



6		H	H	T		3	3	2		8
5		T	T	T		2	2	2		6
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	H	T		3	3	2		8

HEXAGRAM 02 - K'un – The Receptive

Above K'UN THE RECEPTIVE, EARTH

Below K'UN THE RECEPTIVE, EARTH

This hexagram is made up of broken lines only.

The broken line represents the dark, yielding, receptive primal power of yin.

The attribute of the hexagram is devotion;

its image is the earth.

It is the perfect complement of THE CREATIVE - **the complement, not the opposite,**

1

for the Receptive does not combat the Creative but complements it.

It represents

- nature in contrast to spirit,
- earth in contrast to heaven,
- space as against time,
- the female-maternal as against the male-paternal.

However, as applied to human affairs,

the principle of this complementary relationship is found

- not only in the relation between man and woman,
- but also in that between prince and minister and

- between father and son.

Indeed, even in the individual this duality appears in the coexistence of

- the spiritual world and
- the world of the senses.

But strictly speaking there is no real dualism here, because there is a clearly defined hierarchic relationship between the two principles.

In itself of course the Receptive is just as important as the Creative, but the attribute of devotion defines the place occupied by this primal power in relation to the Creative.

For the Receptive must be activated and led by the Creative; then it is productive of good.

Only when it abandons this position and tries to stand as an equal side by side with the Creative,

does it become evil.

The result then is opposition to and struggle against the Creative, which is productive of evil to both.

THE JUDGMENT

THE RECEPTIVE brings about sublime success,
Furthering through the perseverance of a mare.

If the superior man undertakes something and tries to lead,
He goes astray;

But if he follows, he finds guidance

It is favorable to find friends in the west and south,
To forego friends in the east and north.

Quiet perseverance brings good fortune.

The four fundamental aspects of the Creative – "sublime success, furthering through perseverance"- are also attributed to the Receptive.

Here, however, the perseverance is more closely defined: it is that of a mare.

The Receptive connotes spatial reality in contrast to the spiritual potentiality of the Creative.

The potential becomes real and the spiritual becomes spatial through a specifically qualifying definition.

Thus the qualification, "of a mare," is here added to the idea of perseverance.

The horse belongs to earth just as the dragon belongs to heaven.

Its tireless roaming over the plains is taken as a symbol of the vast expanse of the earth.

This is the symbol chosen because the mare combines

- the strength and swiftness of the horse with
- the gentleness and devotion of the cow.

Only because nature in its myriad forms corresponds with the myriad impulses of the Creative

can it make these impulses real.

Nature's richness lies in its power to nourish all living things;
its greatness lies in its power to give them beauty and splendor.

Thus it prospers all that lives.

It is the Creative that begets things, but they are brought to birth by the Receptive.

Applied to human affairs, therefore,

what the hexagram indicates is action in conformity with the situation.

The person in question is not in an independent position, but is acting as an assistant.

This means that he must achieve something.

It is not his task to try to lead - that would only make him lose the way -
but to let him be led.

If he knows how to meet fate with an attitude of acceptance, he is sure to find the right guidance.

The superior man

- lets himself be guided;
- he does not go ahead blindly,
- but learns from the situation what is demanded of him and
- then follows this intimation from fate.

Since there is something to be accomplished,
we need friends and helpers in the hour of toil and effort,

once the ideas to be realized are firmly set.

The time of toil and effort is indicated by the west and the south,
for west and south symbolize the place where the Receptive works for the Creative,
as nature does in summer and autumn.

If in that situation one does not mobilize all one's powers,
the work to be accomplished will not be done.

Hence to find friends there means to find guidance.

But in addition to the time of toil and effort, there is also a time of planning, and for this we need solitude.

The east symbolizes the place where a man receives orders from his master and
the north the place where he reports on what he has done.

At that time he must be alone and objective.

In this sacred hour

- he must do without companions so that
- the purity of the moment may not be spoiled by factional hates and favoritism.

THE IMAGE

The earth's condition is receptive devotion.

Thus the superior man who has breadth of character
Carries the outer world.

Just as there is only one heaven, so too there is only one earth.

In the hexagram of the heaven the (doubling, of the trigram implies duration in time,

but in the hexagram of earth the doubling connotes the solidity and extension in space by virtue of which

the earth is able to carry and preserve all things that live and move upon it.

The earth in its devotion carries all things, good and evil, without exception.

In the same way the superior man gives to his character breadth, purity, and sustaining power,

so that he is able both

- to support and
- to bear with people and things.

THE LINES

Six in the fifth place means:

A yellow lower garment brings supreme good fortune.

Yellow is the color

- of the earth and
- of the middle;

it is the symbol of that which is reliable and genuine.

The lower garment is inconspicuously decorated - the symbol of aristocratic reserve.

When anyone is called upon to work in a prominent but not independent position, true success depends on the utmost discretion.

A man's genuineness and refinement should not reveal themselves directly; they should express themselves only indirectly as an effect from within.

MOVING HEXAGRAM

HEXAGRAM 08 – Pi - Holding Together [Union]

Above K'AN THE ABYSMAL, WATER

Below K'UN THE RECEPTIVE, EARTH

The waters on the surface of the earth flow together wherever they can, as for example in the ocean,

where all the rivers come together.

Symbolically this connotes

- holding together and
- the laws that regulate it.

The same idea is suggested by the fact that

all the lines of the hexagram except the fifth, the place of the ruler, are yielding.

The yielding lines hold together because they are influenced by

- a man of strong will in the leading position,
- a man who is their center of union.

Moreover, this strong and guiding personality in turn **holds together** with the others, finding in them the **complement** of his own nature.

THE JUDGMENT

HOLDING TOGETHER brings good fortune.
Inquire of the oracle once again
Whether you possess **sublimity, constancy, and perseverance**;
Then there is no blame.
Those who are uncertain gradually join.
Whoever comes too late
Meets with misfortune.

What is required is that **we unite with others**, in order that all may **complement and aid** one another through holding together. But such holding together calls for a **central figure** around whom other persons may unite.

To become a center of influence holding people together is a

- **grave matter** and
- fraught with **great responsibility**.

It requires

- greatness of spirit,
- consistency, and
- strength.

Therefore let him who wishes to gather others about him **ask himself** whether he is equal to the undertaking, for anyone attempting the task **without a real calling for it** only makes confusion **worse than** if no union at all had taken place.

But when there is a **real rallying point**, those who at first are hesitant or uncertain **gradually come in of their own accord**. Late-comers must suffer the **consequences**, for in holding together the question of the right time is also important.

Relationships are formed and firmly established according to definite inner laws. **Common experiences** strengthen these ties, and he who comes too late to share in these basic experiences must suffer for it if, as a straggler, he finds the door **locked**.

If a man

- has recognized the necessity for union and
 - does not feel strong enough to function as the center,
- it is his duty to become a member of some other organic fellowship.

THE IMAGE

On the earth is water: The image Of HOLDING TOGETHER.
Thus the kings of antiquity

- Bestowed the different states as fiefs And
- cultivated friendly relations With the feudal lords.

Water

- fills up all the empty places on the earth and
- clings fast to it.

The social organization of ancient China was based on this principle of the holding together of

- dependents and
- rulers.

Water flows to unite with water, because all parts of it are subject to the same laws.

So too should human society hold together through a community of interests that allows each individual to feel himself a member of a whole.

The central power of a social organization must see to it that every member finds that his true interest lies in holding together with it, as was the case in the paternal relationship between king and vassals in ancient China.