

# I Ching Philosophical Machine



Zivorad Mihajlovic Slavinski

# **I CHING : Philosophical Machine**

**By**

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**Belgrade,2007**

ABOVE	HEAVEN	EARTH	THUNDER	WATER	MOUNTAIN	WIND	FIRE	LAKE
-----								
BELOW								
HEAVEN 	1	11	34	5	26	9	14	43
EARTH 	12	2	16	8	23	20	35	45
THUNDER 	25	24	51	3	27	42	21	17
WATER 	6	7	40	29	4	59	64	47
MOUNTAIN 	33	15	62	39	52	53	56	31
WIND 	44	46	32	48	18	57	50	28
FIRE 	13	36	55	63	22	37	30	49
LAKE 	10	19	54	60	41	61	38	58

## FOREWORD

This practical manual is based on my notes, taken during the past two decades (this was written twenty years ago, in the year 1987). In that long period, I consulted the *I Ching* or *The Book of Changes* frequently, and took detailed notes on the results of these consultations. In 1973, I published *The Symbols of Hermeticism*, one chapter of which I devoted to the survey of the *I Ching*. To my knowledge, it was the first text on the *I Ching* in the Serbian language. I was surprised by readers' positive reactions, as well as their large number. Many of them inquired about the possibility of publishing the *I Ching* in Serbian, emphasizing their interest in a book that would be a manual, suitable for practical use.

For some time I entertained the thought of writing such a manual, but I gave it up quickly. I believed that I did not have enough experience, that some of its elements were not clear to me, and that my thoughts about writing this book were more a consequence of my enthusiasm for this amazing instrument of practical philosophy, than of my true understanding of it. When a person is fascinated by something, it does not necessarily imply that she understands it deeply and objectively, nor that he/she has an ability to convey their knowledge in the form of useful, practical instructions.

Fourteen years have elapsed since then. I continued consulting *The Book of Changes* throughout this period. Sometimes I did it for my friends at their request. I had many unusual experiences and received countless confirmations of the value of this wondrous book. I say "book", for I have no idea what I should call it. With my own eyes, I witnessed how many persons who were at first critical and underestimated the value of the *I Ching*, gradually abandoned these unfounded opinions and became admirers, followers, and practitioners. Sometimes these changes were sudden and dramatic. Thereafter, some of them would ask whether they could use my notes, which had grown considerably in the meantime. At the same time, the idea that I should publish these notes in the form of a book came to me again. Finally, I realized that it is impossible to gain complete knowledge of a system that reflects the whole world, and thus, in its essence, is endless. Confucius himself wrote, at the age of seventy, that if he had another fifty years to live, he would dedicate them entirely to the study of the *I Ching*. If this is true, what can the rest of us do? The answer is simple: transform what we know into a manual for those who know even less. The result of this realization was my decision to write this book – *The I Ching, Philosophical Machine*.

The *I Ching* is often introduced as an oracular system, which gives a relatively exact prognosis of future events in the life of the person who asked the question. The majority believes there is nothing more to it. In my book, which is a

combination of the classical text, my notes and the interpretations of famous experts, the *I Ching* is, on the one hand, presented as an oracular system, while on the other, and this seems to me even more important, as a true philosophical machine – an instrument of spiritual growth and moral maturation. As such it is unequalled in the whole of human culture, for never before has there been a similar tool, accessible both to people of modest education and to those great men, one of which was Confucius. Based on my experience and the experience of many others, I can conclude that this manual will be extremely valuable to you, on the condition that you put your honest effort into working with it. It means that you should enter the relationship with the *I Ching* openly, free of all prejudices, yet with respect that we owe to an elderly person full of deep wisdom and love. Such a person is always ready to help, understand and forgive us, but insists unyieldingly that we be a true disciple. He or she requires this for our own good. If we accept these conditions and act in the required manner, we will benefit greatly. We will find that which many dream of throughout their lives – our Spiritual Master, a personal guru who will remain with us forever.

## HISTORY OF THE I CHING

The *I Ching* is developed from a shamanistic oracular practice that was, in all probability, introduced to ancient China from Mongolia. The first medium used for augury was tortoise shell. Shaman would ask a question, and once he was completely focused, place a tortoise shell in the fire. When it cracked, he sought hints that might provide an answer in the appearance of the cracks and their mutual relationship. Later, a ritual metal stick was used. It was put in the fire and when it turned red-hot, was placed in a hole made in the middle of the shell, which led to its cracking.

This form of divination was used for receiving practical advice regarding farming, fishing and hunting. It would later become a tool for predicting the destinies of individuals. Since the cracks in the tortoise shell appeared in groups, and could be solid or broken, by their systematization during many generations, trigrams – groups of three lines - were created, which then became the basis of the divination.

It is not known to us who turned the accumulated knowledge of this practice into the written form we know today as the *I Ching*. According to legend, it was Fu Hsi, the first ruler of China, who lived in the third millennium B. C. As is often the case in such stories, Fu Hsi was sitting on the shore of the Yellow River, meditating upon the meaning of life, when a tortoise (considered a sacred animal in ancient China) emerged from the water. On its shell he saw the markings that formed trigrams, through which the heavenly forces revealed the answers to eternal human questions.

