



6		H	T	T		3	2	2		7
5		H	H	T		3	3	2		8
4		H	H	H		3	3	3		9
3		H	H	T		3	3	2		8
2		H	T	T		3	2	2		7
1		H	T	T		3	2	2		7

### HEXAGRAM 39 – Chien - Obstruction

Above K'AN THE ABYSMAL, WATER  
 Below KEN KEEPING STILL, MOUNTAIN

The hexagram **pictures**

- a dangerous abyss lying before us and
- a steep, inaccessible mountain rising behind us.

**We are surrounded by obstacles;**

at the same time,

since the mountain has the attribute of keeping still, there is implicit a **hint as to how we can extricate ourselves.**

The hexagram **represents** obstructions that appear in the course of time but that **can and should be** overcome.

Therefore

**all the instruction given is directed to overcoming them.**

### THE JUDGMENT

## OBSTRUCCION.

- The southwest furthers.
  - The northeast does not further.
  - It furthers one to see the great man.
- Perseverance brings good fortune.

The southwest is the region of retreat,  
the northeast that of advance.

Here

an individual is **confronted** by obstacles that  
**cannot be** overcome directly.

In such a situation

it is wise

- to pause in view of the danger and
- to retreat.

However,

this is merely a preparation for overcoming the obstructions.

One must

- join forces with friends of like mind and
- put himself under the leadership of a man equal to the situation:

then

one will succeed in removing the obstacles.

This **requires** the will to persevere

just when

one apparently must do something that leads away from his goal.

This **unswerving inner purpose** brings good fortune in the end.

**An obstruction that lasts only for a time is useful for self-development.**

**This is the value of adversity.**

## THE IMAGE

Water on the mountain:

The image of OBSTRUCTION.

Thus the superior man

- turns his attention to himself And
- molds his character.

**Difficulties and obstructions throw a man back upon himself.**

While

- the inferior man
  - seeks to put the blame on other persons, bewailing his fate,
- the superior man
  - seeks the error within himself, and through this introspection
- the external obstacle becomes for him an occasion for
  - inner enrichment and
  - education.

## THE LINES

Six in the fourth place means:

Going leads to obstructions,

Coming leads to union.

This too **describes** a situation that **cannot** be managed single-handed.

In such a case

the direct way is not the shortest.

If a person were to forge ahead

- on his own strength and
  - without the necessary preparations,
- he
- would not find the support he needs and
  - would realize too late that he has been mistaken in his calculations, inasmuch as the conditions on which he hoped he could rely would prove to be inadequate.

In this case it is better, therefore,

- to hold back for the time being and
- to gather together trustworthy companions who can be counted upon for help in overcoming the obstructions.

## MOVING HEXAGRAM

### HEXAGRAM 41 – Sun - Decrease

Above KEN KEEPING STILL, MOUNTAIN

Below TUI THE JOYOUS, LAKE

This hexagram **represents**

- a decrease of the lower trigram
  - in favor of the upper, because
  - the third line, originally strong, has **moved up** to the top, and
  - the top line, originally weak, has **replaced it**. 1
- What is below is decreased to the **benefit of**
  - what is above.

**This is out-and-out decrease.**

If

- the foundations of a building are decreased in strength and

- the upper walls are strengthened,  
the whole structure loses its stability.

Likewise,

- a decrease in the prosperity of the people
  - in favor of the government
- is out-and-out decrease.

And

the entire theme of the hexagram is directed to showing how this shift of wealth can take place without causing the sources of wealth in

- the nation and
  - its lower classes
- to fail.

## THE JUDGMENT

DECREASE combined with sincerity  
Brings about supreme good fortune  
Without blame.

- One may be persevering in this.  
It furthers one to undertake something.  
How is this to be carried out?
- One may use two small bowls for the sacrifice.

Decrease does not under all circumstances mean something bad.

Increase and decrease come in their own time.

What matters here is

- to understand the time and
- not to try to cover up poverty with empty pretense.

If a time of scanty resource brings out an inner truth,  
one must not feel ashamed of simplicity.

For simplicity is then the very thing needed to provide inner strength for further undertakings.

Indeed, there need be no concern if the outward beauty of the civilization,  
even the elaboration of religious forms,  
should have to suffer because of simplicity.

One must draw on the strength of the inner attitude to compensate for what is lacking in externals;

then the power of the content makes up for the simplicity of form.

There is no need of presenting false appearances to God.

Even with slender means, the sentiment of the heart can be expressed. 2

## THE IMAGE

At the foot of the mountain, the lake: The image of DECREASE.

Thus the superior man

- controls his anger And
- restrains his instincts.

The lake at the foot of the mountain **evaporates.**

In this way

it **decreases** to the benefit of the mountain,  
which is enriched by its moisture.

- The **mountain** stands as the **symbol** of a stubborn strength that can harden into anger.
- The **lake** is the **symbol** of unchecked gaiety that can develop into passionate drives at the expense of the life forces.

Therefore decrease is necessary;

- anger must be decreased by keeping still,
- the instincts must be curbed by restriction.

By this decrease of the lower powers of the psyche,  
the higher aspects of the soul are enriched.