favourable to persevere.
No blame.
- b) You obey the rules.

Here the danger is still far away. You should try to carry on as though nothing unusual lies ahead.

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
- a) Waiting in the sand.
There is some gossip.
At the end there is good fortune.
- b) Although there is talk the end brings good fortune.

Here you stay calm despite there being some signs of danger. There may be some talk of trouble, or other gossip, but if you ignore it the gossip will die away and good fortune will come later.

- 3) 9 in 3rd throw
- a) Waiting in the bog.
Brings you near to bandits.
- b) If you get involved with criminals
only great care and caution can save you.

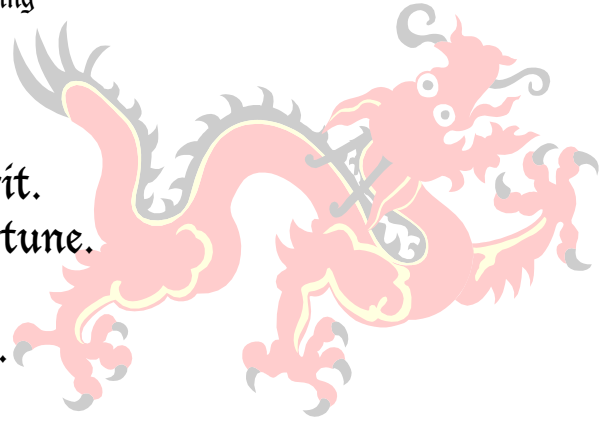


This describes a situation of waiting in a bad place or with bad people. You will only be saved by being very careful and by moving on as soon as it is possible.

- 4) 6 in 4th throw
- a) Waiting at home.
Going out begins from home.
- b) You listen and decide.

You may have been waiting at home, but now you can start to go out once more providing it is necessary.

- 5) 9 in 5th throw
- a) Waiting with the correct spirit.
Perseverance brings good fortune.
- b) Moderate and self-correcting.



An enlightened person knows how to wait calmly and also constructively.

- 6) 6 at the top
- a) You return home not wanting any visitors.
Three people come.
Welcome them and good fortune follows.
- b) Although it is not convenient do not let them go.

After a time of waiting the end can be unexpected in form and timing. Surprise visitors should be treated with respect and hospitality. This leads to good fortune.

6 CONFLICT



HEAVEN (CREATIVE)

WATER (DANGER)



Heaven and water go in opposite directions.

IMAGE

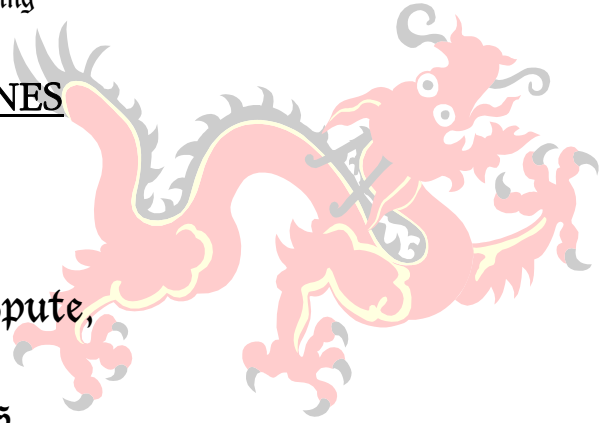
Conflict; although
you are truthful.
Restrained by fear.
A moderate position
brings good fortune.
Attempting to finish it
brings misfortune.
It will be favourable
to see important people.
It is not advantageous
to attempt great works.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Heaven combined
with water.
Opposing movements.
Conflict.
A wise man uses
exciting events
to energise
a new beginning.

This is a situation where you find yourself in a conflict; probably not intentionally. The advice is to gain a moderate position by being reasonable. It is important not to become angry or try to settle the dispute with force. You should seek help and advice and try to avoid doing any difficult or dangerous work while the conflict continues.

6 LINES



- 1) 6 at the start
 - a) If you do not continue the dispute,
there is a little gossip.
In the end good fortune comes.
 - b) The dispute will not last long, and leads to progress.

This represents a person in a weak position who could not win if they tried to push the dispute into a conflict. Fortunately, the matter will eventually be decided justly although perhaps after a short period of gossip and talk.

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
 - a) Conflict you cannot control.
Escaping, in disguise, from the city.
For the three hundred families this is not a mistake.
 - b) Escaping and skulking; in the end the distress leads to benefits.

If the conflict is serious, and there is a risk of innocent people being put at risk, it is better to leave that place until the situation improves.



3) 6 in 3rd throw

a) Study of ancient wisdom creates perseverance.

Danger.

In the end good fortune comes.

If you are working for someone

Do not seek new work.

b) Following a good example from the past brings good fortune.

Here you are in a dangerous situation but not in a good position. You may be busy, at the moment, in which case it would be best to finish off what you are doing so that you can concentrate on dealing with the conflict.

Good fortune is predicted if you deal with the conflict correctly. If you are doing some reading try "A Book of Five Rings" by *Miyamoto Musashi*, he was a Samurai and an expert on strategy. Another such book is "The Art of War" by *Sun Tzu*.

4) 9 in 4th throw

a) Conflict you cannot control;

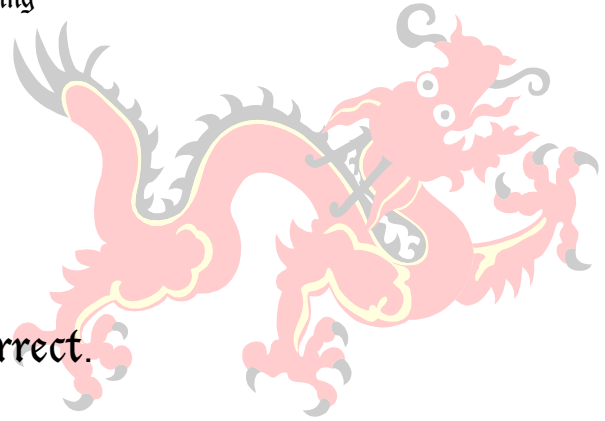
turn back and submit to fate.

Do not allow a quiet settlement.

Good fortune.

b) Do not let go.

If you push the dispute into a conflict immediately you will not win, but you should also resist quietly ending it. If you wait and see what happens there will be good fortune later.



- 5) 9 in 5th throw
- a) To argue in front of him
brings supreme good fortune.
- b) Your case is moderate and correct.

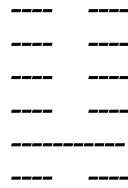
This line represents the judge. Here it will be settled in your favour and this will be good fortune.

- 6) 9 at the top
- a) Even if you win a purse and a belt;
by the morning it will have been stripped from you
three times.
- b) Using force ends in losing
and is nothing to be proud of.

If you seek to win with conflict, and violence, you are going too far and you will suffer from the backlash. If you win something by force you will end up losing it.

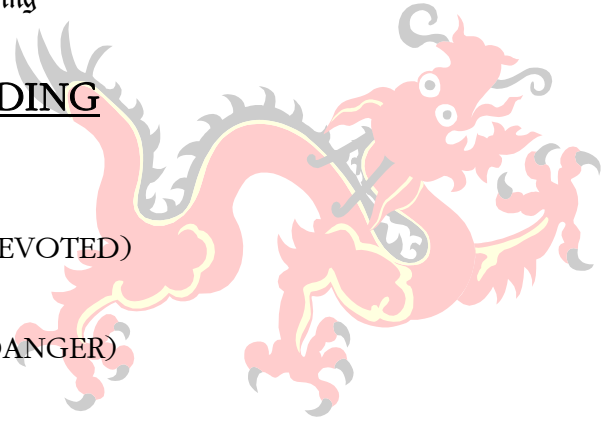
I Ching

7 LEADING



EARTH (DEVOTED)

WATER (DANGER)



Waters flowing underground.

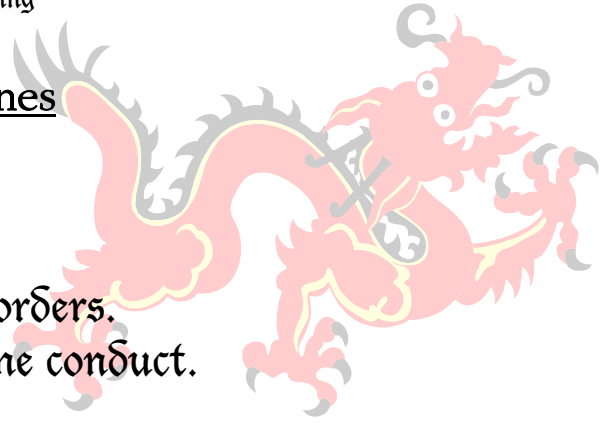
IMAGE

*Leading: Perseverance.
People worthy of respect
bring good fortune.
No blame.*

SYMBOL TRADITION

*Waters under the Earth.
Legions.
A wise man accepts
the common people and
in this way he gathers an
army.*

This chapter is about how to gain the support of people and about how to be a leader. It is necessary to be able to get along with the ordinary people but also to have the support of people who are respected. An army is not only to be used in war; here it may also represent people who you know who would help you if you needed help with something.



- 1) 6 at the start
 - a) The army sets out to follow orders.
This does not promote humane conduct.
Misfortune.
 - b) Releasing orders brings misfortune.

If you send people out to achieve some objective they may use methods that you would not like, or expect, and it will be your fault.

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
 - a) At the centre of the army moderation brings good fortune.
No blame.
A series of awards from the king.
 - b) You have the welfare of the people at heart.

This line represents the person who leads the army; the commander. This is a position that can lead to great rewards; but only if you have the necessary moderation and wisdom.

3) 6 in 3rd throw

a) The army carries dead weight.
Misfortune.

b) The noble and great achieve nothing.



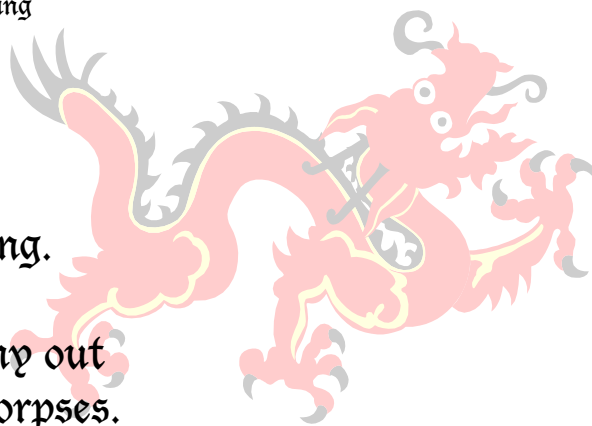
Dead weight means that there are people in your army who are only a burden. They should be removed as soon as possible; and they might not be only some foot soldiers.

4) 6 in 4th throw

a) The reserves make camp.
No blame.

b) Not yet anything unusual.

There are times when a pause for rest and recovery would be correct and is not a mistake.



5) 6 in 5th throw

a) There is food in the fields.
Harvest it and continue talking.
No blame.
If the eldest son leads the army out
the youngest son will carry corpses.
Misfortune.

b) The wrong person to place in control.

The advice here is that things are satisfactory as they are, at present, and this is not the time to try anything, or let somebody else try something.

6) 6 at the top

a) The great leader has victory,
frees the city, is given a house.
Evil people should not be employed.

b) A new way is needed.

At the end of the time of the army there is victory. Here the ruler rewards those who have contributed during the struggle. There is a warning here that positions of power should not be given to people who might abuse it. Talented and enlightened people will be needed in order to make the new start a success.

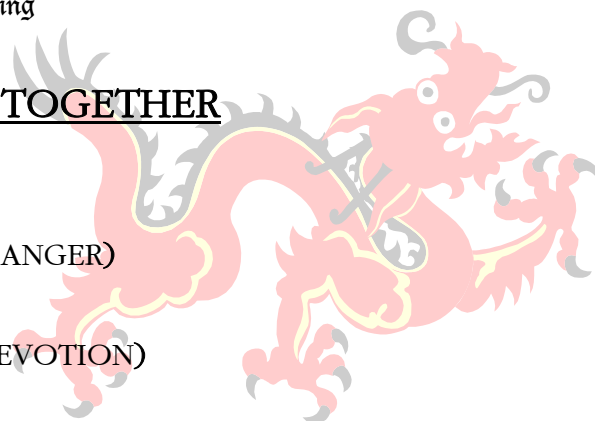
If rewards are owed to people of dubious character; give them money rather than employment.

8 HOLDING TOGETHER



WATER (DANGER)

EARTH (DEVOTION)



Rivers flow towards the sea.

IMAGE

Comparing and selecting.
Good fortune.
Consult this oracle again.
The source of everlasting
perseverance.
No blame.
If your mind is not calm
and orderly,
when they come from all sides
your life will become unmanageable.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Waters on the Earth.
flowing together.
Wise kings established
cities to hold their
territories together.

Holding together also means classifying, and sorting, as in collecting. All these aspects are involved in this chapter. It is about people gathering around you and what you must do in order to make it a situation that can last.

You will need to organise, and make choices, you will need to delegate, so that you have some time to relax and to think. If you do not, it could all end in chaos.

In this chapter you are also given permission to consult the I Ching for a second time to get further advice.

8 LINES



- 1) 6 at the start
 - a) Truthful and honest, holding it together.
No blame.
Truthful and honest, but overfilling the jar.
Concluding things has more good fortune.
 - b) More good fortune indeed.

Here you are a sincere person and you are trying to hold things together. You are advised that you have done enough and you should try to bring things to an orderly conclusion. This will lead to better fortune later on.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
 - a) Holding together originates within.
Perseverance brings good fortune.
 - b) Not starting to slip away.

Here, there is an inner affinity, and the holding together will occur naturally. No plotting or planning is needed.

3) 6 in 3rd throw

a) You hold together with worthless people.

b) You reach out to those who do not really care.



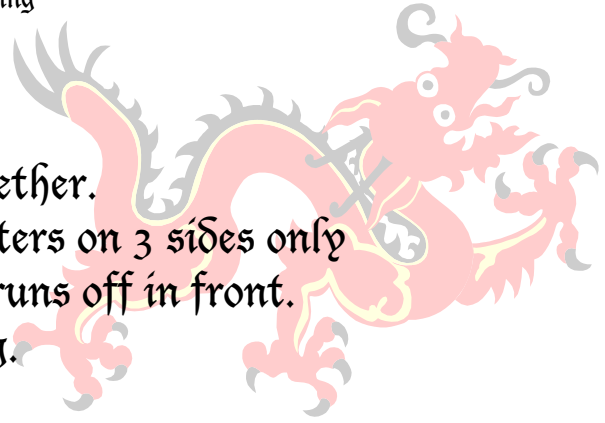
This means that you are friendly with some people who are useless and who do not care about you.

4) 6 in 4th throw

a) Holding together openly.
Perseverance brings good fortune.

b) Holding together with the worthy.

Here you are helping the leader. There is no reason not to show your attachment openly. Loyalty and devotion are the types of perseverance needed here.



5) 9 in 5th throw

a) Manifestation of holding together.
In the hunt the king uses beaters on 3 sides only
and goes without game that runs off in front.
The citizens need no warning.
Good fortune.

b) The situation is correct and balanced.

The advice here is for the leader. You should let go those who resist or wish to go. There is no need to chase after anyone either. Those who you need will come of their own accord. Invite none, and flatter none, and the right ones will hold to you.

6) 6 at the top

a) Holding together without leadership.
Misfortune.

b) No good can come from this.

This is someone who decides to take the lead but they lack the necessary qualities and this brings misfortune.

9 GATHERING SMALL THINGS



WIND (GENTLE)

HEAVEN (CREATIVE)



Wind in the sky.

IMAGE

Gathering small things
has success.
Dense clouds but no rain.

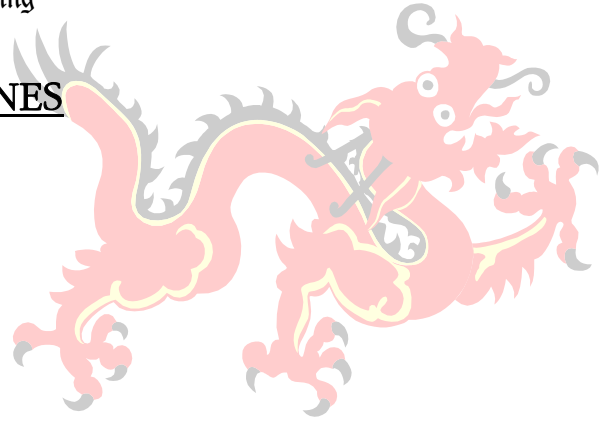
SYMBOL TRADITION

Wind moving across
the sky.
Gathering the small.
A wise man focuses
on the essential
nature of things
in order to find
the way of Heaven.

The wind blowing across the sky has no big effects on the ground, it only gathers up small things. This is the situation of a person in a weak position, they can influence the people around them but only in small ways. This should be done gently by friendly persuasion. There is some possibility of success through careful work being done at the right time, and in the right places.

I Ching

9 LINES



- 1) 9 at the start
 - a) Return inspired by heaven.
How is there blame in this?
Good fortune.
 - b) One's righteousness brings good fortune.

You should follow the way that you believe to be correct.

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
 - a) Hauling it back.
Good fortune.
 - b) He does not let go.

It is possible, even if you are small, to move something that is large provided that you do it in the correct way. If you persevere you can get it to where you want it to be.

3) 9 in 3rd throw

a) The spokes burst out of the wheels.
Man and wife roll their eyes.

b) He will not listen.



Here somebody refuses to listen to good advice. He thinks he is in a strong position and insists on continuing. When the collapse occurs eyes roll because it is not worth saying "I told you!"

4) 6 in 4th throw

a) If you are sincere blood vanishes
and is replaced with awe.

b) Those above agree.

This line represents a sincere person who is trying to manage a difficult situation with weak powers. Your objectives turn out to be the same as those of more powerful people, so there will be plenty of help once you are noticed.



5) 9 in 5th throw

- a) Sincere and loyal.
You will share wealth with your helpers.
- b) You will not be alone in your riches.

This person has an able helper, and if they realise this fully a good result will be obtained. In the weaker position loyalty is devotion, but in the stronger position it is trustworthiness.

6) 9 at the top

- a) The rain has already come,
you are already resting.
You have followed the correct path.
Perseverance puts the wife in danger.
The moon is nearly full.
It will not be wise to punish people,
it will lead to misfortune.
- b) There is reason for caution.

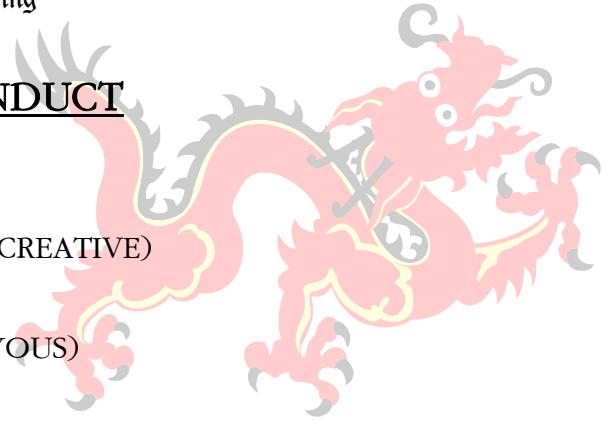
When a weak power obtains victory, there comes a time when all the work has been done but you still have some time to wait before the results take effect. In this situation you can relax, and rest, but not be careless. There is also a risk of not realising that the situation requires no more and therefore you go too far. This would be a mistake.

10 CONDUCT



HEAVEN (CREATIVE)

LAKE (JOYOUS)



The sky above a lake.

IMAGE

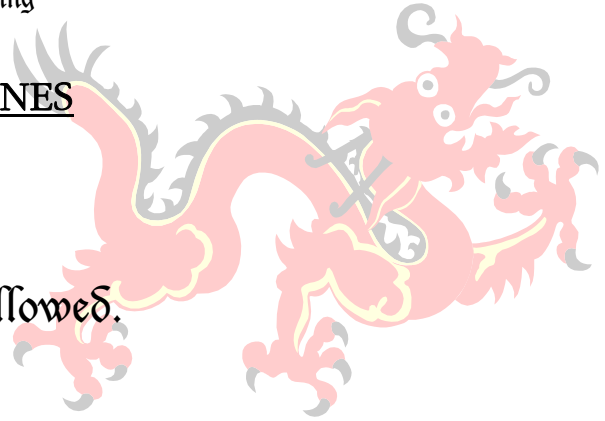
Treading on the tail
of a tiger.
It does not bite you.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Heaven above
the lake below.
Treading.
A wise man knows
the difference between
what is high
and what is low,
and uses this to improve
the thinking of the
ordinary people.

Relations between people are governed by conduct. It is a serious and complicated process and must be done with care and thought. Good manners do work, even with wild and dangerous people. The image says you can tread on the tail of a tiger, and survive, provided that you tread carefully enough. Good conduct sets a good example and avoids unnecessary troubles.

10 LINES



- 1) 9 at the start
 - a) The humble path has been followed.
No blame.
 - b) Alone following a wish.

Good conduct, even in a humble situation, leads to progress. A creative person, left on his own, will find something useful to do. If you wish to do something it is often an advantage to be away from the distractions of other people.

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
 - a) Treading the smooth tranquil path.
Perseverance with shy people leads to good fortune.
 - b) Moderation does not cause confusion.

Sometimes the best results come because of quiet patient work carried out over a period of time.



3) 6 in 3rd throw

a) A one-eyed man is able to see, a lame man is able to tread.
He treads on the tail of a tiger.
The tiger bites the man.
Misfortune.
This is how a soldier should follow the king's orders.

b) His will is firm but he does not see clearly.

If you are a soldier, and you are ordered to step on a tiger's tail, then you have to do it. If you decided to do it, perhaps you did not see clearly that it was a tiger, or you are not able to tread carefully enough. This line represents misfortune due to deliberate bad conduct, or a lack of care and judgement. Note that it does not say "you" it says "the man", so possibly you are the tiger, but think carefully.

4) 9 in 4th throw

a) Treading on the tail of a tiger.
Pleading your case
will lead in the end
to good fortune.

b) Pleading brings good fortune it causes a change of heart.

By presenting yourself correctly and arguing your case well you are able to do something that would normally get you into trouble.

- 5) 9 in 5th throw
- a) Decisive treading.
Perseverance brings danger.
- b) This is appropriate to correct the situation.



Sometimes it is necessary to be decisive, and face some danger, in order to get something done.

- 6) 9 at the top
- a) Observing your conduct the spirits are pleased.
When everything is fulfilled supreme good fortune comes.
- b) Greatness brings blessing.

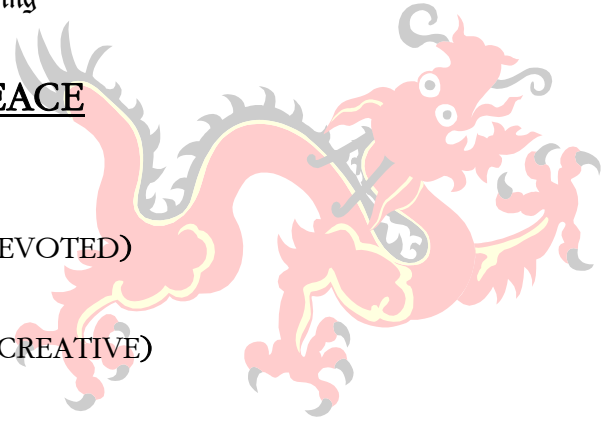
This means that your conduct has been good and it has been noticed. At some time in the future good fortune will come to you because of it.

11 PEACE



EARTH (DEVOTED)

HEAVEN (CREATIVE)



Heaven and Earth unite.

IMAGE

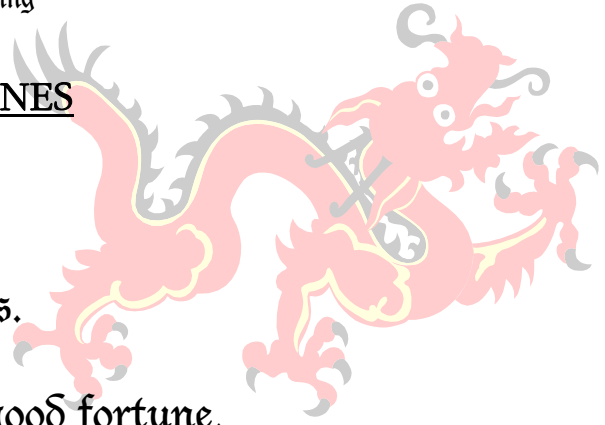
Peace.
The small departs.
The great approaches.
Good fortune and success.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Heaven and earth mingle.
Peace.
A prince uses his wealth
to perfect the way of
Heaven on the earth.
He supports what is right
and employs assistants
to help the ordinary
people.

Where there is strength on the inside and devotion on the outside there is peace. This chapter represents a time similar to spring when the dark forces are retreating and disappearing. Heaven creates and the earth produces and good men can work freely undisturbed by evil men. It is a time when Heaven seems to be on the earth, a time of union and development.

11 LINES



- 1) 9 at the start
 - a) Clearing tangled thatch=grass.
Using one's position.
To impose discipline brings good fortune.
 - b) To go out and create order brings good fortune.

This is a situation where you will do best if you can put an end to some disorder. Then there can be peace.

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
 - a) Accepting a job in the wilderness.
Crossing the river with resolution.
Not delaying leaving.
Companions left behind.
Honour is gained,
your position made secure.
 - b) Then the light is great.

This means that it would be right to go away to work in another place. When you return you will be in a better position at home.



3) 9 in 3rd throw

- a) Without tranquillity but not in disorder.
Difficult work and danger.
No blame.
Do not worry you are correct.
Entertaining and dining bring blessing.

b) This is the boundary between Heaven and Earth.

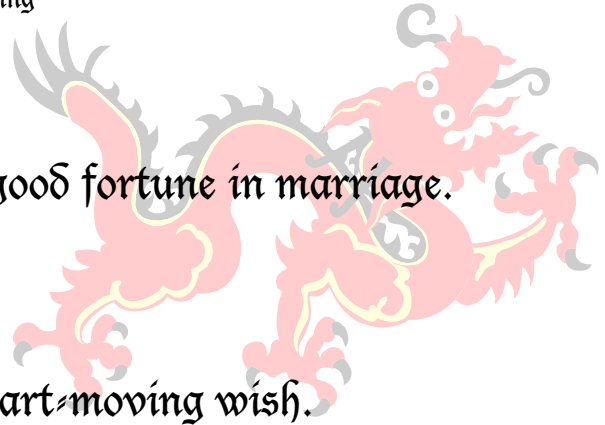
This is a position of many difficulties but things could be worse and are likely to get better. The advice is to keep on pushing forward even though it's a longer road than you might have expected.

4) 6 in 4th throw

- a) A young bird flutters busily from the nest.
Not using wealth but using help.
Not using threats but using sincerity.

b) Altogether letting go.

This is someone who decides to let go of a safe and easy way of life so that they can follow a more interesting path that suits them better.



- 5) 6 in 5th throw
- a) The greatest happiness and good fortune in marriage.
Enjoying fulfilment.
Great good fortune.
- b) Great good fortune from a heart-moving wish.

This line represents a favourable marriage or alliance.

- 6) 6 at the top
- a) The castle wall falls into the moat.
An army is of no use now.
Make the surrender known.
Perseverance brings humiliation.
- b) His plans fall into confusion.

Here somebody is forced to surrender; they face a defeat and can fight on no longer. The best course in this situation is to give up gracefully. This then brings peace.

It may not be you who faces having to surrender but consider it carefully because there is a prediction of disaster if the conflict is continued.

12 STANDSTILL



HEAVEN (CREATIVE)

EARTH (DEVOTED)



The sky above the earth.

IMAGE

Evil people cause problems.
Perseverance is needed.
Good things are lost.
Bad things happen.

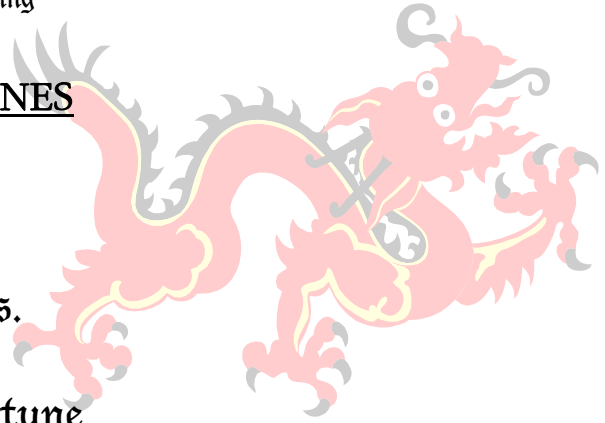
SYMBOL TRADITION

Heaven and Earth not mingling. Standstill.
A wise man is thrifty to avoid hardship, and does not spend money on luxury and elegance.

This situation is the result of the work of evil people who are inwardly weak and outwardly hard. The empty horizon is due to general poverty and lack of movement.

The advice is to withdraw and not to get involved in the dealings of the evil people. The prospects are not good, now, but the times will change and the standstill will not last forever. You will just have to endure it while it lasts.

12 LINES



- 1) 6 at the start
 - a) Clearing tangled thatch=grass.
Using one's position.
Perseverance brings good fortune.
Progress.
 - b) Work with those who you respect.

Work done now to sort things out will bring progress later when times improve.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
 - a) Taking over responsibilities.
Humble people bring good fortune.
Powerful people are obstructed.
Progress.
 - b) He does not confuse the people.

In difficult times it may be necessary to take control of something to help during a crisis.



- 3) 6 in 3rd throw
- a) Enveloped in shame.
- b) They are in the wrong.

This line represents the first signs of a change for the better; but it may be only small signs at the moment.

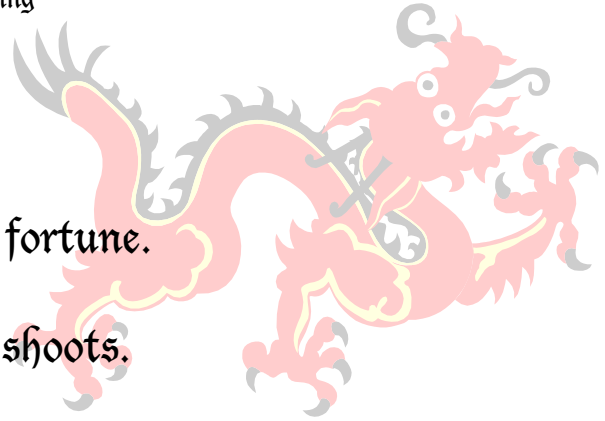
- 4) 9 in 4th throw
- a) Destined by God.
No blame.
Your work spreads happiness.
- b) Strengthening spirits indeed.

If you help to maintain people's spirits during hard times you will be long remembered.

5) 9 in 5th throw

a) The standstill is giving way.
Influential people bring good fortune.
It's lost! It's lost!
Resulting in bushy mulberry shoots.

b) Appropriate to correct the situation.



Some things may be lost during the standstill but if handled in the correct way the cuts can make the way for a strong new beginning once the standstill ends.

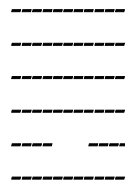
6) 9 at the top

a) Overturning the standstill.
First standstill then rejoicing.

b) How could it be allowed to persist?

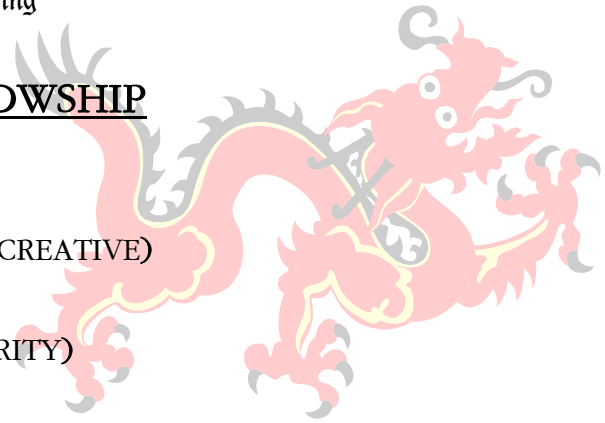
At the end of the standstill a new time begins and this brings good fortune.

13 FELLOWSHIP



HEAVEN (CREATIVE)

FIRE (CLARITY)



A campfire under the sky.

IMAGE

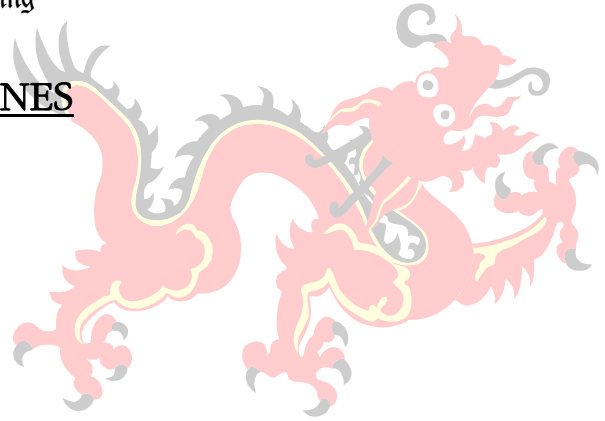
*fellowship in the open.
Success comes in time,
a wise man perseveres.*

SYMBOL TRADITION

*fire under heaven.
fellowship.
A wise man uses
tribal groupings
to organise the people.*

Strength outside, and clarity inside, produces a peaceful gathering of people. Gatherings like this come about where people share common beliefs. Gatherings that are based on private interests are not true fellowship. Clarity means there is enlightened leadership and freedom within the group. Strength provides protection and allows things to be done. Fellowship in the open means a fellowship that is open to all and is not secretive or exclusive. True fellowship finds love and gets things done. It is necessary to organise and to make distinctions, since the people are all different, and this is actually a great advantage. However, you will only gain this advantage if people are able to follow their own particular lines of interest. This is the clarity that leads to strength.