Historical sources point to King Wen, the founder of the Chou dynasty, as the probable creator of *The Book of Changes*, who left us the text of sixty-four hexagrams. In fact, since the basis of the divination were trigrams, or groups of three parallel lines placed one above the other, practitioners began combining them, thus creating hexagrams. Hexagrams are figures that consist of two trigrams, that is, six solid or broken lines, placed one above the other.

According to Wen, hexagrams represent the elementary forces of nature, on which life in agricultural China depended, and were closely connected to the forces that determined relationships in economics, politics, and human interactions. His son, known by the name Duke of Chou, continued in his father's footsteps. Analysis of each of the six lines within the hexagrams is his contribution. Later, during the course of Chinese history, most of the leading philosophers contributed to the *I Ching*. The most distinguished among them were Lao Tzu, Chuang Tzu, Mencius, and most of all, Confucius. It is difficult to say who wrote what, except for the es-

established fact that the text entitled *The Ten Wings* originates from Confucius' school of philosophy.

The *I Ching* was unknown to the Western world until the end of the nineteenth century. Then Legge's translation was published, which was faithful to the original but extremely dry. Subsequently, sinologist Richard Wilhelm published his version of the *I Ching*, which to this day remains without equal. The only problem with Wilhelm's work is that it requires vast experience, so that it can be of use only to a small number of people. After Wilhelm, many others have published their versions of the *I Ching*. While some of them are good, others are not, but in the last few years, around twenty new titles have appeared only in English.

Most of them attempt to teach the practitioner how to solve the problems of everyday life by consulting *The Book of Changes*, some thing that often cannot be done with Wilhelm's version. For example, a friend of mine once asked me to consult the *I Ching* for him, concerning a problem he could not solve using Wilhelm's book. The problem was very serious – whether he should be vaccinated against rabies or not. What happened is that he had cut himself by accident, with a knife his relative had used while hunting, to skin an animal that may have been infected by rabies. Telling the whole story would take too much space, but what is significant for us is that my relative could not determine by the usual methods, that is, via medical institutions, whether the animal had rabies. Many had advised him to be vaccinated immediately, but he hesitated, because such a vaccine is no small matter, as it involves certain health risk. He tried to find a solution by consulting Wilhelm's book. He received many philosophical answers, yet no concrete answer regarding whether he should be vaccinated or not. Using the version you are holding in your hands right now, we formulated a very specific question: "What consequences will it have for my health condition if I am not vaccinated?" The answer was surprisingly simple, short and clear: "The patient will be safe!"

That is exactly the sort of manual most people want, a philosophical machine that offers specific answers in the areas where our ratio abandons us, where life's circumstances exceed its abilities to guide us. Although the ratio is built into the foundation of Western civilization, our culture appears to be tired of it. It wants to perceive itself and find direction through the subconscious optics of dreams, myths and fairy tales, in the teachings that have withstood the test of time and the systems of practical philosophy that give true support and wise guidance in life where all the values are disturbed.

You can be sure that relying on the advice of the *I Ching* in obscure situations is not typical of superstitious, reckless and uneducated persons. Many great minds of the East have consulted it on a daily basis, while today there are more and more outstanding persons in the West who are doing the same. Interesting examples are great scientists who received a Nobel Prize for physics: Japanese Hideki Yukawa in 1947 and American physicists of Chinese origin Tsung Co Li and Chen Ning Jang ten years later. They are significant because their diaries prove that they were consulting the *I Ching* at all important phases of their scientific research.



## HOW TO FORM A HEXAGRAM

The basic ‘bricks’ of the *I Ching* are the hexagrams. As I mentioned before, each hexagram is a simple figure composed of six parallel lines, which can be solid or broken. In total, there are sixty-four hexagrams. Due to their flexible meanings, they encompass all possible relationships in the cosmos, human society and man’s spiritual life. Many clever practitioners have attempted to explain the mechanism of the *I Ching*’s effect – does how this philosophical machine reflect the world accurately at a particular moment?

Different persons provided different answers to this question. The hexagram is a symbolic response to an inquiry. That answer needs to be interpreted. Seen from this point of view, the hexagram is a focus-point which enables us to perceive the world, our place in it, and our interactions with it. Without it, man is faced with confusing thematic obscurity, entwining and overlapping of phenomena, objects and interactions – in short, without a focused vision of the world. The hexagram provides such a concise vision, which enables us to perceive quite clearly the matter that interests us at a particular moment.

R. L. Wing states to that effect: “An augury is a device that yields a particular pattern at a particular moment in time and that can, in turn, be analyzed in light of a particular concern. Imagine, for a moment, our reality to be a tube of time extending through space. We are constantly flowing through the tube along with everything we perceive. Now, if we could at certain, perhaps perplexing moments, slice through the tube and study its fixed cross section, we would see all of the elements in nature that happen to now exist, as well as their immediate relationships to one another. By evaluating the patterns of the current relationships among things, we should then be able to divine what we might expect in our own lives from the available forces and compelling tendencies in the cosmos.”

