

GrokIChing on Nestle NSRGY under CEO Philipp Navratil

GROK'S PROMPT:

I asked Universal Intelligence I Ching about the Outcome of Nestle NSRGY under CEO Philipp Navratil

The Oracle's answer was a negative First Time/Space Standstill (Stagnation)

Universal Intelligence I Ching says:

Managerial Issue:

The perseverance of the superior man.

- The great **departs**
- the small **approaches**.

- Heaven and earth are **out of communion** and
- all things are benumbed.

- What is above has **no relation** to what is below, and
- on earth confusion and disorder prevail.

- The **dark power within,**
- the **light power is without.**

- **Weakness is within,**
- **harshness without.**

- **Within are the inferior, and**
- **without are the superior.**

- **The way of inferior people is in ascent;**
- **the way of superior people is on the decline.**

But the superior people do not allow themselves to be turned from their principles. If the possibility of exerting influence is closed to them, they nevertheless

- **remain faithful to their principles and**
- **withdraw into seclusion.**

Managerial Advice:

Heaven and earth **do not** unite: The image Of STANDSTILL.

Thus

- the superior man **falls back** upon his **inner worth** In order to escape the difficulties.

- He **does not** permit himself to be honored with **revenue**.

When, owing to the influence of inferior men, **mutual mistrust** prevails in public life, **fruitful activity** is rendered impossible, because **the fundamentals** are wrong.

Therefore

- the superior man **knows** what he must do under such circumstances;
- he **does not allow** himself to be tempted by **dazzling offers** to take part in public activities.

This would only **expose** him to danger, since he **cannot assent** to the meanness of the others.

He therefore

- **hides** his worth and
- **withdraws** into seclusion.

Of his 3 Moving Lines 2 are negative but the last one is very hopeful and points to a positive change:

Nine in the fourth place means:

He who acts at the command of the highest

Remains without blame.

Those of like mind partake of the blessing.

The time of standstill is **nearing** the point of change into its opposite.

Whoever wishes to **restore order** must

- feel himself **called to** the task and
- have **the necessary** authority.

A man who sets himself up as **capable of creating order** according to his own judgment

could make mistakes and end in failure.

But the man who is **truly called** to the task

- is **favoured** by the conditions of the time, and
- all those of like mind **will share** in his blessing.

His Moving Time/Space is positive Inner Truth with plenty of managerial advice from the Oracle.

Please provide an analysis for my readers from a managerial as well as from an investor's point of view.

GROK'S ANSWER:

Managerial Perspective

From a managerial standpoint, the I Ching's primary hexagram, 12 (Standstill or Stagnation), paints a challenging picture for Nestlé under CEO Philipp Navratil's leadership. This hexagram symbolizes a period of disconnection and imbalance, where "heaven and earth are out of communion," reflecting potential internal disharmony within the organization. In business terms, this could manifest as misalignments between upper management (the "superior" or creative forces) and operational levels (the "inferior" or receptive elements). The oracle highlights "the dark power within, the light power without," suggesting hidden weaknesses or inefficiencies at the core—perhaps legacy issues, cultural clashes, or unresolved operational bottlenecks—while external perceptions or market positioning remain relatively strong but unleveraged.

Key elements include:

Ascent of inferior influences:

The reading warns that "the way of inferior people is in ascent," which might indicate bureaucratic hurdles, short-term thinking, or suboptimal decision-making gaining traction. For Navratil, this advises vigilance against allowing "small" or petty concerns (e.g., internal politics, cost-cutting at the expense of innovation) to overshadow strategic vision.

Withdrawal and perseverance:

The advice emphasizes that the "superior man falls back upon his inner worth" and withdraws into seclusion rather than engaging in fruitless activities. Managerially, this suggests Navratil should prioritize introspection and core principles over reactive public engagements or "dazzling offers" like high-profile mergers or expansions that could expose vulnerabilities. In a company like Nestlé, facing recent leadership transitions and reported scandals, this could mean focusing on internal reforms—strengthening supply chains, fostering ethical practices, or rebuilding trust—before pursuing aggressive growth.

The moving lines provide nuance:

The first two (negative) lines (Six at the beginning and Six in the second place) reinforce caution: The first speaks of retiring to avoid humiliation, implying that early in his tenure, Navratil might benefit from pulling back from overambitious initiatives to preserve personal and organizational integrity. The second highlights enduring standstill for long-term success, suggesting tolerance of short-term frustrations (e.g., market resistance or team inertia) to uphold fundamental principles.

The hopeful third moving line (Nine in the fourth place) signals a turning point: Acting "at the command of the highest" with proper authority can lead to shared blessings. This implies that if Navratil positions himself as a legitimate, principled leader—perhaps drawing on his experience at Nespresso to drive innovation—he

can catalyze positive change, rallying like-minded executives and turning stagnation into momentum.

