



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	H	T		3	3	2		8
2		H	H	T		3	3	2		8
1		H	H	H		3	3	3		9

### HEXAGRAM 21 - Shih Ho - Biting Through

Above LI THE CLINGING, FIRE  
 Below CHEN THE AROUSING, THUNDER

This hexagram **represents** an open mouth (cf. hexagram 27) with an obstruction (in the fourth place) between the teeth.

As a **result** the lips cannot meet.

To bring them together one must **bite energetically through** the obstacle.

Since the hexagram is **made up** of the trigrams for thunder and for lightning,

it **indicates** how obstacles are forcibly removed in nature.

- Energetic biting through **overcomes** the obstacle that prevents joining of the lips;
- the storm with its thunder and lightning **overcomes** the disturbing tension in nature.
- Recourse to law and penalties **overcomes** the disturbances of harmonious social life caused by
  - criminals and
  - slanderers.

The **theme** of this hexagram is a **criminal lawsuit**, in contradistinction to that of Sung, CONFLICT (6), which **refers** to **civil suits**.

## THE JUDGMENT

BITING THROUGH has **success**.  
It is favorable to let justice be administered.

**When an obstacle to union arises,**  
**energetic biting through brings success.**

**This is true in all situations.**

**Whenever unity cannot be established,**  
**the obstruction is due to a talebearer and traitor who is interfering and blocking the way.**

**To prevent permanent injury,**  
**vigorous measures must be taken at once.**

**Deliberate obstruction of this sort does not vanish of its own accord.**  
**Judgment and punishment are required to deter or obviate it.**

However,  
**it is important to proceed in the right way.**

The hexagram **combines**

- Li, **clarity**, and
- Chen, **excitement**.
  
- Li is **yielding**,
- Chen is **hard**.

**Unqualified hardness and excitement**  
**would be too violent in meting out punishment;**

**unqualified clarity and gentleness**  
**would be too weak.**

**The two together create the just measure.**

It is of moment that

- **the man who makes the decisions (represented by the fifth line) is gentle by nature,**

while

- **he commands respect by his conduct in his position.**

## THE IMAGE

Thunder and lightning: The image Of BITING THROUGH.

Thus

the kings of former times

made firm the laws

Through clearly defined penalties.

Penalties are the individual applications of the law.

The laws specify the penalties.

- Clarity prevails when mild and severe penalties are clearly differentiated, according to the nature of the crimes.
  - This is symbolized by the clarity of lightning.
- The law is strengthened by a just application of penalties.
  - This is symbolized by the terror of thunder.

This clarity and severity have the effect of instilling respect;

it is not that the penalties are ends in themselves.

- The obstructions in the social life of man increase when there is
  - lack of clarity in the penal codes and
  - slackness in executing them.
- The only way to strengthen the law is
  - to make it clear and
  - to make penalties certain and swift.

## THE LINES:

Nine at the beginning means:

His feet are fastened in the stocks,

So that his toes disappear.

No blame.

If a sentence is imposed the first time a man attempts to do wrong,  
the penalty is a mild one.

Only the toes are put in the stocks.

This prevents him from sinning further and

thus he becomes free of blame.

It is a warning to halt in time on the path of evil.

## MOVING HEXAGRAM

### HEXAGRAM 35 – Chin - Progress

Above LI THE CLINGING, FIRE

Below K'UN THE RECEPTIVE, EARTH

The hexagram **represents** the sun rising over the earth. It is therefore the **symbol** of rapid, easy progress, which at the same time **means**

- ever widening **expansion** and
- **clarity**.

## THE JUDGMENT

PROGRESS.

The powerful prince  
Is honored with horses in large numbers.  
In a single day he is granted audience three times.

As an example of progress, this **pictures** a time when a powerful feudal lord

- **rallies** the other lords around the sovereign and
- **pledges** fealty and peace.

The sovereign

- **rewards** him richly and
- **invites** him to a closer intimacy.

A **twofold** idea is set forth here.

1. The actual effect of the progress emanates from a man

- who is in a dependent position and
- whom the others
  - regard as their equal and
  - are therefore willing to follow.

This leader has enough clarity of vision

- not to abuse his great influence
- but to use it rather for the benefit of his ruler.

2. His ruler in turn

- is free of all jealousy,
- showers presents on the great man, and
- invites him continually to his court.

- An enlightened ruler and
- an obedient servant –

this is the condition on which great progress depends.

## THE IMAGE

The sun rises over the earth: The image Of PROGRESS.  
Thus the superior man himself  
**Brightens his bright virtue.**

The **light** of the sun as it rises over the earth is by nature clear.

The higher the sun rises,  
the more it emerges from the dark mists,  
spreading the pristine purity of its rays over an ever widening area.

The real nature of man

- is likewise originally good,
- but it
  - becomes clouded by contact with earthly things and therefore
  - needs purification before it can shine forth in its native clarity. 1