13 LINES

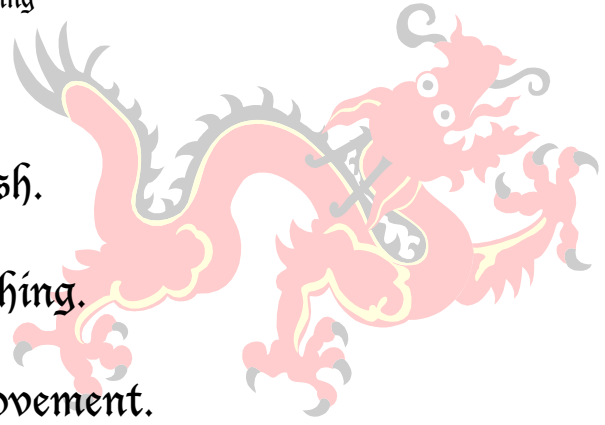


- 1) 9 at the start
 - a) Socialising by the gate.
No blame.
 - b) Going out to meet people.
Whose fault is this?

This line represents a friendship that starts openly and naturally during ordinary daily life. There may be people around who are jealous but they cannot put a stop to this situation.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
 - a) Socialising with the establishment.
Humiliation.
 - b) The path to embarrassment.

This line says that if you are friendly with certain people, for whatever reason, then sometimes it will be embarrassing.



3) 9 in 3rd throw

a) He hides his weapons in a bush.
He climbs a high hill.
For three years he can do nothing.

b) A hard opponent prevents movement.

This line represents a person who is forced to be reasonable because he is not in a strong enough position to cause trouble.

4) 9 in 4th throw

a) Controlling the defences.
Not leading an attack.
Good fortune.

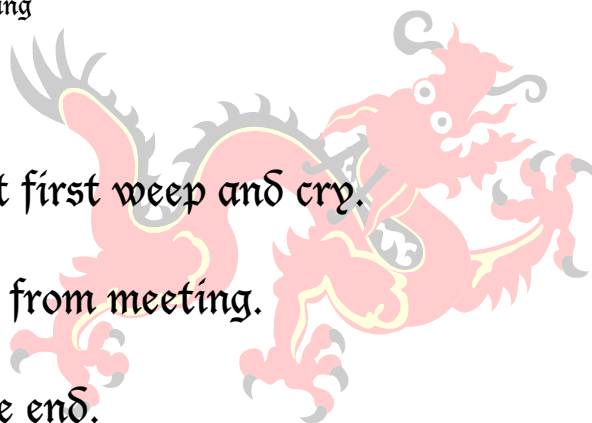
b) Setting limits causes change.

This is a situation where the results are not obtained directly. Instead, the good fortune comes because your position sets correct limits on others.

5) 9 in 5th throw

a) People bound in fellowship at first weep and cry.
Afterwards they laugh.
Great armies prevented them from meeting.

b) Your word gets through in the end.



This line predicts a happy outcome for the people who suffered obstructions at the beginning of their relationship.

Confucius said about this line:

“Life leads the thoughtful man on a path of many windings. Now the course is checked, now it runs straight again. Here winged thoughts may pour freely forth as words; there the heavy burden of knowledge must be shut away in silence. However, when two people are at one in their inmost hearts, they shatter even the strength of iron or bronze. And when two people understand each other in their inmost hearts their words are sweet and strong like the fragrance of orchids.”

6) 9 at the top

a) Fellowship with men in the suburbs.
No mistake.

b) The work is not finished yet.

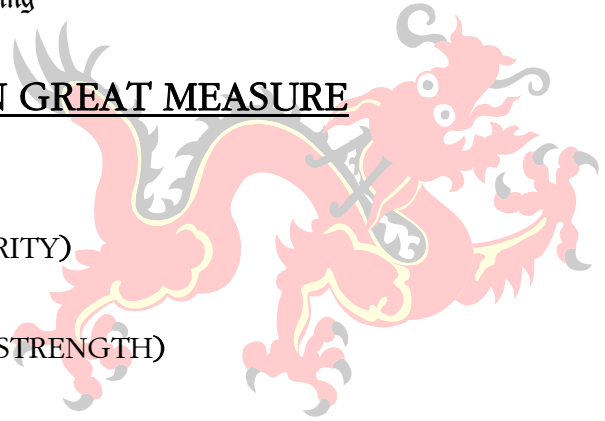
This may be fellowship while at work, and it is correct to continue with this at the present time.

14 POSSESSIONS IN GREAT MEASURE



FIRE (CLARITY)

HEAVEN (STRENGTH)



The Sun, high in the sky, shines on everything.

IMAGE

Great possessing.
Supreme success.

SYMBOL TRADITION

fire above heaven.
Great possessing.
A wise man
ends disputes
to demonstrate virtue
and complies
with heaven
to ensure his fate.

This means there is a situation with a modest and kind person in control who has strong and able helpers. This is very favourable and the reason that supreme success is predicted.

If a leader has inner strength, and outer clarity, then he knows how to listen to good advice and sees how to look after people. Power should be used in a graceful and controlled way. With this attitude all things can become yours.

14 LINES



- 1) 9 at the start
- a) No relationship with what is harmful,
there is no blame in this.
If there is extra work as a result,
there is no blame.
- b) Harmful things are resisted.

Here you have managed to get yourself into a good position for the future. There is no blame attached to you, so far, you have behaved well. Remaining true to your principles may make life more difficult now but it will be worth it later.

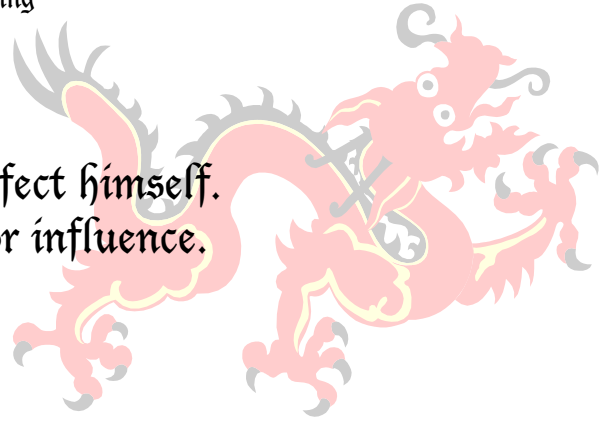
- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
- a) A big cart is used for carrying.
No blame in having an objective.
- b) Growing within, not destroying.

If you are in a position to provide a service and everybody gains, including you, then it should be done. It is not wrong to make gains in this situation.

3) 9 in 3rd throw

a) A prince uses progress to perfect himself.
Evil people have no control or influence.

b) Evil people bring harm.



If you have a good attitude a time of progress will be used for some self-development. If, instead, you turn towards pleasures and amusements you will meet the wrong people.

4) 9 in 4th throw

a) In no way overbearing.
No blame.

b) You explain it clearly.

This is a difficult position between various individuals with conflicting interests. You may be concerned that you have forced somebody into an agreement but this line says that your attitude is correct.

5) 6 in 5th throw

a) Your truth is accessible yet impressive.
Good fortune.

b) Versatility without preparation.



This line represents a leader who inspires able people to help. Accessible means you can act easily and without pre-arrangement. Dignity allows strong people to follow without feeling a need to explain their behaviour.

6) 9 at the top

a) Protected by Heaven.
Good fortune.
Nothing that is not favourable.

b) Great possessions in Heaven.

This is very favourable!

Confucius said about this line:

“To bless means to help. Heaven helps the man who is devoted; men help the man who is true. He who walks in truth is devoted in his thinking and furthermore reveres the worthy and is blessed by Heaven. He has good fortune and there is nothing that would not further.”

15 MODESTY



EARTH (DEVOTION)

MOUNTAIN (KEEPING STILL)



A mountain under the earth.

IMAGE

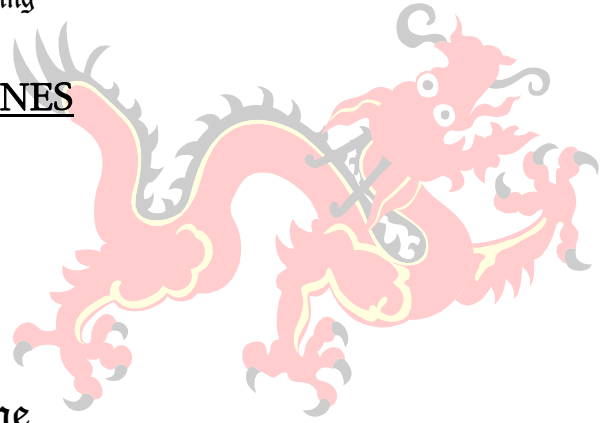
Modesty. Success.
 A wise man brings things
 to completion.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Mountain under
 the earth. Modesty.
 A wise man reduces
 excess and assesses
 people to create
 equality.

Here is a mountain that does not stand high. It is not a small mountain but it does not display its size. People like modesty and dislike the proud and boastful. Modesty attracts help and allows things to be done easily and quickly. If something good has been done it will be noticed. Claiming credit does not uplift people in the way that modesty can. Modesty does not attract enemies and jealousy. Keeping still within, while devoted outwardly, means that you are concerned about other people's situation and do not worry about your own situation.

15 LINES



- 1) 6 at the start
 - a) Modesty.
The modesty of a wise man.
You are able to get things done.
Good fortune.
 - b) The humble receive guidance.

This line represents a modest person in a modest position. Where no claims are made no resistances arise. A humble person attracts help and advice. This is a situation where things can be done without attracting hostile attention.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
 - a) The mark of modesty.
Perseverance brings good fortune.
 - b) He is modest in the depths of his heart.

If you are truly modest it shows in all your actions. This is a source of good fortune and influences people.



3) 9 in 3rd throw

a) A hard working and modest wise man achieves good fortune.

b) The people obey him.

This person is the modest ruler who works hard, achieves things, and does not do it for his own glory. Your modest attitude allows a difficult task to be brought to completion at the correct time.

Confucius said of this line:

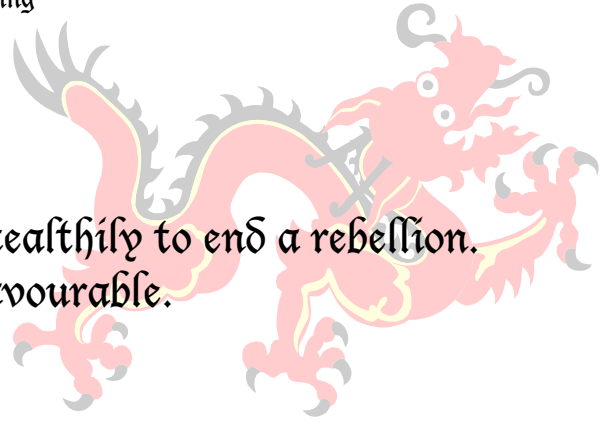
“When a man does not boast of his efforts, and does not count his merits a virtue, he is a man of great parts. It means that for all his merits he subordinates himself to others. Noble of nature, reverent in his conduct, the modest man is full of merit, and therefore he is able to maintain his position.”

4) 6 in 4th throw

a) It is favourable in every way to show modesty.

b) He doesn't overstep the mark.

A modest attitude when going about doing things allows the work to be done properly without running into opposition. People with a bad attitude often overlook modest behaviour; this is an advantage. People with a good attitude do notice it.



5) 6 in 5th throw

a) Not wealthy but assisted.

It is favourable to advance stealthily to end a rebellion.
Nothing that would not be favourable.

b) Chastising not submitting.

Modesty in a leading position is not like weakness. It is good manners and a kind attitude. Some people may mistake this for weakness and try to take advantage. By not boasting of your strength you will fool your enemies and take them by surprise. It is favourable to do this.

6) 6 at the top

a) Modesty that comes to expression.

It is favourable to set armies marching
to chastise one's own city and country.

b) The purpose is not yet attained.

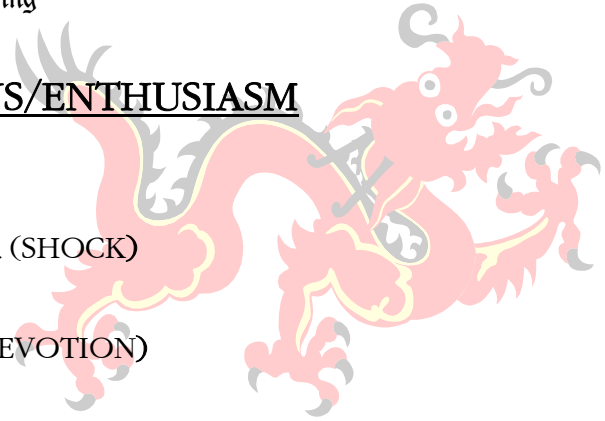
A modest and courageous attitude in times of trouble can provoke powerful help to come down on your side. You should make use of this help.

16 PRECAUTIONS/ENTHUSIASM



THUNDER (SHOCK)

EARTH (DEVOTION)



A rumble of thunder.

IMAGE

Precaution.
It is an advantage
to appoint helpers,
to move armies.

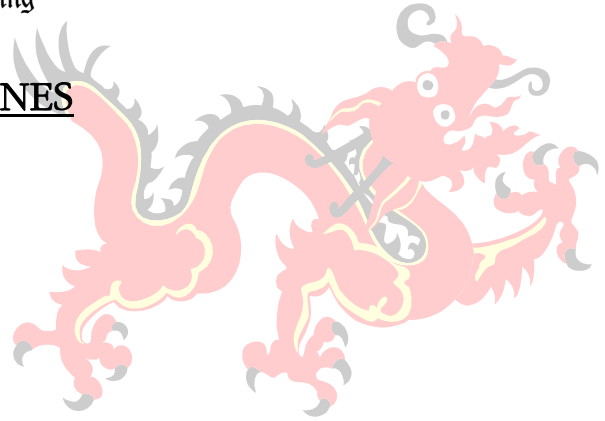
SYMBOL TRADITION

Thunder bursts from the
Earth enthusiastically.
Precaution.
Wise kings use
joyful music.
Religions use
awe-inspiring music.
Respect equal to that
for ancient ancestors.

Enthusiasm can lead to a lack of precaution. This chapter is about both enthusiasm and precautions. Enthusiasm is a good thing providing caution is also present.

The shock of thunder leads to movement. This was developed into music which began as dancing to drums. Dancing and music can cause emotions in people which lead to enthusiasm. This is why music has always been used in religious ceremonies and by marching armies. Confucius said that anybody who could fully understand music could rule the world as though it was spinning in his hand. So, studying music is not a waste of time, and taking precautions is never a waste of time.

16 LINES



- 1) 6 at the start
 - a) Displaying precautions.
Misfortune.
 - b) They are made ineffective.

It is often wise to say little and to not reveal your precautions. Enthusiasm often leads to excited talk and this can be a big mistake. Precautions should not be displayed they should be subtle and held in reserve.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
 - a) Protection becomes firm as rock.
In less than one day.
Perseverance brings good fortune.
 - b) Central and correct.

This describes a person who can spot the first signs of a problem, and knows immediately what action to take, and acts without hesitation. This strong attitude brings good fortune.

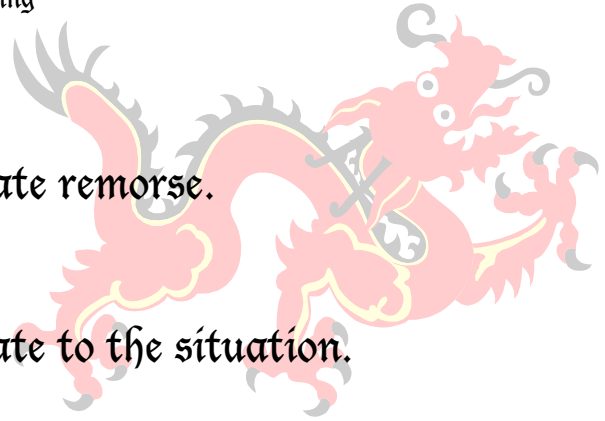
Confucius said about this line:

“Firm as a rock, what need of a whole day? The judgement can be known. The superior man knows what is hidden and what is evident. He knows weakness; he knows strength as well. Hence the people look up to him.”

3) 6 in 3rd throw

a) Half-hearted precautions create remorse.
Hesitation brings remorse.

b) The attitude is not appropriate to the situation.



A lack of seriousness, or too much scepticism, can be a big mistake, particularly if there is some trouble coming your way.

4) 9 in 4th throw

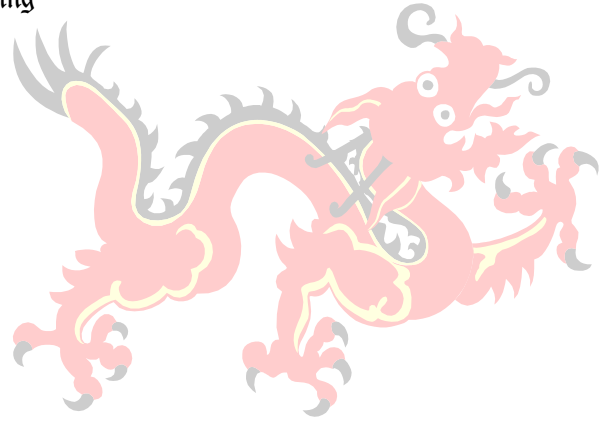
a) The source of enthusiasm achieves great things.
Doubt not.

You gather friends and comrades like a hair clasp gathers hair.

b) Your will is done in great things.

This line represents a person who arouses enthusiasm amongst others and this makes it possible to do things because helpers will be available. Sincerity and a caring attitude towards others will lead to firm friendship and great things.

- 5) 6 in 5th throw
- a) Ordeal and disorder.
Persevering not dying.
- b) The centre is not destroyed.



This means that you suffer various obstructions and problems that prevent you from doing very much. Despite these problems, you are still able to get some things done; enough to keep you going. This may be thanks to some precautions and provisions made previously. Alternatively, it may represent someone who you would expect to have given up, by now, but they keep on trying for some reason that isn't clear to see.

- 6) 6 at the top
- a) Immature precautions.
Nothing to be proud of.
No blame.
- b) How could this last?

A weak person who is over-enthusiastic becomes deluded. When serious problems occur their delusions are shattered. This is learning the hard way, but there is no blame here since only they suffer from the results.

17 FOLLOWING



LAKE (JOYOUS)

THUNDER (SHOCK)



Thunder under the lake.

IMAGE

following.
Perseverance brings
good fortune.
No blame.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Thunder in the lake.
following. A wise man
uses the night for rest
and sleep.

This chapter is about people who follow. It could be a person who you have helped and who wishes to know you better. It could be a larger group of people who wish to follow your example. Alternatively, it may be you following someone else.

A following is a good thing if it happens naturally and with good intentions; so there is good fortune predicted. However, there is also a reminder to get enough sleep.

17 LINES



- 1) 9 at the start
 - a) The official way is in decline.
Perseverance brings good fortune.
To go outdoors, to see people, produces seeds.
 - b) To follow the way of reform brings good fortune.

This means that the times are changing and you should help others with worthwhile projects. This will lead to good results. Here, following means joining with others to do things.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
 - a) Devoted to the unimportant son.
Letting go of the worthy man.
 - b) Not able to hold on to both.

This means you have a choice of people who you can deal with. If you follow the wrong one you will lose the right one. Best to let go of the weak or childish one before it is too late. Follow the strong one.



3) 6 in 3rd throw

- a) Following the worthy man.
Letting go of the unimportant son.
Through following you find what you seek.
Results due to perseverance.
- b) Desires of the heart put to one side.

This means you will do best if you follow a strong person rather than trying to lead a weak person. It will be better to follow a sensible path rather than to do what you feel like doing.

4) 9 in 4th throw

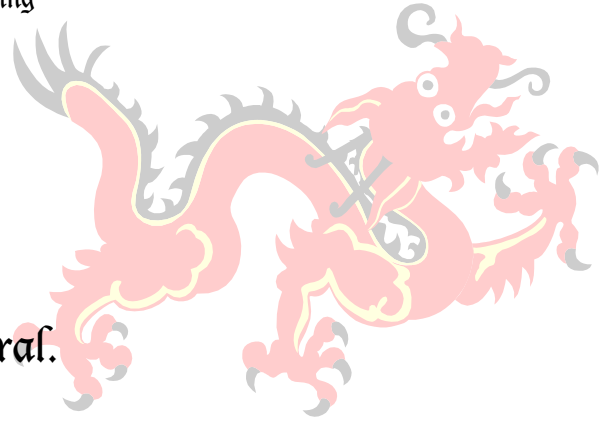
- a) A following that gains in number.
Perseverance brings misfortune.
To go your way correctly leads to enlightenment.
How could there be blame in this?
- b) The way of heaven leads to enlightenment.

If you have a following in times of success the wrong people, flatterers and yes men, may follow you. These people bring misfortune, but if you are sincere and behave correctly, you will learn from these experiences and similar problems can be avoided in the future.

5) 9 in 5th throw

a) Sincere and good.
Good fortune.

b) The place is correct and central.



This means you have a good attitude and you will do well. You have a following.

6) 6 at the top

a) Joining in and pledging loyalty.
The king makes full use of the benefits.

b) Ending with the high.

This means that you begin to form connections with influential people.

18 WORK ON WHAT HAS DECAYED



MOUNTAIN (KEEPING STILL)

WIND (GENTLE)



Wind under the mountain.

IMAGE

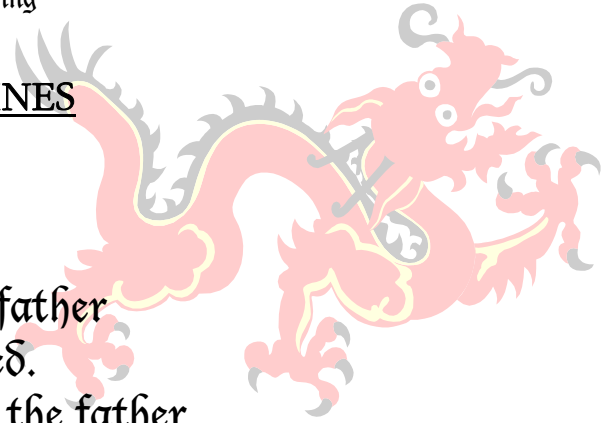
Dealing with decay
has supreme success.
It is worth taking a risk.
Before beginning 3 days.
After beginning 3 days.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Wind under the
mountain. Decay.
A wise man motivates
the people so that they
do things correctly.

This chapter is about work on renovation. Weakness and laziness lead to decay and decline but the situation can be dealt with. Dealing with it will lead to success but it is important to do things in the correct way. This is why you should spend as much time planning and organising, before you start, as you will spend on doing the necessary work.

18 LINES



1) 6 at the start

- a) Dealing with that which the father
has allowed to become decayed.
If there is a son, no blame on the father.
Danger, but it ends in good fortune.

b) The son restores the original intentions.

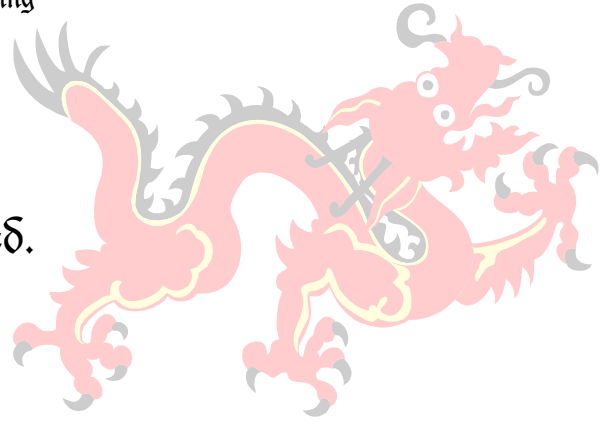
This is a situation such as that of a son who takes over his father's business. There may be many changes that need to be made but these will not be popular. It might be more difficult than expected but it needs to be done and it will bring good fortune if done carefully.

2) 9 in 2nd throw

- a) Dealing with that which the mother
has allowed to become decayed.
You must not be too persevering.

b) Find the middle way.

Here, there is a danger of overdoing it. If the reforms are carried out too ruthlessly it will cause some new problems. Some situations have to be dealt with in a kind and tactful way. Patience is often required.



3) 9 in 3rd throw

- a) Setting right what the father has allowed to become decayed. Some people will be sorry. Without strong leadership there will be trouble.

- b) In the end there will be no blame.

This is a situation where it is necessary to make changes even though you will have to deal with some opposition. It will turn out to be worthwhile once the reforms are completed.

4) 6 in 4th throw

- a) Increasing the decay caused by the father. You will look back with shame.

- b) This will not attain your goals.

You are tempted to just carry on in the same way as before or to do even worse. This line warns you not to do that.



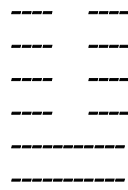
- 5) 6 in 5th throw
- a) Dealing with that which the father has allowed to become decayed. Words of praise are used.
- b) Received for achieving the correct way.

Here you set right the mistakes of the past, and you do it correctly, and with regard to all the circumstances. When the reforms are complete you meet with praise.

- 6) 9 at the top
- a) Not the affairs of kings and states. Honouring highness is one's affair.
- b) Your resolve is made possible because of this.

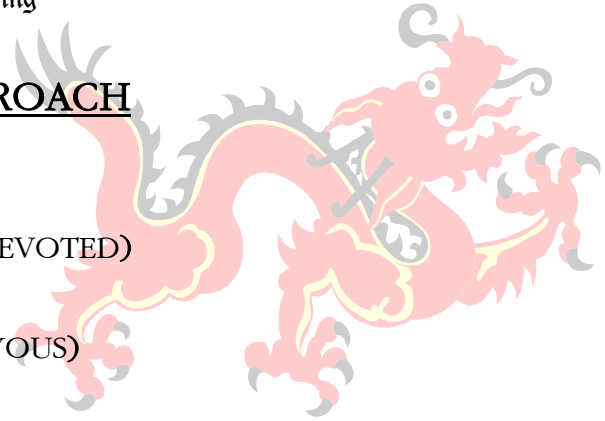
Some jobs are more important than others. Some work is of no use. Some work is important for the whole world and all time. You know which path is right for you and you should follow that one. You can let other people work for the kings and princes. If you are serving a good purpose then you will be looked after.

19 APPROACH



EARTH (DEVOTED)

LAKE (JOYOUS)



A lake under the earth.

IMAGE

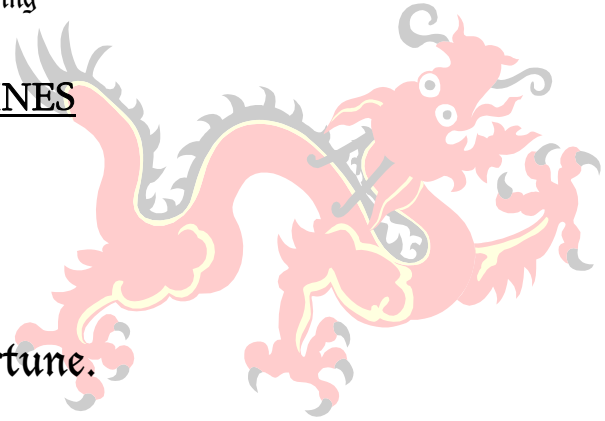
Approach has supreme success.
Perseverance is favourable.
If there is a climax
in the eighth month
there will be misfortune.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Earth above the lake.
Approach.
A wise man uses
teaching
to avoid stagnation
and he uses compassion
to defend the people
without setting limits.

The meaning of this chapter is that there is an approach with an offer - an offer that promises to bring an increase to both people. This seems all for the good and it may well be. On the other hand, sudden promotions into a new way of life can often lead to problems. If you fail to keep a careful attitude, or neglect to look after other people, it may all end badly.

19 LINES



- 1) 9 at the start
 - a) Partnership approach.
Perseverance brings good fortune.
 - b) His will is to act correctly.

Somebody, who wants you to work with them, approaches you. This will turn out well provided you do the work properly.

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
 - a) Partnership approach; good fortune.
Nothing that would not be favourable.
 - b) You need not yield to fate.

This is very favourable. It will be hard to go wrong in this situation unless you become lazy and careless.

3) 6 in 3rd throw

a) Light-hearted approach.
Nothing favourable.
If you are sorry about this then no blame.

b) If you are sorry the fault is not long lasting.



This is a warning about not taking something seriously enough or taking it easy when things need to be done. It says that if you realise your mistake you can change your attitude before it is too late.

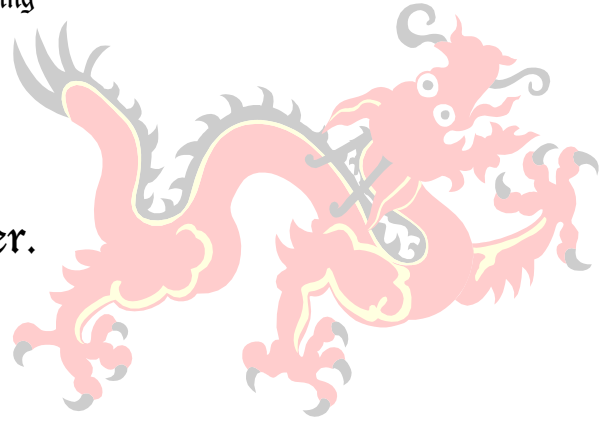
4) 6 in 4th throw

a) Completed approach.
No blame.

b) The place is right.

Here you have formed a good relationship with somebody. This is a good thing to do and not a mistake.

- 5) 6 in 5th throw
- a) Understanding approach.
This is right for a great leader.
Good fortune.
- b) He walks in the middle.



This line means that you are in a position to help somebody in a more humble situation and this would bring good fortune to you both. You should allow the other person as much freedom as possible and as much help as they want.

- 6) 6 at the top
- a) Generous approach.
Good fortune.
No blame.
- b) Their heart is in it.

Here you help somebody without having any obvious reason to think that you will gain yourself. This brings good fortune.

20 OBSERVING



WIND (GENTLE)

EARTH (DEVOTED)



Wind on the earth.

IMAGE

Observing.
 The preparations have been
 made but you wait for the
 ceremony.
 Possessing truth,
 like charisma.

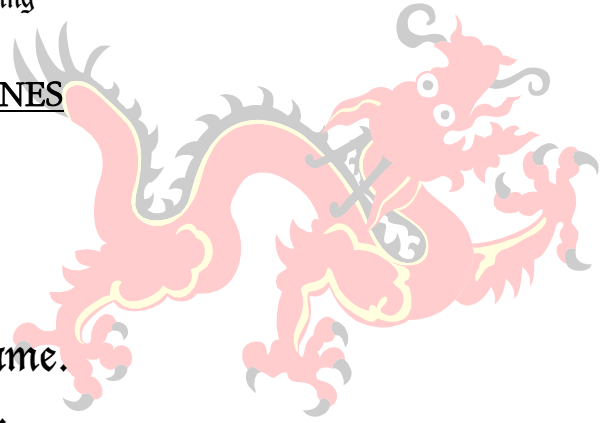
SYMBOL TRADITION

Wind moving
 over the earth.
 Observing.
 Wise kings look
 everywhere
 to see the people
 and set up teaching.

The pattern of the lines is like a watchtower. Gentle and devoted describes a holy man who sits in a high place and meditates. This chapter means you sit and think about your life and times; perhaps while looking out of your window.

If you are in a high place then you should be taking a wide view. It can also be useful, at certain times, to be seen to be around.

This might be a time when you have decided to pause while you are waiting and watching for something.



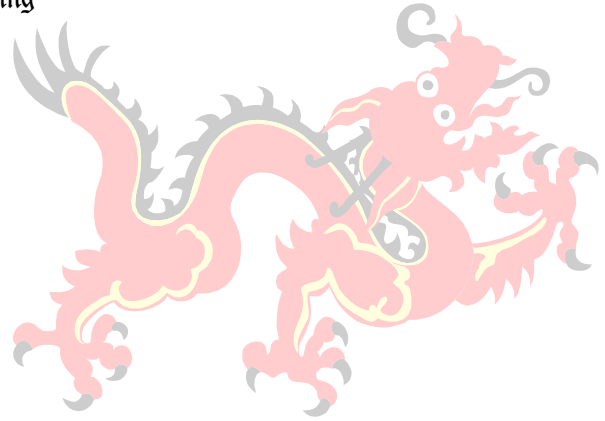
- 1) 6 at the start
 - a) Boy-like contemplation.
for a common person = no blame.
for a wise man = humiliation.
 - b) This is the way of small-minded people.

This means that you are taking something at face value, listening to gossip, or you are being fooled by a false image. You will have to look for more subtle clues. Things are quite often more complicated than they may seem to be at first.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
 - a) furtive contemplation.
furthering the perseverance of an old woman.
 - b) Truly ugly.

This means that you are looking at things in a nosy and self-interested type of way. You do not see enough in order to be able see the other people's situations clearly and you are thinking too much about your own situation. It is possible to look after yourself with this sort of outlook but you may bring harm to other people.

- 3) 6 in 3rd throw
- a) Contemplation of my life.
Advancing and retreating.
- b) The right way is not lost.

