



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

### HEXAGRAM 33 – Tun - Retreat

Above CHIEN THE CREATIVE, HEAVEN  
 Below KEN KEEPING STILL, MOUNTAIN

The power of the dark is ascending.

The light retreats to security, so that the dark cannot encroach upon it.

This retreat is a matter

- not of man's will
- but of natural law.

Therefore in this case withdrawal is proper;

it is the correct way to behave in order not to exhaust one's forces. 1

In the calendar this hexagram is linked with the sixth month (July-August), in which the forces of winter are already showing their **influence**.

## THE JUDGMENT

RETREAT. Success.

In what is small, perseverance furthers.

Conditions are such that the hostile forces **favor**ed by the time are **advancing**.

In this case

- retreat is the **right** course, and
- it is through retreat that **success** is achieved.

But success **consists** in being able to carry out the retreat correctly.

Retreat **is not** to be confused with flight.

- Flight means saving oneself **under any circumstances whereas**
- retreat is a sign of strength.

We must be careful **not to miss** the right moment while we are **in full possession** of power and position.

Then we **shall be able**

- to **interpret** the signs of the time
  - before it is too late and
- to **prepare** for provisional retreat
  - instead of being drawn into a desperate life-and-death struggle.

Thus

- we **do not** simply abandon the field to the opponent;
- we **make** it difficult for him to advance
  - by showing **perseverance** in single acts of resistance.

In this way

we **prepare**, while retreating, for the counter - movement.

**Understanding** the laws of a constructive retreat of this sort is not easy.

The **meaning** that lies hidden in such a time is important.

## THE IMAGE

Mountain under heaven: the image of RETREAT.

Thus the superior man

**keeps** the inferior man at a distance,

**Not angrily but with reserve.**

The mountain **rises up** under heaven, but owing to its nature it finally **comes to** a stop.

Heaven on the other hand

- **retreats upward** before it into the distance and
- **remains** out of reach.

This **symbolizes** the behavior of the superior man toward a climbing inferior; he **retreats** into his own thoughts as the inferior man comes forward.

He **does not** hate him,

for hatred **is** a form of subjective involvement

by which we are **bound** to the hated object.  
The superior man shows **strength** (heaven) in that  
he brings the inferior man to a **standstill** (mountain)  
by his dignified **reserve**.

## **THE LINES**

Nine in the fourth place means:

Voluntary retreat brings

- good fortune to the superior man And
- downfall to the inferior man.

In retreating the superior man is **intent on** taking his departure

- **willingly and**
- **in all friendliness.**

He easily **adjusts** his mind to retreat,  
because in retreating  
he does **not have to do** violence to his convictions.

**The only one who suffers is the inferior man from whom he retreats,  
who will degenerate when deprived of the guidance of the superior man.**

## **MOVING HEXAGRAM**

### **HEXAGRAM 53 – Chien - Development (Gradual Progress)**

Above SUN THE GENTLE, WIND, WOOD  
Below KEN KEEPING STILL, MOUNTAIN

This hexagram is made up of

- Sun (wood, penetration) above, i.e., without, and
- Ken (mountain, stillness) below, i.e., within.

A tree on a mountain

- **develops** slowly according to the law of its being and consequently
- **stands** firmly rooted.

This gives the idea of

**a development that proceeds gradually, step by step.**

The attributes of the trigrams also point to this:

- **within is tranquility,**
  - **which guards against precipitate actions, and**
- **without is penetration,**
  - **which makes development and progress possible.**

## THE JUDGMENT

DEVELOPMENT.

The maiden

Is given in marriage.

Good fortune.

Perseverance furthers.

1. The development of events that leads to a girl's following a man to his home proceeds slowly. The various formalities must be disposed of before the marriage takes place.

This principle of gradual development can be applied to other situations as well; it is always applicable where

2. it is a matter of correct relationships of co-operation, as for instance in the appointment of an official.

The development must be allowed to take its proper course. Hasty action would not be wise.

This is also true, finally, of

3. any effort to exert influence on others, for here too

the essential factor is a correct way of development through cultivation of one's own personality.

No influence such as that exerted by agitators has a lasting effect.

Within the personality too,

development must follow the same course if lasting results are to be achieved.

Gentleness

- that is adaptable,
  - but at the same time penetrating,
- is the outer form that should proceed from inner calm.

The very gradualness of the development makes it necessary to have perseverance, for perseverance alone prevents slow progress from dwindling to nothing.

## THE IMAGE

On the mountain, a tree: The image of DEVELOPMENT.

Thus the superior man

abides in dignity and virtue,

In order to improve the mores.

The tree on the mountain

- is visible from afar, and
- its development influences the landscape of the entire region.

It does not shoot up like a swamp plant;

its growth proceeds gradually.

Thus also

the work of influencing people can be only gradual.

No sudden influence or awakening is of lasting effect.

Progress must be quite gradual, and

in order to obtain such progress

- in public opinion and

- in the mores of the people,

it is necessary for the personality to acquire

- influence and

- weight.

This comes about through careful and constant work on one's own moral development.