

SNAP - Timeline for the Mandate of CEO of SNAP Evan Spiegel (2026)

I would like to add my comments as to why I am buying an initial position in SNAP. His first Time/Space is negative no doubt.

However,

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.

That is very hopeful for a turnaround

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.

Excellent strategy to overcome the destruction of his corporation

Evil people do not further

The perseverance of the superior man.

- The great departs
- the small approaches.

Very positive for the eventual turnaround

0 Nine in the fifth place means:

Standstill is giving way.

Good fortune for the great man.

- "What if it should fail,
- what if it should fall?"

In this way he ties it to a cluster of mulberry shoots.

The time undergoes a change.

The right man, able to restore order, has arrived.

Hence "Good fortune."

But such periods of transition are the very times in which we must

- fear and
- tremble.

Success is assured only through greatest caution,

which asks always,

"What if it should fail?"

When a mulberry bush is cut down,

a number of unusually strong shoots sprout from the roots.

Hence the image of tying something to a cluster of mulberry shoots is used to symbolize the way of making success certain.

Confucius says about this line:

- Danger arises when a man feels secure in his position.
- Destruction threatens when a man seeks to preserve his worldly estate.
- Confusion develops when a man has put everything in order.

Therefore

the superior man does not forget

- danger in his security, nor
- ruin when he is well established, nor
- confusion when his affairs are in order.

In this way

he

- gains personal safety and
- is able to protect the empire.

This line is what in my experience gives evidence of the future turnaround which leads him to his next Time Soace The Corners of the Mouth – Providing Nourishment.

Prepare comments on my interpretation, based on previous turnarounds, if it is viable the waiting for the turnaround and kama before adding to the initial position.

GEMICHING ANSWER

The I Ching consultation for Snap Inc. CEO Evan Spiegel in 2026 suggests a current period of stagnation followed by a significant eventual turnaround.

The Mandate Timeline: 2026 Turnaround Strategy

Based on the I Ching reading and its interpretations, the timeline for the turnaround is structured around a "Standstill" that eventually gives way to a period of "Providing Nourishment".

- **Current Phase: The Standstill (Hexagram 12)**
 - **Environment:** A time of decline where "creative powers are not in relation" and "all things are benumbed".
 - **Strategy — Withdrawal into Seclusion:** Faced with a negative "Time/Space," the recommended strategy for the "superior man" is to remain faithful to principles and "withdraw into seclusion".
 - **Internal Focus:** This is a time to "hide his worth" and fall back upon "inner worth" to escape current difficulties. This is interpreted as a strategy to overcome the current "destruction of his corporation".
- **Transition Phase: Tying to Mulberry Shoots (Nine in the Fifth Place)**
 - **The Turning Point:** "Standstill is giving way," marking the arrival of "the right man, able to restore order".
 - **Caution and Vigilance:** Transition periods require extreme caution, characterized by the constant question: "What if it should fail?".
 - **Ensuring Success:** Just as a cut-down mulberry bush sprouts strong new shoots, the leader must tie success to these strong "shoots" (new initiatives or principles) to make it certain.
 - **Security Warnings:** Destruction often threatens when a leader seeks only to preserve their current estate. Success is only maintained by not forgetting danger even when secure.
- **Future Phase: Providing Nourishment (Hexagram 27)**
 - **The Outcome:** The future turnaround leads to "The Corners of the Mouth — Providing Nourishment".
 - **Spiritual and Personal Care:** This phase focuses on fostering "superior men" and attending to character cultivation.
 - **Temperate Leadership:** The leader is expected to be "careful of his words" and "temperate in eating and drinking," reflecting a pattern of character cultivation through both movement and tranquility.

Turnaround Possibilities and Investment Strategy

The interpretation views the current negative indicators as "very hopeful for a turnaround" because they follow the cycle where "Standstill" eventually breaks.

- **Evidence of Turnaround:** The "Nine in the fifth place" of Hexagram 12 is cited as the specific evidence that a future turnaround is possible.
- **Viability of Waiting:** It is suggested to wait for the turnaround and wait for "kama" (the Kaufman Adaptive Moving Average) to confirm a trend change before adding to any initial position.
- **A "Superior" Strategy:** Hiding worth and withdrawing into seclusion is seen as an "excellent strategy" to overcome corporate destruction during a period where "the great departs" and "the small approaches".