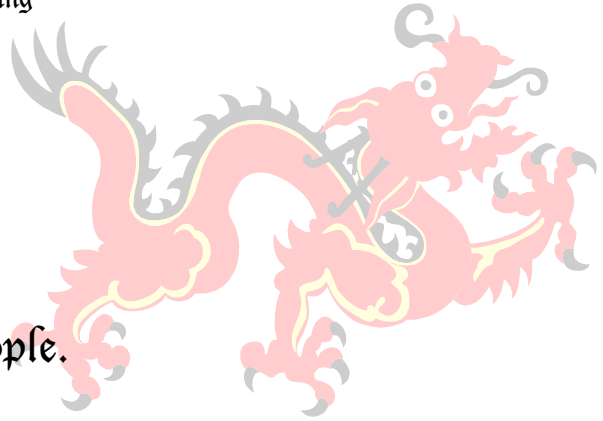


You are thinking about your life and wondering what to do. This suggests that you will know what is correct.

- 4) 6 in 4th throw
- a) Contemplation of the glory of the city.
It will be favourable to exert influence on guests, like a king.
- b) Honoured guests.

This is about seeing people in meetings, and at social gatherings, and making progress as a result.

- 5) 9 in 5th throw
- a) Contemplation of my life.
A wise man without blame.
- b) Look at the effects on the people.



This means you look back at your life and wonder if you have done it right. The fact that you are wondering is a strong indication that your attitude is good. If the effects you have produced in the world are good then you have done well. If you have this line it suggests that you are 'without blame' - which is as good as can be reasonably hoped for.

- 6) 9 at the top
- a) Contemplation of their life.
A wise man without blame.
- b) Your mind is not yet settled.

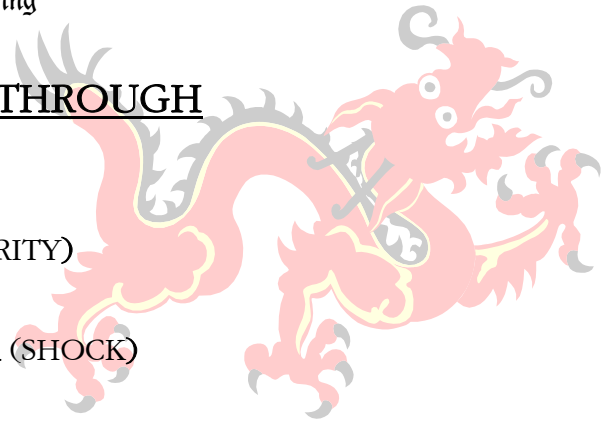
Here you are wondering about someone else and this line suggests that they are of good character.

21 BITING THROUGH



FIRE (CLARITY)

THUNDER (SHOCK)



Thunder and lightning.

IMAGE

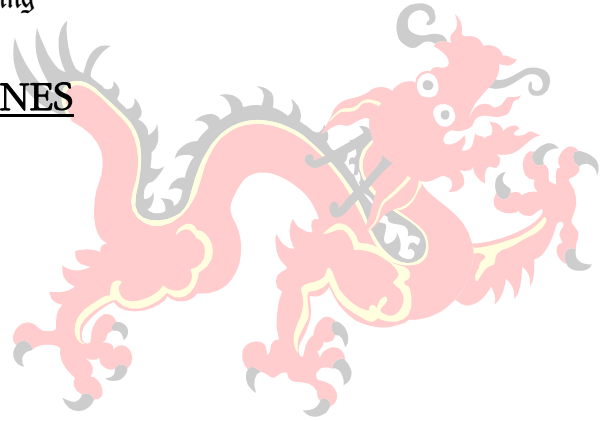
Biting through
has success.
It is favourable to
argue your case.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Thunder, lightning.
Biting through.
A wise king uses
punishments to
enforce the law.

This is a situation where you are annoyed by an obstruction and decide to do something about it. Strength without cruelty is needed. Penalties are necessary in order to intimidate people who would not be reasonable otherwise.
People with bad intentions create obstructions deliberately and are hard to stop. You may not like to cause shock, or be violent, but sometimes it is necessary and the best thing to do.

21 LINES



- 1) 9 at the start
 - a) His shoes are locked away.
Disabling the feet.
No blame.
 - b) Preventing movement.

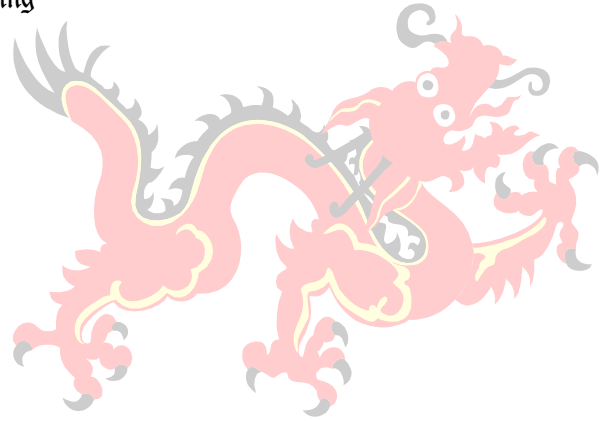
Here you have to deal with somebody who is difficult and stubborn. A mild punishment, at an early stage, should prevent further problems. The example here is a simple way to stop someone going out; by hiding their shoes.

Confucius said about this line:

“The inferior man is not ashamed of unkindness and does not shrink from injustice. If no advantage beckons, he makes no effort. If he is not intimidated, he does not improve himself, but if he is made to behave correctly in small matters he is careful in large ones. This is fortunate for the inferior man.”

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
 - a) Bites through flesh.
The nose is cut off.
No blame.
 - b) Controlling the persistent.

Somebody deliberately annoys you and goes too far. There is a danger that you will do something excessive - like biting off their nose. There is no blame because they were asking for it and therefore cannot complain about the results.



3) 6 in 3rd throw

a) Bites on old dried meat.
Finds something unpleasant.
Evil is shamed.
No blame.

b) A bad situation.

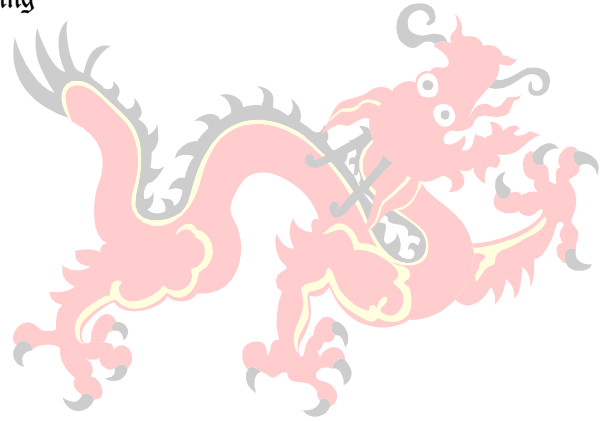
This line means that you have to deal with someone difficult but you are not in a good position. There is a danger that you will not do anything soon enough and that you will have a hard time when you do try. It still needs to be done even so.

4) 9 in 4th throw

a) Biting on dry old bones.
Gaining a metal arrow.
Benefits due to hard work and perseverance.
Good fortune.

b) Not yet a success.

There are still some difficult barriers that you will have to work your way through. This will be a long hard job but if you are careful you will be unharmed and it will bring good fortune later.



- 5) 6 on 5th throw
- a) Bites on dried meat.
Receives yellow metal.
Perseverance brings danger.
No blame.
- b) Gaining what is appropriate.

You are in a responsible position and you know what needs to be done. Although you might prefer to be lenient, and avoid trouble, it is obvious that something serious needs to be done. Provided you are constantly careful the results will be good and many people will be grateful.

- 6) 9 at the top
- a) Why are you in prison covering your ears?
Misfortune.
- b) Not learning.

This line represents a person who is arrogant and refuses to listen to a warning. Consequently, he is punished.

Confucius said about this line:

“If good does not accumulate it is not enough to make a name for a man. If evil does not accumulate it is not enough to destroy a man. Therefore the inferior man thinks to himself that goodness in small things has no value and so neglects it. He thinks that small sins do no harm and so does not give them up. Thus his sins accumulate until they can no longer be covered up, and his guilt so great that it can no longer be ignored.”

22 GRACE



MOUNTAIN (KEEPING STILL)

FIRE (CLARITY)



A mountain lit by a fire from below.

IMAGE

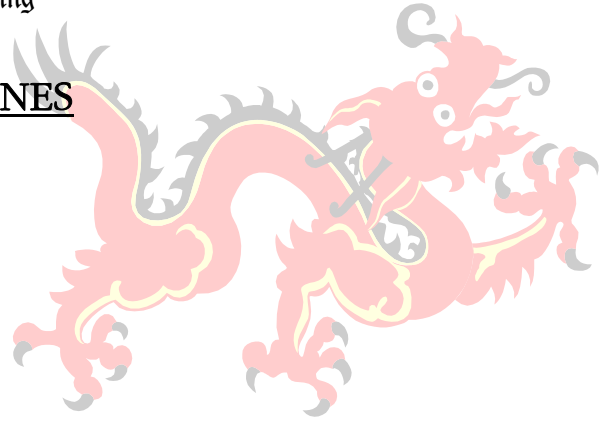
Grace has success
in small matters.
It is favourable to
persevere on your path.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Mountain with fire
below. Grace.
A wise man encourages
good conduct without
being judgmental.

A mountain has a graceful beauty when lit from below. This is a chapter about a transition. Things should not happen too abruptly. A time of grace may be a quiet period before an upheaval. The advice is that you should not do anything that is unusual; just do day to day things. The Chinese consider that grace consists of simple fitness of form, a beauty that is free of adornments.

22 LINES



- 1) 9 at the start
- a) Graceful feet.
Parks the vehicle,
goes on foot.
- b) It is right not to ride.

Sometimes it is best not to accept a favour. It is better to be seen walking than be seen riding in the wrong company.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
- a) Graceful patience like growing hair.
- b) Helping those above leads to promotion.

Some people are difficult to work with and getting things done requires a lot of patience. If you have this patience it will be worth it, eventually.



3) 9 in 3rd throw

a) Graceful here,
blemished there.

Only constant perseverance brings good fortune.

b) Constant perseverance cannot be put to shame.

This is a situation where constant effort will be needed or things will soon deteriorate.

4) 6 in 4th throw

a) Graceful here, but old there.

A white horse rears up.

Not a robber; instead an alliance.

b) It is a suspicious situation.

Someone offers you a white horse; but is it really white or just old and grey?
The answer here is that it is a genuine offer and not a trick.



5) 6 in 5th throw

a) Grace like a hilltop garden.
The roll of plain silk is meagre and small.
Humiliation,
but in the end
good fortune.

b) Possessing joy.

Many people, who only want money and an easy life, live around you, but then you meet somebody who you feel you can really respect. You might feel that you do not have much to offer them and that it would be wrong to push yourself forward. You need not worry since you have an inner relationship and they are just as pleased to meet you as you are pleased to meet them.

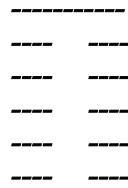
6) 9 at the top

a) Simple grace.
No blame.

b) This is how it should be.

This line represents a situation where you will get your wish for a simple and graceful way of life.

23 SPLITTING APART



MOUNTAIN (KEEPING STILL)

EARTH (DEVOTED)



A mountain on earth.

IMAGE

*Splitting apart.
It is not the right time
to continue.*

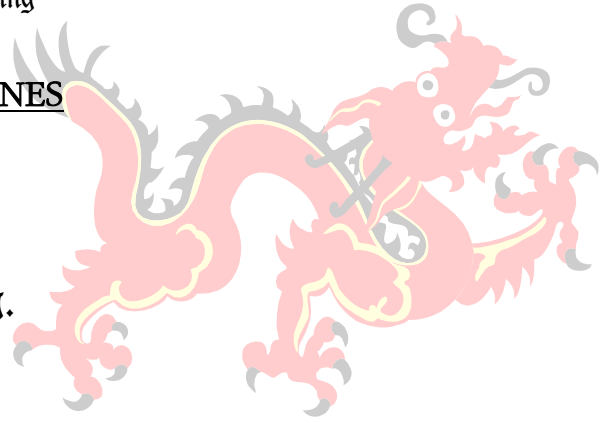
SYMBOL TRADITION

*A mountain standing on
earth. Splitting.
Use kindness above
to calm those below.*

This is a bad situation as it represents your house, or something, being undermined from below, and then falling apart. It is not something you can prevent at this stage. It is best, mainly, to just keep still and take it calmly. This is not a time to put up any resistance; you will just have to deal with things as and when they occur.

This might be a relationship that splits, but it could be an eviction notice, or the police with a search warrant. It is likely to be close to home, whatever it is, so you should consider what is at risk.

Although this predicts a sudden and unexpected collapse, it does not predict physical injury, so stay calm and hope it is not too serious. Take precautions if possible, there may still be days, or weeks, before the split finally develops into a collapse.



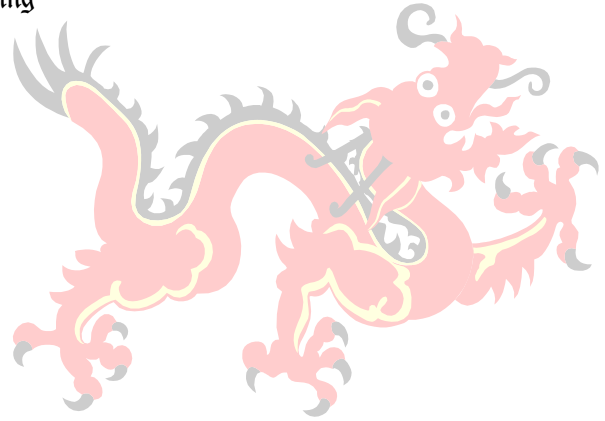
- 1) 6 at the start
 - a) The leg of the bed is splitting.
Disregarding the signs.
Misfortune.
 - b) Undermined from below.

Some people are planning to cause you some trouble, but it will be easy to not see it, or to ignore it, at the moment. It is important to realise this and to prepare before it is too late.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
 - a) The bed frame is splitting.
Disregarding the signs.
Misfortune.
 - b) No help yet.

This means you are isolated and facing attack. The trouble may not be fully in sight yet but there are signs of what is to come. In this situation you should not try to continue normal activities.

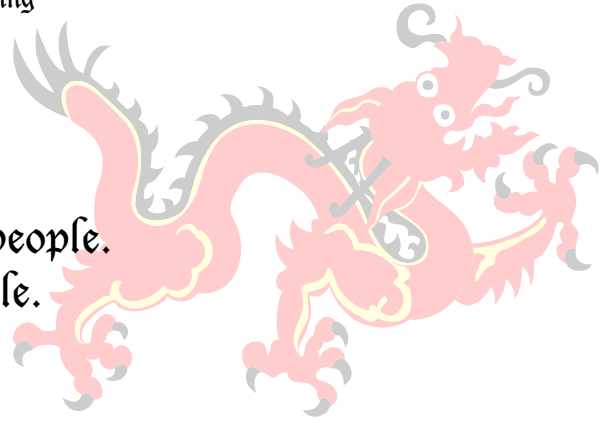
- 3) 6 in 3rd throw
- a) He splits with them.
No blame.
- b) Letting go above and below.



This means that somebody decides to split away from their usual companions, and it is not wrong to do this at this time.

- 4) 6 in 4th throw
- a) The bed splits
while you are in it.
Misfortune.
- b) This is a serious and immediate misfortune.

This is the point at which the split actually occurs; so you should find that something will happen soon. It will probably be something bad but it will not be the end of everything.



- 5) 6 in 5th throw
- a) A shoal of fishes,
favours come from the local people.
Nothing that is not favourable.
- b) This will end well.

This is a good line. Instead of trouble you are brought unexpected help. 'Nothing that is not favourable' means that the problems will have positive results.

- 6) 9 at the top
- a) There is a large fruit still uneaten.
The wise man receives a cart.
The house of the evil people splits apart.
- b) They end up unable to use it.

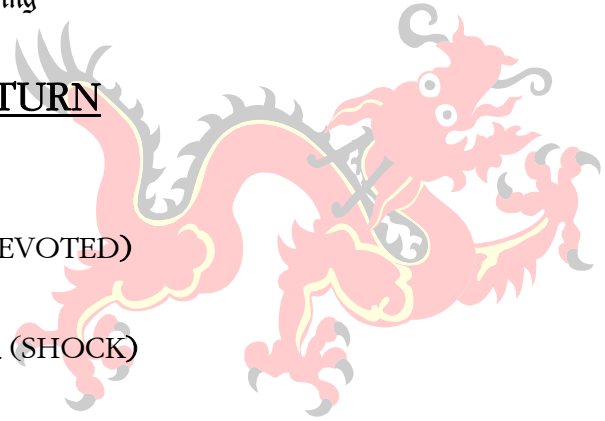
This means a surprise bonus for you and your enemy's house is split.

24 RETURN



EARTH (DEVOTED)

THUNDER (SHOCK)



The energy returns from below.

IMAGE

SYMBOL TRADITION

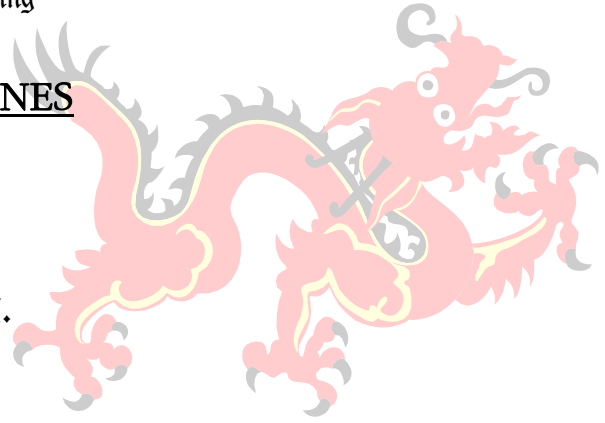
Return. Success.
 Going out and coming
 in without error.
 Friends come
 without blame
 Turning around,
 returning to your way.
 When the seventh day
 comes: Return.
 It is favourable to
 have a plan.

Thunder under the earth.
 Return of the earth dragon.
 The kings of old closed the
 border at midwinter
 A prince stops working
 at midnight

This chapter means that there is a pause before a new beginning. This is the turning point where the darkness passes its maximum and the light starts to return.

When the new springtime gets underway there will be things to do and friends to help. Until then stay quiet and wait for things to begin reappearing.

24 LINES



- 1) 9 at the start
- a) Not staying away, returning.
Not merely sorry.
Great good fortune.
- b) He improves his character.

This line represents a return to the way after straying off the path. It may be you or someone else who you know.

Confucius said about this line: (Yen Hui was a favourite pupil.)

“Yen Hui is one who will surely attain it. If he has a fault he never fails to recognise it. Having recognised it he never commits the error a second time.”

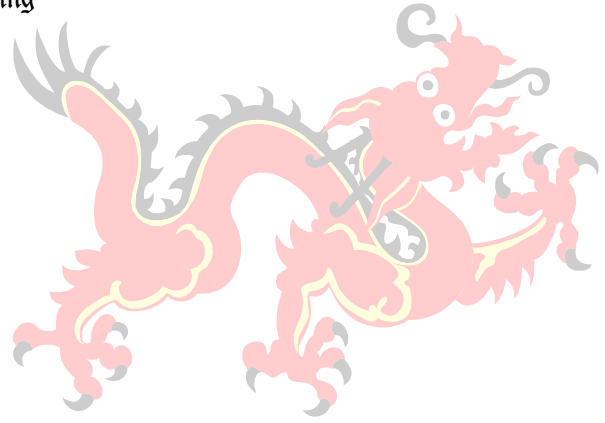
- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
- a) Gentle return.
Good fortune.
- b) Using humanity.

This is a return perhaps following an argument at a previous meeting. A gentle attitude works best.

3) 6 in 3rd throw

a) Urgent return.
Danger.
No blame.

b) Righteous, without blame.



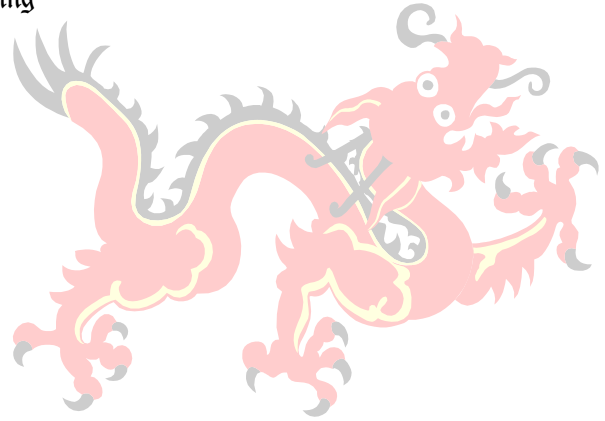
This line represents a person who seems indecisive and appears to be erratic in their behaviour. They might have various dangers to overcome in which case there is no blame in their behaviour.

4) 6 in 4th throw

a) Moving towards the centre,
he returns alone.

b) He follows the right way.

This is a person who parts company with their usual companions and returns.



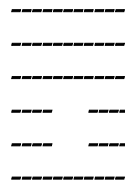
- 5) 6 in 5th throw
- a) Noble-hearted return.
No remorse.
- b) The wish of his ancestors.

This is someone with good intentions who decides to return even though it is not easy for them.

- 6) 6 at the top
- a) Deluded return.
Misfortune.
Calamity and blunder.
Using armies will end in serious defeat.
All control will be lost for 10 years.
- b) Misfortune in opposing the way of good men.

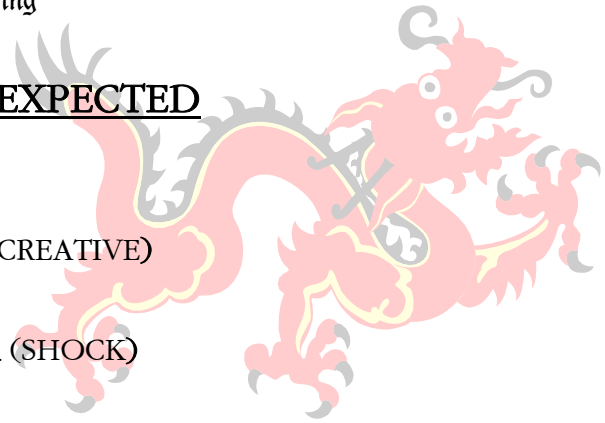
This is someone who decides to do the wrong thing. It is a serious error of judgement and it leads to serious problems.

25 THE UNEXPECTED



HEAVEN (CREATIVE)

THUNDER (SHOCK)



Thunder under a clear sky; a bolt from the blue.

IMAGE

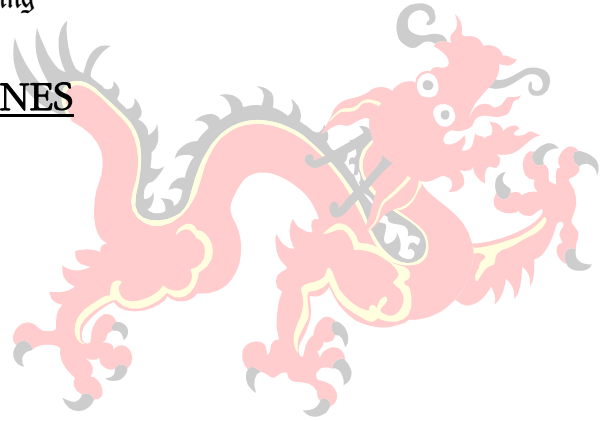
The unexpected.
Perseverance leads to
great success.
If you do not pay attention
you will make a mistake and
your plan will not succeed.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Thunder moving under
heaven.
People meeting
unexpectedly.
Wise kings provided
support for the people,
at the times when
it was needed.

The meaning of this chapter is an unexpected shock. This is not always a bad thing, an unexpected meeting may be welcome, and unexpected help is always welcomed.

However, if you are doing something important, and you are not careful enough, the unexpected shock will probably be something bad that you do not welcome.

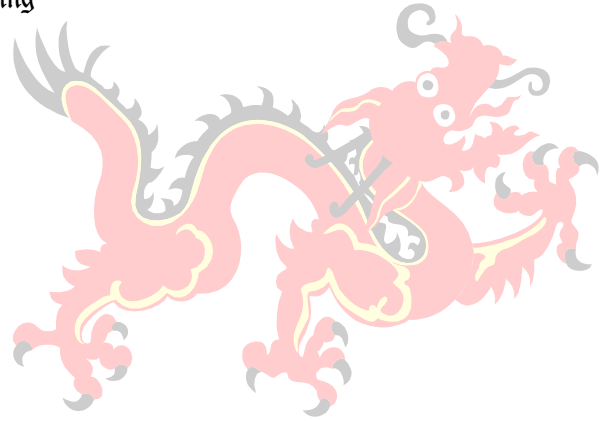


- 1) 9 at the start
- a) Unexpected.
Going brings good fortune.
- b) You find your purpose.

You move in an innocent way, moving in harmony with Heaven. By intuitively following the right path you unexpectedly end up being where you would want to be.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
- a) If you do not count the harvest while ploughing,
or on the use of the ground while clearing it,
it will be worth doing something.
- b) Not yet wealthy.

If something needs doing you should do it for its own sake; this is an innocent and correct attitude. Often there are unexpected rewards. People who only do something in order to get a reward only have unexpected disappointments.



3) 6 in 3rd throw

a) Unexpected misfortune.
The cow that was tethered
is the wanderer's gain
and the citizen's loss.

b) The wanderer gains the citizen loses.

If you leave something unattended somebody may just wander by and take it. It is to be hoped that you can manage without it.

4) 9 in 4th throw

a) Perseverance is possible.
No blame.

b) Holding on firmly.

You are able to persevere with something better than expected.



5) 9 in 5th throw

a) Unexpected illness.

Use no medicinal herbs and you will be happy.

b) Do not test any medicines.

This means that you are affected by an unexpected trouble. If you have not brought it on yourself then you need not take any action. It will be best to just wait until it passes.

6) 9 at the top

a) Innocent action brings unexpected misfortune.

Nothing that is favourable.

b) It ends in calamity.

It is always best to think carefully before moving. If you do something, even with innocent intentions, when it is not the right time things can go unexpectedly wrong. This may be some kind of accident, so be careful.

26 THE CONTROLLING POWER OF THE BIG



MOUNTAIN (KEEPING STILL)

HEAVEN (CREATIVE)



The sky inside a mountain - a giant warehouse.

IMAGE

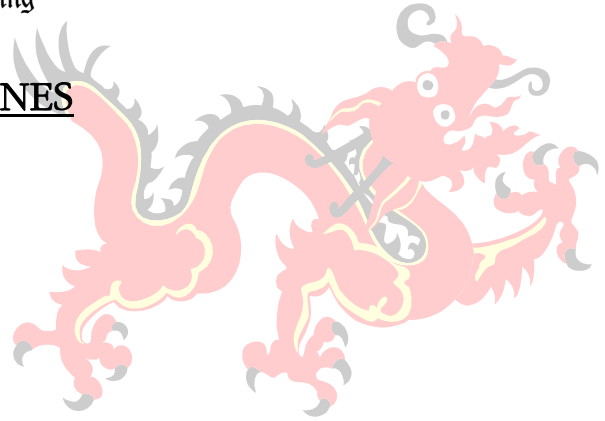
The controlling power
of the big.
Perseverance brings success.
Not at home
instead working.
Good fortune.
Success from following a plan.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Heaven in the centre
of a mountain.
The controlling power
of the big.
A wise man considers
what has been written
before he acts,
and controls himself,
so that his way is correct.

This chapter is about the great power exerted, almost invisibly, by a large organisation and its ability to do work and create wealth. Part of the advice is about the rules and regulations and how they must be followed in order to create a success.

26 LINES



- 1) 9 at the start
 - a) Danger is at hand.
You should stop.
 - b) By stopping you avoid calamity.

It is important that you hold back to escape some danger. You must stop and wait. It might seem inconvenient but it will be much better to be spending some time improving yourself rather than fall into the danger.

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
 - a) Transportation.
Releasing the axle-ties.
 - b) Central not going too far.

You should be content, for now, with the gains you have already made. It is now the right time to rest, and consolidate, and the wrong time to go out and to get more.



3) 9 in 3rd throw

- a) An excellent horse is one that will follow.
Success through hard work and perseverance.
Providing an escort and secure transport.
It is favourable to have a plan.

- b) Working with those above.

This means that you will be able to help someone carry out an important project. There may be some dangers but it will turn out well if you do it correctly.

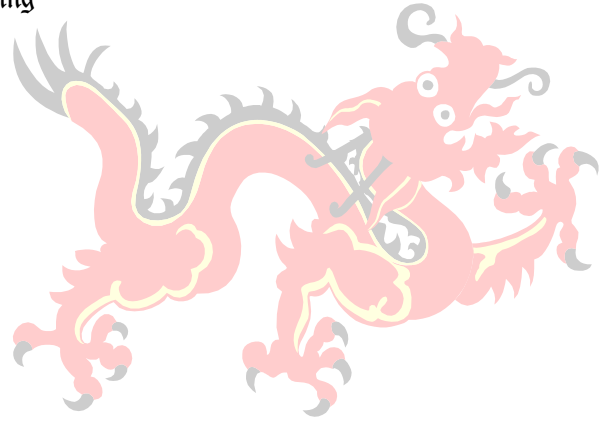
4) 6 in 4th throw

- a) The headboard of a young bull.
Great good fortune.

- b) This brings joy.

The headboard of a young bull was a way of disarming a bull when it was still small by fixing a board onto its head. This line means you will be able to disarm somebody at an early stage and thereby gain an easy victory. This will prevent trouble later on.

- 5) 6 in 5th throw
- a) The tusks of a castrated pig.
Good fortune.
- b) This brings blessing.



This is an indirect way of restraining wild force, you will find a way to do it and this brings good fortune.

- 6) 9 at the top
- a) What is the road to heaven? Success.
- b) The way of the great.

This means that your attitude is correct and your position is correct. This brings success.

27 PROVIDING NOURISHMENT



MOUNTAIN (KEEPING STILL)

THUNDER (SHOCK)



Thunder below the mountain.

IMAGE

Providing nourishment.
Perseverance brings
good fortune.
Seeing nourishment
being provided
begins by seeking food.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Thunder under
the mountain.
Providing nourishment.
A wise man uses
carefully chosen words,
to provide information,
and sets limits to
his eating and drinking.

The six lines look like an open mouth. Providing nourishment is related to mouths by the eating of food but it is also related to mouths by words that provide information. Words come out of the mouth and food goes in. The advice in the image is that you must first get the thing that you want to provide. This sounds obvious but many people just talk and provide nothing. The other advice is to be careful about what you say and also to avoid excessive eating and drinking.

27 LINES

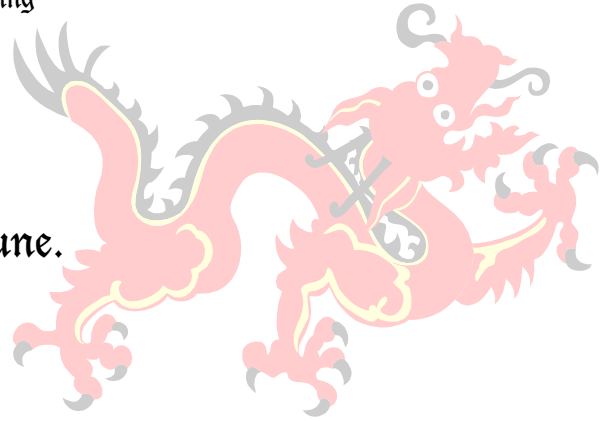


- 1) 9 at the start
 - a) You put your magic tortoise into storage
and then look at me with the corners of your mouth drooping.
Misfortune.
 - b) This is not an honourable attitude.

This is someone who hides their own things away and then looks jealously at other people who have their things out in open view.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
 - a) Jaws dropping.
Breaking laws and heading for the hills.
Jaws punishing.
Misfortune.
 - b) Tempted to forget his place.

This is someone who thinks that they can obtain things easily by breaking some rules. They end up being punished.



3) 6 in 3rd throw

a) Rejecting jaws.
Perseverance brings misfortune.
Do not use for ten years.
Nothing favourable.

b) Rebelling against the way.

This is a strong warning against being negative or opposing something good. If you cling to the wrong side you will end up in a bad position.

4) 6 in 4th throw

a) Jaws dropping.
Good fortune.
Looking around with the eyes of a hungry tiger.
No blame.

b) This brings enlightenment.

If you look carefully, in the direction of finding the things you need, you might find something useful.



5) 6 in 5th throw

a) *Opposing the laws.*

*Perseverance in staying home brings good fortune.
Avoid planning to go out.*

b) *Follow this quietly.*

Sometimes it is not the right time to provide nourishment. If you are involved in opposition to something, now is not the time to be active, you should stay home and keep quiet.

6) 9 at the top

a) *The source of nourishment.*

*Awareness of danger brings good fortune.
Providing nourishment brings good fortune.*

b) *It has great blessing.*

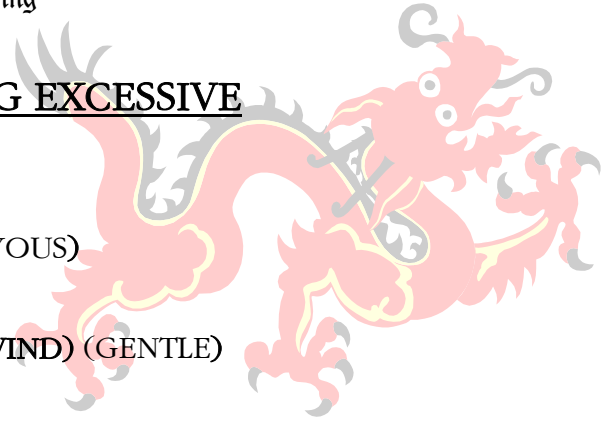
Here is a situation where you are a source of nourishment to the people. This is a position that will bring you good fortune provided you are careful. If you are very careful you can do dangerous things and succeed. This may be necessary sometimes.

