



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

HEXAGRAM 04 - Meng - Youthful Folly

Above KEN KEEPING STILL, MOUNTAIN

Below K'AN THE ABYSMAL, WATER

In this hexagram we are reminded of **youth and folly**, in **two** different ways.

- The **image** of the upper trigram, Ken, is the mountain, that of the lower, K'an, is water;
 - the spring rising at the foot of the mountain is the **image** of inexperienced youth.
- **Keeping still** is the attribute of the upper trigram; that of the lower is the **abyss**, danger.
 - **Stopping** in perplexity on the brink of a dangerous abyss is a symbol of the folly of youth.

However, the two trigrams also show the way of **overcoming** the follies of youth. Water is something that of necessity flows on.

When the spring gushes forth, it does **not know** at first where it will go. But **its steady flow** fills up the deep place blocking its progress, and success is attained.

THE JUDGMENT

YOUTHFUL FOLLY has success.

It is not I who seek the young fool;

The young fool seeks me.

At the first oracle I inform him.

If he asks two or three times, it is importunity.

If he importunes, I give him no information.

Perseverance furthers.

In the time of youth, folly is **not** an evil.

One may succeed in spite of it, **provided** one

- finds an **experienced** teacher and
- has the right **attitude** toward him.

This means, first of all, that the youth himself

- must be **conscious** of his lack of experience and
- must **seek** out the teacher.

Without this **modesty** and this **interest** there is no guarantee that he has the necessary **receptivity**,

which should express itself in **respectful acceptance** of the teacher.

This is the reason why the teacher must **wait** to be sought out instead of offering himself.

Only thus can the **instruction** take place

- **at the right time and**
- **in the right way.**

A teacher's **answer** to the question of a pupil ought to be **clear and definite**

like that expected from an **oracle**;

thereupon it ought to be **accepted** as

- a key for resolution of **doubts** and
- a basis for **decision**.

If **mistrustful or unintelligent** questioning is kept up,

it serves only to **annoy** the teacher.

He does well to **ignore it in silence**,

just as the oracle

- gives one answer **only** and
- refuses to be **tempted** by questions implying doubt.

Given in addition a **perseverance** that never slackens

until the points are mastered one by one,

real success is sure to follow.

Thus the hexagram counsels

- **the teacher as well as**
- **the pupil.**

THE IMAGE

A spring wells up at the foot of the mountain: The image of YOUTH.
Thus the superior man fosters his character
By thoroughness in all that he does.

A spring

- succeeds in flowing on and
- escapes stagnation by filling up all the hollow places in its path.

In the same way character is developed by thoroughness that skips nothing but, like water, gradually and steadily fills up all gaps and so flows onward.

THE LINES

Six at the beginning means:

To make a fool develop
It furthers one to apply discipline.
The fetters should be removed.
To go on in this way brings humiliation.

Law is the beginning of education.

Youth in its inexperience is inclined at first to take everything carelessly and playfully

must be shown the seriousness of life.

A certain measure of taking oneself in hand, brought about by strict discipline, is a good thing.

He who plays with life never amounts to anything.

However, discipline should not degenerate into drill.

Continuous drill

- has a humiliating effect and
- cripples a man's powers.

Six in the third place means:

Take not a maiden who
When she sees a man of bronze,
Loses possession of herself.
Nothing furthers.

A weak, inexperienced man, struggling to rise, easily loses his own individuality when he slavishly imitates a strong personality of higher station. He is like a girl throwing herself away when she meets a strong man. Such a servile approach should not be encouraged, because it is bad both for

- the youth and

- the teacher.

A girl owes it to her dignity to wait until she is wooed.

In both cases it is **undignified** to offer oneself, and no good comes of accepting such an offer.

0 Six in the fifth place means:

Childlike folly brings good fortune.

An inexperienced person who seeks instruction in a childlike and unassuming way is on the right path,

for the man **devoid of arrogance** who **subordinates** himself to his teacher will certainly be helped.

Nine at the top means:

In punishing folly

It does not further one

To commit transgressions.

The only thing that furthers is to **prevent** transgressions.

Sometimes an incorrigible fool must be punished.

He who will not heed will be made to feel.

This punishment is quite **different** from a preliminary shaking up.

But the penalty should not be imposed in anger;

it must be restricted to an objective guarding against unjustified excesses.

Punishment is never an end in itself but serves merely to restore order.

This applies

- not only in regard to education
- but also in regard to the measures taken by a government against a populace guilty of transgressions.

Governmental interference

- should always be merely **preventive** and
- should have as its **sole aim** the **establishment** of public security and peace.

1. ("Fool" and "folly" as used in this hexagram should be understood to mean the immaturity of youth and its consequent lack of wisdom, rather than mere stupidity. Parsifal is known as the "pure fool" not because he was dull-witted but because he was inexperienced.)

MOVING HEXAGRAM

HEXAGRAM 05 – Hsu - Waiting (Nourishment)

Above K'AN THE ABYSMAL, WATER
Below CH'IEN THE CREATIVE, HEAVEN

All beings have need of **nourishment from above**.

But the gift of food comes in **its own time**, and for this one must **wait**.

This hexagram shows the **clouds** in the heavens, **giving** rain

- to **refresh** all that grows and
- to **provide** mankind with food and drink.

The rain will come in **its own time**.

- We cannot make it come;
- we have to wait for it.

The idea of waiting is further suggested by the **attributes** of the two trigrams –

- **strength within,**
 - **danger in front. 2**
-
- Strength in the face of danger does not plunge ahead but **bides** its time, whereas
 - weakness in the face of danger
 - grows **agitated** and
 - has **not the patience** to wait.

THE JUDGMENT

WAITING. If you are sincere,
You have light and success.
Perseverance brings good fortune.
It furthers one to cross the great water.

Waiting **is not** mere **empty hoping**.
It has the **inner certainty** of reaching the goal.
Such **certainty** alone gives that light which leads to success.
This leads to the perseverance that

- brings good fortune and
- **bestows** power to cross the great water.

One is faced with a **danger** that has to be overcome.
Weakness and impatience can do nothing.
Only a **strong man** can stand up to his fate,
for his **inner security** enables him to endure to the end.
This strength shows itself in **uncompromising truthfulness (with himself)**.
It is only when we have the **courage** to face things exactly as they are,
without any sort of **self-deception or illusion**,
that a **light** will develop out of events,
by which the path to success may be **recognized**.
This recognition must be followed by **resolute and persevering** action.
For only the man who goes to **meet his fate resolutely** is equipped to deal with it adequately.

Then he **will be able** to cross the great water –
that is to say,
he will be capable

- of making the necessary **decision** and
- of surmounting the **danger**.

THE IMAGE

Clouds rise up to heaven: The image of WAITING.
Thus the superior man

- eats and
- drinks,
- Is joyous and
- of good cheer.

When clouds rise in the sky, it is a sign that it will rain.
There is nothing to do but to wait until the rain falls.
It is the same in life when destiny is at work.

- We should not worry and seek to shape the future by **interfering** in things before the time is ripe.
- We should quietly **fortify** the body with food and drink and the mind with gladness and good cheer.

Fate comes when it will, and thus we are ready.