GROKICHING ANSWER

Your I Ching reading for Evan Spiegel and Snap Inc. (SNAP) in 2026 is a thoughtful, layered interpretation. It draws from the classic Wilhelm/Baynes translation of Hexagram 12 (Pi / Standstill/Stagnation) changing primarily through the Nine in the Fifth Place toward Hexagram 27 (I / The Corners of the Mouth — Providing Nourishment). I'll comment on your reading, its viability as an investment thesis, and how it maps (or doesn't) to real-world developments with Spiegel and SNAP as of April 2026. Your Core Interpretation — Strengths You're spot-on in highlighting the hopeful elements within a seemingly bleak hexagram:

- Standstill (Hexagram 12) accurately captures a period where "heaven and earth are out of communion," inferior influences rise, superior ones decline, and fruitful activity stalls due to mistrust or misalignment. You correctly note the superior person's response: remain faithful to principles, withdraw into seclusion, hide worth, and fall back on inner value rather than chasing "dazzling offers" or public acclaim. This is classic I Ching wisdom for navigating decay without compromising integrity.
- The Nine in the Fifth Place is the pivotal "turning point" line you emphasize. "Standstill is giving way. Good fortune for the great man... What if it should fail, what if it should fall?" — tied to the image of mulberry shoots sprouting strongly from roots after cutting. Your reading of this as evidence of a potential restoration of order by the "right man" (with extreme caution, constant vigilance against complacency, and anchoring success in resilient new growth) is faithful to the text and Confucius's commentary on not forgetting danger in security. It's a strong symbol for cautious leadership during transitions.
- The resulting Hexagram 27 as the "future phase" fits poetically: shifting from stagnation to mindful nourishment — of self (temperate words and habits), character cultivation, and fostering "superior men" to benefit the wider group. The emphasis on careful speech, balanced intake (literal and metaphorical), and movement balanced by tranquility aligns with long-term leadership sustainability.

Your overall framing — that the current negative "Time/Space" is paradoxically hopeful for a turnaround because superior figures endure by principle and seclusion until conditions shift — is a valid, optimistic lens on the I Ching's cyclical view of time. The contrast with the 2018 reading (Hexagram 21 Biting Through → 17 Following) is interesting: 2018 seems more about forcefully removing obstacles and adapting to gain a following, while 2026 is deeper withdrawal then cautious renewal. Comparison to Previous Turnarounds (e.g., 2018 Context) The 2018 snapshot you included (Hexagram 21 with moving lines leading to 17) portrayed a more active "biting through" obstacles (legal/criminal-like obstructions in social harmony, energetic removal of interference) and then "Following" through joyous adaptation. SNAP in 2018 was post-IPO struggles,

competition from Instagram Stories, etc. — Spiegel faced intense pressure but the company adapted somewhat (e.g., evolving ad formats, user features). Your 2026 reading feels more introspective and endurance-focused, which matches a mature CEO in a prolonged tech slump: not just fighting external "obstacles" but conserving inner strength amid deeper stagnation (post-2021 hype collapse, ad market pressures, AR bets not yet paying off at scale). The "withdrawal into seclusion" strategy could metaphorically describe Spiegel's long-term focus on AR/Specs vision and internal pivots despite market skepticism — staying true to principles (camera-first, Gen Z utility, innovation over short-term hype) rather than chasing every trend. Historically, I Ching readings like this have been applied to business/leadership for cycles of decline and renewal. Your approach (waiting for the mulberry-shoot moment before scaling in) echoes cautious contrarian investing during "standstill" phases. Viability in 2026 Reality — How It Maps As of mid-April 2026, SNAP has been in a clear stagnation/decline phase for investors:

- Stock has been hammered (down sharply YTD at points, trading near lows around \$4–7 range recently, with a massive drop from 2021 peaks).
- Challenges: ad revenue pressures, regulatory scrutiny (e.g., EU probes, youth safety), user growth misses in some quarters, high historical losses, and skepticism around expensive AR hardware (Specs) bets.
- "Inferior influences" and "small approaches" vibe: market mistrust, activist pressure for radical overhaul, cost discipline demands.

However, recent actions by Spiegel and the team show signs of the Nine in the Fifth Place transition kicking in:

- April 2026 restructuring: Major layoffs (~1,000 jobs, 16% of workforce) + closing roles, targeting \$500M+ annualized cost savings by H2 2026. Spiegel framed this as responding to a "crucible moment" needing a "new way of working" — faster, more efficient, pivoting to profitable growth. Stock jumped ~7% on the news, signaling market relief.
finance.yahoo.com Financial progress: Q4 2025 showed first net income (\$45M), revenue +10–11% YoY, gross margins improving toward 60%+ target for 2026, better free cash flow. Snapchat+ subscriptions growing strongly. Emphasis on revenue diversification and margin expansion.
investor.snap.com Caution and "mulberry shoots": Spiegel stresses vigilance ("What if it should fail?"), AI as enabling efficiency (a resilient "new shoot"), and careful prioritization of investments. Recent CFO transition and organizational changes reflect internal recalibration without abandoning core vision (AR, community). Activist letters and analyst calls for more cuts echo the "trembling" transition phase.
- Toward Nourishment (27): Long-term bets on character/culture (fostering talent via efficiency, temperate resource use via cost cuts), "careful words" in earnings calls about realistic paths to profitability, and nourishing the ecosystem (developers, subscribers, AR). It's not full bloom yet — Q1 2026 guidance was cautious, and volatility persists — but the pivot aligns with moving from benumbed standstill to deliberate, balanced sustenance.