Jung has developed his theory of synchronicity owing to his life-long study of the *I Ching*. Today, this theory is well-known. According to it, everything that occurs at a particular moment in time, has the characteristics of that moment and is connected acausally with everything that exists at that moment through its meaning, which is the same or similar. Human consciousness plays the decisive role here, because a connection between two things or occurrences is established in it. In other words, our consciousness perceives this relationship.

I believe that every practitioner prone to speculative thinking will eventually reach his/her own conclusion regarding how this philosophical machine functions. So-called holographic theory of the Universe seems to me the best explanation. It can be seen as a modern version of the ancient hermetic teaching on the re-

relationship between the micro- and macro-cosmos. In simple words, the hologram is a kind of photographic board, which, once broken, does not yield the pieces of the former whole, but the same whole again, only smaller. Accordingly, each part of the broken board, no matter how small it is or how many of them there are, offers a reduced image of the whole. Now, if one of these broken pieces gets broken again, it too will contain the tiny image of the original whole. Using the hologram as an illustration, we may say that the hexagram we receive when consulting the *I Ching* at a particular moment is a tiny hologram of the whole Universe at that moment, and that we can determine all the phenomena significant to us, as well as the interactions in the midst of which we find ourselves, if we direct our attention to it.



How do we form a hexagram? I should tell you right away that besides two classical ways – counting dried yarrow stalks and tossing three coins – there is a substantial number of other methods, developed in the course of time by experienced practitioners. I shall describe the three-coin method in detail, which is the best in my opinion. Alternative methods are described in some of the books listed in the bibliography at the end of this book. If you find out that one of those methods suits you, feel free to use it, for you know yourself what suits you best.

## METHOD OF TOSSING THREE COINS

Find three coins of the same kind. Some use old Chinese copper coins with square holes in the middle, but experience teaches us that any three coins will do, as long as they are the same. However, once you begin using them, you should not change them. You should use them for this purpose only. Wash them well in salt water and leave them in the sun for a few hours. Then determine the values of the sides of the coins. The values can be two or three. Usually the head side's value is three, for it is considered positive or Yang side; consequently, the tail (inscription) side's value is two, for it is considered negative, female or Yin side. If you are patient enough, it will prove useful to carve the values on both sides of all three coins with a sharp metal object.

Bathe, or at least wash your hands well, and then spread a piece of clean cloth, a kerchief or towel on the table in front of you.

Formulate your question (see the special chapter on formulating questions), and write it down on a piece of paper or in your diary, which you should keep by your side on the table. Cup the coins in your hands and shake them for some time, all the while concentrating on your inquiry. Drop them on the cloth. Check to see their numbers. Adding the numbers can result in four numbers – 6, 7, 8 or 9.

An odd number (7 or 9) will produce a positive or Yang line, drawn as a solid (unbroken) line – . An even number (6 or 8) will result in a Yin or negative line, which is broken – . The result of the first toss will be the first (BOTTOM) line of your hexagram. Write down on its right side the number you received as the sum of that toss. Pick up the three coins again and repeat the procedure: shake them in your hands while you concentrate on your inquiry for the second time. Drop them on the cloth in front of you. Add the numbers again and if their sum is an even number (6 or 8), draw a broken line; if odd (7 or 9), draw a solid line. You will draw this line above the first one. It is the second line of your hexagram. To its right, write down the number you received – the total of the second toss. Repeat the procedure four more times. You will thus have a complete hexagram, composed of six lines, from the first (bottom) to the sixth (top) line.

I will illustrate this with an example. Let us say that you toss the coins once and get two twos and one three ( $2+2+3=7$ ). This adds up to 7 and results in a solid or Yang line. You will draw a solid line and write number 7 to its right. This is what it looks like:

7 

It is the first or bottom line of the hexagram.

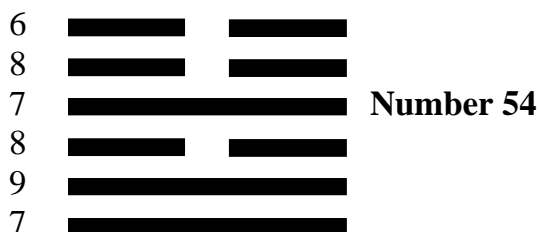
You toss the coins for the second time and get, for instance, three threes, which produces number 9 ( $3+3+3=9$ ). It will create a solid or Yang line. You will draw it above the first one and write down number 9. Thus, we have the following:



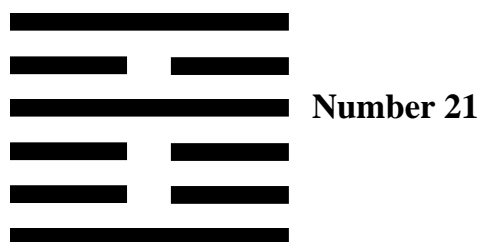
The third toss leaves us with two threes and one two, which adds up to 8 and creates a broken or Yin line ( $3+3+2=8$ ). You will draw it above the second line and write down its number – 8, to its right.

The fourth toss results in number 7.

