

The J. M. Smucker Company SJM under CEO Mark Smucker



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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,**

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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

0 Six in the second place means:
Straight, square, great.
Without purpose,
Yet nothing remains unfurthered.

- The symbol of heaven is the circle, and
- that of earth is the square.

Thus

- **squareness** is a primary quality of the earth.

On the other hand,

- **movement** in a straight line, as well as in magnitude, is a primary quality of the Creative.

But all square things have their origin in a straight line and in turn form solid bodies.

In mathematics, when we discriminate between lines, planes, and solids, we find that

- rectangular planes result from straight lines, and
- cubic magnitudes from rectangular planes.

The Receptive accommodates itself to the qualities of the Creative and makes them its own.

Thus

- a square develops out of a straight line and
- a cube out of a square.

This is compliance with the laws of the Creative;

- nothing is taken away,
- nothing added.

Therefore the Receptive has

- no need of a special purpose of its own,
- nor of any effort;

yet everything turns out as it should.

- Nature creates all beings without erring: this is its straightness.
- It is calm and still: this is its foursquareness.

- It tolerates all creatures equally: this is its greatness. Therefore it attains what is right for all without artifice or special intentions. Man achieves the height of wisdom when all that he does is as self-evident as what nature does.

Six in the fourth place means:

A tied-up sack. No blame, no praise.

The dark element

- opens when it moves and
- closes when at rest. 2

The strictest reticence is indicated here.

The time is dangerous, because any degree of prominence leads either

- to the enmity of irresistible antagonists if one challenges them or
- to misconceived recognition if one is complaisant.

Therefore a man ought to maintain reserve,

be it in solitude or in the turmoil of the world,

for there too he can hide himself so well that no one knows him.

MOVING HEXAGRAM

Click below to view the interpretations and cases:

<https://icic.com/?p=8963>

HEXAGRAM 40 – Hsieh - Deliverance

Above CHEN THE AROUSING, THUNDER

Below K'AN THE ABYSMAL, WATER

Here the movement goes out of the sphere of danger.

- The obstacle has been removed,
- the difficulties are being resolved.
- Deliverance is not yet achieved;
- it is just in its beginning, and
- the hexagram represents its various stages.

THE JUDGMENT

DELIVERANCE.

The southwest furthers.

- If there is no longer anything where one has to go,
 - Return brings good fortune.
- If there is still something where one has to go,
 - Hastening brings good fortune.

This **refers** to a time in which tensions and complications begin to be eased.

At such times

we ought to **make our way back** to ordinary conditions as soon as possible; this is the meaning of "the southwest."

These periods of **sudden change** have great importance.

Just as

rain **relieves** atmospheric tension, making all the buds burst open,

so

a time of deliverance from burdensome pressure has a

- liberating and

- stimulating

effect on life.

One thing is important, however: in such times

we must **not overdo** our triumph.

The point is **not to push** on farther than is necessary.

Returning to the **regular** order of life

as soon as deliverance is achieved

brings good fortune.

If there are any residual matters that ought to be attended to,

it should be done as **quickly** as possible,

so that

- a clean sweep is made and

- no retardation occur.

THE IMAGE

Thunder and rain set in: The image of DELIVERANCE.

Thus the superior man

- pardons mistakes And

- forgives misdeeds.

- A thunderstorm has the effect of **clearing the air;**

- the superior man produces a similar effect when dealing with mistakes and sins of men that induce a condition of tension.

Through clarity he brings deliverance.

However,

when failings come to light,

he does not dwell on them;

- he simply passes over mistakes, the unintentional transgressions,

- just as thunder dies away.

- He forgives misdeeds, the intentional transgressions,

- just as water washes everything clean.

