



6		H	T	T		3	2	2		7
5		H	H	T		3	3	2		8
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.

MOVING HEXAGRAM

HEXAGRAM 23 – Po - Splitting Apart

Above KEN KEEPING STILL, MOUNTAIN

Below K'UN THE RECEPTIVE, EARTH

The dark lines are about to

- mount upward and
 - overthrow the last firm, light line
- by exerting a disintegrating influence on it.
- The inferior, dark forces overcome what is superior and strong,
- not by direct means,
 - but by undermining it gradually and imperceptibly,
- so that it finally collapses.

The lines of the hexagram

- present the image of a house, the top line being tile roof, and because the roof is being shattered
- the house collapses.

The hexagram belongs to the ninth month (October-November).

The yin power

- pushes up ever more powerfully and
- is about to supplant the yang power altogether.

THE JUDGMENT

SPLITTING APART.

It does not further one

To go anywhere.

This pictures a time when inferior people

- are pushing forward and
- are about to crowd out the few remaining strong and superior men.

Under these circumstances, which are due to the time, it is not favorable for the superior man to undertake anything.

The right behavior in such adverse times is to be deduced from

- the images and
- their attributes.

- The lower trigram stands for the earth,
 - whose attributes are docility and devotion.
- The upper trigram stands for the mountain,
 - whose attribute is stillness.

This suggests that one

- should submit to the bad time and
- remain quiet.

For it is a question not of man's doing but of time conditions, which, according to the laws of heaven, show an alternation of

- increase and decrease,
- fullness and emptiness.

It is impossible to counteract these conditions of the time.

Hence

it is not cowardice but wisdom to

- submit and
- avoid action.

THE IMAGE

The mountain rests on the earth: The image of SPLITTING APART.

Thus

those above can ensure their position

Only by giving generously to those below.

The mountain rests on the earth.

- When it is steep and narrow, lacking a broad base, it must topple over.
- Its position is strong only when it rises out of the earth
 - broad and great,
 - not proud and steep.

So likewise those who rule rest on the broad foundation of the people.

They too should be

- generous and
- benevolent,
like the earth that carries all.
- Then they will make their position
 - as secure
 - as a mountain is in its tranquility.