Your strategy of an initial small position now (acknowledging the negative present) and waiting for confirmation before adding is prudent and aligns with the I Ching's caution. The "kama" (Kaufman's Adaptive Moving Average) is a solid technical filter here — it's designed to adapt to volatility and confirm trend shifts without whipsaws. Waiting for price action to show the KAMA turning (e.g., bullish cross or sustained uptrend) would guard against false dawns in this choppy environment, much like the mulberry caution against overconfidence in security.

- **Potential Critiques and Risks**
 - **I Ching flexibility:** These oracles are poetic and timeless, not literal forecasts. "Withdrawal into seclusion" could be interpreted as prudent leadership (focusing inward on efficiency/AR) or as criticism of isolation from market realities. The turnaround isn't guaranteed — execution risks remain (AR hardware success uncertain, ad market macro-dependent, competition fierce).
 - **Timing:** The Nine in the Fifth suggests the shift is underway ("standstill is giving way"), but transitions demand "fear and trembling." Recent cost cuts are decisive, yet full profitability and stock recovery may take quarters (analysts eye 2026–2027 for clearer net income). Stock remains volatile and sentiment-driven.
 - **Comparison to 2018:** Past "biting through" led to adaptation, but not sustained dominance. This cycle feels deeper; success depends on whether the "mulberry shoots" (AI efficiency, subscription growth, margin discipline) take root strongly enough.

Overall, your interpretation is viable and insightful as a philosophical/psychological framework for patience in investing. It encourages contrarian endurance without blind optimism — buy a starter position if you believe in Spiegel's principles and the company's moat (youth audience, AR potential), but rigorously wait for technical confirmation (KAMA trend change) and fundamental milestones (sustained margins, user/monetization beats) before scaling. This mirrors the "superior man" who hides worth until the time ripens. If the mulberry shoots sprout (e.g., strong Q1 earnings on May 6, 2026, or further efficiency wins), it could indeed nourish a turnaround phase. Stay disciplined, amigo — the I Ching rewards those who align with the cycles rather than force them.

CONSULTS

Snap SNAP under Evan Spiegel (2026)



6	The Top		H	T	T		3	2	2		7
5	The Fifth Place		H	H	H		3	3	3		9
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		H	H	T		3	3	2		8
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.**

- **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.**

THE IMAGE

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.

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.

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

0 Nine in the fifth place means:

Standstill is giving way.

Good fortune for the great man.

- "What if it should fail,
- what if it should fall?"

In this way he ties it to a cluster of mulberry shoots.

The time undergoes a change.

The right man, able to restore order, has arrived.

Hence "Good fortune."

But such periods of transition are the very times in which we must

- fear and
- tremble.

Success is assured only through greatest caution,

which asks always,

"What if it should fail?"

When a mulberry bush is cut down,

a number of unusually strong shoots sprout from the roots.

Hence the image of tying something to a cluster of mulberry shoots is used to symbolize the way of making success certain.

Confucius says about this line:

- Danger arises when a man feels secure in his position.
- Destruction threatens when a man seeks to preserve his worldly estate.
- Confusion develops when a man has put everything in order.

Therefore

the superior man does not forget

- danger in his security, nor
- ruin when he is well established, nor
- confusion when his affairs are in order.

In this way

he

- gains personal safety and
- is able to protect the empire.

MOVING HEXAGRAM

Click below to view the interpretations and cases:

<https://icic.com/?p=8924>

HEXAGRAM 27 – I - The Corners of the Mouth (Providing Nourishment)

Above KEN KEEPING STILL, MOUNTAIN

Below CHEN THE AROUSING, THUNDER

This hexagram is a picture of an open mouth;

- above and below are the firm lines of the lips, and
- between them the opening.

Starting with the mouth,

through which we take food for nourishment,

the thought **leads to** nourishment itself.

Nourishment

- of oneself, specifically of the **body**, is represented in the three lower lines,
- while the three upper lines represent nourishment and care of others, in a higher, spiritual sense.

