



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

HEXAGRAM 09 - Hsiao Ch'u - The Taming Power of the Small

Above SUN THE GENTLE, WIND
Below CH'ien THE CREATIVE. HEAVEN

This hexagram means the force of the small –
the power of the shadowy – that

- restrains,
- tames,
- impedes.

A weak line in the fourth place, that of the minister, 1 holds the five strong lines in check.

In the Image it is the wind blowing across the sky.

The wind

- restrains the clouds, the rising breath of the Creative, and
- makes them grow dense,
- but as yet is not strong enough to turn them to rain.

The hexagram presents a configuration of circumstances in which a strong element is temporarily held in leash by a weak element. It is only through gentleness that this can have a successful outcome.

THE JUDGMENT

THE TAMING POWER, OF THE SMALL

Has success.

Dense clouds, no rain from our western region.

This image refers to the **state of affairs** in China at the time when King Wen, who came originally from the west,

was in the east at the court of the reigning tyrant Chou Hsin.

The **moment for action** on a large scale has not yet arrived.

King Wen could only **keep the tyrant somewhat in check by friendly persuasion**.

Hence the image of many clouds, **promising moisture and blessing to the land**, although **as yet no rain falls**.

The situation is not unfavorable;

there is a prospect of **ultimate success**,

- but there are still **obstacles in the way**, and
- we can merely take **preparatory measures**.

Only through the small means of friendly persuasion can we exert any influence.

The time has not yet come for sweeping measures.

However, we may be able, to a limited extent, to act as a **restraining and subduing influence**.

To carry out **our purpose** we need

- firm determination within and
- gentleness and adaptability in external relations.

THE IMAGE

The wind drives across heaven: The image of THE TAMING POWER OF THE SMALL.

Thus the superior man

Refines the outward aspect of his nature.

The wind can indeed drive the clouds together in the sky;

yet, being **nothing** but air, without solid body,

it **does not** produce great or lasting effects.

So also an individual,

in times when he **can produce no** great effect in the outer world,

can do nothing except **refine the expression** of his nature in small ways.