



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

### HEXAGRAM 27 – I - The Corners of the Mouth (Providing Nourishment)

Above KEN KEEPING STILL, MOUNTAIN

Below CHEN THE AROUSING, THUNDER

This hexagram is a picture of an open mouth;

- above and below are the firm lines of the lips, and
- between them the opening.

Starting with the mouth, through which we take food for nourishment, the thought leads to nourishment itself.

Nourishment

- of oneself, specifically of the body, is represented in the three lower lines,
- while the three upper lines represent nourishment and care of others, in a higher, spiritual sense.

### THE JUDGMENT

## THE CORNERS OF THE MOUTH.

Perseverance brings good fortune.

Pay heed

- to the providing of nourishment And
- to what a man seeks To fill his own mouth with.

In bestowing care and nourishment, it is important

- that the right people should be taken care of and
- that we should attend to our own nourishment in the right way.

If

- we wish to know what anyone is like,
- we have only to observe
  - on whom he bestows his care and
  - what sides of his own nature he cultivates and nourishes.

Nature nourishes all creatures.

The great man fosters and takes care of superior men,  
in order to take care of all men through them.

Mencius says about this:

If

- we wish to know whether anyone is superior or not,
- we need only observe what part of his being he regards as especially important.

The body has

- superior and inferior,
- important and unimportant parts.

We

- must not injure important parts for the sake of the unimportant,
- nor must we injure the superior parts for the sake of the inferior.
- He who cultivates the inferior parts of his nature is an inferior man.
- He who cultivates the superior parts of his nature is a superior man. 1

## THE IMAGE

At the foot of the mountain, thunder:

The image of PROVIDING NOURISHMENT.

Thus the superior man is

- careful of his words And
- temperate in eating and drinking.

"God comes forth in the sign of the Arousing" 2:

when in the spring the life forces stir again,  
all things come into being anew.

"He brings to perfection in the sign of Keeping Still":

thus

in the early spring, when the seeds fall to earth,  
all things are made ready.

This is an **image** of providing nourishment through

- movement and
- tranquility.

The superior man takes it as a pattern for the

- nourishment and
- cultivation of

his character.

- Words are a movement going from within outward.
- Eating and drinking are movements from without inward.

Both kinds of movement can be modified by tranquility.

For

tranquility

- keeps the words that come out of the mouth from exceeding proper measure, and
- keeps the food that goes into the mouth from exceeding its proper measure.

Thus character is cultivated.