



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

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 at the beginning means:

- Going leads to obstructions.
- Coming meets with praise.

When one encounters an obstruction, the important thing is to reflect on how best to deal with it.

When threatened with danger,

- one should not strive blindly to go ahead, for this only leads to complications.

The correct thing is, on the contrary,

- to retreat for the time being,
 - not in order to give up the struggle
 - but to await the right moment for action.

MOVING HEXAGRAM

HEXAGRAM 63 - Chi Chi - After Completion

Above K'AN THE ABYSMAL, WATER

Below Li THE CLINGING, FIRE

This hexagram is the evolution of T'ai, PEACE (11).

- The transition from confusion to order is completed, and
- everything is in its proper place even in particulars.

- The strong lines are in the strong places,
- the weak lines in the weak places.

- This is a very favorable outlook, yet

- it gives reason for thought.

For

- it is just when perfect equilibrium has been reached that
- any movement may cause order to revert to disorder.

The one strong line that
has moved to the top,
thus

effecting complete order in details,

- is followed by the other lines,
each moving according to its nature,
and thus suddenly
- there arises again the hexagram P'i, STANDSTILL (12).

Hence

the present hexagram

- indicates the conditions of a time of climax,
which
- necessitate the utmost caution.

THE JUDGMENT

AFTER COMPLETION.

Success in small matters.

Perseverance furthers.

- At the beginning good fortune,
- At the end disorder.

The transition from the old to the new time
is already accomplished.

In principle,

everything stands systematized,

and

it is only in regard to details

that

success is still to be achieved.

In respect to this, however,

we must be careful to maintain the right attitude.

- Everything proceeds as if of its own accord,
and
- this can all too easily tempt us to
relax and let things take their course
without troubling over details.

Such indifference is the root of all evil.

Symptoms of decay are bound to be the result.

Here

we have

- the rule indicating the usual course of history.

But

- this rule is not an inescapable law.

He who understands it

is in position to avoid its effects by dint of

- unremitting perseverance

and

- caution.

THE IMAGE

Water over fire: the image of the condition

In AFTER COMPLETION.

Thus

the superior man

- Takes thought of misfortune

And

- arms himself against it in advance.

When

water in a kettle hangs over fire,

the two elements

- stand in relation

and thus

- generate energy

(cf. the production of steam).

But

the resulting tension demands caution.

If

the water boils over,

- the fire is extinguished

and

- its energy is lost.

If

the heat is too great,

- the water evaporates into the air.

These elements here

- brought into relation

and thus

- generating energy

are by nature hostile to each other.

Only the most extreme caution can prevent damage.

In life too there are junctures when

- all forces are in balance

and

- work in harmony,

so that

everything seems to be in the best of order.

In such times only

the sage

- recognizes the moments that bode danger

and

- knows how to banish it by means of timely precautions.