

Italy under Giorgia Meloni



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

HEXAGRAM 41 – Sun - Decrease

Above KEN KEEPING STILL, MOUNTAIN

Below TUI THE JOYOUS, LAKE

This hexagram **represents**

- a decrease of the lower trigram
- in favor of the upper, because
- the third line, originally strong, has **moved up** to the top, and
- the top line, originally weak, has **replaced it**. 1
- What is below is decreased to the **benefit of**
- what is above.

This is out-and-out decrease.

If

- the foundations of a building are decreased in strength and
 - the upper walls are strengthened,
- the whole structure loses its stability.

Likewise,

- a decrease in the prosperity of the people
 - in favor of the government
- is out-and-out decrease.

And

the entire theme of the hexagram is directed to showing how this shift of wealth can take place without causing the sources of wealth in

- the nation and
 - its lower classes
- to fail.

THE JUDGMENT

DECREASE combined with sincerity
Brings about supreme good fortune
Without blame.

- One may be persevering in this.
- It furthers one to undertake something.
How is this to be carried out?
- One may use two small bowls for the sacrifice.

Decrease does not under all circumstances mean something bad.
Increase and decrease come in their own time.

What matters here is

- to understand the time and
- not to try to cover up poverty with empty pretense.

If a time of scanty resource brings out an inner truth,
one must not feel ashamed of simplicity.
For simplicity is then the very thing needed to provide inner strength for further undertakings.

Indeed, there need be no concern if the outward beauty of the civilization,
even the elaboration of religious forms,
should have to suffer because of simplicity.

One must draw on the strength of the inner attitude to compensate for what is lacking in externals;
then the power of the content makes up for the simplicity of form.

There is no need of presenting false appearances to God.
Even with slender means, the sentiment of the heart can be expressed. 2

THE IMAGE

At the foot of the mountain, the lake: The image of DECREASE.

Thus the superior man

- controls his anger And
- restrains his instincts.

The lake at the foot of the mountain **evaporates.**

In this way

it **decreases** to the benefit of the mountain,
which is enriched by its moisture.

- The **mountain** stands as the **symbol** of a stubborn strength that can harden into anger.
- The **lake** is the **symbol** of unchecked gaiety that can develop into passionate drives at the expense of the life forces.

Therefore decrease is necessary;

- anger must be decreased by keeping still,
- the instincts must be curbed by restriction.

By this decrease of the lower powers of the psyche,
the higher aspects of the soul are enriched.

THE LINES

Nine at the beginning means:

- Going quickly when one's tasks are finished Is without blame.

But

- one must reflect on how much one may decrease others.
- it is unselfish and good when a man,
after completing his own urgent tasks,
 - uses his strength in the service of others, and
without bragging or making much of it,
 - helps quickly where help is needed.

But

the man in a superior position who is thus aided
must **weigh carefully** how much he can accept
without doing the helpful servant or friend real **harm.**

Only where such **delicacy of feeling exists**

can **one give** oneself

- unconditionally and
- without hesitation.

Nine at the top means:

If one is increased without depriving others,
There is no blame.

Perseverance brings good fortune.

It furthers one to undertake something.

One

- obtains servants But
- no longer has a separate home.

There are people who dispense blessings to the whole world.

Every increase in power that comes to them

- benefits the whole of mankind and therefore
- does not bring decrease to others.

Through

- perseverance and
- zealous work

a man

- wins success and
- finds helpers as they are needed.

But what he accomplishes

- is not a limited private advantage;
- it is
 - a public good and
 - available to everyone.

MOVING HEXAGRAM

HEXAGRAM 07 – Shih - The Army

Above K'UN THE RECEPTIVE, EARTH

Below K'AN THE ABYSMAL, WATER

This hexagram is made up of the trigrams

- K'an, water, and
- K'un, earth, and thus,

it symbolizes the ground water stored up in the earth.

In the same way military strength is stored up in the mass of the people –

- invisible in times of peace but
- always ready for use as a source of power.

The attributes of the two trigrams are

- danger inside and
- obedience outside.

This points to the nature of an army,

which at the core is dangerous,

while discipline and obedience must prevail outside.

Of the individual lines,

the one that controls the hexagram is the strong nine in the second place

to which the other lines, all yielding, are **subordinate**.
This line indicates a commander,
because it **stands** in the middle of one of the two trigrams.
But since it is in the lower rather than the upper trigram,
it represents **not the ruler**
but the **efficient general**,
who maintains **obedience** in the army by his authority.

THE JUDGMENT

THE ARMY.

The army needs perseverance
And a strong man.
Good fortune without blame.

An army is a mass that needs **organization** in order to become a fighting force.
Without strict discipline nothing can be accomplished, but this discipline must not
be achieved by force.

It requires a strong man who

- captures the hearts of the **people and**
- awakens their enthusiasm.

In order that he may **develop** his abilities
he needs the **complete confidence** of his ruler,
who must **entrust him** with full responsibility as long as the war lasts.
But war

- is always a dangerous thing and
- brings with it destruction and devastation.

Therefore it

- should not be resorted to **rashly** but, like a poisonous drug,
- should be used **as a last recourse**.

- **The justifying cause of a war, and**
- **clear and intelligible war aims,**

ought to be explained to the people by an experienced leader.

Unless there is a quite definite war aim to which the people can consciously pledge
themselves,

the **unity and strength of conviction that lead to victory will not be forth coming.**

But the leader must also look to it that

- the passion of war and
- the delirium of victory

do not give rise to unjust acts that will not meet with general approval.

If justice and perseverance are the basis of action, all goes well.

THE IMAGE

In the middle of the earth is water: The image of THE ARMY.

Thus the superior man increases his masses

By generosity toward the people.

Ground water is invisibly present within the earth.

In the same way the military power of a people is invisibly present in the masses.

- When danger threatens, every peasant becomes a soldier;
- when the war ends, he goes back to his plow.

He who is generous toward the people wins their love, and a people living under a mild rule becomes strong and powerful.

Only a people economically strong can be important in military power.

Such power must therefore be cultivated

- by improving the economic condition of the people and
- by humane government.

Only when there is this invisible bond between government and people, so that the people are sheltered by their government as ground water is sheltered by the earth,

is it possible to wage a victorious war.