



6		H	T	T		3	2	2		7
5		H	T	T		3	2	2		7
4		H	T	T		3	2	2		7
3		H	H	H		3	3	3		9
2		H	T	T		3	2	2		7
1		H	H	H		3	3	3		9

**HEXAGRAM 01 – Chien - The Creative**

Above THE CREATIVE, HEAVEN  
 Below THE CREATIVE, HEAVEN

The first hexagram is made up of six unbroken lines.  
 These unbroken lines stand for the primal power, which is

- light giving,
- active,
- strong, and of
- the spirit.

The hexagram is consistently strong, in character, and since it is without weakness, its essence is power or energy.

Its image is heaven.

Its energy

- is represented as unrestricted by any fixed conditions in space and

- is therefore conceived of as motion.
- Time is regarded as the basis of this motion.

Thus the hexagram includes also

- the power of time and
- the power of persisting in time, that is, duration.

The power represented by the hexagram is to be interpreted in a dual sense - in terms of

- its action on the universe and of
  - its action on the world of men.
- In relation to the universe, the hexagram expresses the strong, creative action of the Deity.
  - In relation to the human world, it denotes the creative action of the holy man or sage, of the ruler or leader of men, who through his power awakens and develops their higher nature. 1

## THE JUDGMENT

THE CREATIVE works sublime success,  
Furthering through perseverance. 2

According to the original meaning, the attributes (sublimity, potentiality of success, power to further, perseverance) are paired.

When an individual draws this oracle, it means

- that success come to him from the primal depths of the universe and
- that everything depends upon his seeking his happiness and that of others in one way only, that is, by perseverance in what is right.

The specific meanings of the four attributes became the subject of speculation at an early date.

The Chinese word here rendered by "sublime" means literally "head," "origin," "great."

This is why Confucius says in explaining it:

"Great indeed is the generating power of the Creative; all beings owe their beginning to it. This power permeates all heaven. 3 For this attribute inheres in the other three as well.

The beginning of all things lies still in the beyond in the form of ideas that have yet to become real.

But the Creative furthermore has power to lend form to these archetypes of ideas.

- This is indicated in the word success, and
- the process is represented by an image from nature: "The clouds pass and the rain does its work, and all individual beings flow into their forms." 4

Applied to the human world, these attributes show the great man the way to notable success:

"Because he sees with great clarity causes and effects, he

- completes the six steps at the right time and
- mounts toward heaven on them at the right time, as though of six dragons."

The six steps are the six different positions given in the hexagram, which are represented later by the dragon symbol.

Here it is shown that the way to success lies in

- apprehending understanding and
- giving actuality to the way of the universe (Tao), which, as a law running through end and beginning, brings about all phenomena in time.

Thus each step attained forthwith becomes a preparation for the next.

Time is no longer a hindrance but the means of making actual what is potential.

The act of creation having found expression in the two attributes - sublimity and success,

the work of conservation is shown to be a continuous actualization and differentiation of form.

This is expressed in the two terms

- "furthering" (literally, "creating that which accords with the nature of a given being") and
- "persevering" (literally, "correct and firm").

"The course of the Creative alters and shapes beings until each attains its true, specific nature, then

it keeps them in conformity with the Great Harmony.

Thus does it show itself to further through perseverance."

In relation to the human sphere, this shows how

the great man brings peace and security to the world through his activity in creating order:

"He towers high above the multitude of beings, and all lands are united in peace."

Another line of speculation goes still further in separating the words "sublime," "success," "furthering" "perseverance," and parallels them with the four cardinal virtues in humanity.

1) To sublimity, which, as the fundamental principle, embraces all the other attributes, it links love.

2) To the attribute success are linked the mores, which regulate and organize the expressions of love and thereby make them successful. 5

3) The attribute furthering is correlated with justice, which creates the conditions in which each receives that which accords with his being, that which is due him and which constitutes his happiness.

4) The attribute perseverance is correlated with wisdom, which discerns the immutable laws of all that happens and can therefore bring about enduring conditions.

These speculations, already broached in the commentary called *Wen Yen*, 6 later formed the bridge connecting the philosophy of the "five stages (elements) of change," as laid down in the Book of History (*Shu Ching*) with the philosophy of the

Book of Changes, which is based solely on the polarity of positive and negative principles. In the course of time this combination of the two systems of thought opened the way for an increasingly intricate number symbolism. 7

## THE IMAGE

The movement of heaven is full of power.  
Thus the superior man makes himself strong and untiring.

Since there is only one heaven, the doubling of the trigram Ch'ien, of which heaven is the image, indicates the movement of heaven.