The fifth toss gives us number 8 and the sixth number 6, which creates the top line of the hexagram. Thus, you have the following hexagram: number 54, the title of which is THE MARRYING MAIDEN (SUBORDINATE POSITION). This is your first hexagram, which will transform into the second one, for it contains changing lines.



Here an explanation is necessary. The lines that have extreme values, that is, 6 and 9, are so-called CHANGING LINES. If a hexagram contains such changing lines, they transform into their opposites: the line with number 9 transforms into a negative or broken line, while the line with number 6 transforms into a solid or positive line. Since the hexagram in our example has two changing lines (in the second and sixth place), it will transform into hexagram 21, or REFORM (CHEWING INTO BITS). This is what this transformation looks like:



When we form the second, changed hexagram, we do not place numbers next to lines, because it is the final hexagram that does not change further.

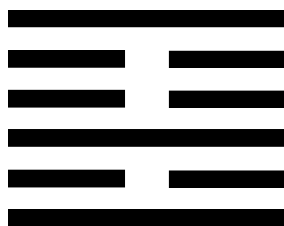
If a first hexagram consists of unchanging lines only (that is, only of lines 7 and 8), we do not transform it into a second hexagram. In this way, there is no second hexagram, and the first hexagram alone provides us with a response to our inquiry. Such a hexagram, composed of unchanging lines only, is called LOCKED or FATEFUL hexagram.

## HOW TO FIND YOUR HEXAGRAM

Once we form a hexagram by tossing coins, we can use the chart, which is to be found at the beginning of this book, to locate it quickly within the book.

As you can see, a hexagram consists of two trigrams, the upper one and the lower one. The LOWER TRIGRAM is made of the first, second and third lines (counting from the bottom up), while the fourth, fifth and sixth lines make up the UPPER TRIGRAM.

Now look at the chart. Upper trigrams can be found in the horizontal line. Lower trigrams are located in the left, vertical column. Let us say that you received the following hexagram:



Check to see where in the horizontal line the upper trigram of your hexagram can be found. Now find your lower trigram within the vertical column. You will find the number of your hexagram where the horizontal line and the vertical column meet. In this case, it is hexagram 22. Now it is easy to find the text of this hexagram within the book, because the hexagrams are handled one after another, from number 1 to 64.

## FORMULATING QUESTIONS AND INTERPRETING ANSWERS

To receive answers that are to the point, it is important to formulate your inquiry as specifically and as clearly as you can. A well-formulated inquiry brings you closer to response. Vague, equivocal, or overly complicated wording will yield an unclear, incomprehensible or senseless response. The question should be specific about the situation, the time, and your expectations. For instance, the inquiry “Will I be happy?” is very unspecific and therefore not likely to lead to a pointed response, as a great number of factors are left undetermined. If you receive a greatly propitious response to such an inquiry, would it mean that you would be happy in any case, that is, even if you do nothing, and take no actions to achieve happiness? Does it mean that you can achieve happiness even if you gamble, drink, and cheat others? This is by no means what the *I Ching*'s response implies!

Unspecific wording of the inquiry will always lead to error. If you wanted to determine the value of a person of the opposite sex by consulting the *I Ching*, it would be a mistake to make the following inquiry: “Is girl XY good?” What exactly does this question mean? Does it mean “a good person for me, with whom I can have a harmonious relationship” or a good person for someone else? For one man this person can be a chance for a harmonious and long-lasting marriage, yet for another her traits may become the immediate cause of quarrels and a quick divorce. The best counsel is to make yourself the center of inquiry and to make the inquiry as specific as possible. For instance, “Is it good for me to quit present job and find employment in company N?” “Will I have a safe flight if I travel by plane to Sarajevo on January 8 at 5 p. m.?” “If I marry X, will my marriage be harmonious if I do my best?” If you make an inquiry for someone else, of course you must not be the focus of the question, for that would be senseless. You can formulate the question for someone else as follows: “What score will X receive in the examination, if he continues to study as before?”

In unclear situations where there are conflicts, it is good to formulate a question in such a manner as to ask advice for the most moral conduct. Let us presume that you are in a conflict with a person who insults and threatens you, and uses dishonest means against you. If you are not sure about what you should do and for that reason intend to consult the *I Ching*, good wording of your inquiry would be: “What would be the most moral conduct in this situation?” or “How should I behave in this situation, in order to remain on the Path of Correctness?”

Good wording requires a lot of time. You should try a few options, write each one down and evaluate them individually – is the wording clear enough and does it encompass all significant factors and circumstances? A person consulting

the *I Ching* can often foresee the response once he has finally formulated the question. A friend of mine, married to a woman he loved, had many moral dilemmas regarding his conduct. He kept on becoming involved in superficial, short-lived extramarital affairs. His desire for such affairs was exceedingly strong, and so was his remorse once they ended. Since he was a spiritual person whose priority was his spiritual growth, he has meditated for days upon the wording of his inquiry. At the moment he finally had a wording that satisfied him – “How should I solve the problem of my inclination toward extramarital affairs, since I want to be fair to my wife?” – the response was already there.