THE JUDGMENT

THE CORNERS OF THE MOUTH.

Perseverance brings good fortune.

Pay heed

- to the providing of nourishment And
- to what a man seeks To fill his own mouth with.

In bestowing care and nourishment, it is important

- that the right people should be taken care of and
- that we should attend to our own nourishment in the right way.

If

- we wish to know what anyone is like,
- we have only to observe
 - on whom he bestows his care and
 - what sides of his own nature he cultivates and nourishes.

Nature nourishes all creatures.

The great man fosters and takes care of superior men,
in order to take care of all men through them.

Mencius says about this:

If

- we wish to know whether anyone is superior or not,
- we need only observe what part of his being he regards as especially important.

The body has

- superior and inferior,
- important and unimportant parts.

We

- must not injure important parts for the sake of the unimportant,
- nor must we injure the superior parts for the sake of the inferior.
- He who cultivates the inferior parts of his nature is an inferior man.
- He who cultivates the superior parts of his nature is a superior man. 1

THE IMAGE

At the foot of the mountain, thunder:

The image of PROVIDING NOURISHMENT.

Thus the superior man is

- careful of his words And
- temperate in eating and drinking.

"God comes forth in the sign of the Arousing" 2:

when in the spring the life forces stir again,
all things come into being anew.

"He brings to perfection in the sign of Keeping Still":
thus
in the early spring, when the seeds fall to earth,
all things are made ready.

This is an **image** of providing nourishment through

- movement and
- tranquility.

The superior man takes it as a pattern for the

- nourishment and
- cultivation of

his character.

- Words are a movement going from within outward.
- Eating and drinking are movements from without inward.

Both kinds of movement can be modified by tranquility.

For

tranquility

- keeps the words that come out of the mouth from exceeding proper measure,
and
- keeps the food that goes into the mouth from exceeding its proper measure.

Thus character is cultivated.

Snap SNAP under Evan Spiegel (2018)

MARCH 6, 2018 BY [JULIOURVINA ICIC \(EDIT\)](#)

Snap SNAP under Evan Spiegel

6	H	H	H	3	3	3	9
5	T	T	T	2	2	2	6
4	H	T	T	3	2	2	7

3		H	H	T		3	3	2		8
2		H	H	T		3	3	2		8
1		H	T	T		3	2	2		7

HEXAGRAM 21 – Shih Ho – Biting Through

Above LI THE CLINGING, FIRE

Below CHEN THE AROUSING, THUNDER

This hexagram **represents** an open mouth (cf. hexagram 27) with an obstruction (in the fourth place) between the teeth.

As a **result** the lips cannot meet.

To bring them together one must **bite energetically through** the obstacle.

Since the hexagram is **made up** of the trigrams for thunder and for lightning, it **indicates** how obstacles are forcibly removed in nature.

- Energetic biting through **overcomes** the obstacle that prevents joining of the lips;
- the storm with its thunder and lightning **overcomes** the disturbing tension in nature.
- Recourse to law and penalties **overcomes** the disturbances of harmonious social life caused by
 - criminals and
 - slanderers.

The **theme** of this hexagram is a **criminal lawsuit**, in contradistinction to that of Sung, CONFLICT (6), which **refers** to **civil suits**.

THE JUDGMENT

BITING THROUGH has **success**.

It is favorable to let justice be administered.

When an obstacle to union arises,
energetic biting through brings success.

This is true in all situations.

Whenever unity cannot be established,
the obstruction is due to a talebearer and traitor who is interfering and blocking the way.

To prevent permanent injury,
vigorous measures must be taken at once.

Deliberate obstruction of this sort does not vanish of its own accord.
Judgment and punishment are required to deter or obviate it.

However,
it is important to proceed in the right way.

The hexagram combines

- Li, clarity, and
- Chen, excitement.
- Li is yielding,
- Chen is hard.

Unqualified hardness and excitement

would be too violent in meting out punishment;

unqualified clarity and gentleness

would be too weak.

The two together create the just measure.

It is of moment that

- the man who makes the decisions (represented by the fifth line) is gentle by nature,

while

- he commands respect by his conduct in his position.

THE IMAGE

Thunder and lightning: The image Of BITING THROUGH.

Thus

the kings of former times

made firm the laws

Through clearly defined penalties.

Penalties are the individual applications of the law.

The laws specify the penalties.

- Clarity prevails when mild and severe penalties are clearly differentiated,
- according to the nature of the crimes.
 - This is symbolized by the clarity of lightning.
- The law is strengthened by a just application of penalties.
 - This is symbolized by the terror of thunder.

This clarity and severity have the effect of instilling respect;

it is not that the penalties are ends in themselves.