28 BECOMING EXCESSIVE



LAKE (JOYOUS)

WOOD (WIND) (GENTLE)



A large puddle on the roof.

IMAGE

Becoming excessive.
The ridgepole bending
to the breaking point.
Perseverance in a plan
brings success.

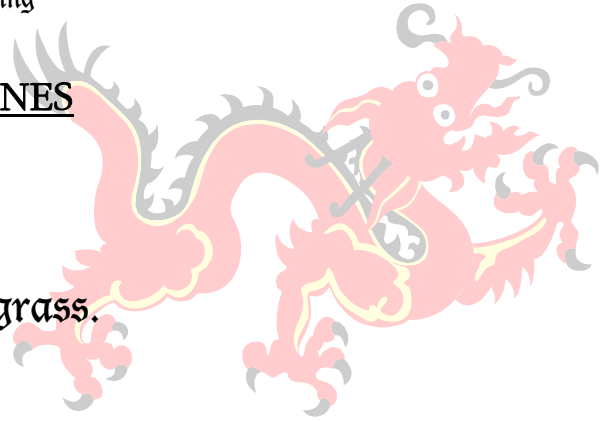
SYMBOL TRADITION

Trees under a lake.
Excessively deep.
A wise man
does not fear
standing alone,
and is not sad,
even if he must leave
the world behind.

This is one of the chapters that deal with times of transition and change. Here, there are too many strong lines crammed into the middle, and this leads to a sudden change after a build up of tension, when something, or someone, suddenly breaks or gives way.

In terms of situations with people, there may be some type of power struggle involved, but probably not conducted through violence. The situation is brought to an end by applying extra pressure on the weakest point. You can then stand back while it collapses. This is the point where you might have to stand alone for a while, and it could even be that it is your withdrawal that causes the collapse.

28 LINES



- 1) 6 at the start
 - a) A mat made of white thatch=grass.
No blame.
 - b) The yielding is underneath.

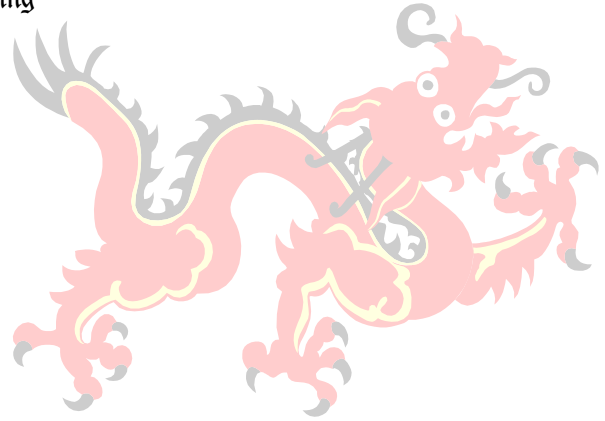
This line represents somebody being careful. This is always a good idea and not a mistake.

Confucius said about this line:

“It does well enough simply to place something on the floor. But if one puts white rushes underneath how could that be a mistake? This is the extreme of caution. Rushes in themselves are worthless but they can have a very important effect. If one is as cautious as this in all that one does one remains free of mistakes.”

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
 - a) A withered willow sprouts a new shoot.
An older man takes a wife.
Everything favourable.
 - b) The unusual situation results from mutual association.

This line represents a person who makes a new start in life with a younger wife. You can do well as a result of being in a situation where you are paying attention to the young and lowly. Everything favourable means that you will come through the difficulties into a better situation.

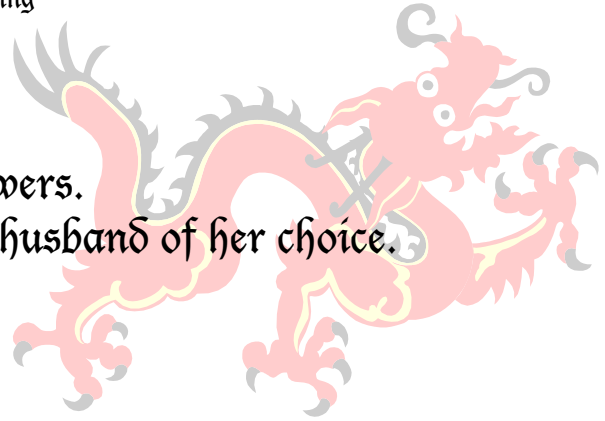


- 3) 9 in 3rd throw
- a) The ridgepole breaks.
Misfortune.
- b) It finds no support.

This line represents an obstinate person who will not be flexible. In unusual times the load becomes unbearable and they break in some way. This eventually brings the whole situation to an end.

- 4) 9 in 4th throw
- a) The ridgepole is crowned.
Good fortune.
If you seek more it is humiliating.
- b) Good fortune depends on support from below.

This means that you have done as well as is possible at this time. If you try too hard you may end up with less and gain only enemies.



5) 9 in 5th throw

a) A withered willow grows flowers.
An older woman marries the husband of her choice.
No blame.
No praise.

b) The long-term prospects are not good.

A withered willow that flowers is an old tree that is having a last fling before it dies. It is unlikely there will be any worthwhile results.

6) 6 at the top

a) Wading through the water.
Sinks completely under it.
Misfortune.
No blame.

b) Temporary mistake.

This line represents somebody who perhaps acts with good intentions but gets into trouble and has a bad time. Life is like this sometimes and you just have to accept it.

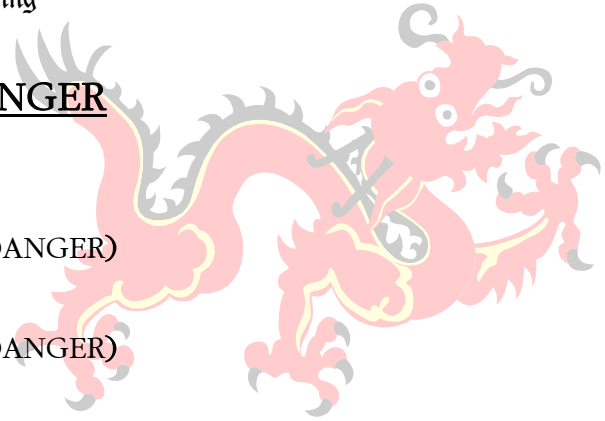
I Ching

29 DANGER



WATER (DANGER)

WATER (DANGER)



Rivers to cross.

IMAGE

Danger repeated.
If your attitude is correct
your spirit is strengthened
and your actions
bring honour.

SYMBOL TRADITION

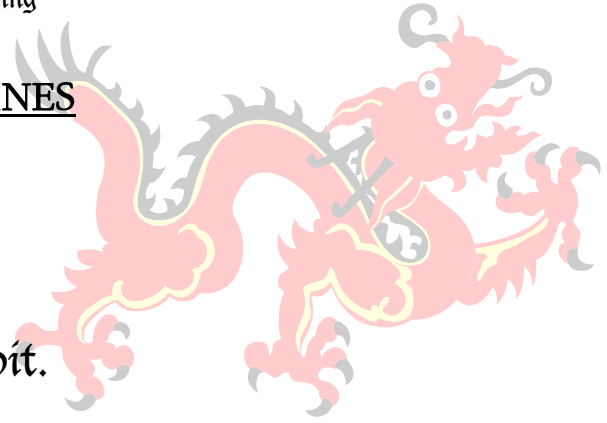
Streams repeatedly full.
Repeating danger.
A wise man
bases his actions
on moral laws,
and uses repetition
when training.

Sometimes there is danger and this chapter is about danger and how you should deal with it. This does not mean a misfortune; it means that you can come through it well providing you deal with it correctly.

There are often dangers that occur during your life. If you have got this chapter it means the danger is not hidden, it will be there to be seen. You will be alright providing that you can deal with it carefully and also bravely.

It is also important that your behaviour is correct at all times.

29 LINES

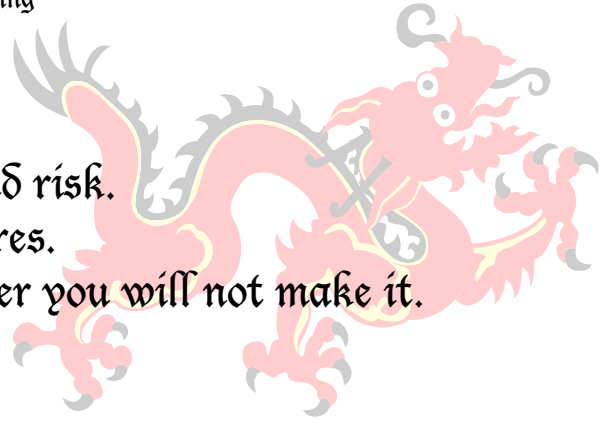


- 1) 6 at the start
 - a) Repetition of danger.
In the danger he falls into a pit.
Misfortune.
 - b) He lost the way; misfortune indeed.

This is someone who has become used to dangerous situations and does not bother to consider precautions or correct behaviour. You can become relaxed and careless and therefore fall into something that might have easily been avoided.

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
 - a) The path is dangerous.
Try for small things only.
 - b) Not yet safe to leave the centre.

This is a strong person who is being restricted by a dangerous position. The advice is to understand the circumstances and realise that this isn't the time to push forward. Keep to small things until the situation is safer.



3) 6 in 3rd throw

- a) Coming and going; danger and risk.
Stop and rest between ventures.
If you get caught in the danger you will not make it.
- b) Achieving nothing.

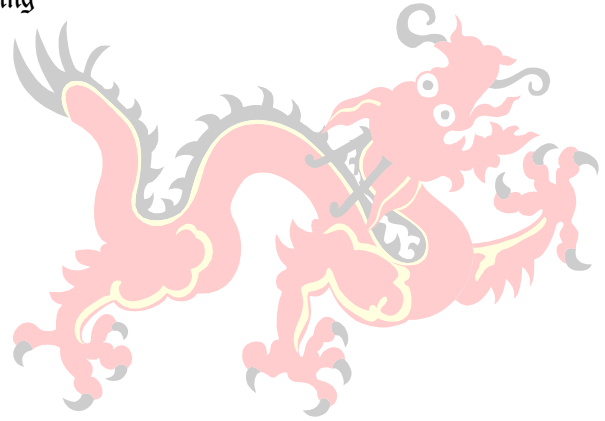
This is somebody who is restless in the face of danger. This is dangerous because any movement will probably get you into trouble. You are advised to rest and relax, until it becomes safer, or until you have a better plan.

4) 6 in 4th throw

- a) A cup, a drink, and a plate.
Put in a container and hauled in through the window.
No blame in this.
- b) A friend indeed.

This is a picture of a sincere relationship expressed in a simple way due to the difficult times. Help and support being provided during a time of danger. Possibly, it might be safer to have goods delivered so that you don't have to go out.

- 5) 9 in 5th throw
- a) The dam is not overflowing.
It is filled to the rim.
No blame.
- b) Not yet great.



This means you are a strong person in a reasonably strong place. The dangers are contained provided you do not stir anything. The advice is not to feel strong and powerful but instead you should only do the minimum. Preferably take no action and wait for the danger to pass. Then there will be no blame.

- 6) 6 at the top
- a) Tied up with rope.
Sentenced by the courts.
For three years he gains nothing.
Misfortune.
- b) He has lost the way.

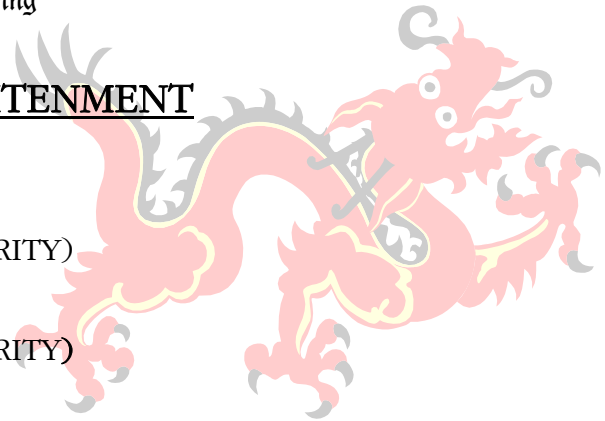
The person represented here has committed serious crimes and is therefore dealt with severely. This brings the time of danger to an end.

30 ENLIGHTENMENT



FIRE (CLARITY)

FIRE (CLARITY)



You look into a fire.

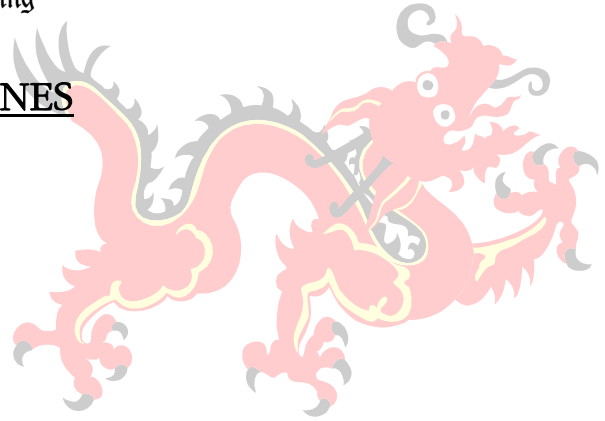
IMAGE

Enlightenment.
Perseverance is favourable.
It brings success.
Following guidance
brings good fortune.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Brightness doubled.
Enlightenment.
Great men use their light
to brighten
the whole world.

The Chinese say that the dark material controls the fire. The image is one of sitting, looking into the fire, thinking, and gaining new insights. The most important meaning of this chapter is that you should be docile and follow guidance. There may be hidden things going on, a secret agenda, or things that cannot be said. Fortunately, you will do well provided you can take a hint or are prepared to do small jobs at short notice. You will be guided by indirect means. To follow guidance is clarity and will lead to enlightenment. The other theme of this chapter is the spreading of enlightenment, and how it is an important function in life, and a sign of greatness.

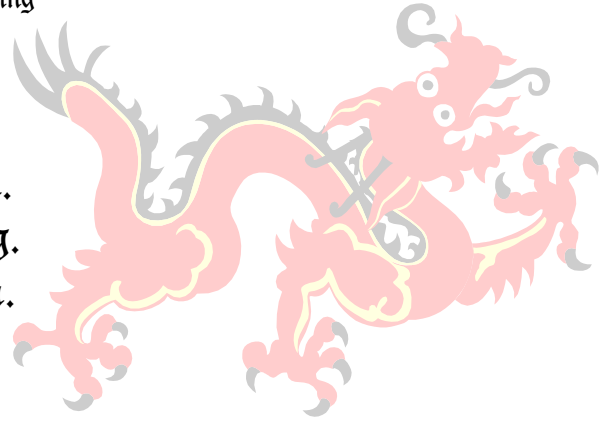


- 1) 9 at the start
 - a) Wiping away the footprints.
If there is respect; no blame.
 - b) Casting out fault.

This is a situation where you see the need to do something even though it is not really your responsibility. If it is done in a careful and respectful way then it will not wrong to do it.

- 2) 6 at 2nd throw
 - a) Yellow light.
Supreme good fortune.
 - b) He has found the middle way.

Inner clarity shows; like a ray of sunshine lights up the surroundings. The middle way means that a correct attitude brings you good fortune.

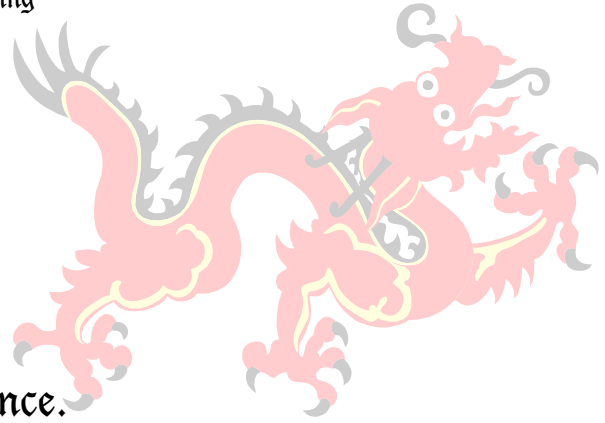


- 3) 9 in 3rd throw
- a) In the light of the setting sun.
Beating the drum and singing.
Or lamenting like an old man.
Misfortune.
- b) How long can this last?

Enlightenment should not mean withdrawing from all social activities, but excessive drinking, and pointless holidays are not recommended either. True enlightenment sees the value in all things and does not withdraw from life.

- 4) 9 in 4th throw
- a) Bursting in this way.
Burning that way.
Dying this way.
Thrown out that way.
- b) Nowhere this would be tolerated.

This is a situation where rushing into something impatiently, without careful thought, rapidly leads to serious problems. This could have been avoided but once the problems occur the end is inevitable.



- 5) 6 in 5th throw
- a) Tears in floods.
Sadness like mourning.
Good fortune.
- b) Enlightenment of a noble prince.

A modest and unhappy person attracts help. This brings good fortune.

- 6) 9 at the top
- a) A king has to make use of punishments.
This is correct.
Remove the leader but leave the followers untouched.
- b) This brings the country to order.

If you need to go out on a punishment mission you should only punish the leaders. There is no need to punish people just for being on the wrong side as this would be excessive, in this situation, and would just start further trouble.

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31 INFLUENCE



LAKE (JOYOUS)

MOUNTAIN (KEEPING STILL)



A lake on a mountain.

IMAGE

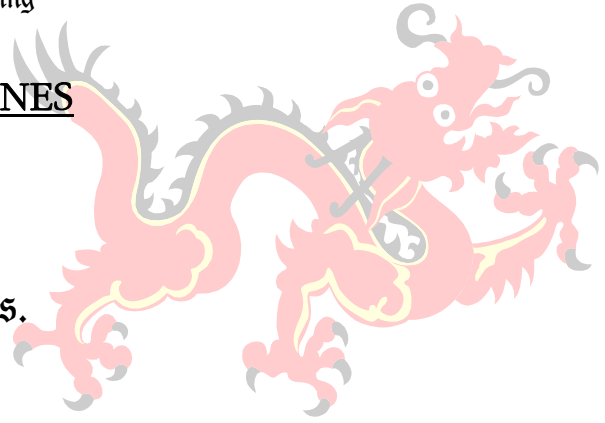
Influence, success.
Perseverance is favourable.
Understanding people
of the opposite sex
brings good fortune.

SYMBOL TRADITION

On the mountain there
is a lake. Influence.
A wise man avoids
prejudice in order to
relate with all people.

The type of influence described here is one where someone decides that they like you. The text mainly stresses understanding as the important factor. With understanding you approach people correctly and you also understand their approach. People are attracted to someone who they find to be understanding and free from prejudice. This kind of influence is favourable.

31 LINES



- 1) 6 at the start
- a) Influence between the big toes.
- b) What you wish for is outside.

Here someone is influenced to go out by a desire for something.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
- a) The influence shows itself in the calves of the legs.
Misfortune.
Staying in brings good fortune.
- b) No harm from staying indoors.

This means that following a desire will lead you into trouble. You should resist your feelings and keep away or stay at home.



3) 9 in 3rd throw

a) The influence shows itself in your thighs.
Keeping to your religion.
The time of regret is passed.

b) Influenced to follow.

This means that it is right to leave behind a way of life that you feel is wrong. If you feel influenced to go another way you can put the past behind you.

4) 9 in 4th throw

a) Perseverance brings good fortune.
Remorse disappears.
Worrying, worrying; going, coming.
You only have to wish and companions will follow.

b) Not yet great or important.

This means that if you try to influence people in a planned way you will do less well than if you just allow things to go naturally. All you need to do are the obvious things at the obvious times.

Confucius said about this line:

“What need has nature for thought and care? In nature all things return to their common source and are distributed along different paths; through one action the fruits of a hundred thoughts are realised. What need has nature of thought, of care?”



- 5) 9 in 5th throw
- a) The influence shows in the shoulders.
No remorse.
- b) Determined to the last.

Here, there is a strong and correct influence, combined with enough thought and enough determination to bring about the desired end.

- 6) 6 at the top
- a) The influence shows itself
in the jaws, cheeks, and tongue.
- b) He opens his mouth and talks.

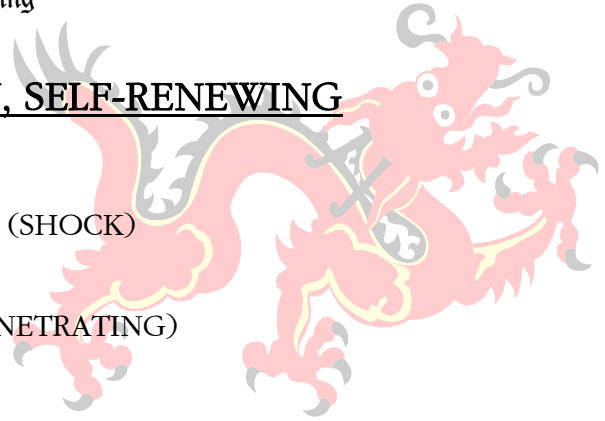
This is a person who tries to influence people with words. Talking is easy so no-one takes much notice.

32 PERPETUATION, SELF-RENEWING



THUNDER (SHOCK)

WIND (PENETRATING)



Thunder and wind occur together and strengthen each other.

IMAGE

Perpetuation, success.
No Blame.
Perseverance brings
good fortune.

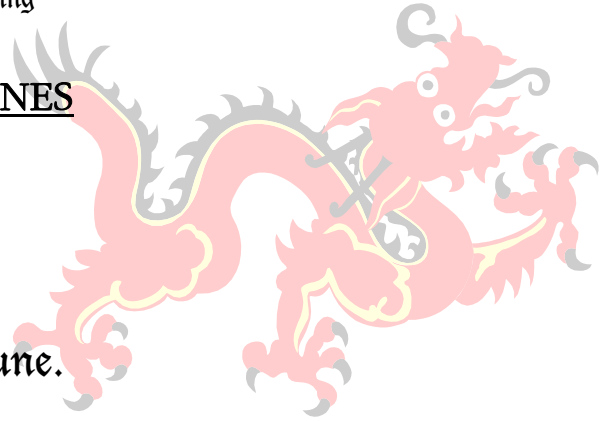
SYMBOL TRADITION

Thunder and wind.
Perpetuation.
A wise man seeks
stability and does not
go around changing
his mind.

This chapter is about the everlasting marriage between the thunder and the wind. For a marriage to be truly long lasting each partner must strengthen the other.

The advice given in this chapter is that situations that will last are favourable. Sudden changes of direction are not favourable at this time.

32 LINES



- 1) 6 at the start
 - a) Diving into deep water.
Perseverance brings misfortune.
 - b) Getting in too deep at the beginning brings misfortune.

Impatience often ruins things that might have turned out well if they had been given time to develop properly. Here it leads to trouble.

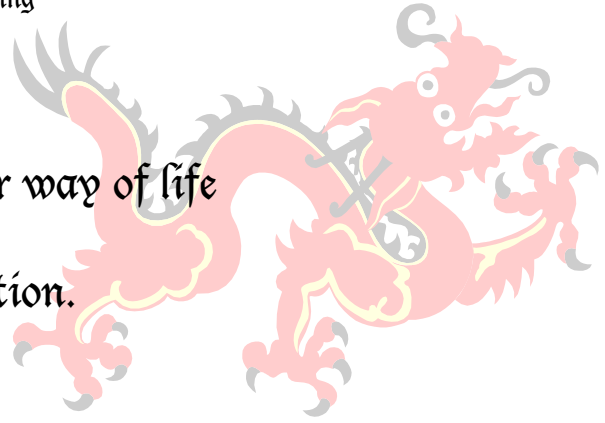
- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
 - a) Remorse disappears.
 - b) Able to maintain stability permanently.

This means that you may have been unhappy previously but you will become happier due to a stable new situation.

3) 9 in 3rd throw

a) If there is no stability in your way of life you may end up ashamed.
Perseverance brings humiliation.

b) He meets with no toleration.



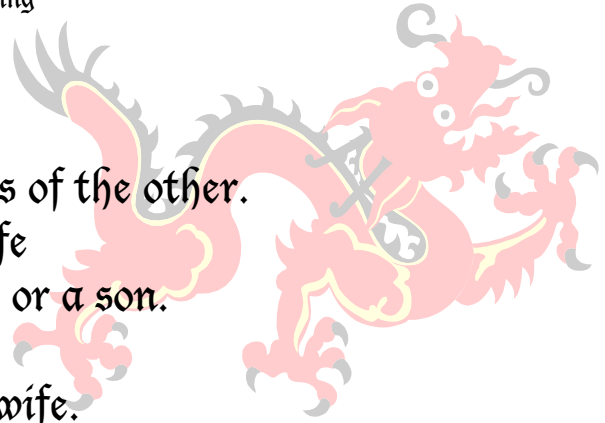
This is someone who is excitable and superficial and they go in wrong directions, make mistakes, and get themselves into trouble.

4) 9 in 4th throw

a) There are no wild birds in the fields.

b) Not a lasting situation; wild birds come to a quiet place.

This is a situation where you must wait quietly and take a long-term view. Sometimes you may think you are in the wrong place, or on the wrong path, but here it is just a temporary problem and you only need to be patient.



- 5) 6 in 5th throw
- a) Working to adapt to the ways of the other.
This is good fortune for a wife
but misfortune for a husband or a son.
- b) A man should not follow his wife.

A man normally has work, or other duties, outside of personal relationships. If a wife decides to follow her husband it is a good thing. However, if a man adapts his life to suit his wife, or his mother, it may not turn out so well.

- 6) 6 at the top
- a) Perpetual excitement.
Misfortune.
- b) Restlessness achieves nothing.

Some people are always restless and in a hurry. This makes them careless and not thorough. They then rush into things that are best left alone and never complete anything worthwhile.

33 RETREAT



HEAVEN (STRENGTH)

MOUNTAIN (KEEPING STILL)



The sky retreats above the mountain.

IMAGE

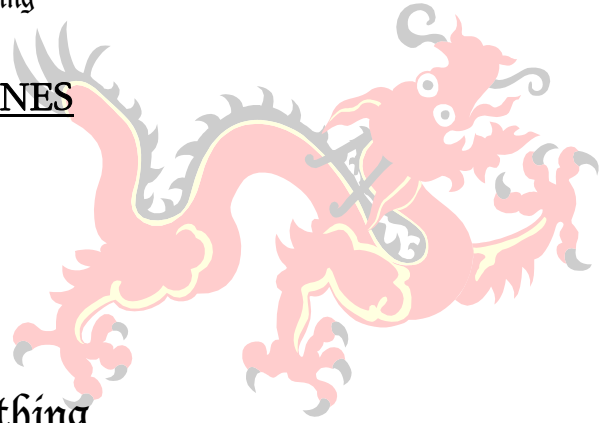
Retreat.
Success.
In small things
perseverance is
favourable.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Above a mountain there is
heaven. Retreat.
A wise man keeps his
distance from evil people
by being remote;
not by anger and threats.

No matter how high the mountain the sky is always higher. A retreat must be done at the right time and in the right way. The retreat should be a calm withdrawal and preferably not look like a retreat. This is why the image advises against anger; it is best to disguise your intentions. A retreat is not a defeat instead it is a move designed to improve your position and timing during a period of possible conflict.

33 LINES

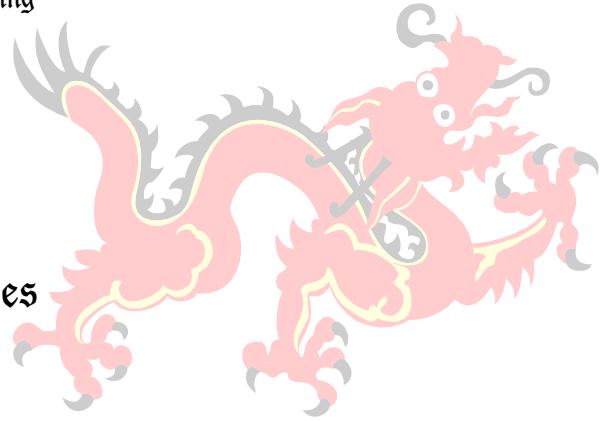


- 1) 6 at the start
 - a) At the tail in a retreat.
This is dangerous.
You must not wish to do anything.
 - b) Not going – how can there be a calamity then?

It is dangerous to be at the back of a retreat since the danger is closest and there is no one to give a warning. It is important, in this situation, not to do anything that is not necessary. Keep quiet and stay alert.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
 - a) He holds on to it with yellow leather.
Nobody can tear him loose.
 - b) firmly resolved.

If you are determined enough it may be possible to avoid a retreat by firmly standing your ground and sticking to your position. This predicts that you could hold on but it may be a difficult time and you will need to be strong.



3) 9 in 3rd throw

- a) Family retreat.
Hatred and danger.
Sustaining servants and slaves
brings good fortune.

- b) Distressing times do not produce great deeds.

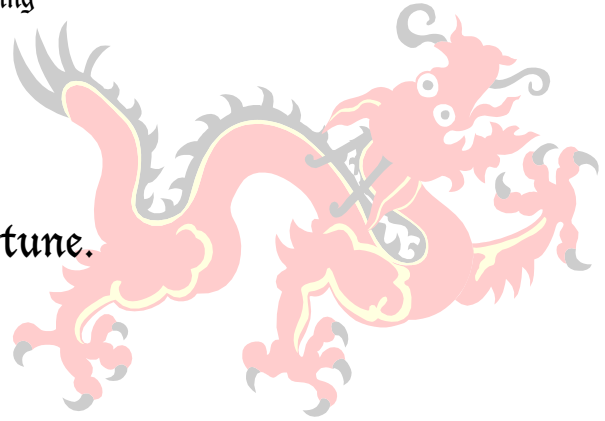
During a time of retreat there are hard times and dangers. The advice given here is that you should look after those people who need it, and would expect it, such as your family, and that you should concentrate only on this, and do not try to do other work as well.

4) 9 in 4th throw

- a) Loving retreat.
Good fortune for a wise man.
The evil people are obstructed.

- b) A wise man gracefully retreats and his opponents are silenced.

This is a situation where your retreat brings about the defeat of your opponents. A graceful retreat at the correct time can wrong-foot the opposition and allow you to gain the upper hand; sometimes without you having to even acknowledge the existence of your opponents.



- 5) 9 in 5th throw
- a) Praiseworthy retreat.
Perseverance brings good fortune.
- b) Wishing to act correctly.

If you feel that it is correct to retreat, even though you are not forced to, then you should do what you feel to be correct. This will produce good results later.

- 6) 9 at the top
- a) fertile retreat.
Everything will be favourable.
- b) Without cause for concern.

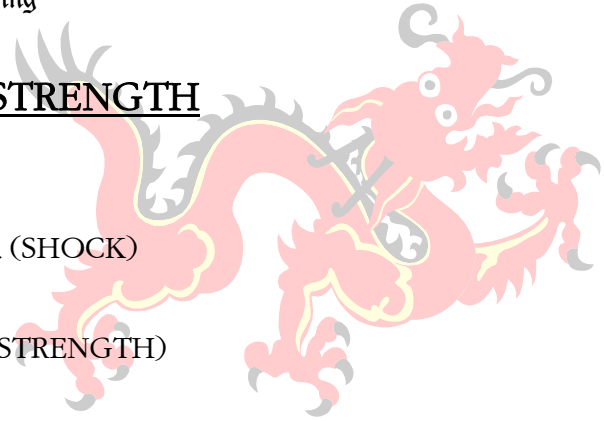
Your retreat leads to a better situation than the one that you will be leaving behind.

34 GREAT STRENGTH



THUNDER (SHOCK)

HEAVEN (STRENGTH)



A rumble of thunder.

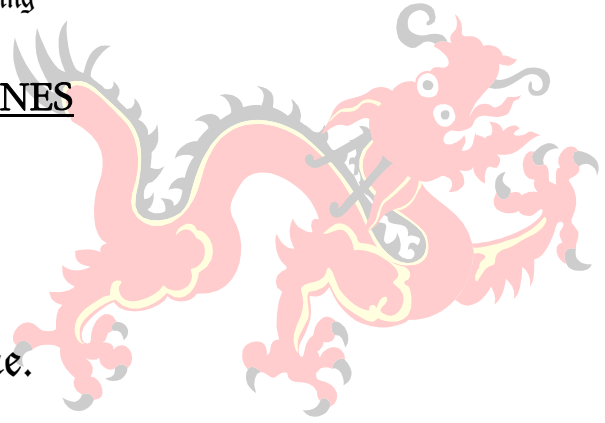
IMAGE

Great strength.
Perseverance favourable.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Thunder in heaven.
Great strength.
A wise man never
does anything that
is out of order.

The idea behind this chapter is that you may be tempted to use your strength beyond what is reasonable. Things will turn out to be best if you restrain yourself and constantly check that your behaviour is correct. If you are powerful you can afford to pause. Patience is the type of perseverance that is favourable. Strength must be saved for the right time and the right cause.



- 1) 9 at the start
- a) Strength in the feet.
Punishing leads to misfortune.
This is certainly true.
- b) You go too far.

You may have been annoyed by somebody and feel like going out to find them and punish them. There are reasons why you should not do this, so you should calm down and think more carefully.