One complete revolution of heaven makes a day, and the repetition of the trigram means that each day is followed by another.

This creates the idea of time.

Since it is the same heaven moving with untiring power, there is also created the idea of duration both in and beyond time, a movement that never stops nor slackens, just as one day follows another in an unending course.

This duration in time is the image of the power inherent in the Creative.

With this image as a model,

the sage learns how best to develop himself so that his influence may endure.

He must make himself strong in every way,

by consciously casting out all that is inferior and degrading.

Thus he attains that tirelessness,

which depends upon **consciously limiting the fields of his activity.**

## THE LINES

Nine at the beginnings means:

Hidden dragon. Do not act.

In China the dragon has a meaning altogether different from that given it in the Western world.

The dragon is a symbol of the electrically charged, dynamic, arousing force that manifests itself in the thunderstorm.

- In winter this energy withdraws into the earth;
- in the early summer it becomes active again, appearing in the sky as thunder and lightning.

As a result the creative forces on earth begin to stir again.

Here this creative force is still hidden beneath the earth and therefore has no effect.

In terms of human affairs, this symbolizes a great man who is still unrecognized.

Nonetheless he remains true to himself.

He does not allow himself to be influenced by outward success or failure, but confident in his strength, he bides his time.

Hence it is wise for the man who consults the oracle and draws this line to wait in the calm strength of patience.

The time will fulfill itself.

One need not fear lest strong will should not prevail;  
the main thing is not to expend one's powers prematurely in an attempt to obtain  
by force something for which the time is not yet ripe.

Nine in the third place means:

All day long the superior man is creatively active.

At nightfall his mind is still beset with cares.

Danger.

No blame.

A sphere of influence opens up for the great man.

His fame begins to spread.

The masses flock to him.

His inner power is adequate to the increased outer activity.

There are all sorts of things to be done, and when others are at rest in the evening,  
plans and anxieties press in upon him.

But danger lurks here at the place of transition from lowliness to the heights.

Many a great man has been ruined because the masses flocked to him and swept  
him into their course. **Ambition** has destroyed his integrity.

However, true greatness is not impaired by temptations.

He who **remains** in touch with the time that is dawning, and with its demands, is  
**prudent** enough to avoid all pitfalls, and remains blameless.

## MOVING HEXAGRAM

### HEXAGRAM 06 – Sung - Conflict

Above CH'IEN            THE CREATIVE, HEAVEN

Below K'AN            THE ABYSMAL, WATER

1. The upper trigram, whose image is heaven, has an upward movement;  
the lower trigram, water, in accordance with its nature, tends downward.  
Thus the two halves **move away** from each other, giving rise to the idea of  
**conflict**.
2. The attribute of the Creative is **strength**  
that of the abysmal is danger, **guile**.  
**Where cunning has force before it, there is conflict.**
3. A third indication of **conflict**, in terms of character, is presented by the  
combination of  
deep **cunning** within and  
fixed **determination** outwardly.  
A person of this character will certainly be quarrelsome.

## THE JUDGMENT

### CONFLICT.

- You are sincere And
- are being obstructed.

A cautious halt halfway brings good fortune.

Going through to the end brings misfortune.

It furthers one to see the great man.

It does not further one to cross the great water.

Conflict develops when one

- feels himself to be in the right and
- runs into opposition.

If one is not convinced of being in the right, opposition leads

- to craftiness or high-handed encroachment but
- not to open conflict.

If a man is entangled in a conflict,  
his only salvation lies in being so

- clear-headed and
- inwardly strong

that he is always ready to come to terms by meeting the opponent halfway.

To carry on the conflict to the bitter end has evil effects even when one is in the right,

because the enmity is then perpetuated.

It is important to see the great man,

that is, an impartial man whose authority is great enough to

- terminate the conflict amicably or
- assure a just decision.

In times of strife, crossing the great water is to be avoided, that is,

dangerous enterprises are not to be begun,

because in order to be successful they require concerted unity of forces.

Conflict within weakens the power to conquer danger without.

## THE IMAGE

Heaven and water go their opposite ways: The image of Conflict.

Thus in all his transactions the superior man

Carefully considers the beginning.

The image indicates that

the causes of conflict are latent in the opposing tendencies of the two trigram.

Once these opposing tendencies appear, conflict is inevitable.

To avoid it, therefore, everything must be taken carefully into consideration in the very beginning.

- If rights and duties are exactly defined, or

- if, in a group, the spiritual trends of the individuals harmonize, the cause of conflict is removed in advance.