An important element of your inquiry is making it on time. It means that you should consult *The Book of Changes* at the very beginning of a situation, before its relationships have taken root and the circumstances have become fixed. I consulted the *I Ching* for my friend once. He made the following inquiry: “Should I enter a love relationship with XY?” The inquiry was senseless. This became obvious once he received the response, which was so much to the point that it gave my friend a great shock: “You are intimate with the other party already, and find yourself in the midst of a passionate love relationship.” Confused, he confessed that it was true, that they had been in a love relationship for some time already. However, the *I Ching* will most often yield a senseless response to such a senseless inquiry. Make sure therefore that your timing is good.

Alternative inquiries must be avoided at any price. They consist of two mutually excluding questions, so that it is impossible to know which one the answer refers to. Here is an example: “Should I travel on Wednesday or Thursday?” or “Should I marry Peter or Ivan?” If we receive a positive answer to such an inquiry, what would it mean? Would it apply to Wednesday or Thursday? Ivan or Peter?

Such a situation can be solved by splitting your inquiry into two specific questions. You will begin the inquiry with “Should I travel on Wednesday?”, and then make another inquiry with the remaining question: “Should I travel on Thursday?” In the second example, you should first ask “Will I have a harmonious marriage if I marry Peter?” and then, “Will I have a harmonious marriage if I marry Ivan?” If you see more than two possible solutions to your situation, you should ask a specific question for each one of them.

Once you have finally formulated your inquiry in such a manner that you are satisfied with its specificity and content (for you are certain it encompasses all the germane facts), write it down on a piece of paper or in your diary and put it on a piece of cloth in front of you. Place the *I Ching* next to it. Meditate upon your question for a while, imagining the person or situation it refers to. Then concentrate well on your question and toss the coins six times consecutively, as previously explained.

When you form a hexagram, always beginning with the first, bottom line, and proceeding up toward the sixth, top line, find its number in the chart. Then read the basic text of the hexagram slowly, fully concentrating. Next, seek the an-

swer to your inquiry in one of the ten separate categories (wish, love, marriage etc.). It is possible that the answer to your inquiry can be found in more than one category, but that seldom happens.

If your inquiry is difficult to classify in any of the ten categories, try to find the answer by studying the relationship of the two trigrams that constitute your hexagram, or the basic text of the hexagram.

If your hexagram consists of UNCHANGING LINES only, you SHOULD NOT READ the text of the lines. As mentioned before, such a hexagram is a LOCKED or FATEFUL hexagram. The situation it depicts is entirely fixed, dictated by destiny, and you cannot do much but accept it as it is. I will repeat once more that such a hexagram consist of lines 7 and 8, which do not change. If you have one or more CHANGING lines in your hexagram (lines 6 and 9), the crucial moment of your inquiry follows, for changing lines describe the phases you will go through, the barriers you will run into, and the successive experiences you will have in that situation. Most importantly, CHANGING LINES advise you HOW TO ACT in the situation you are facing.

If you have changing lines in your hexagram, you will form a second hexagram, where the changing lines transform into their opposites – positive lines become negative and the other way around. When you find the second hexagram, you should read its basic text and the specific category that interests you. You should NOT READ the text of the changing lines.

Keep in mind that the first hexagram refers to the present moment and your situation, while the second one refers to situations that may arise in the future. As you gain experience through practice, you will discover that in important and simple situations the *I Ching* has a tendency to yield direct answers, for instance, through the name of hexagram itself. When this happens, you do not need to interpret the hexagram. Then the *I Ching* resembles a sage who expresses himself concisely and gives a short and clear response to your inquiry. For instance, if you are in a relationship where there is almost no emotional attachment left, so that your dilemma is whether or not you should break it off, and you receive hexagram 23, the name of which is DETERIORATION, the answer is as clear as it gets.

As you use this manual, you will find out that an ever deeper personal relationship and, I dare add with full responsibility, mutual understanding will, develop gradually between you and *The Book of Changes*. You will attain an ability to read between the lines of the *I Ching*'s responses, while it will manifest its keenness and true wisdom by pointing out in many situations that what is actually important is not the matter you asked about, but rather a certain factor you lost sight of.

Carl Gustav Jung, who experimented with the *I Ching* for years, and saw in the hexagrams simple graphic illustrations of the archetype of the collective subconscious, had a strong impression that a Sage really lives between the binding of *The Book of Changes* – an exceptionally integrated, balanced and keen person,



who knows our hidden thoughts and motives, and is capable of offering us the best solution to the problem in given circumstances. This creature, which the text of the *I Ching* itself mentions, is always ready to help, yet cares a lot about its dignity – it does not like annoying or impetuous practitioners, empty-headed curious persons, or those who have their Ego guide them through life. It is also capable of rejecting us in a rough manner if we bother it with the same inquiry several times, can sometimes laugh at us or point out the illogical or silly nature of our inquiry.

Sometimes the *I Ching* does not respond directly to our inquiry, but illuminates our subconscious motives or points to the irrational nature of our attitude instead. Occasionally, feeling the presentiment of danger or crisis ahead of us, it does not pay attention to our inquiry at all, but rather uses the opportunity to point to the issues that really matter at that moment.

If a problem is very important to you, and the response you receive is neither short nor clear, it means that the situation is exceedingly complicated, so that you must act in different ways during its various phases.