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
- a) Perseverance brings good fortune.
- b) It is a central position.

This means that your attitude is correct, and your situation is correct, and good fortune will result from this.



3) 9 in 3rd throw

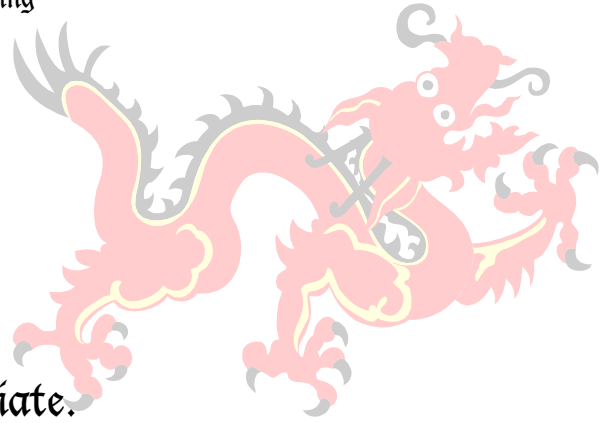
- a) The common person works through strength.
A wise man lets things go.
Perseverance brings danger.
A goat butts into a fence and damages its horns.
- b) A wise man releases.

Anyone can use their strength but only wise people know when they should not use it. If you use power unreasonably it may cause a backlash that does you harm.

4) 9 in 4th throw

- a) Perseverance brings good fortune.
Remorse disappears.
The hedge gives way there is no entanglement.
- b) Moving forward.

The obstacles and resistances begin to give way and you can slowly move forward. Strength should be used slowly and carefully while holding things together. Strength should not be used impatiently in an attempt to speed things up.



- 5) 6 in 5th throw
- a) *Losing the goat:
Becoming less stubborn.
There will be no regrets.*
- b) *The situation is not appropriate.*

This represents a person who decides not to be obstinate and stubborn. They become happier as a result. Sometimes people hide behind a hostile front but here it is not needed.

- 6) 6 at the top
- a) *A goat that butts against a hedge gets its horns entangled.
No way this is helpful; hard work to get free.*
- b) *Not a long-lasting mistake.*

This is an obstinate attitude that leads to trouble. By using your strength unwisely you can get into a situation that is difficult, and troublesome, and hard to get out of.

I Ching

35 PROGRESS



FIRE (CLARITY)

EARTH (DEVOTED)



The Sun rises over the earth.

IMAGE

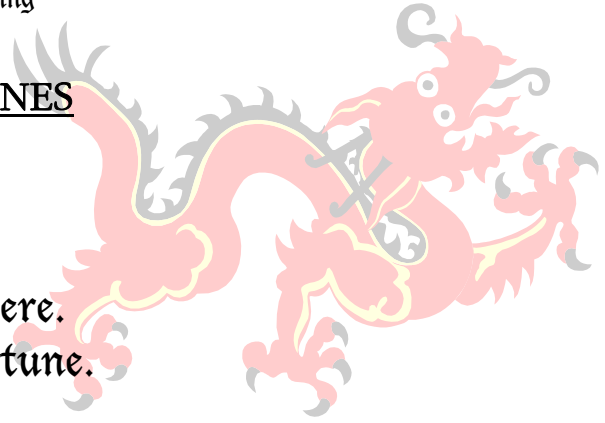
Progress; the noble lord
gives away horses
in order to strengthen
his people.
Three days of sunshine.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Brightness shining over
the earth. Progress.
A wise man uses
his Inner Light
to brighten his path.

This is a very favourable situation. The sun is shining. A wise ruler has able and devoted helpers. There is progress on all sides.

35 LINES



1) 6 at the start

a) Progress here, forced back there.
Perseverance brings good fortune.
Some things must be lost.
Gaining without blame.

b) You need not bow to fate.

Sometimes progress is difficult and uneven but you should not be discouraged by the problems. This line suggests that some losses are inevitable but you will do well if you carry on and persevere.

2) 6 in 2nd throw

a) Progressing here.
Worrying there.
Perseverance brings good fortune.
Making peace from a strong position brings blessing.
Becoming a leader and a provider.

b) Gaining the middle ground is correct.

After a time of difficulties, where progress was hard and dangerous, there comes a new time where you can make peace and gain stability. Then you can make real progress and also help other people to make progress.

3) 6 in 3rd throw

a) Many people have confidence in you.
Remorse disappears.

b) There is agreement.



You will make progress with help from other people because of your previous good behaviour and attitude.

4) 9 in 4th throw

a) Progress like a rodent.
Perseverance brings danger.

b) Not the right situation.

Some people cannot resist getting all possible advantages out of a good situation. Going too far leads to trouble.

5) 6 in 5th throw

- a) Remorse disappears.
 Letting go brings freedom from worries.
 Good fortune will come.
 Everything will be favourable.



b) Your works bring blessing.

Here you are the ruler in a time of progress. You are in the centre of the 'great light' (the 5th line is the middle of the 'Fire' trigram). You might feel that you have not pushed strongly enough, and that you could have done better, or you may feel that you did not try hard enough to keep hold of things that were lost. Actually, you have attained a good position, and you should not have to regret anything.

6) 9 at the top

- a) Making progress using the horns.
 Used for punishing your people.
 When facing danger good fortune and no blame.
 Perseverance brings humiliation.

b) This way is not in the light.

This is another warning; a strong person in a time of progress may go too far. You may use your strength unreasonably and be hard on people who mean well and are trying to help you. It is right to use strength when it is needed but if you act this way out of habit, at times when it is not necessary, a bad end will result.

36 DARKENING



EARTH (DEVOTED)

FIRE (CLARITY)



The light is under the earth.

IMAGE

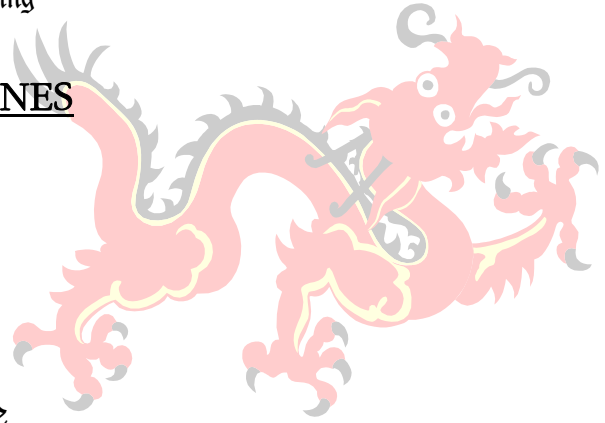
Darkening.
hard work and ordeals.

SYMBOL TRADITION

The light is under
the earth. Darkening.
A wise man joins with
the people to make
best use of the darkening
and the eventual brightening.

This is a bad situation. It means that you suffer hard times due to the actions of evil people. You are forced to keep your head down, and to disappear amongst the crowds, and you cannot be how you would wish to be. You may have to suffer poverty, and do hard work, and there is a possibility of attacks and even physical injury. The advice given here is to be strong within and to persevere, since you will survive the hard times, and then the light will return.

36 LINES



- 1) 9 at the start
 - a) Darkening affects flying.
He lowers his wings.
A wise man prepares to move.
He does not eat for three days.
But he has a plan.
The light of nobility.
People will speak of this.
 - b) You go without because of your principles.

This is a situation where you run into trouble and have to change your plans under pressure. Stay at home and make preparations. It is best to stick to your principles and go hungry rather than eat without honour. Your refusal may be noticed and spoken about, and held up as an example to others, once the troubles are over.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
 - a) Darkening. Tending to weaken the left thigh.
Rescued by the strength of a horse.
Spirited strength brings good fortune.
 - b) They yield as a result.

Here you are able to help overcome the dark forces by putting up some strong resistance. There may be some help when needed. Good fortune is predicted providing you are determined enough and do not give up.



3) 9 in 3rd throw

- a) Darkness heading towards the light, hunting.
Your leader acquires greatness.
Affliction is not permitted.
- b) The truth was hunted and greatness was acquired.

This means you will find that you are in a position to make decisive moves against those who are causing the darkening. This will lead to victory but it may still take some time before the dark forces lose their power completely.

4) 6 in 4th throw

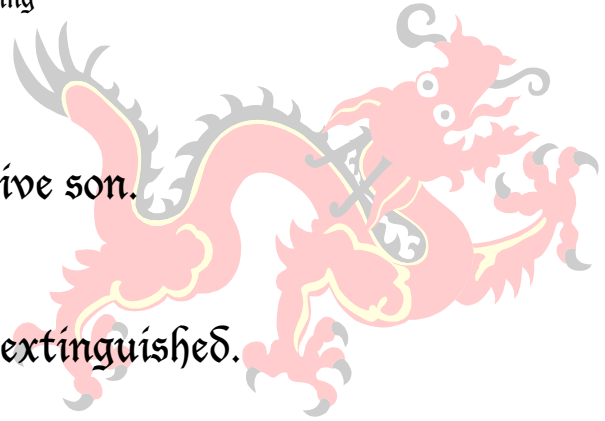
- a) Entering towards the left side of the body.
Getting to the heart of the darkness.
Prompted to leave.
- b) Catching on to their heart's intentions.

Something happens that reveals to you the nature of somebody's true attitude and intentions. This makes clear the real nature of your problems and therefore you may decide that it is time for you to go.

5) 6 in 5th throw

a) The darkening of the perceptive son.
Perseverance is favourable.

b) His enlightenment cannot be extinguished.



This could be about someone who understands the situation but they are not free to show their opposition and therefore appear to be bad or mad. The advice here is that their perseverance will win through in the end.

If this is not your situation, it may be that somebody who you know needs your help, but perhaps cannot say so openly, and you may have been puzzled by their behaviour.

6) 6 at the top

a) Not light but darkness.
At first rising up towards heaven.
Then diving towards the earth.

b) Turning downwards out of control.

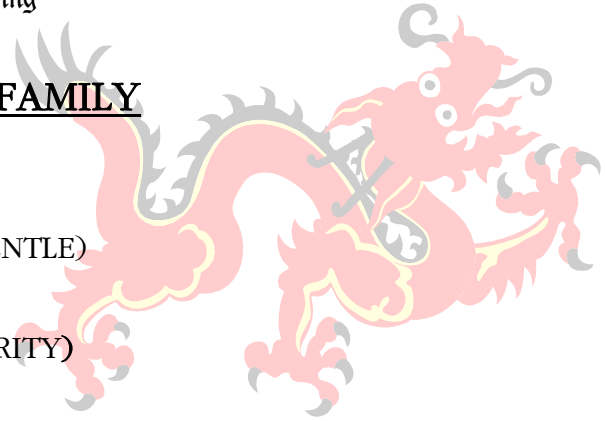
The time of darkness comes to an end, eventually, due to the collapse of the evil that caused it. The dark forces will 'bite the dust' in the end.

37 THE FAMILY



WIND (GENTLE)

FIRE (CLARITY)



Wind and fire strengthen each other.

IMAGE

The perseverance
of the women
is favourable.

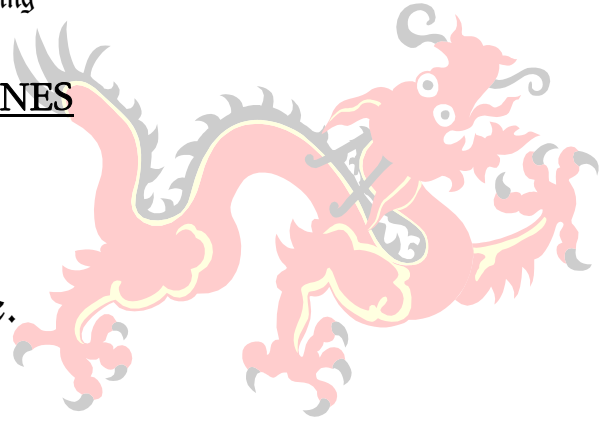
SYMBOL TRADITION

Wind comes from
the heat of a fire.
The family.
A wise man influences
people with his words
and motivates them so
that they can persevere.

The relationship between wind and fire is such that they reinforce each other. This is how it should be for the members of a family. A family persists through time and your words and deeds should reflect a long-term view. You should influence your family through your words and not with severity and force. You should encourage correct behaviour, and attitudes, by providing motivation and rewards.

The image suggests that it is the work of the female members of the family that holds it together and makes it successful.

37 LINES



- 1) 9 at the start
 - a) Enclosing, possessing a home.
Remorse disappears.
 - b) No change of mind.

Settling down to start a family will be correct and it will lead to happy times.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
 - a) Without plans,
providing freedom.
Located at the centre
providing food.
Perseverance brings good fortune.
 - b) Good fortune results from devotion to
providing the foundations.

This is the place of the wife. Things go best for the family if the person in this position is gentle and devoted. This is a responsible position and it should be taken seriously.

3) 9 in 3rd throw

- a) Discipline and severity within the family.
This leads to sorrow
but it is good fortune when danger threatens.
When the wife and son are giggling and foolish,
it leads to humiliation and regret.

- b) The discipline of the house is not yet lost.

In this situation it is important to be firm; even though you do not enjoy having to do it. It would be best, at present, to be over-strict rather than over-lenient.

4) 6 in 4th throw

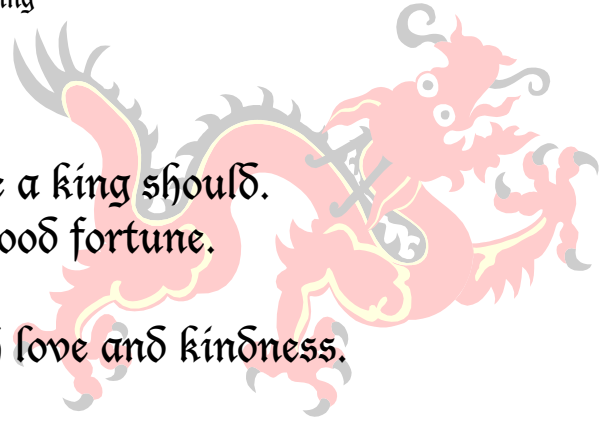
- a) An abundant household.
The greatest of good fortune.
- b) Good fortune results from having flexibility.

This describes having the right people in the right positions and everything goes well and everyone is happy.

5) 9 in 5th throw

a) He approaches his family like a king should.
Caring about people brings good fortune.

b) They associate together with love and kindness.



This is a strong person who guides his family in a kind and caring way. The other members of the family are influenced by good character not by severity.

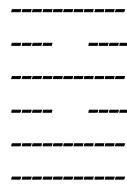
6) 9 at the top

a) His work commands respect.
In the end good fortune comes.

b) You make demands on yourself first.

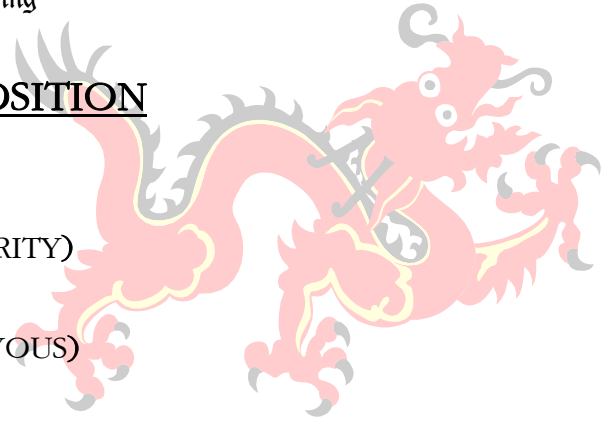
The line at the top is the senior member of the family; the head of the household who earns the respect of the others by setting them a good example.

38 OPPOSITION



FIRE (CLARITY)

LAKE (JOYOUS)



Fire on the lake.

IMAGE

*In small matters
good fortune.*

SYMBOL TRADITION

*Fire above lake below.
Opposition.
A wise man unites things
and also divides things.*

In this chapter the image has two opposing halves, the fire and the lake, which will not mix and have opposing properties and a surface boundary in between.

Opposing attitudes make things difficult and cause problems. The advice given here is to deal with small things only until the time of opposition is over. Large matters should be postponed.

Times of opposition can be important since they often lead to changes which can be of lasting benefit.

38 LINES



1) 9 at the start

a) Remorse disappears.

If you lose your horse do not run after it.

It will come back of its own accord.

When you see evil people avoid making a mistake.

b) When thinking of evil people give orders that are correct.

This describes a situation where you are upset by the apparent loss of something or somebody. The loss is not real, it will only be temporary and the important thing is not to provoke other troubles while you are annoyed and worried. If you over-react, or make accusations that you cannot prove, this will probably cause trouble and opposition which could have been avoided.

2) 9 in 2nd throw

a) Meeting a lord in the street.

No blame.

b) You have not lost the way.

A simple and honest meeting is of more value than a false show of politeness and hospitality.

3) 6 in 3rd throw

a) You see the wagon dragged back the oxen halted.
Afflicted and dishonoured.
Interrupted.

b) Interrupted by an unexpected obstruction.



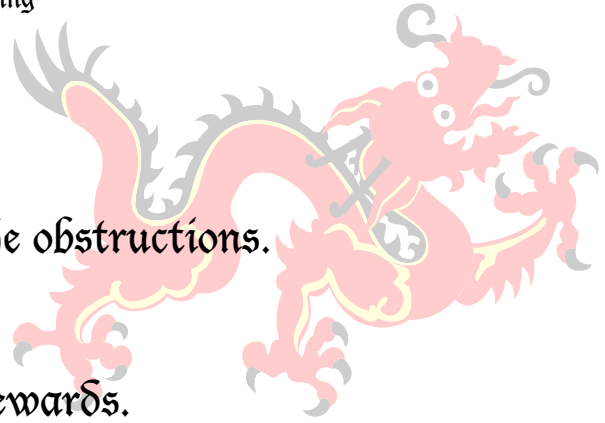
Sometimes there is unexpected opposition and this forces you to stop what you are doing. You will have to wait until the opposition comes to an end.

4) 9 in 4th throw

a) Isolated through opposition.
Meeting unexpected help.
A partnership is inevitable.

b) Motivated by similar objectives.

Through opposition one can become isolated but it then becomes easier to spot your real friends. Like-minded people are drawn together and this can lead to worthwhile things later on.



5) 6 in 5th throw

- a) Remorse disappears.
Your people break through the obstructions.
The time of doubt is over.
- b) Moving forward will bring rewards.

Here there is a breakthrough and the time of opposition comes to an end. There will be no need to worry or hold back so when the breakthrough occurs you will be able to make progress.

6) 9 at the top

- a) Isolated through opposition.
You see the people as pigs smeared with filth.
First you draw a bow but then you lay the bow aside.
He is not a robber he will be a friend.
Like unexpected rain he brings good fortune.
- b) You no longer doubt your friends.

At first the opposition causes people to distrust each other. However, by the time the dangers have passed, they know each other much better and do trust each other.

39 HESITATION



WATER (DANGER)

MOUNTAIN (KEEPING STILL)



Water hesitating to run off a mountain.

IMAGE

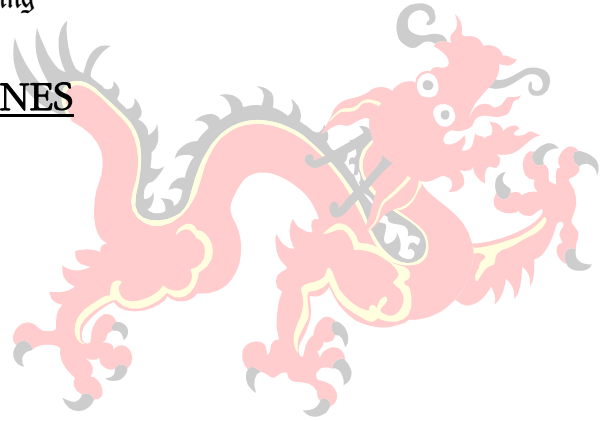
Hesitation.
Favourable in the summer.
Unfavourable in the winter.
Seeing important people
is favourable.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Water on the top of a
mountain. Hesitating.
A wise man
changes himself
to make his way correct.

This chapter comes from the concept of keeping still when seeing danger. On the whole, the advice is not to hesitate. In the heat of the summer it is alright to rest but otherwise you should be getting on with the things that need doing. If you are hesitant you should work to change yourself. If you were wondering whether you should go and see someone important - the answer is yes you should and do not be hesitant.

39 LINES



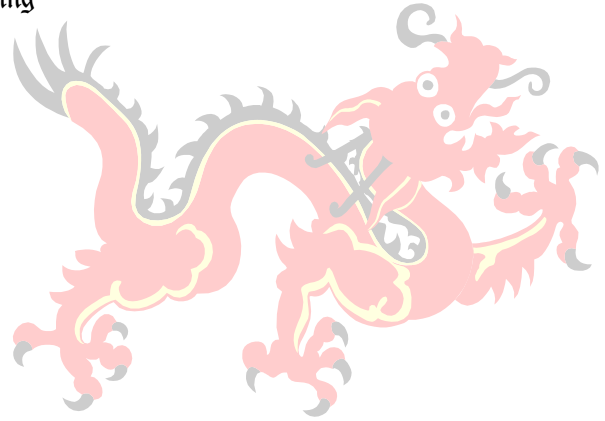
- 1) 6 at the start
- a) *hesitation ending.*
Words of praise to come.
- b) *It was right to wait.*

Sometimes it is correct to hold back and this line indicates that you were right to wait for a while, and that someone will tell you so.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
- a) *A king, a servant; hesitating, hesitating.*
The cause is not physical.
- b) *He completes his work without being excessive.*

Here the hesitation is deliberate and is done in order to be polite and tactful. Providing that all necessary work is being done, this hesitation is correct.

- 3) 9 in 3rd throw
- a) Hesitation ending;
changing for the future.
- b) People are pleased.



A hesitant attitude can lead to many missed opportunities and may be a source of despair to people who care about you. So people would be pleased if you can resolve to stop yourself from procrastinating.

- 4) 6 in 4th throw
- a) Hesitation ending.
Consistency coming.
- b) This will bring results.

Hesitations can prevent a good situation from developing properly. A consistent attitude without any hesitation will be much better.



5) 9 in 5th throw

a) In the middle of great hesitation friends come.

b) They join you at the centre.

If obstructions force you to keep still the people you need to see will come to see you instead.

6) 6 at the top

a) Hesitation ending.

Greatness coming.

Good fortune.

It is favourable to see important people.

b) Following the way of honour.

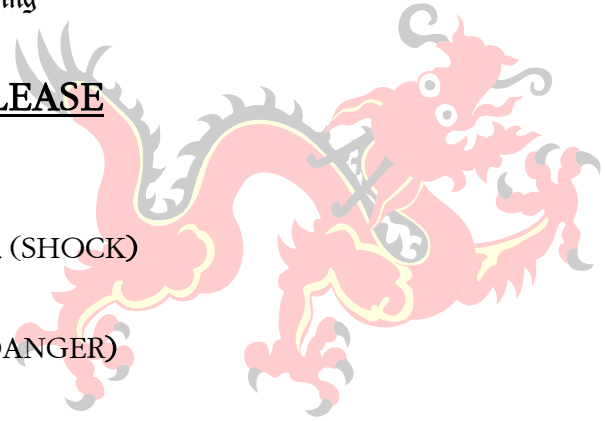
The time of hesitation ends with a new start - providing you stop hesitating and see the right people.

40 RELEASE



THUNDER (SHOCK)

WATER (DANGER)



Thunder and rain.

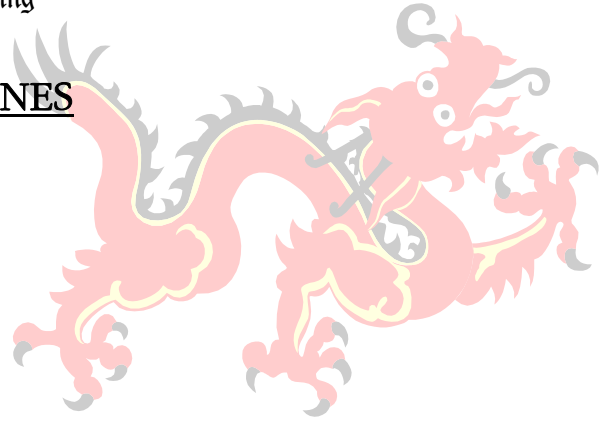
IMAGE

Release.
fruitful like summer.
Homeless no longer.
Return brings
good fortune.
Back on your path.
Daybreak brings
good fortune.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Thunder and rain.
Release.
A wise man is
very forgiving
and pardons offenders.

This chapter is about release, either a physical release from captivity, or a release of tension, like that which occurs after a thunderstorm clears the air. This is a favourable occurrence and therefore good fortune is predicted as the outcome.



- 1) 6 at the start
- a) Without blame.
- b) Righteous and without fault.

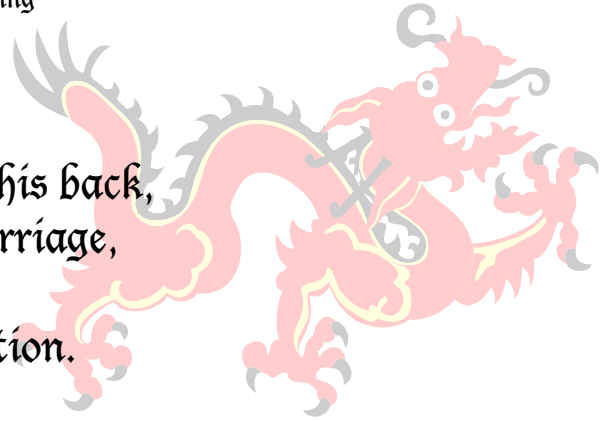
To be without blame, after a time of tension, is very good and things will probably work out better than you expect.

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
- a) Catching three foxes in the field.
Gaining a yellow arrow.
Perseverance brings good fortune.
- b) Gaining the middle way.

The foxes are probably some sly people who have contributed to your problems. Catching them out brings a release from their disturbance to your life.

3) 6 in 3rd throw

- a) If a man carries a burden on his back,
and then rides around in a carriage,
he encourages robbers.
Perseverance brings humiliation.



- b) It is your behaviour that provokes the trouble.

If you display something tempting in public, and create envy, you ask for trouble. You should only display wealth if you have a display of strength in the same measure.

4) 9 in 4th throw

- a) Releasing the hands and feet.
Partnership ending.
- b) The place is not right.

In many cases where you are involved in some kind of relationship there comes a point where all the best things have been done and a decline is bound to follow.

If this is your position the advice is to release yourself from that situation so that you can benefit from the extra freedom that will result.



- 5) 6 in 5th throw
- a) A wise man who is holding firmly has the power of release.
Good fortune.
This is the correct way to deal with unimportant people.
- b) They will retreat when released.

If you are in a strong position you can afford to be lenient. You can let people go and they will go away and not be a problem in the future.

- 6) 6 at the top
- a) The prince releases an arrow at the hawk on the high wall.
He kills it.
Everything is favourable.
- b) Releasing a rebellion.

This line represents, perhaps, a highly placed evil person, the hawk, who you can shoot from below. This brings release.

Confucius said about this line:

“The hawk is the object of the hunt; the bow and arrow are the tools and the means. The marksman is a man who must make proper use of these. The superior man contains the means in his own person. He bides his time and then acts. Why then should everything not go well? He acts and is free. Therefore all he has to do is to go forth and he takes his quarry. This is how a man fares who acts after he has made ready the means.”

41 DECREASE



MOUNTAIN (KEEPING STILL)

LAKE (JOYOUS)



A lake below the mountain.

IMAGE

Decrease is correct.
Supreme good fortune.
If you are without blame
then perseverance is possible.
Your plans can still succeed.
Finding out the causes
will be useful.
Two ceremonial bowls
are all you need for prayers.

SYMBOL TRADITION

A lake below the
mountain. Decrease.
A wise man represses
anger to restrain his
impulses.

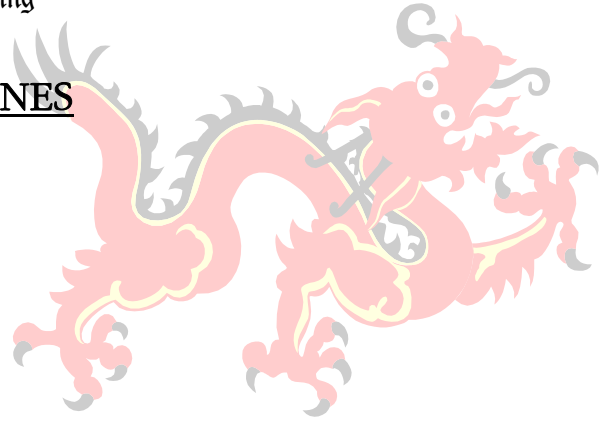
Decrease means a time when there is a decline, or things are more difficult than usual, or less than you hoped for. The advice is directed towards turning things around so that in the longer term the hard times will bring benefits.

You should avoid becoming annoyed and frustrated. Outer stillness and inner happiness should be aimed for. If you overreact to bad news then chances for the future may be lost. By being sincere and showing a good attitude during the hard times good friends will be found and hangers-on will be lost.

The other advice given here is to find out all you can about what has caused the decrease, perhaps to avoid it happening again.

There is a prediction of good fortune, provided you are not to blame for your problems, and provided you behave correctly.

41 LINES

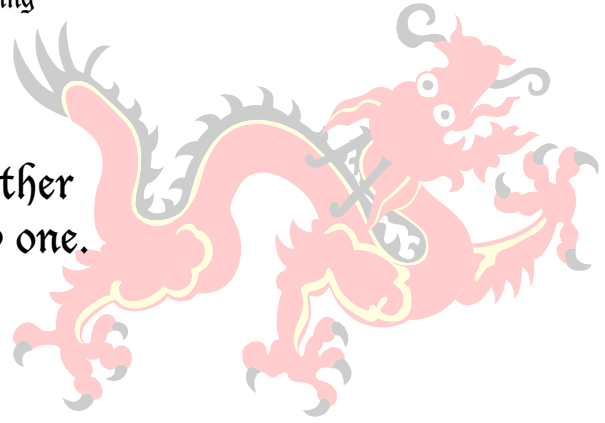


- 1) 9 at the start
 - a) Closing down all business.
Going quickly.
No blame.
Discuss the decrease with others.
 - b) Honouring agreements.

If the decrease is such that it is not possible to continue with normal activities it is not wrong to withdraw for a while. However it is important that you end things properly and consult people before you go. This will be to your advantage later on.

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
 - a) Perseverance is favourable.
Punishing leads to misfortune.
 - b) A moderate position motivates help.

You may be angry and blame others for the decrease but it is important to make progress in positive ways and to resist the temptation to get involved in any pointless disputes about who is to blame.
Being calm and sensible is more likely to attract some help.

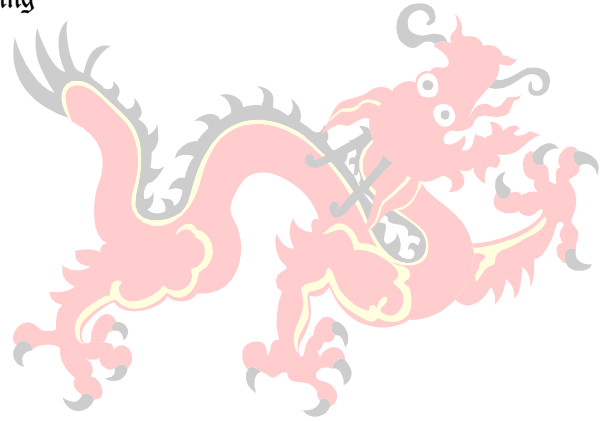


- 3) 6 in 3rd throw
- a) When three people move together
their number will decrease by one.
When one man moves alone
he will gain a friend.
- b) Three is a reason for doubt.

This means that someone will find the situation unbearable and therefore decide to leave. Then they will find a companion.

- 4) 6 in 4th throw
- a) Decreasing his problems.
Getting the work started soon brings joy.
No blame.
- b) It is a cause for joy.

Once the time arrives where it is possible to start work, to recover from the decrease, it is best to get started as soon as possible.



- 5) 6 in 5th throw
- a) Possibility of increasing.
Ten pairs of shields.
Nothing can oppose it.
Supreme good fortune.
- b) Shielded by heaven.

This line means that something lucky will happen. You will be receiving some unexpected good news.

- 6) 9 at the top
- a) Nowhere decreasing, increasing it instead.
Perseverance brings good fortune.
It is favourable to undertake something.
You acquire helpers but no longer have a home of your own.
- b) He attains his will in great measure.

You will be in a position to do well for yourself and to provide work for others. This is good fortune for all concerned.

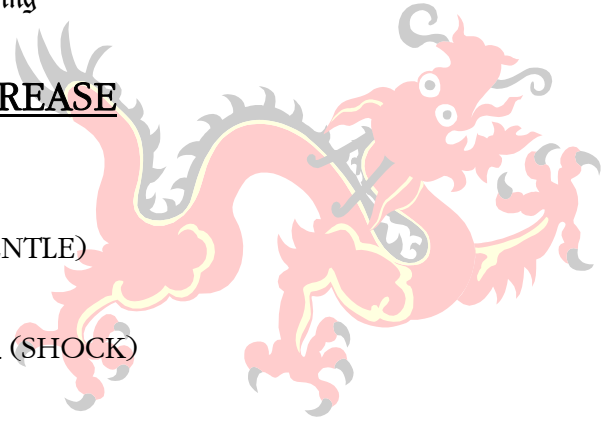
I Ching

42 INCREASE



WIND (GENTLE)

THUNDER (SHOCK)



Thunder and wind bring rain.

