



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

HEXAGRAM 50 – Ting - The Caldron

Above LI THE CLINGING, FIRE
 Below SUN THE GENTLE, WIND, WOOD

1. The six lines construct the **image** of Ting, THE CALDRON;
 - at the bottom are the legs,
 - over them the belly,
 - then come the ears (handles), and
 - at the top the carrying rings.

At the same time,

2. **the image** suggests the idea of **nourishment**.

The Ting, cast of bronze, was the vessel that held the cooked viands

- in the temple of the ancestors and

- at banquets.

The head of the family served the food

- from the Ting
- into the bowls of the guests.¹

THE WELL (48) likewise has the secondary meaning of giving nourishment, but rather more in relation to the people.

The Ting, as a utensil pertaining to a refined civilization, suggests the

- fostering and nourishing of able men, which
- redounded to the benefit of the state. (2)

- This hexagram and
- THE WELL

are the only two in the Book of Changes that represent

- concrete,
- man-made objects.

Yet here too the thought has its abstract connotation.

- Sun, below, is wood and wind;
- Li, above, is flame.

Thus together they stand for the flame kindled by wood and wind, which likewise suggests the idea of preparing food.

THE JUDGMENT

THE CALDRON.

Supreme good fortune.

Success.

While

THE WELL relates to

- the social foundation of our life, and
 - this foundation is likened to
 - the water that serves to nourish growing wood,
- the present hexagram refers to
- the cultural superstructure of society.

Here

- it is the wood that serves as nourishment for the flame, the spirit.

All that is visible must

- grow beyond itself,
- extend into the realm of the invisible.

Thereby

it

- receives its true consecration and clarity and
- takes firm root in the cosmic order.

Here

we see civilization as it reaches its culmination in religion.

The Ting serves in offering sacrifice to God.

The highest earthly values must be sacrificed to the divine.

But

the truly divine does not manifest itself apart from man.

The supreme revelation of God appears in

- prophets and
- holy men.

To venerate them is true veneration of God.

The will of God, as revealed through them, should be accepted in humility;

- this brings inner enlightenment and true understanding of the world, and
- this leads to great good fortune and success.

THE IMAGE

Fire over wood: The image of THE CALDRON.

Thus

the superior man

consolidates his fate

By making his position correct.

The fate of fire depends on wood;

- as long as there is wood below,
- the fire burns above.

It is the same in human life;

- there is in man likewise a fate that
- lends power to his life.

And if

- he succeeds in assigning the right place
 - to life and
 - to fate,

thus bringing the two into harmony,

- he puts his fate on a firm footing.

These words contain hints about the fostering of life

as handed on by oral tradition in the secret teachings of Chinese yoga,