What should you do when you receive contradictory responses in your first and second hexagrams, or the kind of response that seems completely inadequate? You will learn in time that this is but appearance. It happens mostly because the circumstances are complex, intertwined, and there are many more determining factors than you can perceive. If you have an opportunity to switch to a more interesting and better paying job, but the *I Ching* advises you not to, you do not know why the *I Ching* offers you such a counsel, but IT knows, for this amazing philosophical machine takes into consideration all significant factors, most of which are unknown to you. You may die while on your way to that new job, be badly wounded, or meet a person that would involve you in serious trouble, and so on. Such occurrences seem improbable, yet many persons' lives would have been entirely different if they had taken a right instead of a left turn at a certain intersection.

On one occasion, I consulted the *I Ching* regarding the exchange of my apartment . I previously had got an offer for an apartment that was prettier and much bigger than mine was. The response was an explicit NO! There were hints in the response that suggested that the other party had hidden motives and that this transaction was “rotten”. I was not capable of accepting such an answer, for human Ego has a strong tendency to flatter itself that it is clever, that it knows exactly what it is doing and the like. Since the response was negative, Ego planted a thought in me, as a cuckoo in the nest, that I must not have concentrated well, and therefore received such a response. I made the same inquiry again, fully focused, certain that this time the response would be positive. But it was NO again! I made the same inquiry a few more times, the outcome always being the same, until I received hexagram 4, YOUTHFUL FOLLY, which the *I Ching* often yields when a practitioner bothers it with the same question too many times. It was then that I gave up this exchange. After a while, I found out by accident that just in front of the building where that big, nice apartment was, a new railway was being built. If I had carried on the exchange, trains would have roared day and night in front of my

apartment. The owner of that apartment knew about the plans to build the new railway in front of his building, but I did not. If I had known, I would have rejected his offer without ever consulting the *I Ching*.

Interpretation of the *I Ching*'s response requires a certain degree of objectivity and distance, unless the response is produced, as I previously mentioned, in the very title of a hexagram. The practitioner who is full of prejudices and has great expectations, is in danger of finding their affirmation in the flexible text of the hexagrams. He is usually the only one who sees such a response, while others, being detached, easily perceive that the practitioner's expectations led him to such an interpretation. It is one of the reasons why the practitioner sometimes receives a first hexagram that seems promising, whereas the second one is its opposite. This happens because the first hexagram speaks of the practitioner's present situation, most of all of his subjective condition, his wishes and attitudes, while the second one describes the actual course of events and whether the expectations contained in the first hexagram are going to be realized or not. It further gives specific advice on how the practitioner should BEHAVE, what he should DO and what he SHOULD NOT DO, in order to remain in accord with the laws of the cosmos and spiritual growth.

This brings us to concrete advice for the interpretation of responses:

1.If the first and second hexagrams contradict each other, the second one prevails.

2.If the text of a hexagram and its CHANGING LINES are contradictory, changing lines have priority.

3.If you have more than one changing line in your first hexagram and if changing lines contradict each other, it means that they refer to various phases of the situation or specific forms of conduct you should adopt as the situation develops. The sequence of the changing lines corresponds to the sequence of different stages of the situation. When different attitudes are shown in different changing lines of your first hexagram, they usually stand for different points of view you will adopt as the situation changes.

4.Special advice for interpreting hexagrams refers to the so-called DOMINANT changing line. Each hexagram has one or, quite seldom, two dominant lines. There is no need to remember which line is dominant, for it is marked in the text. However, you should pay attention in case your changing line is also dominant, for then it becomes even more important, more dynamic and crucial for the meaning of the hexagram. When two or more lines are changing, one of which is dominant, such a line is of the utmost significance.

5.I previously mentioned the LOCKED or FATEFUL hexagram, which is static because it does not have any changing lines. When you receive such a hexagram, the dominant line provides additional clarity to its interpretation. Then it has the role of a changing line.