IMAGE

Increase.
It is favourable
to work at something
and to take risks.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Wind and thunder.
Increase.
A wise man sees to
reforms and as a result
he rises.
If he has too much
he makes changes.

During a time of increase you can work hard and do well for yourself. This will also be a good time to make reforms and improvements so you should get organised now so that you can make the best use of the favourable times. You should improve yourself, and try to help others, during the time of increase.

42 LINES



- 1) 9 at the start
- a) It favours you to accomplish great deeds.
Supreme good fortune.
No blame.
- b) Lowly affairs do not create abundance.

If you get a chance to do something really useful you should do it, even if there are some difficulties and dangers.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
- a) Possibility of increasing.
Ten pairs of shields.
Nothing can oppose it.
Constant perseverance brings good fortune.
Promotion; moving towards the top.
Good fortune.
- b) This comes from outside.

Help comes from above, as if by luck, but it is also due to the work you have done which has put you in the right position.

3) 6 in 3rd throw

- a) Increase due to unfortunate events.
No blame.
Moving into a central position is correct.
Informing the leadership and using your rank.
- b) Firmly holding on to it.

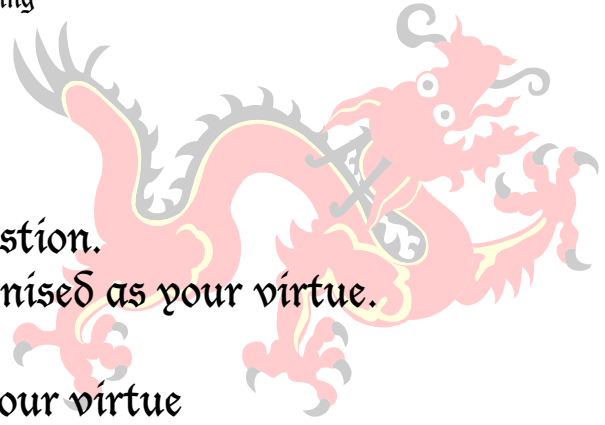


This means that events that would normally be unfortunate bring you unexpected gains instead. This is due to being in the right position at the right time and it is yours providing you handle the situation correctly.

4) 6 in 4th throw

- a) Moving into a central position.
The leadership follows your advice.
Benefits will result from trusting your advice about moving.
- b) Using the desire for increase.

Here you gain a position of influence and this makes it possible for you to convince people that they should make beneficial changes.



5) 9 in 5th throw

a) In truth a kind heart.

Supreme good fortune no question.

Truly, kindness will be recognised as your virtue.

b) If kindness is recognised as your virtue
you will attain your goals completely.

This line represents the ruler; a strong person in a strong place. If they are kind-hearted and recognised as such, the situation is very favourable.

6) 9 at the top

a) Absolutely not increasing it.

Possibly hitting out at it.

Starting with good intentions but lacking perseverance.

Misfortune.

b) They make excuses.

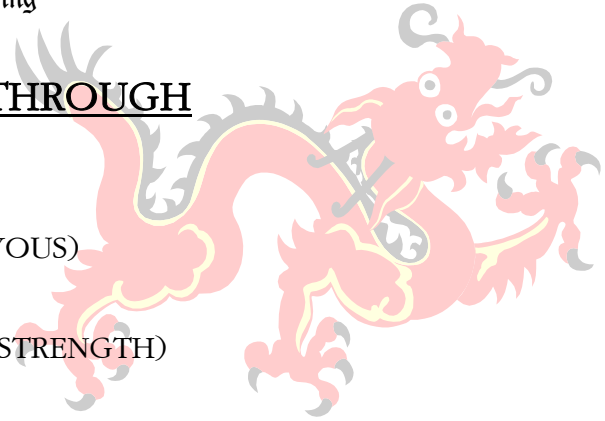
This line represents somebody with a bad attitude who begins things but then lacks the patience necessary to complete anything properly. This can be worse than doing nothing; and in this case misfortune is predicted.

43 BREAKTHROUGH



LAKE (JOYOUS)

HEAVEN (STRENGTH)



The lake is too full.

IMAGE

Breakthrough.
Your publication
reaches the king.
It is correct to cry out
and warn of danger.
Do not resort to arms,
make plans and preparations.

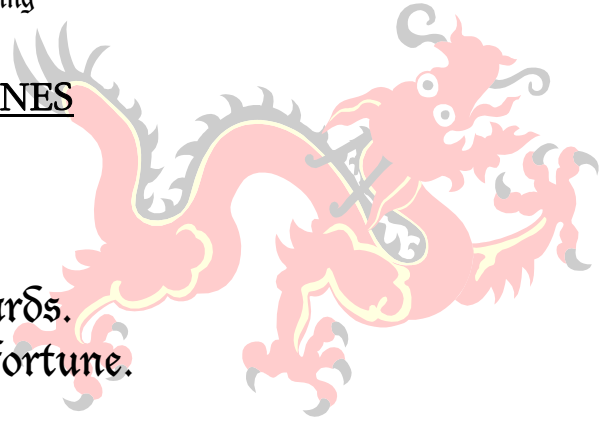
SYMBOL TRADITION

A lake higher than
heaven. Breakthrough.
A wise man distributes
goods in order to reach
those below,
but he remains aloof
so that he can follow
a righteous path.

This is a situation where a bad person, at the top, holds down the good people below. By pushing resolutely the good people will dislodge the bad person completely. This may take some time depending on the exact situation and how resolute the various people are.

There should not be any violence, although there may be times where it seems possible. The way forward is to calmly make progress in positive ways.

43 LINES



- 1) 9 at the start
 - a) Cannot resist stepping forwards.
Going and failing brings misfortune.
 - b) It is a mistake.

It would be a mistake to rush in, to try to sort something out, at this time. In this situation you should try to resist the temptation, or you will get into trouble, or make some kind of mistake.

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
 - a) fear and outcry.
There will not be weapons during the night.
fear nothing.
 - b) A central position; no need to worry.

There is tension and conflict in the air and worrying things happen in various places. The advice in this case is that you do not need to worry despite the apparent dangers.



3) 9 in 3rd throw

a) To speak out would bring misfortune.
A wise man: Breakthrough! Breakthrough!
Going alone, caught in danger.
Stained and abused.
No blame.

b) In the end, no blame.

This represents somebody in a very difficult situation. This is a good person but they are forced by somebody evil to put on a false appearance. This is done by secret means and they dare not speak out. Because of this they appear bad, or mad, and suffer criticism. This may be some kind of blackmail. There is no blame in this person's behaviour but they will need some help to escape or it will continue.

4) 9 in 4th throw

a) The buttocks without flesh.
Now he is moving the camp.
If he would be led like a sheep
remorse would disappear,
but if these words are heard
they will not be believed.

b) If you do not believe, there is no enlightenment.

You only have to let yourself be led along the obvious path and everything would work out fine. Instead, you wear yourself out, worrying and running around unnecessarily.

5) 9 in 5th throw

a) Swamps, highlands: Breakthrough! Breakthrough!
Moving into the centre.
No blame.

b) The centre is not yet in the light.



This describes a situation where you have made progress in many areas and now you will be able, in time, to make the final breakthrough to achieve your objectives.

6) 6 at the top

a) Without crying out.
The end brings misfortune.

b) The end cannot be long.

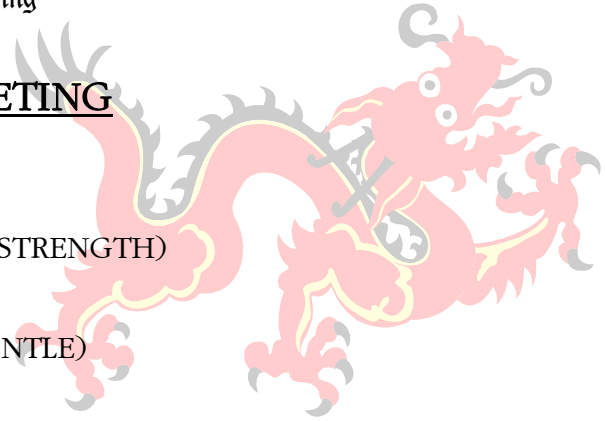
This line represents the hardened evil person at the top who is eventually overcome by the strong people below. This person will probably put up more resistance than might be expected. After a long struggle they go quietly and unexpectedly; this is the breakthrough and it is a misfortune for them.

44 MEETING



HEAVEN (STRENGTH)

WIND (GENTLE)



The wind blows towards you.

IMAGE

Meeting. Sexual attraction
is a strong motivation.
You should not take
a grasping lover.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Below heaven there
is wind. Meeting.
A prince sends out orders
in all directions.

This is a person who comes to seduce you in order to gain control over your life. If someone comes to meet you, and it is not because they are carrying a message from a prince, you should be very suspicious about their motives.

44 LINES



- 1) 6 at the start
 - a) Attached like brakes made of metal.
Perseverance brings good fortune.
Having a plan.
Seeing the problem.
Ruining the pig by infecting its feet.
 - b) Hauling yourself back onto the path.

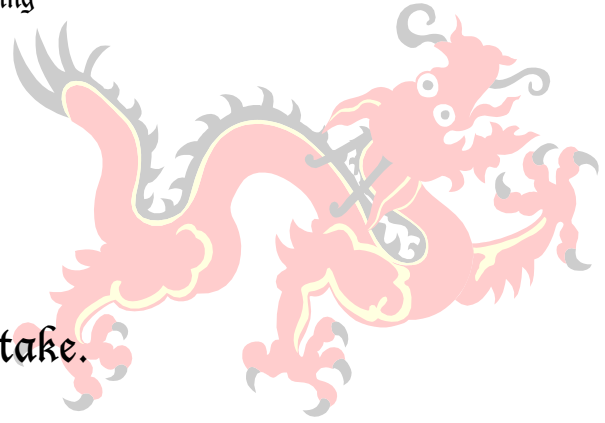
Your prospects can be damaged when you are held back by an attachment to someone unsuitable. This line suggests that you can see the problem and you will be able to find a way to deal with it.

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
 - a) Containing a fish.
No blame.
Not favourable to entertain guests.
 - b) Right to avoid entertaining.

The fish is an evil visitor who is kept carefully under control. If handled politely and tactfully they can be kept away from things, and people, that they might harm. In time they will give up and go away.

3) 9 in 3rd throw

- a) The buttocks without flesh.
Now he is moving the camp.
Danger.
Without greatness it is a mistake.
- b) Not strong enough to move it.



This line represents somebody who is tempted to go along with the one who comes to meet. This line suggests that if you go along with what they want you will not be strong enough to cope with the situation that will develop. If you spot the problems, or realise the danger, then you can avoid making a mistake.

4) 9 in 4th throw

- a) Not containing the fish.
Rising up brings misfortune.
- b) It is a mistake to be too aloof.

This means that you will be tempted to treat the one who comes to meet you with contempt rather than use a more subtle approach. This will cause you extra problems. Sometimes it is better to create an illusion of friendship and hospitality in order to avoid an unnecessary problem.



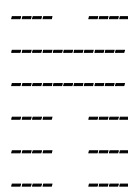
- 5) 9 in 5th throw
- a) A willow basket is used to hold melons and it contains them safely when they drop down to you from heaven.
- b) It comes from heaven it is not for hiding away.

A messenger is on his way to meet you with some good news. Something good is on its way to you and it is up to you to make proper use of it.

- 6) 9 at the top
- a) Meeting with the horns.
Humiliation.
No blame.
- b) It is humiliating and tiring.

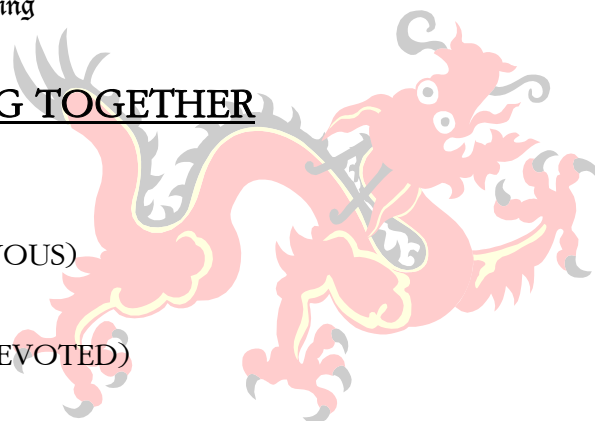
This line is about having an angry confrontation, and possibly a lengthy struggle, with the one who comes to meet. There is no blame in this, you may have no choice, but this sort of thing can be difficult and embarrassing.

45 GATHERING TOGETHER



LAKE (JOYOUS)

EARTH (DEVOTED)



Waters gather to form a lake.

IMAGE

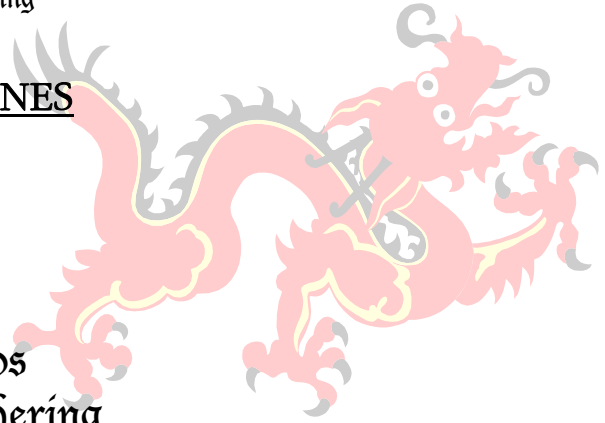
Gathering. Success.
Like the gatherings in
the church of a king.
Seeing important people
brings success.
Perseverance favourable.
Using greatness
and sacrificial offerings;
good fortune.
It is favourable to make plans.

SYMBOL TRADITION

A lake on the earth.
Gathering.
A wise man has a policy
of eliminating weapons,
and uses precautions
rather than force.

People will gather together around someone who they respect some way. If there is joyousness and devotion these gatherings can lead to great things. This chapter predicts a gathering of some kind and gives advice on how to handle it. If there are many people there is a chance of robbery or violence occurring unexpectedly and precautions can prevent this.

45 LINES



1) 6 at the start

a) Correct but never finishing.
Then sometimes there is chaos
and sometimes there is a gathering.
Like a sign, taking it in hand will cause joy.
Fear not; going is without blame.

b) You are not sure.

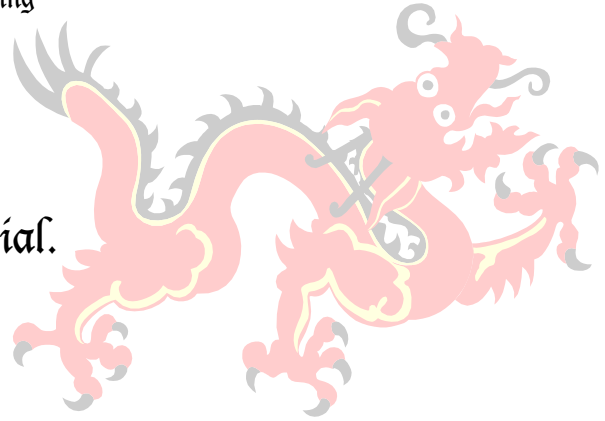
You may be failing to get the best out of a good situation. This is a result of a lack of effort in planning. This line suggests that you have not acted wrongly but there is a lack of confidence that is a cause of problems. When it can be seen that your attitude has changed the problems will be overcome.

2) 6 in 2nd throw

a) Holding back brings good fortune.
No blame.
It is correct and you will gain because of your sacrifice.

b) Key changes have not yet been made.

You should resist joining in with something tempting until important changes have been made.



3) 6 in 3rd throw

- a) Gathering here, sad there.
Following guidance is beneficial.
Going is without blame.
Slight humiliation.

- b) Going underground.

If you cannot meet freely you will have to gather when, and where, you can. There may be sadness and difficulties but you should not plan anything at this stage and just make the best use of what is available.

4) 9 in 4th throw

- a) Important people can bring good fortune.
No blame.

- b) The situation is not acceptable.

There are times when it is correct to go and ask for help. If you ask the right person it will bring good fortune.



5) 9 in 5th throw

- a) In control of the gathering.
No blame, but it is not reliable.
Greatness achieved only by constant effort.
Then sorrows disappear.
- b) Your inner determination is not yet known.

This is a responsible position and it is hard to maintain. Many will not be as sincere as they pretend and are instead interested only in gaining various advantages that your trust might provide.

It requires hard and constant work in order to deal with everyone correctly. You will have to prove that you are capable, in various difficult situations, and deal with some difficult people. Some will stay and some will have to go. Do not be deceived or relax and become careless.

6) 6 at the top

- a) Paying taxes, weeping and moaning.
No blame
- b) Those at the top are not yet peaceful.

Sometimes it is necessary to have a gathering that is not a happy and joyful occasion.

46 PUSHING UPWARDS



EARTH (DEVOTED)

WIND (WOOD)(GENTLE)



Wood under the earth, pushing upwards.

IMAGE

Pushing upwards.
Great success.
You must see
important people.
fear not.
Principles and discipline
bring good fortune.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Wind under earth.
Pushing upwards.
A wise man is flexible
to make his path correct
and uses small things to
achieve something
that is great.

This chapter means there is a slow and difficult push upward which requires effort and flexibility. This ultimately leads to success. There will be resistance, and difficulties, so there will be hard times and setbacks. The situation is one where it will be worth making the effort. Through constant and devoted work you can achieve something. Help will come when it is really needed so fear not.

46 LINES



1) 6 at the start

a) Pushing upward sincerely.
Important people bring good fortune.

b) United with those above.

You gain the respect of someone with influence and they decide to give you some assistance.

2) 9 in 2nd throw

a) If you are sincere and correct
it is favourable to bring a gift.

b) Sincerity brings joy.

Sometimes a small gift is greatly appreciated and it can strengthen a relationship with someone who you value.

3) 9 in 3rd throw

a) You push upwards into a fertile position.

b) There is no reason to hesitate.



You might be wondering whether to push forward but worry that you are not in a strong enough position. Actually, this is a good time, since there is a lack of opposition at the moment. It is best to take advantage of this favourable time.

4) 6 in 4th throw

a) The leadership benefit from the successes of diversifying.
Good fortune.
No blame.

b) flexible ways in business.

If you introduce new ways that bring benefits to important people you can expect to do well yourself as a result.

5) 6 in 5th throw

a) Perseverance brings good fortune.
You push upward in stages.

b) There will be important achievements.



It is still important to remain persevering and to continue making progress. If you keep on pushing you will continue to rise.

6) 6 at the top

a) Pushing upwards in darkness.
It is favourable to be ceaselessly persevering.

b) At the top there can be difficulties and exhaustion.

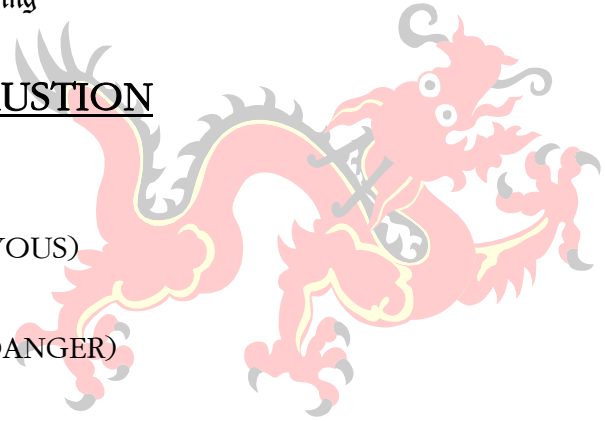
The position at the top of the 'pushing upwards' situation is the place where the hard work is done. It is where you go into the darkness of unknown territory. This may often be difficult but the advice given here is that you should never give up trying.

47 EXHAUSTION



LAKE (JOYOUS)

WATER (DANGER)



Water below the lake.

IMAGE

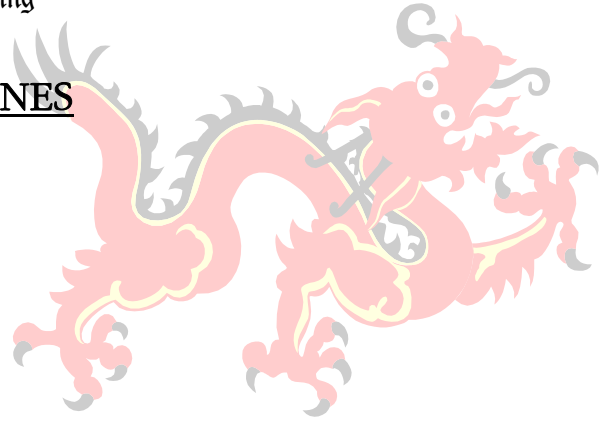
Exhaustion.
Perseverance with
important people
brings good fortune.
No blame.
When you have
something to say
you are not believed.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Water below the lake.
Exhaustion.
A wise man accepts his
fate and becomes
free to follow
his own interests.

This is a difficult situation. The water is below the bottom of the lake leaving only mud. As a life situation it means you are exhausted and times are hard. In addition to the hard times you are oppressed and your word is not believed. No one offers much help, although you might get some help eventually if you keep in touch with the right people. The advice is to persevere on your own path. Surviving the hard times will make you stronger and lead to new insights. Try to stay cheerful outwardly as this shows a positive attitude and attracts help.

47 LINES



- 1) 6 at the start
 - a) Your back is tired;
stiff as a wooden post.
Entering a dark valley.
For three years you see no visitors.
 - b) Dark and unknown.

If you allow your spirit to weaken you face the prospect of sitting around depressed indefinitely. It may be tempting to decide that you have had enough, and want to get away from everything, but if you do it will be a waste of time.

If you take a strong attitude a way out of the gloomy valley will be found and the present problems will pass.

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
 - a) Exhausted, relaxing with a drink.
Honours are coming from all sides.
It will be favourable to pray and make offerings.
Punishments bring misfortune.
No blame.
 - b) The middle way brings rewards.

Here you are exhausted after working hard to deal with the problems. You are advised to relax, and be generous, and avoid getting involved in any further troubles or disputes. Better times are now on the way so you can rest and have a few drinks if you wish to.



3) 6 in 3rd throw

a) Exhausted, turning to stone.
Tangled up like bramble bushes.
He enters his house and his wife has left.
Misfortune.

b) It is a bad omen when the wife leaves.

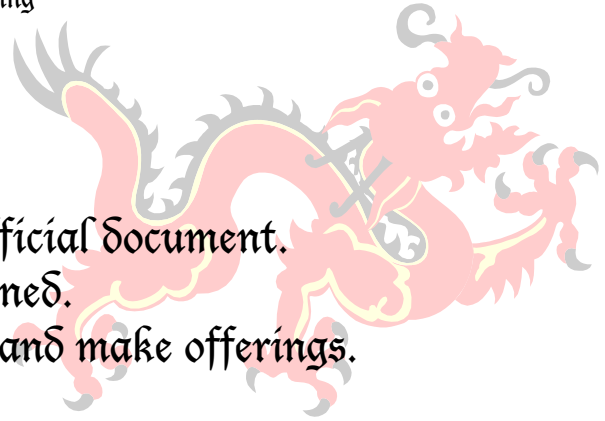
If you sit around depressed, and allow the situation to deteriorate, things will get much worse than if you had dealt with the situation in a sensible way. This is a warning not to give up, dispirited, at a time when you need to persevere.

4) 9 in 4th throw

a) Coming, slowly, slowly.
Exhausted in a metal chariot.
Humiliation, but the end is reached.

b) He has companions.

If you are exhausted after a long struggle help may seem very slow in coming. It will come, eventually, but you may still have to suffer a few indignities.



5) 9 in 5th throw

- a) Humiliated and punished.
Exhausted; waiting for an official document.
Then slow progress is quickened.
It will be favourable to pray and make offerings.
- b) Your prayers will be answered.

This means that you are oppressed from above and below. Your strong nature will see you through the hard times. Things will slowly improve and help will eventually arrive. Prayers and offerings are appropriate in the meantime.

6) 6 at the top

- a) Exhausted, heading towards trailing vines.
Becoming uncertain and unsteady.
He says 'making people sorry
will bring me sorrows'.
Punishments bring good fortune.
- b) Good fortune from acting.

At the end of the time of exhaustion you may be dispirited and still see many problems. The trailing vines are undesirables who quickly grow back if they are not dealt with promptly. This line is a warning that it is necessary to deal with something even though you are tired and do not want to.

48 THE WELL



WATER (DANGER)

WOOD(WIND) (GENTLE)



Wood under water, a bucket in a well.

IMAGE

The town may change
but the well stays the same.
It does not increase or decrease.
They all come and go
and draw the water.
If you get almost to the water
but the rope is too short,
or if the bucket leaks,
it brings misfortune.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Water above wood.
The well.
A wise man works
with the people
and encourages them
to help each other.

This chapter compares your life to a well. A well is a basic and useful thing. Its structure is simple and complete. Wells are found in various places but they are all similar in the important details. People are like this too. This chapter is about your life and how to lead it. Whatever time and place you live in you will experience what it is like to be a human being. The 'symbol tradition' suggests a basic attitude that will make your life complete and of use to others, like a well is. The 'image' points out that even quite simple faults, if left uncorrected, can make your life useless and bring you misfortune.

48 LINES



1) 6 at the start

a) The well is a bog.
No one drinks from it.
An ancient well that not even ducks will visit.

b) Time passes it by.

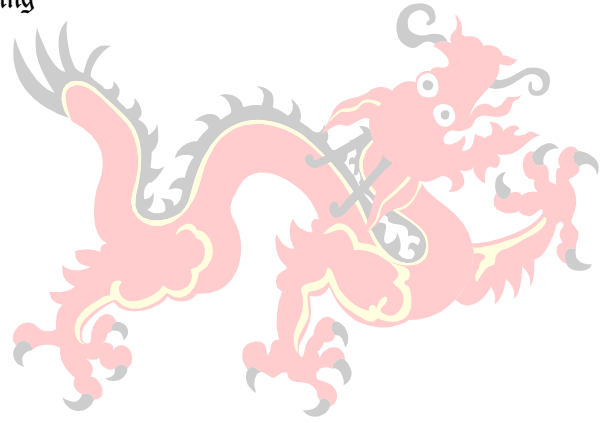
This line represents the mud at the bottom of the well. This is like the weak-minded people who waste their time in low places. People like this gather together, to pass the time, in search of easy amusements. Other people, who are doing useful things, pass them by without much thought. This line represents someone who could do worthwhile things but instead they waste their life and they are no use to anyone.

2) 9 in 2nd throw

a) The well; a gap where fish are caught.
The bucket is cracked and leaking.

b) No one reaches in.

This line represents a person who is potentially strong and useful but who is not actually doing very much. There is a problem; the bucket needs fixing. If you were to attend to correcting your faults you could set yourself right.



3) 9 in 3rd throw

- a) The well is cloudy.
No one drinks from it.
This makes my heart ache.
An enlightened king
would have it cleaned
so all can share this blessing.

- b) Kingly wisdom accepts a blessing.

This line represents something that has a potential for doing good and useful work for people but nobody bothers to repair it. You should do it, if it needs doing, because there is probably no enlightened king available at the present time.

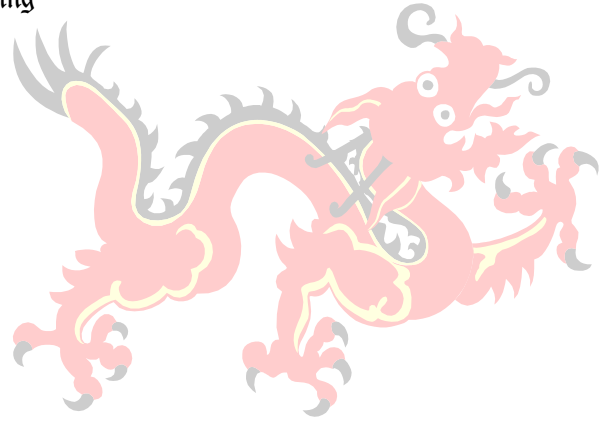
4) 6 in 4th throw

- a) The well is being lined.
No blame.

- b) Renovating the well.

Time spent studying, or improving yourself, may mean that you cannot be much use to people for a while. It is a valuable investment for the future and is not a mistake.

- 5) 9 in 5th throw
- a) The well; people drink clear, cool, spring water.
- b) Central and correct.



This line means that you have a good mind, and a correct attitude, and that you have the potential to do good work. It is up to you to make use of this potential.

- 6) 6 at the top
- a) The well; open and constantly filling.
Correct and sincere.
Supreme good fortune.
- b) This is great perfection.

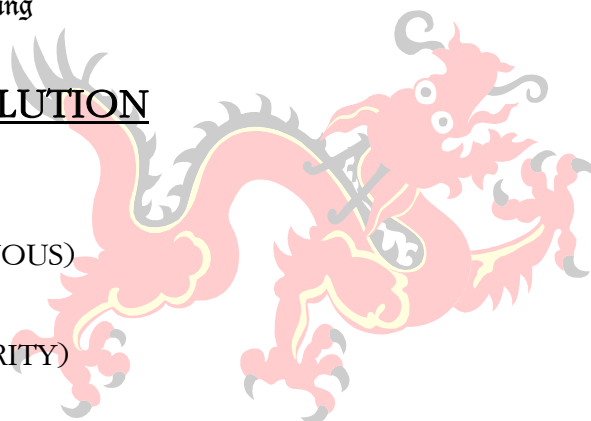
This means that you are doing something useful with your life. This is supreme good fortune.

49 REVOLUTION



LAKE (JOYOUS)

FIRE (CLARITY)



Fire under the lake.

IMAGE

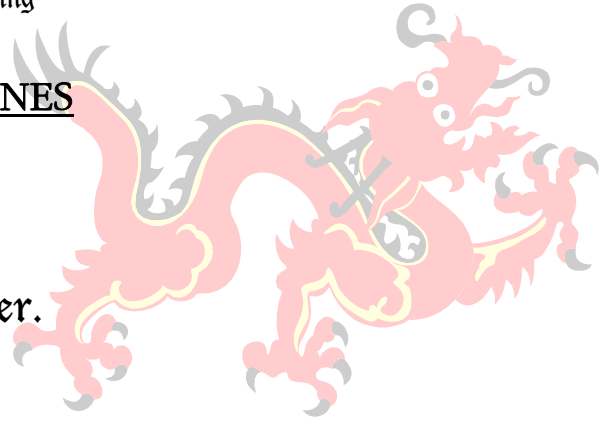
Revolution; before the
Sun reaches the zenith.
Then the situation
will be correct.
Perseverance brings
great success.
Remorse disappears.

SYMBOL TRADITION

fire under the lake.
Revolution.
A wise man creates a
calendar that makes
the seasons clear.

Revolutions can take many forms. A fire bursting through a lake is violent. Redrawing an old calendar, so that spring occurs in the correct month, is nonviolent. Revolutions have many forms but usually involve a sudden change where those who were on top are suddenly pushed out. This occurs after a time of tension where changes had been wanted but were prevented. This chapter means that there is a need for some kind of revolution and gives some advice on the timing and method. You have to wait for the right time, and there must be genuine reasons, and there needs to be widespread support. If you do things correctly you will have a great success.

49 LINES



- 1) 9 at the start
- a) Thongs made of yellow leather.
- b) Not allowing it to begin.

Restraint is needed at the beginning because a premature start could ruin your chances. It is necessary to hold back firmly until everything is prepared and the time is right.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
- a) Wait until the sun reaches the zenith and then revolt.
Punishments bring good fortune.
No blame.
- b) Action will bring glory.

You will be in a position to carry out a successful revolution. You must first wait, and decide when the time is correct, and then make your move.



3) 9 in 3rd throw

a) Punishing brings misfortune.
Perseverance brings danger.
When talk of revolution is heard many times;
then it will be correct.

b) Then you know there is reason.

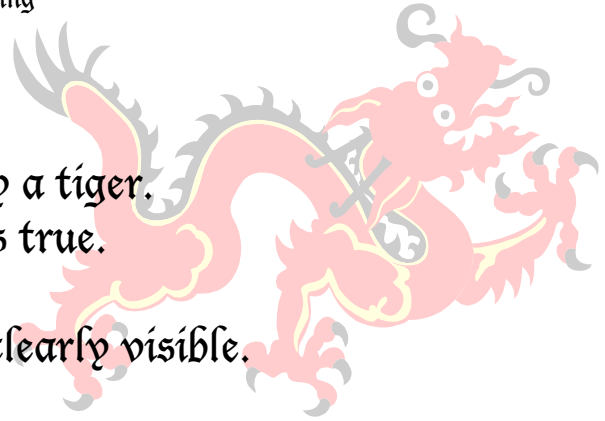
If your revolution will be opposed, trouble and danger will be put in your way. However, if the need for revolution is so great that you repeatedly hear calls for change, then things have gone far enough. If this is the case, you will be able to find enough support to carry you through the troubles.

4) 9 in 4th throw

a) Remorse disappears.
It is correct.
The changes bring good fortune.

b) Your plans are reliable.

If you are involved in creating a revolution there will be a time of doubts and worries. All will go well, you should follow your plan and it will succeed.



- 5) 9 in 5th throw
- a) Important people; changed by a tiger.
You do not see it yet, but it is true.
- b) The markings of a tiger are clearly visible.

You have launched a revolution like a tiger making a kill. No need to worry, it is all going well and no one wants to fight with a tiger.

- 6) 6 at the top
- a) A wise man changes like a leopard.
The evil people change their spots.
Punishments bring misfortune.
To remain persevering brings good fortune.
- b) They comply with authority.