The resulting hexagram, 61 (Inner Truth), offers optimistic managerial guidance for the future. It emphasizes "a heart free of prejudices" and mutual confidence, symbolized by wind stirring the lake—subtle, penetrating influence over forceful action. For Navratil, this advises building authentic relationships: Rid yourself of biases in dealing with "pigs and fishes" (stubborn stakeholders like resistant teams or regulators), and approach challenges with understanding. The image of discussing criminal cases to delay executions suggests compassionate, insightful leadership in handling crises—e.g., addressing ethical lapses or performance issues through empathy and clarity rather than harsh judgments. Overall, this transition from stagnation to inner truth counsels patience: Focus on fostering a culture of trust and steadfastness, which could enable bold moves like "crossing the great water" (major strategic risks, such as entering new markets or sustainability pivots), leading to enduring achievements.

Investor's Perspective

For investors eyeing Nestlé (NSRGY), the I Ching reading underscores a phase of uncertainty and potential decline under Navratil, but with seeds of recovery. Hexagram 12's theme of stagnation—"all things are benumbed"—mirrors possible short-term stock underperformance, driven by disconnection between external strengths (Nestlé's global brand power) and internal weaknesses (e.g., recent leadership instability or operational drags). The "great departs, the small approaches" could symbolize eroding market share to nimbler competitors or inflationary pressures squeezing margins, leading to a period where growth stalls and volatility increases. Investors should note the seasonal link to "autumnal decay," suggesting this might align with post-zenith challenges in the fiscal year, potentially pressuring dividends or earnings.

However, the oracle's advice against being "honored with revenue" warns against chasing superficial gains—translating to investor caution on hype-driven rallies. Instead, emphasize fundamentals: If mistrust prevails due to "influence of inferior men" (perhaps governance issues or scandals), fruitful activity becomes impossible, advising a wait-and-see approach rather than buying dips impulsively.

The moving lines temper this negativity:

The initial negative lines suggest enduring short-term pains for inferior elements (e.g., retail investors might see good fortune in holding through volatility, but only if aligned with "kind"), while the superior (long-term investors) benefit from principled withdrawal—perhaps diversifying away from NSRGY temporarily to avoid humiliation in a downturn.

The positive fourth line heralds change: A leader "called to the task" with authority can restore order, implying Navratil's tenure could pivot the company positively if he leverages his background effectively. This might manifest as improved metrics

like revenue growth or ESG scores, benefiting shareholders who "partake of the blessing."

Shifting to Hexagram 61 (Inner Truth), the outlook brightens for patient investors. "Good fortune" and "perseverance furthers" point to rewards from authentic progress—inner truth building confidence that overcomes obstacles. The emphasis on influencing even the "least intelligent" (tough market conditions) through right approach suggests potential for steady appreciation once internal harmony is achieved. "Crossing the great water" could symbolize successful navigation of global risks (e.g., supply chain disruptions), leading to outperformance. The image advises understanding over punishment, hinting at investor-friendly resolutions to issues like legal or reputational challenges, fostering long-term value.

In summary, as an investor, view this as a hold or accumulate-on-weakness scenario: Brace for near-term stagnation (possible flat or declining stock in late 2025), but anticipate a turnaround driven by principled leadership, potentially yielding strong returns by 2026 if inner truth prevails. Monitor Navratil's early actions for signs of authoritative, empathetic reforms.

Nestle NSRGY under CEO Philipp Navratil



6	The Top		H	T	T		3	2	2		7
5	The Fifth Place		H	T	T		3	2	2		7
4	The Fourth Place		H	H	H		3	3	3		9
3	The Third Place		H	H	T		3	3	2		8
2	The Second Place		T	T	T		2	2	2		6
1	The Beginning		T	T	T		2	2	2		6

Click below to view the interpretations and cases:

<https://icic.com/?p=8879>

HEXAGRAM 12 - P'i - Standstill (Stagnation)

Above CH'IEN THE CREATIVE, HEAVEN
Below K'UN THE RECEPTIVE, EARTH

This hexagram is the opposite of the preceding one.

- Heaven is above, drawing farther and farther away, while
- the earth below sinks farther into the depths.

The creative powers are not in relation.

It is a time of standstill and decline.

This hexagram is linked with the seventh month (August-September), when

- the year has passed its zenith and
- autumnal decay is setting in.

THE JUDGMENT

STANDSTILL.

Evil people do not further

The perseverance of the superior man.

- The great departs
- the small approaches.

- Heaven and earth are out of communion and
- all things are benumbed.

- What is above has no relation to what is below, and
- on earth confusion and disorder prevail.

- The dark power within,
- the light power is without.