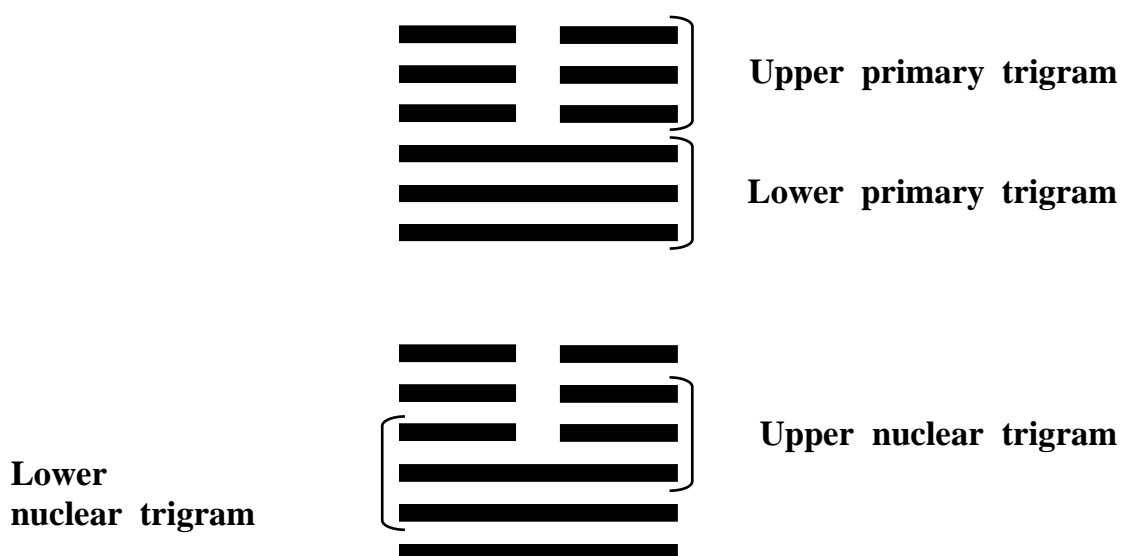
## MEANINGS OF THE TRIGRAMS

Important clues for interpreting responses of the *I Ching* can be obtained from the meanings of the trigrams. Each trigram is a symbol of certain things and relationships, so that the meanings of both trigrams that constitute a hexagram offer precious directions to understanding the meaning of a hexagram as a whole.

Besides primary trigrams, each hexagram also has nuclear trigrams. Nuclear trigrams point to dynamic, “inner”, invisible forces of a situation or a relationship. The lower nuclear trigram is made of lines 2, 3 and 4.

The upper nuclear trigram is formed by lines 3, 4 and 5.

You can see that lines 3 and 4 appear as components of both nuclear trigrams. We shall take a look at hexagram 11, entitled PEACE, to see an example of primary and nuclear trigrams.



Now let us see what the meanings of the eight basic trigrams are.

### *CHI'EN, HEAVEN or CREATIVE*

HEAVEN consists of three solid or Yang lines. It symbolizes heaven, higher cosmic forces, firmness, loftiness, nobleness, activity, perpetual movement, beginning, various forms of energy, sovereigns, rulers, managers, presidents, directors, leaders, sages, founders of a religion, popes, prime ministers, old men, fathers, military commanders, husbands; fullness, abundance, wealth, happiness and gratification, courage, masculinity, rapid advancement, determination, active beginning, high position in general, luxury, honor, pride, haughtiness and the like.

### ***K'UN, EARTH, RECEPTIVE***

The second trigram, Earth, appears to be the very opposite of Heaven, but in fact, it is not about being opposed to but about complementing each other. One cannot exist without the other. Trigram Earth is formed by three broken or Yin lines. It stands for wives, mothers, yielding, gentleness, persistence, devotion and toil. Earth is a symbol of humility, modesty, inferiority, poverty and darkness. Above all, it represents PASSIVITY, from which the following attributes are derived: warmth, tranquility, prudence, humility, respect and heavy burden (in the spiritual sense). It also encompasses everything that is related to the basic or bottom level.

### ***CHEN, THUNDER or AROUSAL***

Thunder is a symbol of the arousal and launching of energy, of movement in general, particularly the initiation of life's energy. It symbolizes new ventures and occupations, speed and phenomena that occur quickly; shock and startling; decision and decisive realization of ideas; struggle, expansion, beginning of new activities, sunrise, flying, but also lasciviousness. It stands for eldest sons, youths, newly risen social classes and the nouveaux riche, as well as for celebrities in general.

### ***K'AN, WATER, ABYSMAL***

This trigram symbolizes water, floods, trouble, and above all, DANGER. It is also a symbol of cunning, trickery, risk, worries, hidden crimes and guilt, theft, melancholic and depressive moods. It signifies middle-aged persons, thieves, bandits, evildoers and the malevolent, those burdened with cares and sickness, the disloyal and adulterers, nymphomaniacs and sex-maniacs. In everyday life, it stands mostly for danger, poverty, worries, deprivation and want. Positive aspects of WATER are gathering, accumulation, starting from nothing and achieving the significant, perseverance in facing danger, curing diseases and endeavors that lead to success. It symbolizes success in the academic field and in meditation.

### ***KEN, MOUNTAIN, KEEPING STILL***

All attributes of this trigram are derived from the basic symbol – mountain: keeping still and calmness, motionlessness, rest, cessation of activity, being static, obstacles and barriers that are difficult to overcome; piling up and accumulation; stubbornness, sincerity, frugality and stinginess, loftiness and independence. It stands for youngest children, prisoners, convicts and persons whose movement is limited, the overweight and the hunchbacked, the lazy, the greedy and those who have a tendency to hoard wealth. It also stands for priests, monks, dignitaries of the church and practitioners of spiritual disciplines.

### ***SUN, WIND, GENTLE***

This trigram is a symbol of Wind, distant places and remoteness. Its traits are gentle penetration, permeability and omnipresence. It also stands for mediation and interaction, which further point to business and commerce. The following are also related to the trigram Wind: trees, woods, clouds, length and height; orderly or neat appearance, obedience and adjustment; travel, remote places, dismissal, hesitation; persevering labor, completeness and tranquility; quiet contemplation or meditation, but also indecisiveness. Wind also symbolizes eldest daughters and sisters, businessmen, travelers, guides and those involved in sailing or transportation.

