



6		H	H	T		3	3	2		8
5		H	H	T		3	3	2		8
4		H	H	T		3	3	2		8
3		H	H	T		3	3	2		8
2		H	T	T		3	2	2		7
1		H	H	T		3	3	2		8

HEXAGRAM 07 – Shih - The Army

Above K'UN THE RECEPTIVE, EARTH
Below K'AN THE ABYSMAL, WATER

This hexagram is made up of the trigrams

- K'an, water, and
- K'un, earth, and thus,

it symbolizes the ground water stored up in the earth.

In the same way military strength is stored up in the mass of the people –

- invisible in times of peace but
- always ready for use as a source of power.

The attributes of the two trigrams are

- danger inside and
- obedience outside.

This points to the nature of an army, which at the core is **dangerous**, while **discipline and obedience** must prevail outside.

Of the individual lines, the one that **controls** the hexagram is the strong nine in the second place to which the other lines, all yielding, are **subordinate**.

This line indicates a commander, because it **stands** in the middle of one of the two trigrams.

But since it is in the lower rather than the upper trigram, it represents **not the ruler** but the **efficient general**, who maintains **obedience** in the army by his authority.

THE JUDGMENT

THE ARMY.

The army needs perseverance
And a strong man.
Good fortune without blame.

An army is a mass that needs **organization** in order to become a fighting force. Without strict discipline nothing can be accomplished, but this discipline must not be achieved by force.

It requires a strong man who

- captures the hearts of the **people and**
- awakens their enthusiasm.

In order that he may develop his abilities he needs the **complete confidence** of his ruler, who must **entrust him** with full responsibility as long as the war lasts. But war

- is always a dangerous thing and
- brings with it destruction and devastation.

Therefore it

- should not be resorted to **rashly** but, like a poisonous drug,
- should be used **as a last recourse**.

- The justifying cause of a war, and

- clear and intelligible war aims,

ought to be explained to the people by an experienced leader.

Unless there is a quite definite war aim to which the people can consciously pledge themselves,

the unity and strength of conviction that lead to victory will not be forth coming.

But the leader must also look to it that

- the passion of war and

- the delirium of victory
do not give rise to unjust acts that will not meet with general approval.
If justice and perseverance are the basis of action, all goes well.

THE IMAGE

In the middle of the earth is water: The image of THE ARMY.
Thus the superior man increases his masses
By generosity toward the people.

Ground water is invisibly present within the earth.
In the same way the military power of a people is invisibly present in the masses.

- When danger threatens, every peasant becomes a soldier;
- when the war ends, he goes back to his plow.

He who is generous toward the people wins their love, and
a people living under a mild rule becomes strong and powerful.
Only a people economically strong can be important in military power.
Such power must therefore be cultivated

- by improving the economic condition of the people and
- by humane government.

Only when there is this invisible bond between government and people,
so that the people are sheltered by their government as ground water is sheltered
by the earth,
is it possible to wage a victorious war.