



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

HEXAGRAM 64 - Wei Chi - Before Completion

Above Li THE CLINGING, FLAME
 Below K'AN THE ABYSMAL, WATER

This hexagram indicates a time when **the transition from disorder to order is not yet completed.**

The change is indeed prepared for, since

all the lines in the upper trigram are in relation to those in the lower (1).

However,

they **are not yet** in their places.

While

- the preceding hexagram offers an analogy to **autumn,**
 - which forms the transition

- from summer to winter,
- this hexagram presents a parallel to **spring**,
 - which leads out of winter's stagnation into the fruitful time of summer.

With this hopeful outlook the Book of Changes comes to its close.

THE JUDGMENT

BEFORE COMPLETION.

Success.

But if the little fox, after nearly completing the crossing,
Gets his tail in the water,
There is nothing that would further.

The conditions are difficult.

The task is great and full of responsibility.

It is nothing less than that of
leading the world out of confusion back to order.

But

it is a task that **promises success**,
because

there is **a goal that can unite the** forces now tending in different directions.

At first, however,

one must **move warily**, like an old fox walking over ice.

The caution of a fox walking over ice is proverbial in China.

His ears are constantly alert to the cracking of the ice,
as

he carefully and circumspectly searches out the safest spots.

A young fox who as yet has not acquired this caution
goes ahead boldly,

and it may happen that

he falls in and gets his tail wet
when

he is almost across the water.

Then of course

his effort has been all in vain.

Accordingly, in times "before completion,"

- **deliberation**

and

- **caution**

are the prerequisites of success.

THE IMAGE

Fire over water: The image of the condition before transition.

Thus

the superior man is careful

In the differentiation of things,
So that each finds its place.

When

fire,

- which by nature flames upward,
is above,

and

water,

- which flows downward,
is below,

their effects

- take opposite directions

and

- remain unrelated.

If

- we wish to achieve an effect,
- we must first
 - investigate the nature of the forces in question
and
 - ascertain their proper place.

If

- we can bring these forces to bear in the right place,
 - they will have the desired effect,and
 - completion will be achieved.

But in order to handle external forces properly,

- we must above all arrive at the correct standpoint ourselves,
for only from this vantage can we work correctly.

THE LINES

Nine in the second place means:

He brakes his wheels.

Perseverance brings good fortune.

Here again

the time to act has not yet come.

But

the patience needed is not that of

- idle waiting without thought of the morrow.

Kept up indefinitely,

- this would not lead to any success.

Instead,

an individual

- must develop in himself the strength

that

- will enable him to go forward.
- He
- must have a vehicle, as it were, to effect the crossing.
- But
- he
- must for the time being use the brakes.
- Patience in the highest sense means putting brakes on strength.
- Therefore
- he must not
- fall asleep
- and
- lose sight of the goal.
- If
- he remains strong and steadfast in his resolve,
 - all goes well in the end.

Nine in the fourth place means:
 Perseverance brings good fortune.
 Remorse disappears.
 Shock, thus to discipline the Devil's Country.
 For three years, great realms are awarded.

Now it is the time of struggle.
 The transition must be completed.
 We

- must make ourselves strong in resolution;
 this brings good fortune.

All misgivings that might arise in such grave times of struggle

- must be silenced.

It is a question of a fierce battle

- to break

and

- to discipline

the Devil's Country, the forces of decadence.

But

- the struggle also has its reward.

Now is the time to lay the foundations of

- power

and

- mastery

for the future.

Six in the fifth place means:
 Perseverance brings good fortune.
 No remorse.
 The light of the superior man is true.

Good fortune.

The victory has been won.

The power of steadfastness has not been routed.

Everything has gone well.

All misgivings have been overcome.

Success has justified the deed.

The light of a superior personality

- shines forth anew

and

- makes its influence felt among men who have faith in it and rally around it.

The new time has arrived,

and

with it good fortune.

And just

- as the sun shines forth in redoubled beauty after rain, or

- as a forest grows more freshly green from charred ruins after a fire,

so

- the new era appears all the more glorious by contrast with the misery of the old.

MOVING HEXAGRAM

HEXAGRAM 20 – Kuan - Contemplation (View)

Above SUN THE GENTLE, WIND

Below K'UN THE RECEPTIVE, EARTH

A slight variation of tonal stress gives the Chinese name for this hexagram a double meaning.

It means both

- contemplating and
- being seen, in the sense of being an example.

These ideas are suggested by the fact that the hexagram can be understood as picturing a type of tower characteristic of ancient China.

- A tower of this kind commanded a wide view of the country; at the same time, when situated on a mountain,
- it became a landmark that could be seen for miles around.

Thus the hexagram shows a ruler

- who contemplates the law of heaven above him and the ways of the people below, and
- who, by means of good government, sets a lofty example to the masses.

This hexagram is linked with the eighth month (September - October).

- The light-giving power retreats and
- the dark power is again on the increase.

However, this aspect is not material in the interpretation of the hexagram as a whole.

THE JUDGMENT

CONTEMPLATION.

- The ablution has been made,
But
- not yet the offering.
Full of trust they look up to him.

The sacrificial ritual in China began with

- an ablution and
- a libation by which the Deity was invoked,
after which the sacrifice was offered.

The moment of time between these two ceremonies is the most sacred of all, the moment of deepest inner concentration.

If piety is

- sincere and
- expressive of real faith,

the contemplation of it has a transforming and awe-inspiring effect on those who witness it.

Thus also in nature

a holy seriousness is to be seen in the fact that natural occurrences are uniformly subject to law.

Contemplation of the divine meaning underlying the workings of the universe gives to the man who is called upon to influence others the means of producing like effects.

This requires that power of inner concentration which religious contemplation develops in great men strong in faith.

- It enables them to apprehend the mysterious and divine laws of life, and by means of profoundest inner concentration
- they give expression to these laws in their own persons.

Thus

a hidden spiritual power emanates from them, influencing and dominating others without their being aware of how it happens.

THE IMAGE

The wind blows over the earth: The image of CONTEMPLATION.

Thus the kings of old

- visited the regions of the world,

- Contemplated the people, And
- gave them instruction.

When the wind blows over the earth it

- goes far and wide and
- the grass **must bend** to its power.

These **two occurrences** find confirmation in the hexagram.

The two images are used to **symbolize a practice** of the kings of old;

1. in making **regular journeys** the ruler could, in the first place, **survey** his realm and make certain that none of the **existing usages** of the people escaped notice;
2. in the second, he could **exert influence** through which such customs as were **unsuitable** could be **changed**.

All of this points to the power possessed by a superior personality.

- On the one hand, such a man
 - will have a **view of the real sentiments** of the great mass of humanity and therefore
 - cannot be **deceived**;
 - on the other, he
 - will **impress** the people so profoundly,
 - by his mere existence and
 - by the impact of his personality,
- that **they will be swayed by him** as the grass by the wind.