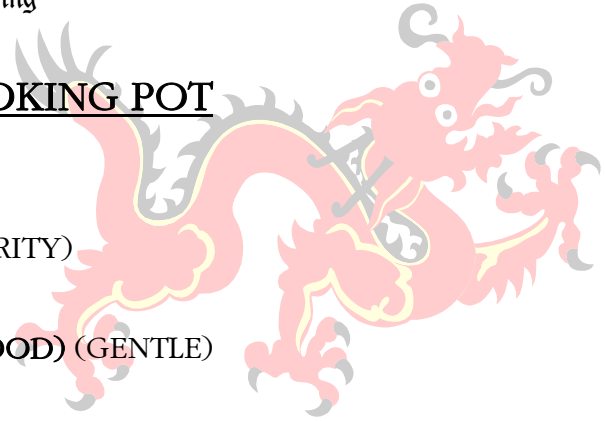
After a revolution there are still many small reforms that need to be made. This is made easier by the fact that many of the people who used to oppose change now say that they really supported it all along. Although this is helpful you should remember that this change of heart does not go very deep. Even so, you should concentrate your energy on positive, and subtle, steps forward and do not try to punish people for having been on the wrong side.

50 THE COOKING POT



FIRE (CLARITY)

WIND(WOOD) (GENTLE)



Wood makes the fire for cooking food.

IMAGE

Sacred cooking vessel.
Supreme good fortune.
Success.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Above the wood
there is a fire.
The cooking pot.
A wise man puts his fate
on a firm footing
by making his position
correct.

The Ting, a pot with two handles and three legs, was used in religious ceremonies, as well as being a pot for cooking. A pot changes and improves the food, by cooking it, in order to feed people better. Subtle changes over a period of time can lead to a transformation and bring success. This chapter is about a continuous effort at improvement that results in long term gains.

50 LINES



1) 6 at the start

a) The cooking pot falls off its feet.
Helpful in removing what is unwanted.
You employ a maid out of concern for her welfare.
No blame.

b) This is not wrong.

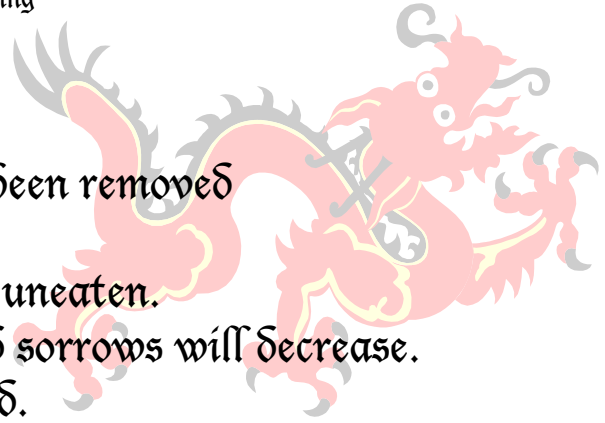
Sometimes something happens and at first it seems unhelpful and not what you would have wanted. Such events can turn out to be unexpectedly helpful, in some cases, so you should not pre-judge the results at the outset.

2) 9 in 2nd throw

a) There is food in the pot.
My companions are jealous but cannot harm me.
Good fortune.

b) Careful and not excessive.

You have some connections starting to form with more influential people. This brings some improvements in your situation but there are people who dislike seeing someone else doing well. Since you are in a good position, providing you are careful, they can do you no harm.



3) 9 in 3rd throw

- a) The handles of the pot have been removed so that it cannot be used.
The fat of the pheasant goes uneaten.
Once the rains fall all around sorrows will decrease.
Good fortune comes in the end.

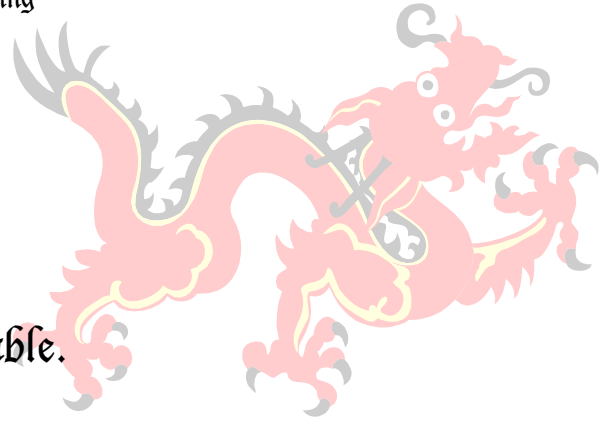
- b) A cooking pot without handles is not right.

You are sad because difficulties and dangers prevent you from doing the things that you should be doing. This will not be permanent, the dangers will pass, like the drought, and you will be able to set things right later.

4) 9 in 4th throw

- a) The legs of the pot are broken.
The prince's food is spilled and his clothes are stained.
Misfortune.
- b) Who would demonstrate their trustworthiness like this?

This is a misfortune that could have been avoided but a lack of seriousness, or not being careful enough, suddenly becomes obvious when things go unexpectedly wrong.



- 5) 6 in 5th throw
- a) The cooking pot
has yellow handles
and metal rings.
Perseverance will be favourable.
- b) A central position makes it full.

Here, there is a good quality pot, and it is full of food and is being used for cooking. This means that your life is correct and you should carry on with your work.

- 6) 9 at the top
- a) The pot has rings of jade.
Great good fortune.
Nothing that will not be favourable.
- b) Rings of jade; words of wisdom.

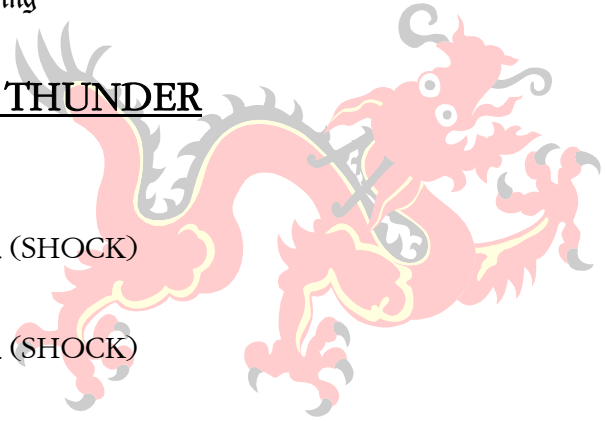
This means you are on the right path, doing good work, and the results will be good for you and for others.

51 SHOCK, THUNDER



THUNDER (SHOCK)

THUNDER (SHOCK)



Thunder and earthquakes cause fear.

IMAGE

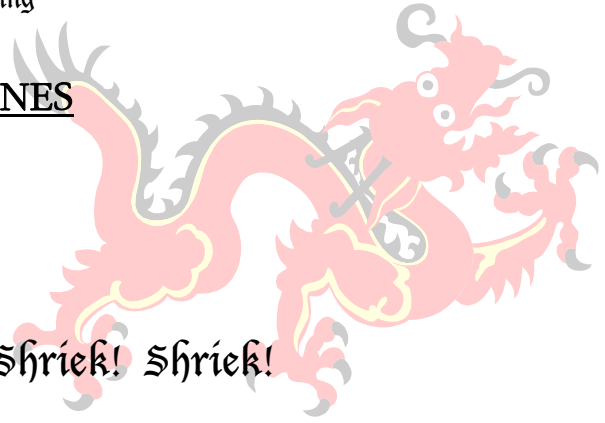
Shock. Success.
Shock comes:
fright! fright!
Laughing words:
Shriek! Shriek!
The shock causes terror
for a hundred miles
but you do not pause
from your duties.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Repeated thunder.
Shock.
A wise man uses a time
of anxiety and fear
to improve his
watchfulness.

This chapter is about shocks, being shocked, and causing shocks. Shock can cause fear, and panic, and make people reflect on their life and their situation. Shocks can also lead to laughter so they are not always a bad thing. A time of shock is also a time to prove your character by being calm and sensible while other people run around in a panic.

51 LINES



1) 9 at the start

a) Shock comes: fright! fright!
Afterwards laughing words: Shriek! Shriek!
Good fortune.

b) Anxieties bring blessing; afterwards you have respect.

The person represented here is the ruler in this chapter, or at least, they are after the shock.

This line is considered to have arrived unexpectedly, causing shock, and thereby gained control.

It may be you who causes the shock; some people need to be given a fright before they will be reasonable. If you have just had a heated argument, you have won it.

2) 6 in 2nd throw

a) Shock comes bringing danger.
A hundred thousand lost coins.
Climbing the ninth hill.
Do not go after them; after seven days you will get them back.

b) A hard journey.

You suffer many shocks, and losses, one thing after another. These turn out to be only temporary setbacks, in the end, and until then you should wait calmly.

3) 6 in 3rd throw

a) Shock comes and gives you new energy.
If shock makes you act it is not a mistake.

b) The situation is not right.



Here the shock makes you realise that something needs to be done. You will be alright and you should get started promptly after the shock.

4) 9 in 4th throw

a) Shock dispersed by a bog.

b) It is not sufficient.

Here there is a shock but it is not big enough to set things motion. It is like something that wobbles but does not fall over.



- 5) 6 in 5th throw
- a) Shock going.
Danger coming.
Intention of not losing results in winning.
- b) Exposed when moving but the great will not lose.

You are rocked by various shocks and restricted by various dangers. Despite this, there are still things to do, and it is important not to neglect them. By behaving correctly you hold on to the middle ground and you will not suffer serious losses.

- 6) 6 at the top
- a) Shock; restricting!
Seeing it; frightening!
The shock does not affect you but affects your neighbour.
No blame.
There is talk of co-operation and alliance.
- b) You are alerted by your neighbour's fear.

In this case the shock hits someone else first and it is seeing their fear that alerts you to the danger. This allows you to prepare and to avoid the worst of it.

52 KEEPING STILL



MOUNTAIN (KEEPING STILL)

MOUNTAIN (KEEPING STILL)



Mountains.

IMAGE

Keeping the back still
and quieting the mind.
You go indoors
and do not see anyone.
No blame.

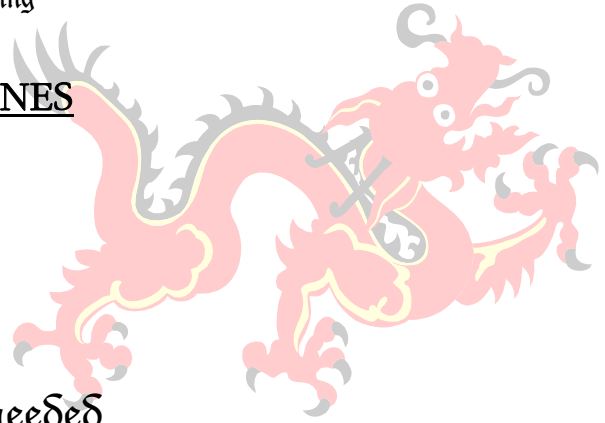
SYMBOL TRADITION

Joined mountains.
Keeping still.
A wise man uses
thinking that does not
extend beyond
the present situation.

Keeping still means that if you are doing something, particularly if it is something dangerous, then you should stop. There are times when you should do things but there are also times when you should not do things. This is such a time.

You may be worrying and wondering if you should be doing something. You should keep still and keep your thoughts limited to your immediate situation.

At the moment it is not wrong to stay indoors and not see anyone.

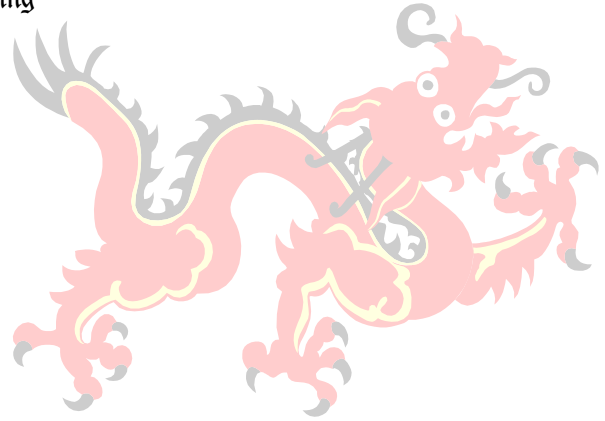


- 1) 6 at the start
 - a) Keeping the feet still.
No blame.
Continuous perseverance is needed.
 - b) What is right is not lost.

This could be somebody else who is keeping still and you are wondering why you have not seen them. The feet want to move but it is necessary to keep still and be patient. The perseverance needed, in this case, is in keeping still.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
 - a) Keeping the calves still.
Cannot rescue those he follows.
His heart is not cheerful.
 - b) Not refusing to obey.

This means that you have to keep still but you are not altogether happy about it. You may be worried that other people might not keep still or may need your help. It is right to keep still and worrying will not help.



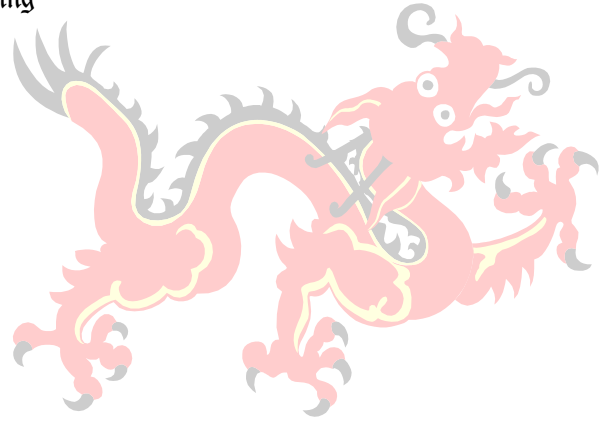
- 3) 9 in 3rd throw
- a) Keeping still to one's limit.
Concentrated in the hips.
Danger.
Demons cloud one's mind.
- b) The mind is exposed to danger.

This is a strong person who uses their strength to counter-act their inclination to move. Forcing yourself to keep still is a mistake if it is that difficult. The strain of it may affect your judgement or your health. This may be a case of keeping still as in giving something up, perhaps.

- 4) 6 in 4th throw
- a) Keeping himself still.
No blame.
- b) Stopping the body.

In a time of keeping still it is altogether correct if you know how to restrain yourself at the right time. Sometimes when you should keep still somebody will try to provoke you into moving. It is most important to think carefully before making any move, so avoid being tempted into doing something.

- 5) 6 in 5th throw
- a) Keeping the jaws still.
The words have order.
Remorse disappears.
- b) This is correct.



If you only speak when it is necessary to say something, people take notice of what you say. You should also be able to recognise those times when it is best to keep your mouth shut.

- 6) 9 at the top
- a) Noble-hearted keeping still.
Good fortune.
- b) There is an ample end.

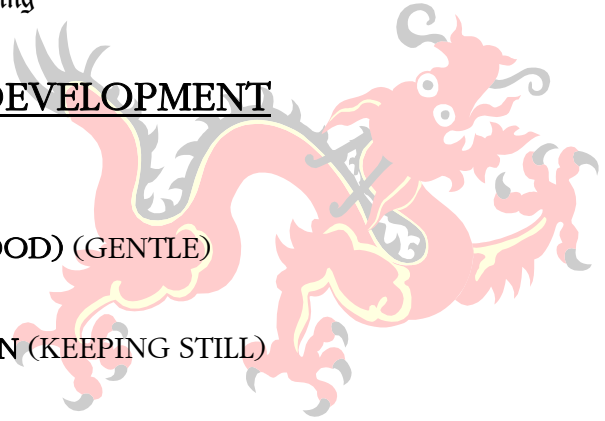
If you are tranquil and calm in the face of many disappointments then the difficulties are kept to a minimum and the disappointments may be only temporary.

53 GRADUAL DEVELOPMENT



WIND(WOOD) (GENTLE)

MOUNTAIN (KEEPING STILL)



A tree on a mountain.

IMAGE

Gradual development.
Marriage brings
good fortune.
Perseverance favourable.

SYMBOL TRADITION

On the mountain
a tree.
Gradual development.
A wise man leads a
life of virtue
and is a good example
to the people.

A tree on a mountain is the example of gradual development because it grows slowly but will be strong and long-lived. The theme, in this chapter, is how gradual development of a relationship can lead to a good marriage. Rapid progress usually leads to a peak and then a decline.

53 LINES

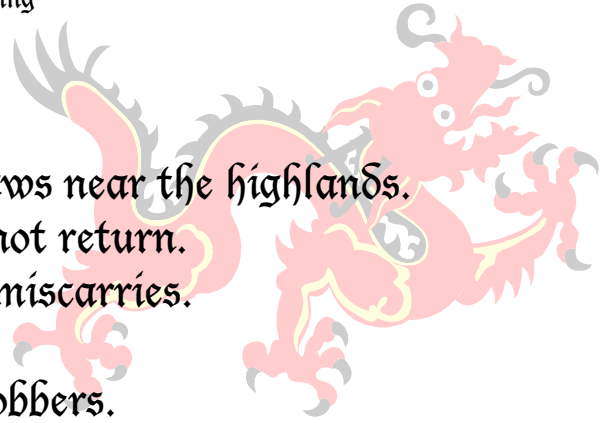


- 1) 6 at the start
 - a) The wild swan gradually gets near to the edge.
The young son is in danger.
There is talk.
No blame.
 - b) Righteous and without fault.

This person is exposed to some dangers and suffers some criticism from others who do not understand. There is no blame since they behave in a correct way to cope with their situation.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
 - a) The wild swan gradually approaches the cliffs.
Eating and drinking,
feasting, happy and contented.
Good fortune.
 - b) Not satisfied yet.

Here there is a relationship that develops in a natural way because of enjoyable shared experiences.



3) 9 at 3rd throw

a) The wild swan gradually draws near the highlands.
The man is beaten and does not return.
The woman is pregnant but miscarries.
Misfortune.
It is favourable to fight off robbers.

b) He attracts trouble, she loses the right way.

In this case, things go wrong, because there has been an attempt to speed things up instead of being satisfied with gradual development. An unstable situation develops as a result of this and it leads to trouble. You are advised that fighting robbers is justifiable, and sometimes necessary, but you should try to avoid risky situations and schemes that plan to make a quick profit.

4) 6 in 4th throw

a) The wild swan gradually draws near the trees.
Perhaps it will land on your roof.
No blame.

b) The yielding uses all possibilities.

Swans only try to land in trees when in a difficult situation. The meaning of this line is that while someone is in trouble a temporary safe resting place is a lucky find. A yielding and gentle attitude leads to the difficulties being gradually overcome. This is a setback but it cannot be avoided.



5) 9 in 5th throw

a) The wild swan gradually draws near to the summit.
For three years the wife has no child.
In the end nothing will prevent it.
Good fortune.

b) In the end, nothing will hinder good fortune,
you attain your wish.

The person represented here is separated from another person by various dangers. These dangers do not last forever and their union is only delayed and not prevented.

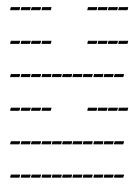
6) 9 at the top

a) The wild swan gradually approaches the cloud heights.
Its feathers can be used for a sacred rite.
Good fortune.

b) They have a good attitude towards each other.

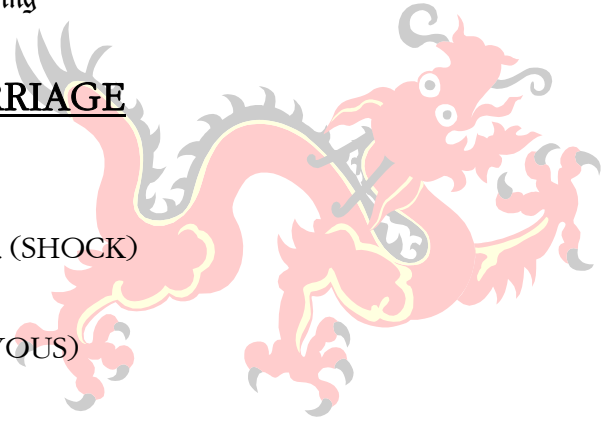
Here is a relationship that sets a good example. Both partners have respect for each other and behave like it.

54 MARRIAGE



THUNDER (SHOCK)

LAKE (JOYOUS)



Thunder over the lake.

IMAGE

Marriage.
Punishments bring misfortune.
Nothing that is favourable.

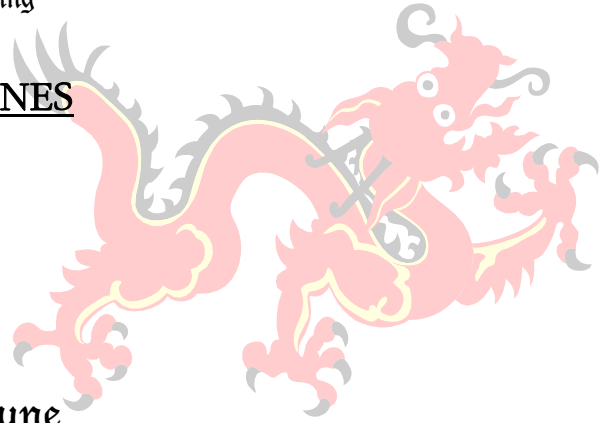
SYMBOL TRADITION

Thunder over the lake.
Marriage.
A wise man uses the
eternal to understand
what is temporary.

The previous chapter shows the stages that can lead up to a good marriage. This chapter is mainly about relationships, and problems, that lead to a less than ideal marriage, or cause reasons for delay.

The advice given here is that you should not become annoyed or try to use force. You should be philosophical about temporary delays and try to recognise, in advance, relationships that may break down easily.

54 LINES



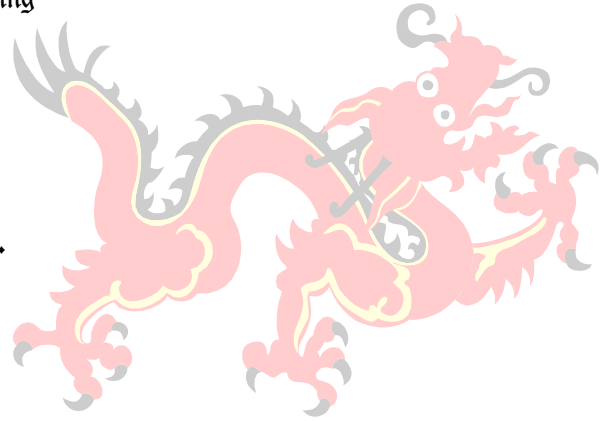
- 1) 9 at the start
- a) Marriage as a second wife.
A same man is able to tread.
Punishments bring good fortune.
- b) They assist each other.

This is a marriage where both people have problems. As a couple they are able to help each other overcome their problems and this draws them together.

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
- a) A one-eyed man is able to see.
The perseverance of a solitary man is favourable.
- b) Not yet time to change.

For reasons which you may not see clearly, at the moment, it would be best to stay single for some time. It might be that you will do best without obligations and possibly there is somebody else who you should wait for.

- 3) 6 in 3rd throw
- a) Marriage by using patience.
Divorce by taking a mistress.
- b) Not appropriate.



If there is someone who you like, but progress to marriage is slow, you should resist the temptation to start seeing someone else just because you can. It will turn out better if you are patient.

- 4) 9 in 4th throw
- a) A late marriage.
Delaying marriage is in accord with the times.
- b) There is reason to wait.

Sometimes it is better to wait even though you do not want to.

5) 6 in 5th throw

a) The greatest happiness and good fortune in marriage.
She has the rank of royalty; higher than your sisters.
The moon that is nearly full brings good fortune.

b) You move into an honourable position.

This means a favourable marriage will bring good fortune. It will not happen yet but after the climax of something, a full moon, perhaps.

6) 6 at the top

a) The woman receives a basket, but it is empty.
The man stabs a goat, but there is no blood.
Nothing favourable.

b) An empty basket indeed.

This refers to a ceremony done with no enthusiasm, or feeling, such as one where they pretend to sacrifice a dead goat. It represents a relationship where both parties have a bad attitude. It may not last for long.

55 ABUNDANCE



THUNDER (SHOCK)

FIRE (CLARITY)



A summer storm.

IMAGE

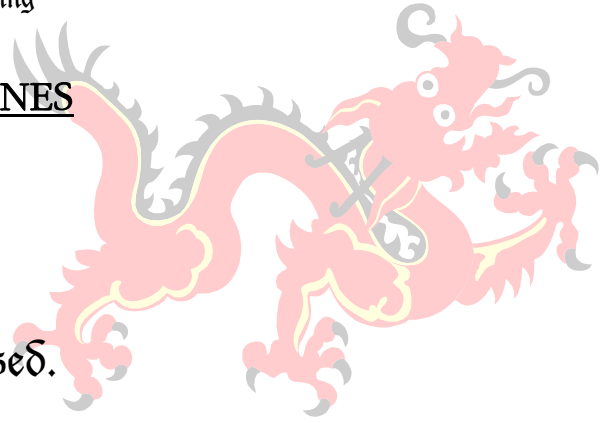
Abundance; success.
How you would
imagine a king.
No sorrow,
like the sun at midday.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Thunder and lightning.
Abundance.
A wise man uses the
courts to decide what is
true or false, and to
decide on punishments.

Good times are arriving and you should aim to be happy and try to enjoy it while it lasts. It will last longest if you are sensible and avoid unnecessary disputes. If there are outstanding problems you should use the present time of prosperity to settle things using official channels, do not try to use force or get involved in anything foolish.

55 LINES

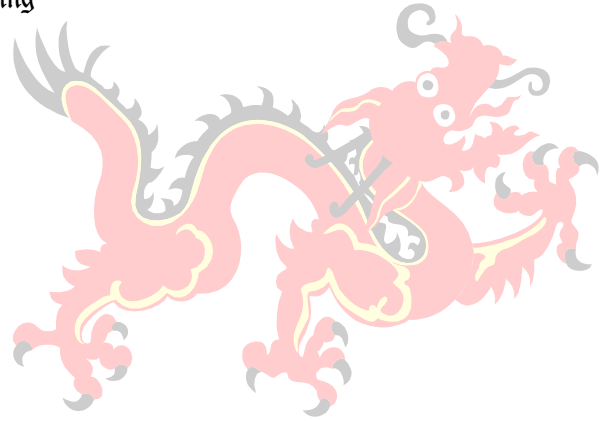


- 1) 9 at the start
 - a) Meeting an old friend.
Although ten years have passed.
No blame.
Going brings honour.
 - b) More than ten years could ruin it.

If you know somebody with whom you feel an inner connection then it is not a mistake to push yourself forward and spend some time with them. If it is an old friend, who you have not seen for a long time, they will be pleased to see you and they may have things to offer.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
 - a) Concealing one's abundance.
Visiting the grain stores at noon.
Going brings distrust and disorder.
Possessing truth like a sign.
Good fortune.
 - b) Trustworthiness is displayed.

The reason why it is hard to maintain a state of abundance is because news of it gets around and various people will try to take it away from you. In this context, visiting the grain stores at noon is a mistake if it draws attention to your surplus. However, if there is an obvious good reason to be there, such as buying a cooked meal, it will then be no problem.

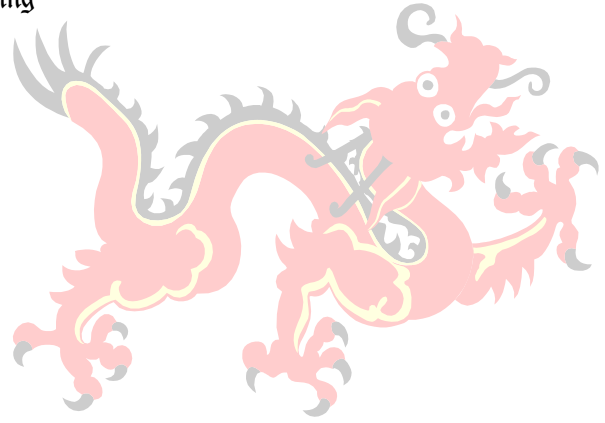


- 3) 9 in 3rd throw
- a) Spreading one's abundance.
Perspiration at noon.
He breaks his right arm.
No blame.
- b) In the end you are not able to use it.

This suggests that you are working too hard. Although it is good to make the most of a good situation, if you over-do things you will end up being forced to slow down by various problems. In this case a more relaxed approach will achieve more.

- 4) 9 in 4th throw
- a) Concealing one's abundance.
Visiting the grain stores at noon.
Meeting one's leader who is hiding.
Good fortune.
- b) A fortunate action.

Contact is established with a like-minded friend, due to a chance meeting, perhaps while out buying some food. This marks the start of new activity.



- 5) 6 in 5th throw
- a) Brilliance is coming.
This brings rewards,
praise, and good fortune.
- b) It bestows blessing.

Here you will obtain abundance due to valuable skills that you possess, once these are noticed.

- 6) 6 at the top
- a) One's roof is abundant.
Screening the house.
Peeping through the door.
Living alone without company.
Seeing no one for three years.
Misfortune.
- b) Hiding causes it.

Here, somebody who has everything tries too hard to keep it all, and as a result he loses the things that he most wanted to keep. You cannot enjoy a time of abundance if you will not trust anyone, or if you refuse to share it with anybody.

56 TRAVELLING



FIRE (CLARITY)

MOUNTAIN (KEEPING STILL)



Fire on the mountain.

IMAGE

Travelling.
 Success because of
 adaptability.
 Perseverance brings
 good fortune.

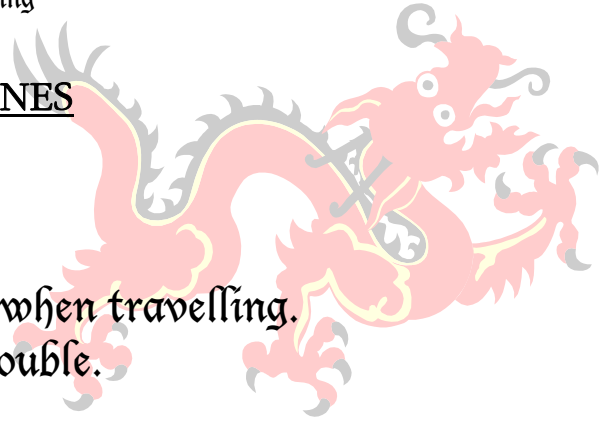
SYMBOL TRADITION

fire on the mountain.
 Travelling.
 A wise man
 thinks carefully
 before punishing
 or continuing disputes.

The meaning of this chapter is how to go about as a stranger and get on with people. If you have to go out in places where you do not know people, and you have no position or rank, you must keep a correct attitude of mind. If you do things in the right way you can do well. If you go wrong you can get into serious troubles.

In general, you must display a humble yet dignified attitude, and you must avoid being drawn into disputes. Fire on a mountain tends to stay small and move around. You must always be prepared to work at small things and move around if necessary.

56 LINES



- 1) 6 at the start
- a) Petty, trivial, and annoying when travelling.
Leaves home and gets into trouble.
- b) Stupidity leads to calamity.

This line represents someone who forgets he is not at home and gets involved in foolish things. Since he is unable to understand the full situation he mistakenly annoys somebody and this gets him into trouble.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
- a) The traveller comes to a resting place.
Carrying his possessions with him.
Through perseverance he gains a young follower.
- b) Completing in a humble manner.

During a period of travelling there may come a time where you have somewhere to stay, things to do, and friends to help. This is a good situation and it should be continued until it is time to travel again. Alternatively, it might just be that you meet someone helpful while you are out someplace.



3) 9 in 3rd throw

- a) The traveller burns his resting place.
He loses his young follower.
Perseverance brings danger.
- b) He associates with bad people and loses his righteousness.

This is a situation where a person who is dependent on help to maintain his position becomes arrogant and annoys those who help him. He mixes with bad people and attracts trouble. This results in him losing his home and other things that he took for granted.

4) 9 in 4th throw

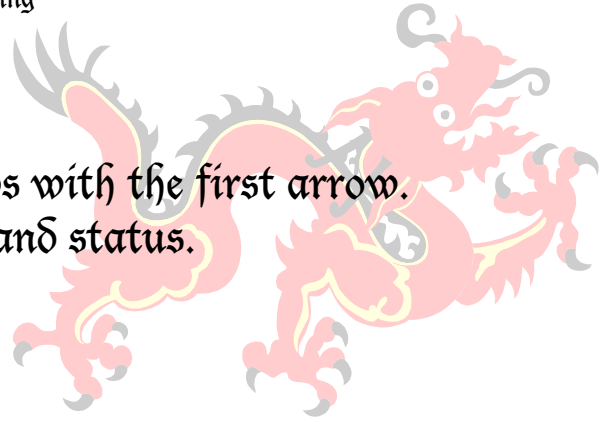
- a) Travelling, tending towards settling.
Gaining property and status.
My heart is not cheerful.
- b) Not keen at heart.

A traveller may reach a stage where he has a place to stay, some things to do, and some property of his own. This line indicates that things are not yet satisfactory. Some changes will be needed before you can settle-down properly.

5) 6 in 5th throw

a) He shoots a pheasant; it drops with the first arrow.
In the end this brings praise and status.

b) Noticed by those above.



Here the traveller does something useful or impressive. This is noticed by somebody influential.

6) 9 at the top

a) A bird burning its nest.
The traveller laughs at first then he sobs and weeps.
He forgets about his work and lets his attention wander.
Misfortune.

b) Reports will say that he achieves absolutely nothing.