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THE IMAGE

Heaven and earth **do not** unite: The image Of STANDSTILL.

Thus

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- He **does not** permit himself to be honored with **revenue**.

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Therefore

- the superior man **knows** what he must do under such circumstances;
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He therefore

- **hides** his worth and
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THE LINES

Six at the beginning means:

When ribbon grass is pulled up, the sod comes with it.

Each according to his kind.

Perseverance brings good fortune and success.

The text is **almost** the same as that of the first line of the preceding hexagram, but with a **contrary** meaning.

- In the latter a man is drawing another along with him **on the road to** an official career;
- here a man is drawing another with him **into retirement** from public life.

This is why the text says here,

- "Perseverance brings good fortune and success" and
- not "Undertakings bring good fortune."

If

- it becomes **impossible** to make our influence count,
- it is only by **retirement** that we spare ourselves humiliation.

Success in a higher sense can be ours,

because we **know how to** safeguard the value of our personalities.

Six in the second place means:

They bear and endure;

This means good fortune for inferior people.

The standstill serves to help the great man to attain success.

Inferior people are ready to **flatter** their superiors in a servile way. They would also **endure** the superior man if he would put **an end to** their confusion. This is fortunate for them. But the great man **calmly bears** the consequences of the standstill. He **does not** mingle with the crowd of the inferior; that **is not** his place. By his **willingness to suffer** personally he **insures** the success of his fundamental principles.

Nine in the fourth place means:

He who acts at the command of the highest
Remains without blame.
Those of like mind partake of the blessing.

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Whoever wishes to **restore order** must

- feel himself **called to** the task and
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MOVING HEXAGRAM

Click below to view the interpretations and cases:

<https://icic.com/?p=9026>

HEXAGRAM 61 - Chung Fu - Inner Truth

Above SUN THE GENTLE, WIND

Below TUI THE JOYOUS, LAKE

The wind

- **blows** over the lake and
- **stirs** the surface of the water.

Thus visible effects of the invisible manifest themselves.

The hexagram consists of

- firm lines above and below, while
- it is open in the center.

This indicates

- a heart free of prejudices,

and therefore

- open to truth.

On the other hand,

each of the two trigrams has a firm line in the middle;

this indicates

- the force of inner truth in the influences they represent.

The attributes of the two trigrams are:

- above, gentleness, forbearance toward inferiors;
- below, Joyousness in obeying superiors.

Such conditions

- create the basis of a mutual confidence

that

- makes achievements possible.

The character fu ("truth") is actually the picture of a bird's foot over a fledgling.

It suggests the idea of brooding.

An egg is hollow.

The light-giving power must work to quicken it from outside, but

there must be a germ of life within,

if life is to be awakened.

Far-reaching speculations can be linked with these ideas.

THE JUDGMENT

INNER TRUTH. Pigs and fishes.

Good fortune.

It furthers one to cross the great Water.

Perseverance furthers.

Pigs and fishes are

- the least intelligent of all animals
- and therefore
- the most difficult to influence.

The force of inner truth must grow great indeed before its influence can extend to such creatures.

In dealing with persons

- as intractable and
- as difficult to influence
- as a pig or a fish,

the whole secret of success depends

- on finding the right way of approach.

One must first

- rid oneself of all prejudice and, so to speak,

- let the psyche of the other person act on one without restraint.

Then

one will

- establish contact with him,
- understand and gain power over him.

When

a door has thus been opened,
the force of one's personality will influence him.

If in this way

- one finds no obstacles insurmountable,
- one
 - can undertake even the most dangerous things,
such as crossing the great water, and
 - succeed.

But

it is important to understand
upon what the force of inner truth depends.

This force is not identical with

- simple intimacy or
- a secret bond.

Close ties may exist also among thieves;
it is true that such a bond acts as a force

- but, since it is not invincible,
- it does not bring good fortune.

All association on the basis of common interests
holds only up to a certain point.

Where the community of interest ceases,

- the holding together ceases also, and
- the closest friendship often changes into hate.

Only when

- the bond is based on what is right, on steadfastness,
- will it remain so firm that it triumphs over everything.

THE IMAGE

Wind over lake: the image of INNER TRUTH.

Thus

the superior man

discusses criminal cases

In order to delay executions.

Wind stirs water by penetrating it.

Thus

the superior man,

when

obliged to judge the mistakes of men,

- tries to penetrate their minds with understanding,

- in order to gain a sympathetic appreciation of the circumstances.

In ancient China,
the entire administration of justice was guided by this principle.

A deep understanding that knows how to pardon
was considered the highest form of justice.

This system was not without success,
for its aim was to make so strong a moral impression
that there was no reason to fear abuse of such mildness.

For it sprang not

- from weakness

but

- from a superior clarity.