- The obstructions in the social life of man increase when there is
 - lack of clarity in the penal codes and
 - slackness in executing them.
- The only way to strengthen the law is
 - to make it clear and
 - to make penalties certain and swift.

THE LINES:

0 Six in the fifth place means:

- Bites on dried lean meat.
- Receives yellow gold.

Perseveringly aware of danger.

No blame.

The case to be decided is

- indeed not easy

- but perfectly clear.

Since we naturally incline to leniency,
we must make every effort to be like yellow gold – that is,

- as true as gold and
- as impartial as yellow, the color of the middle [the mean].

It is only by

remaining conscious of the dangers growing out of the responsibility
we have assumed that
we can avoid making mistakes.

Nine at the top means:

His neck is fastened in the wooden cangue,

So that his ears disappear.

Misfortune.

In contrast to the first line,

this line refers to a man who is incorrigible.

- His punishment is the wooden cangue, and
- his ears disappear under it-that is to say, he is deaf to warnings.

This obstinacy leads to misfortune.2

1. Apart from the meaning of the hexagram as a whole, the single lines are explained as follows: the persons represented by the first and the top line suffer punishment, the others inflict it (see the corresponding lines in hexagram 4, Meng, YOUTHFUL FOLLY).

2. It should be noted here that there is an alternative interpretation of this hexagram, based on the idea, "Above, light (the sun); below, movement."

in this interpretation

- the hexagram symbolizes a market below, full of movement, while the sun is shining in the sky above.
- The allusion to meat suggests that it is a food market.
- Gold and arrows are articles of trade.
- The disappearance of the nose means the vanishing of smell, that is, the person in question is not covetous.
- The idea of poison points to the dangers of wealth,
- and so on throughout.

Confucius says in regard to the nine at the beginning in this hexagram:

"The inferior man

- is not ashamed of unkindness and
- does not shrink from injustice.
- If no advantage beckons
 - he makes no effort.
- If he is not intimidated
 - he does not improve himself, but
- if he is made to behave correctly in small matters
 - he is careful in large ones.

This is fortunate for the inferior man."

On the subject of the nine at the top Confucius says:

- "If good does not accumulate,
 - it is not enough to make a name for a man.
- If evil does not accumulate,
 - it is not strong enough to destroy a man.

Therefore

the inferior man thinks to himself,

- 'Goodness in small things has no value,'
 - and so neglects it.
- He thinks, 'Small sins do no harm,'
 - and so does not give them up.

Thus

- his sins accumulate until they can no longer be covered up, and
- his guilt becomes so great that it can no longer be wiped out."

MOVING HEXAGRAM

HEXAGRAM 17 – Sui – Following

Above TUI THE JOYOUS, LAKE

Below CHEN THE AROUSING, THUNDER

The trigram Tui, the Joyous, whose attribute is gladness, is above;
Chen, the Arousing, which has the attribute of movement, is below.

Joy in movement induces following.

The Joyous is the youngest daughter, while
the Arousing is the eldest son.

An older man

- defers to a young girl and
- shows her consideration.

By this he moves her to follow him.

THE JUDGMENT

FOLLOWING has supreme success.

Perseverance furthers.

No blame.

In order to obtain a following one must first know how to adapt oneself.

If a man would rule he must first learn to serve,

for only in this way does he secure from those below him the joyous assent
that is necessary if they are to follow him.

If he has to obtain a following

- by force or cunning,
- by conspiracy or

- by creating factions,

he invariably arouses resistance, which obstructs willing adherence.

But even joyous movement can lead to evil consequences,

hence the added stipulation,

“Perseverance furthers”-that is, consistency in doing right – together with “No blame.”

- Just as we should not ask others to follow us unless this condition is fulfilled,
- so it is only under this condition that we can in turn follow others without coming to harm.

The thought of obtaining a following through adaptation to the demands of the time is a great and significant idea;

this is why the appended judgment is so favorable.

THE IMAGE

Thunder in the middle of the lake: The image of FOLLOWING.

Thus the superior man at nightfall

Goes indoors for rest and recuperation.

In the autumn electricity withdraws into the earth again and rests.

Here it is the thunder in the middle of the lake that serves as the **image** –

- thunder in its winter **rest**,
- **not** thunder in motion.

The **idea** of following in the sense of adaptation to the demands of the time grows out of this **image**.

Thunder in the middle of the lake indicates times of

- darkness and
- rest.

Similarly, a superior man, after being tirelessly active all day, allows himself rest and recuperation at night.

No situation can become favorable until one

- is able to adapt to it and
- does not wear himself out with mistaken resistance.