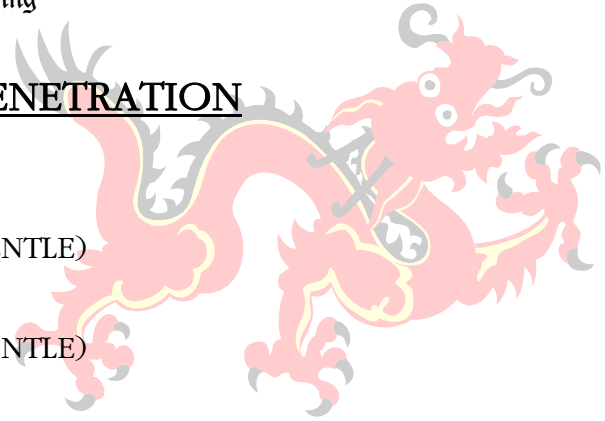
This is someone who becomes arrogant when in a good position. He ignores good advice and prefers to have fun. He becomes lazy, and careless, and this inevitably brings losses, and trouble, so that in the end he loses his good position.

57 SUBTLE PENETRATION



WIND (GENTLE)

WIND (GENTLE)



A penetrating wind.

IMAGE

Subtle penetration.
Success through the small.
It is good to have
a direction in life.
Seeing important people
will be an advantage.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Winds moving in the
same direction.
Subtle penetration.
A wise man sends out
words in order to carry
things forward.

Wind pushes gently, but continuously, in the direction in which it goes. This is its penetrating quality. This chapter means to penetrate into the heart of something; or to get to the bottom of something. This will be done by keeping-on gently pushing in the same direction. Other methods are often not so effective but the gentle way requires patience. It is particularly useful where you have only small strength and wish to uncover dark secrets and dirty dealings.

Concentrating on small details, and seeing people, will be an advantage.

57 LINES



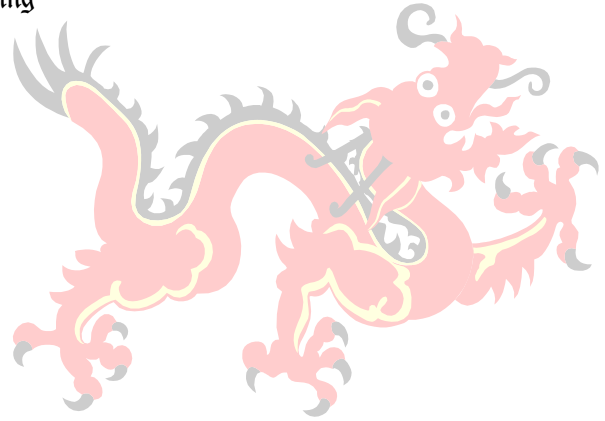
- 1) 6 at the start
- a) Advancing and retreating.
Perseverance like a warrior will be necessary.
- b) Doubts are controlled.

There is a danger of being indecisive and giving up. You must adopt the attitude of a warrior. You must do what is necessary at the time, advance or retreat, and not give up under any circumstances. If an opportunity arises to push forward you should take it. If you get pushed back you must try again and not give up.

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
- a) Penetration under the bed.
Making use of academics and holy men.
This mixture brings good fortune.
No blame.
- b) You attain a central position.

This is about dark and devious doings being uncovered and dragged out into the open. Bits of information from various sources start to link together and this brings good fortune at a later stage.

- 3) 9 in 3rd throw
- a) Urgent penetration.
Humiliation.
- b) Hard in a weak place.



This is somebody who is impatient and unable to penetrate subtly into the true nature of the situation. Instead they are nosey, listen to rumours, and jump to conclusions. This then leads to humiliation when they make a fool of themselves acting on wrong information.

- 4) 6 in 4th throw
- a) Remorse vanishes.
During the hunt three kinds of game are caught.
- b) This is an achievement.

There are various types of game that you can hunt. This means that you might do better than you expect.



5) 9 in 5th throw

- a) Perseverance brings good fortune.
Remorse vanishes.
Nothing that is not favourable.
Without beginning there is an ending.
Before the change; three days.
After the change; three days.
Good fortune.

- b) The situation is correctly centred.

This means that by gentle perseverance you will be able to bring something to an end after a period of time. This will bring good fortune and better times.

6) 9 at the top

- a) Penetration under the bed.
He loses his power and his status.
Perseverance brings misfortune.

- b) Holding on brings misfortune.

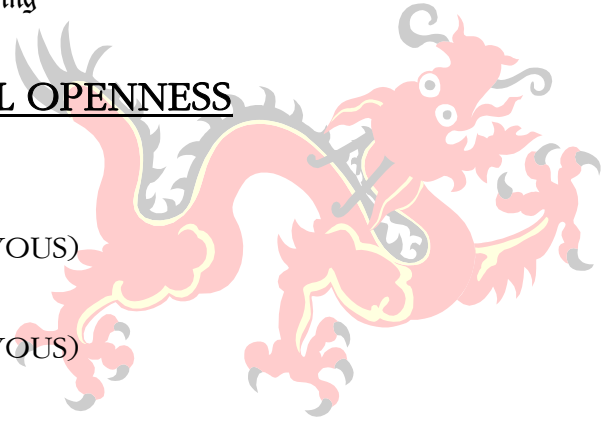
This is somebody who loses his position once it is discovered how he got it and how he held on to it.

58 CHEERFUL OPENNESS



LAKE (JOYOUS)

LAKE (JOYOUS)



Two lakes.

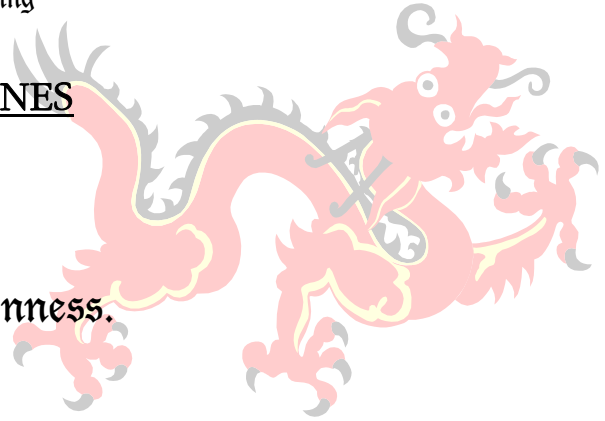
IMAGE

Cheerful openness.
Success.
Perseverance is favourable.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Joined lakes.
Cheerful openness.
A wise man joins with
his friends to talk
and to exchange ideas.

Cheerful openness is an attractive quality and is the correct way for friends to communicate with each other. Perseverance in this type of communication will lead to success but you will need to be more guarded with people who are not your friends.



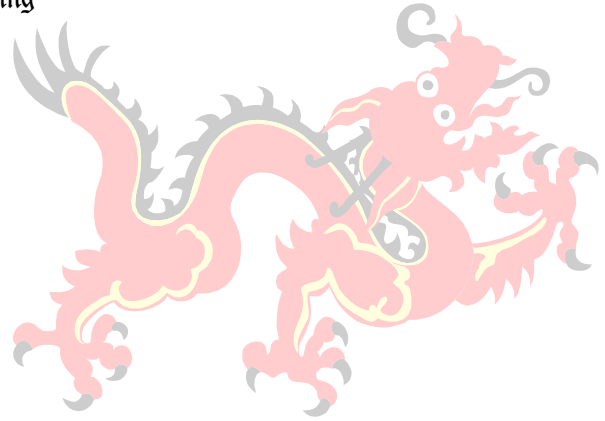
- 1) 9 at the start
 - a) Cheerful and harmonious openness.
Good fortune.
 - b) Free from dubious motives.

This means that you have happiness within, which expects nothing, and needs nothing from the outside. This is good fortune and the correct way to be.

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
 - a) Truthful openness.
Good fortune.
Remorse disappears.
 - b) Good fortune from having faith in one's self.

A cheerful and honest attitude influences people and attracts good fortune.

- 3) 6 in 3rd throw
- a) Expecting cheerfulness.
Misfortune.
- b) Weak and foolish.



Somebody looks forward to something that they think will make them happy. They talk about it, and chase after it, and they get themselves into trouble. This may be you or somebody you know. Do you fit this description? Empty-headed, easily bored, enjoys idle pleasures and amusements, lacking inner-stability.

- 4) 9 in 4th throw
- a) Businesslike cheerfulness is not comfortable.
Limiting the pressure brings joy.
- b) This brings blessing.

This means that you suffer some stress and it will continue until you make a change. You probably feel that you are reasonably happy now and that change might be risky. This line advises that your doubts about your present situation are correct and a change will lead to a happier situation.

5) 9 in 5th throw

a) Truthfulness that is revealing brings danger.

b) You must correct this situation.



If you are cheerful you may be tempted to talk openly with someone who pretends to be your friend. This can be a great mistake. If you have got this line you should not trust anyone or say any more than you need to.

6) 6 at the top

a) Seductive cheerfulness.

b) Not enlightened yet.

This is a false show of cheerful openness put on to try to influence people. There is no prediction of any results because it is not real and there will be no lasting effects. Try not to be fooled if it is being aimed at you.

59 DISPERSAL



WIND (GENTLE)

WATER (DANGER)



The wind blows across the water.

IMAGE

Dispersal. Success.
Like a king after church.
It is favourable to
do great works.
Perseverance is favourable.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Wind moves over the
waters. Dispersing.
The wise kings made
sacrifices to God by
building churches.

This chapter is related in meaning to chapter 45 - Gathering Together. After a gathering there is a time when people disperse. This is not the same as splitting apart since there is an intention to go away, do things, and then meet again.

Preparations for the next gathering are indicated here by the mention of building churches but all kinds of preparations would be useful.

59 LINES



- 1) 6 at the start
- a) Taking advantage of a rescuing horse.
Strength brings good fortune.
- b) Good fortune from not resisting.

This means that you can be pulled away from some difficulties by joining with someone else's strong movement.

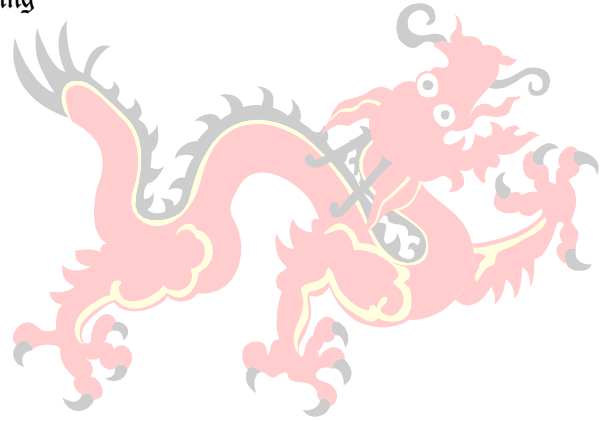
- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
- a) Dispersal; he hurries from the table.
Remorse disappears.
- b) He desires something.

It is right to go and seek something that you really want. You will get help and find the thing you need.

3) 6 in 3rd throw

a) Dispersing himself.
No remorse.

b) His mind is focused outside.



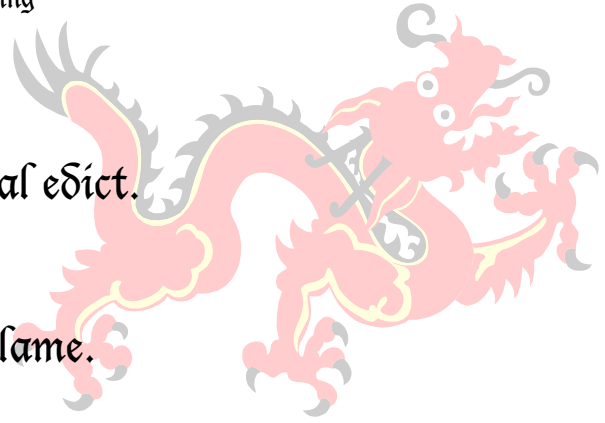
This means that you decide to put aside your own desires and do work for the good of others. This brings its own rewards and can take your mind away from other problems.

4) 6 in 4th throw

a) Dispersing one's friends.
Supreme good fortune.
Dispersed to a hilltop.
Thinking not hiding.

b) Greatness and brilliance.

This is someone who decides to go their own way or to let others go. This opens new fields of activity and brings good fortune.



5) 9 in 5th throw

a) Dispersing sweat; the imperial edict.
His most important order.
Dispersing.
A king takes office without blame.

b) He is in his proper place.

Here you have the position of ruler and your words reach out to the various scattered people. You are in the correct place and your influence spreads out from the centre.

6) 9 at the top

a) Dispersing his property.
Emerging and going far away.
No blame.

b) This avoids harm.

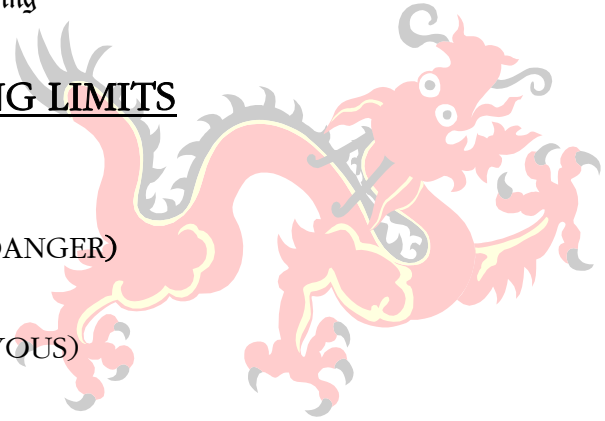
There is no blame in keeping away at this time. It avoids trouble and helps generally. It is good to know the correct timing of when to be absent.

60 SETTING LIMITS



WATER (DANGER)

LAKE (JOYOUS)



A lake that is full.

IMAGE

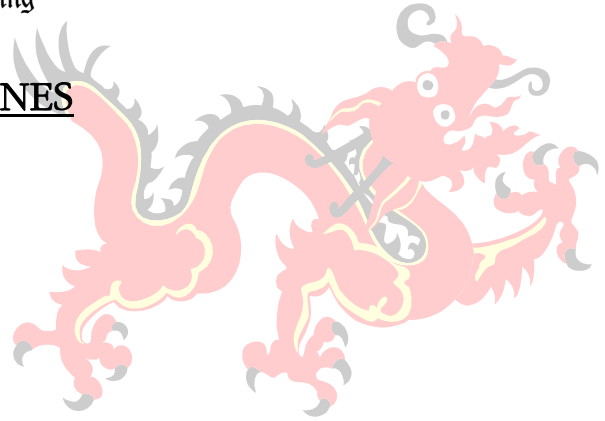
Setting limits. Success.
Do not persevere with
intolerable limitations.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Water above the lake.
Setting limits.
A wise man
marks a line before
taking a measurement,
and considers moral laws
before taking any action.

The meaning of this chapter is that limits are important, so that life can go on in an orderly way, but excessive limitations will cause resistance and trouble. It is necessary to find the correct balance. To understand and know the limits of things you must study them carefully and think about them thoroughly.

60 LINES



- 1) 9 at the start
 - a) Not going out of the door.
No blame.
 - b) You know what is open and what is closed.

This means that it is right to hold back and to stay indoors. You should limit yourself and be discrete.

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
 - a) Not going out of the gate.
Misfortune.
 - b) You miss the crucial moment.

This means that you should be doing something, now, and if you do not do it soon it may be too late.

3) 6 in 3rd throw

a) Not the type of person for limits,
therefore the type of person for sorrows.
No blame.

b) Only himself to blame.



This is someone who goes too far and ends up being sorry. This is learning the hard way, it may not be you, but think carefully - just in case.

4) 6 in 4th throw

a) Peaceful limitation.
Success.

b) You accept the way.

By adapting to your situation in a contented manner you follow the path that leads to success.

5) 9 in 5th throw

a) Happy limitation brings good fortune.
Going brings honour.

b) You remain central and in your place.



Here you are in a leading position but limit yourself more strongly than others. If you also manage to achieve things with modest means then this sets a good example and brings good fortune and respect.

6) 6 at the top

a) Intolerable limitations.
Perseverance brings misfortune.
Remorse disappears.

b) This way ends.

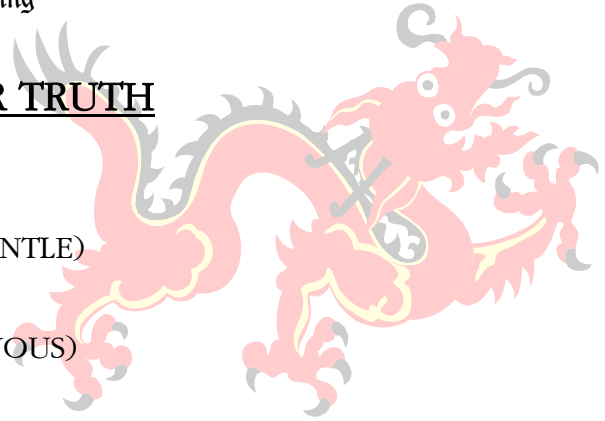
An annoying restriction is intolerable if continued for too long. If you impose such limitations on others they will probably rebel. This is why perseverance brings misfortune. Remorse disappears since the restrictions will be brought to an end.

61 INNER TRUTH



WIND (GENTLE)

LAKE (JOYOUS)



The wind blows over a lake.

IMAGE

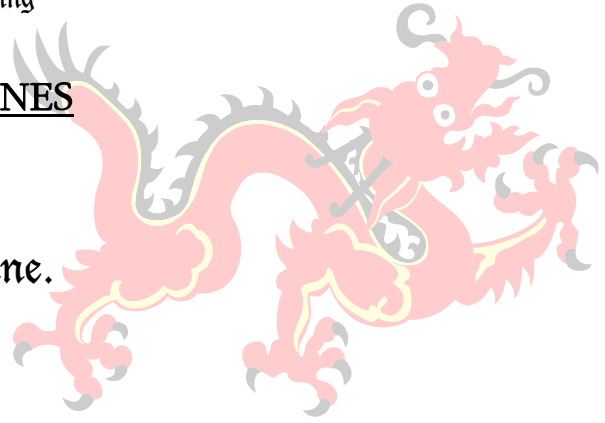
Inner truth.
Good fortune.
It is favourable to
do great works.
Perseverance is favourable.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Wind over the lake.
Inner truth.
A wise man
argues the case
for delaying killings.

The Chinese name for inner truth is kung fu which is well known as a martial art. It means a correct attitude of mind and this is especially necessary when dealing with a conflict or some other difficult circumstances. The advice is to avoid unnecessary troubles but not to avoid necessary work or dangers. With a correct attitude of mind you can succeed.

61 LINES



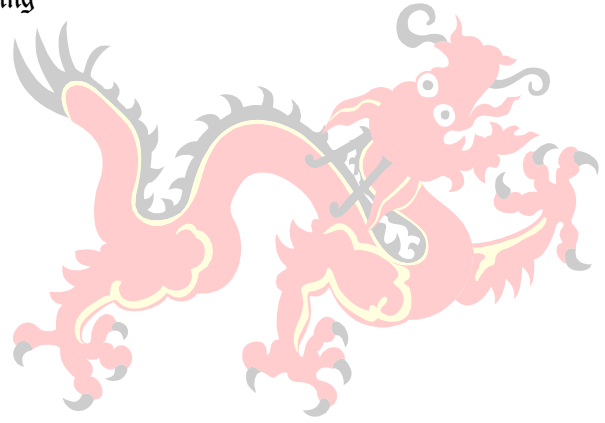
- 1) 9 at the start
- a) Precautions bring good fortune.
Possessing this not peace.
- b) No change of mind yet.

Inner truth involves being prepared, in your mind, for anything. This enables you to carry out your intentions no matter how difficult the situation becomes. Being ready brings good fortune.

There is also a suggestion here of trouble due to an avoidable situation that you have decided not to avoid. It does not say this is wrong since it is up to you to decide whether it is the right thing to do. If you do go ahead you must take the correct precautions.

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
- a) A crane calls in the dark, its young join in.
I have a fine glass of wine.
I am your friend just help yourself to it.
- b) This is the affection of the inmost heart.

Here, inner truth works between two people who like each other, and they see the sincerity of each other's feelings. They like to share things and see each other happy.



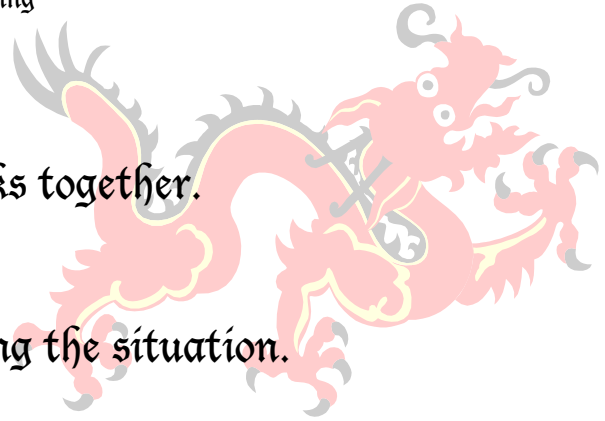
- 3) 6 in 3rd throw
- a) Acquiring an enemy.
Maybe beating a drum.
Maybe stopping.
Maybe grieving.
Maybe singing.
- b) Not appropriate behaviour.

This is someone whose mood swings erratically when they are under pressure. This is the opposite of inner truth and it can only make the situation worse. A calm and rational attitude is needed in times of conflict.

- 4) 6 in 4th throw
- a) The moon is nearly full.
The horses are gone.
No blame.
- b) This isolates the upper classes.

This occurs near the climax of something and is an example of a clever tactic being used to disable a stronger opponent, perhaps.

- 5) 9 in 5th throw
- a) He possesses truth which links together.
No blame.
- b) It is appropriate for correcting the situation.



This means you possess inner truth and your attitude is correct, so you will be able to deal correctly with whatever may occur.

- 6) 9 at the top
- a) High sounding words rising almost to heaven.
Perseverance brings misfortune.
- b) How could this last for long?

This is somebody who relies on words to influence people. Words do not have a lasting influence so perseverance in this leads to failure.

62 EXCESSIVE SMALLNESS



THUNDER (SHOCK)

MOUNTAIN (KEEPING STILL)



Thunder on the mountain.

IMAGE

Excessive smallness. Success.
Perseverance is favourable.
Small things may be done.
Big things should not be done.
A flying bird does not sing.
It is not right when up high
but it is right when down below.
Important people
bring good fortune.

SYMBOL TRADITION

Thunder above the
mountain.
Excessive nearness.
A wise man uses
humbleness to be polite,
quietness to show sorrow
and is thrifty when
spending.

This chapter is about a time of transition and change where it will be important to concentrate on small things. You should avoid doing anything that is dangerous, or conspicuous, and be prepared for shortages and a lack of money. Thunder on the mountain passes by quite quickly but can be a bit too close for comfort if you do not keep your head down.

62 LINES



- 1) 6 at the start
 - a) A bird that flies has a misfortune.
 - b) There is a reason why this is not possible.

This is the time to keep still - a bird should not fly in a thunderstorm. Later it will be safe but not yet.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
 - a) Humbly passing his grandfather.
Meeting his grandmother.
Not reaching his leader.
Meeting his servant.
No blame.
 - b) A servant must not be excessive.

Here you do not see the person who you wish to see and you have to deal with someone less important. This is a more humble approach and it actually suits the situation better.



3) 9 in 3rd throw

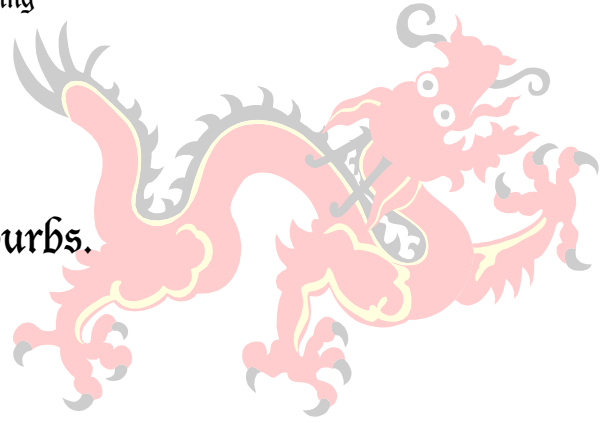
- a) It is not excessive to protect yourself;
but pursuing and attacking brings misfortune.
- b) What misfortune this will be.

Even a humble and modest person is entitled to defend himself but this does not include any pre-emptive strikes or search-and-destroy missions. This line suggests that if you go after someone you will end up in trouble.

4) 9 in 4th throw

- a) No blame.
Nowhere encountering excessively.
Going brings danger.
You must be on guard.
Constant perseverance should not be used.
- b) Be careful not to do too much.

Here, you are potentially in a good position, but there may be an attempt to provoke you into making a move too soon. Do not get drawn into anything or try too hard to continue with something.



- 5) 6 in 5th throw
- a) Thick clouds but no rain.
Beginning in my western suburbs.
A prince's string-arrow
reaches someone in a den.
- b) The ways of those above are ending.

The fifth line is the position of the ruler. Although you may have the qualities of a leader, these are difficult times, and you may appear to be without much help. This is a time of change, however, so things will soon improve, possibly because of new connections.

- 6) 6 at the top
- a) Nowhere agreeable; excessive instead.
A flying bird displays itself.
Misfortune.
This means ruin and disaster.
- b) Arrogance comes to an end.

This is somebody who is unwilling to retreat, or be reasonable, and tries to push on regardless. This gets them into serious trouble.

63 AFTER CROSSING THE RIVERS



WATER (DANGER)

FIRE (CLARITY)



Water above fire.

IMAGE

After crossing the rivers.
Success for the small
and adaptable.
Perseverance is favourable.
At the beginning good fortune.
At the end disorder.

SYMBOL TRADITION

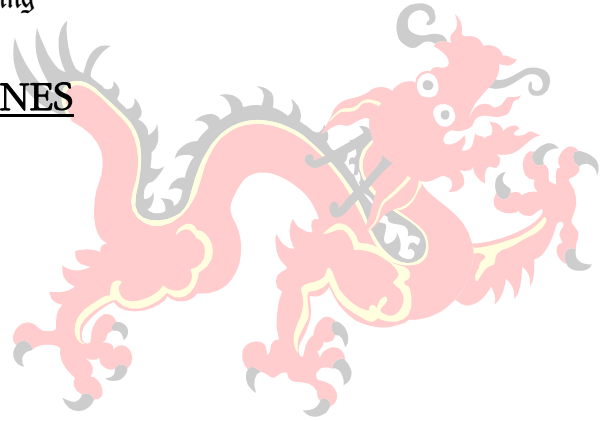
Water above fire.
After crossing.
A wise man thinks
about troubles
so that he can prepare
ways to avoid them.

After completing something you sit and relax, use a fire to boil some water, and then make some tea.

This is the situation after a time of transition when people and things are finally in their proper places.

This is not a time to be careless and the kettle on the fire is an example of this. Water and fire have opposing tendencies, the fire rises and evaporates the water, and the water tends to go downwards and smother the fire. The whole situation is like this and constant work will be needed to avoid the order turning into chaos.

63 LINES



- 1) 9 at the start
 - a) Dragging the wheels back.
Getting his tail wet.
No blame.
 - b) Righteous and without blame.

There is a danger at the beginning of being hit from behind, like a fox who goes to jump a stream and then changes his mind at the last minute, and gets his tail wet as he turns. The danger is best overcome by holding back firmly until it is safe.

- 2) 6 in 2nd throw
 - a) A wife losing her veil.
Do not pursue it.
On the seventh day you acquire it.
 - b) You will get it due to moderate behaviour.

Here something worrying happens and you feel you should be doing something about it. In this case it will be best if you do nothing and wait patiently until the situation resolves itself.

3) 9 in 3rd throw

a) The just warrior disciplines people on all sides.
After three years he gains control.
Evil people are no use.

b) This is exhausting.



This means that after a long and difficult struggle you will end up gaining control in some area previously controlled by evil people. You are warned against working with people who would be untrustworthy if given a position of power.

4) 6 in 4th throw

a) Identified wearing ragged clothes.
At the end of the day there is a warning.

b) There is cause for doubt.

This is a warning that things can go wrong quickly if you are not constantly careful.

5) 9 in 5th throw

a) The eastern neighbour slaughters an ox.
Not so the western neighbour with only a small offering.
Blessings are the result of sincerity.

b) You attain true happiness good fortune comes in great measure.

This means that your small gifts are better received than someone else's large gifts because they show genuine feeling. This will bring you what you wish for when it is time.

6) 6 at the top

a) Getting his head wet.
Danger.

b) How can this last for long?

These are the disorders at the end. Things go wrong for a weak person in a dangerous situation. He gets into trouble and he may drown. It was a mistake for this person to get into this situation.

64 NOT CROSSING THE RIVERS YET



FIRE (CLARITY)

WATER (DANGER)



Fire on the water.

IMAGE

Not crossing the rivers yet.
Success.
A small fox at
a muddy crossing place
gets his tail wet.
Nothing favourable.

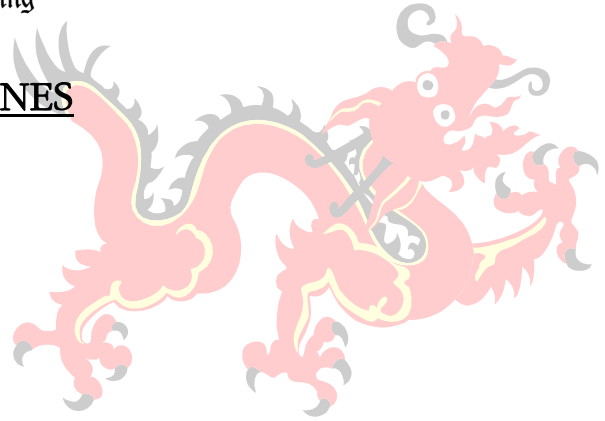
SYMBOL TRADITION

fire on the water.
Not crossing yet.
A wise man thinks
carefully to understand
all the different people
who live around him.

Crossing a river is dangerous if there is no bridge. If you have to cross you must look for a natural crossing place such as a ford where the water is shallow and the ground is firm. Even this is not enough since there is also a question of timing. If it has recently rained or the spring thaw is underway it will be sensible to wait.

This chapter is about waiting and not crossing yet. If you are about to go through a transition in your life you should think more about the correct timing.

64 LINES



- 1) 6 at the start
 - a) Getting his tail wet.
Humiliating.
 - b) Not knowing when to stop.

If you try to do something when it is the wrong time, probably because you do not wish to wait, it can result in an embarrassing failure.

- 2) 9 in 2nd throw
 - a) Dragging the wheels back.
Perseverance brings good fortune.
 - b) He acts moderately and correctly.

This is someone who holds back at the correct time. Restraint is necessary and brings good fortune later.

3) 6 in 3rd throw

a) Before crossing, punishments bring misfortune.
It will be favourable to pursue important goals.

b) The situation is not yet appropriate.



This is another warning to hold back. It is less general than the previous two lines. You can take some risks and travel, if necessary, but do not go on the offensive.

4) 9 in 4th throw

a) Perseverance brings good fortune.

Remorse disappears.

Shock creates discipline in the people on all sides.

After three years great rewards come from the great city.

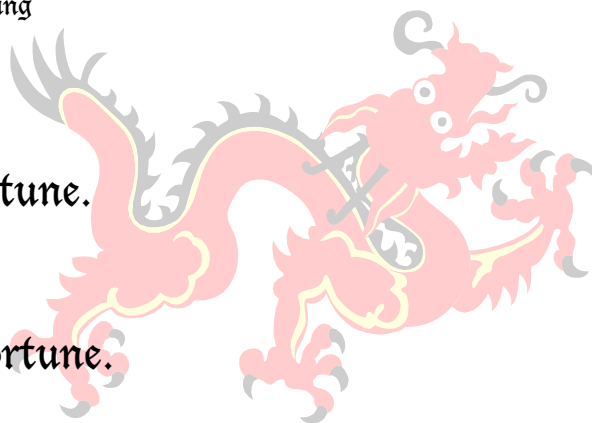
b) What is willed is done.

A surprise venture will be successful and will bring the results you hope for.

5) 6 in 5th throw

a) Perseverance brings good fortune.
No remorse.
The sight of a wise man.
Truthfulness leads to good fortune.

b) Your enlightenment brings good fortune.



You have a good attitude and you are in a good position. The worst is over and better times are on the way. You will soon be able to make your crossing successfully.

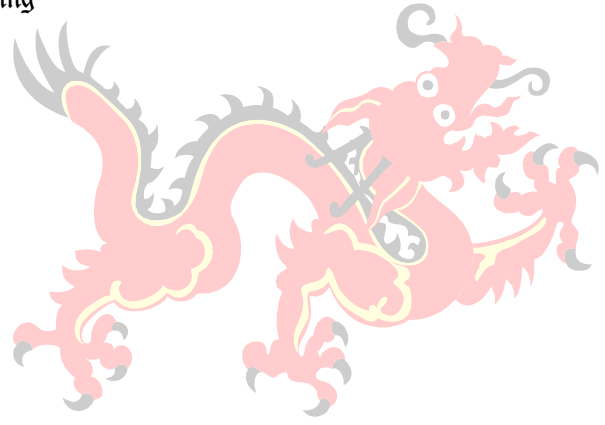
6) 9 at the top

a) Truthful and sincere enjoying a drink.
No blame.
If one gets drunk the truth will soon be lost

b) You are not aware of what you say.

The last line carries another warning. It is still possible to lose everything right at the last minute by being too relaxed and careless. If you have important things to do you must be constantly careful and never be careless and drunk. After a time of waiting a celebration is natural, and so is a farewell drink, with friends, but you need to be moderate or there will be problems.

I Ching



References and Further Reading

- 1, I CHING *Richard Wilhelm*
- 2, I CHING *R. Ritsema and S. Karcher* *Element Books*