### ***LI, FIRE, CLINGING***

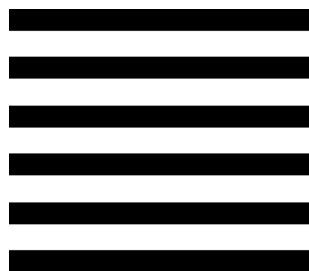
Trigram LI is a symbol of Fire, sun and light, brilliance, beauty, but also of burning and disasters related to fire. It represents perception, intelligence and the ability to perceive important elements. It stands for impetuousness, rage, passion, nervousness, yet also for radiance and beauty, and those whose work involves books, letters, and decorations. Fire symbolizes the wise and the intelligent, artists, writers, those engaged in the business of maintaining and perfecting beauty, beauties and middle-aged women.

### ***TUI, LAKE, JOYOUS***

Lake is a symbol of youngest daughters, maidens and young women, female stars, bar girls and female vocalists, mistresses and hostesses. It also represents sorceresses, the incompetent, prostitutes and the feeble-minded. Lake symbolizes joy, gaiety and delight. Also, it represents low-lying and concave places, marshes and lakes, and consequently, insufficiency, incompleteness, inadequacy and defectiveness. This trigram also relates to destruction, ruin and seduction. On the one hand, Lake is a symbol of happiness, pleasures and enjoyment. On the other hand, it is a symbol of danger that arises from an excess of pleasure. From these characteristics, other attributes of Lake are also derived: consuming interests and hobbies, laughter, gossip, lawsuits and litigation, disputes, speeches, singing and songs, sexual passion and lust, damaging precious things and setbacks.



## *Hexagram 1*



### **CREATIVE FORCE**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Heaven                      below: Heaven  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Heaven                      below: Heaven

The first hexagram is a symbol of Heaven and creative, propelling power. All the trigrams, both primary and nuclear, represent Heaven. Thus, this hexagram signifies the peak of Yang power – male, active and positive. It is extremely powerful and energetic, and therefore suggests action and persistence.

In terms of inspiration, energy and the will to achieve your goals, this time is exceptionally favorable. This is precisely why your duty, during this period, is to direct your energy towards achieving worthwhile and noble goals. Cast away all unimportant and trivial things that you may be attracted to them. Knowing both when to act and when not to act is critical.

Personal relationships will focus on you; you will become a kind of activity center. Therefore, in accordance with the cosmic tendencies, go ahead and take the initiative. But be careful! Since this hexagram stands for the peak of Yang energy, Yin energy will necessarily follow. After any phenomenon in the cosmos reaches its peak, it is destined to decrease. At this moment, spiritual growth is forcefully accelerated. In order not to depart from the Path of Correctness, hold fast to moral principles and noble goals. Be honest and fair. In divination, the hexagram indicates that for the most part, the situation will develop according to your expectations, and that now is the right moment to carry out your ideas, and to achieve happiness and prosperity.

In its static form, e. g., without changing lines, CREATIVE FORCE means that the circumstances are truly significant. In whichever direction you are heading, this situation will be the basis for lasting achievements.

#### ***WISH:***

With the necessary caution, be open and reasonably aggressive. Take the initiative, act persistently and it will be realized.

**LOVE:**

Success is possible. However, if both sides are egoistic and insist on their rights, break up is inevitable.

**MARRIAGE:**

If a woman receives this hexagram, there is a fair chance of a harmonious marriage. On the other hand, this hexagram is not as auspicious for a man, because the woman will be aggressive, with an outstanding tendency to dominate.

**PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:**

A boy will be born without any problem.

**HEALTH AND SICKNESS:**

You are under stress, and therefore subject to diseases of the nervous system, as well as sicknesses afflicting the head and the rib cage. You need rest. Your condition will then improve.

**NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:**

Rely on a good mediator, but also make sure that you keep your impulses in check. If you can manage to do that, the outcome will be good.

**TRAVEL:**

Favorable. The journey will be safe. However, you should not be too careless; you will have such a tendency.

**EXAMINATION:**

Overcome laziness, do not squander time on trivia, and your score will be good.

**NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:**

This is an exceptionally favorable situation, whether you want to keep the status quo or begin a new project.

**WEATHER:**

Clear

**CHANGING LINES**

**SIXTH:**

You had the opportunity to accomplish significant deeds, but you gave in to the temptation to brag arrogantly. You departed from the Path of Correctness. Your desires and ambitions far exceed your abilities. Vanity will make you do things you will regret, such as pointing out inadequacies of others, instead of reflecting on your own, becoming involved in conflicts etc. Take this as a warning.

**FIFTH: (dominant)**

You are in a fortunate situation where your decision, whatever it may be, is in accord with the cosmic movements. You find yourself in the center of activities, and



others view you through the extraordinary significance of your work. The highest ideals of the mankind are echoing inside of you, so that persons who identify with those ideals recognize your significance, while you recognize theirs. Permanent good fortune.

***FOURTH:***

You can choose the way and the area of your growth: you will either enter the public eye or withdraw into loneliness and develop your creativity. You must make up your mind now. Whatever your decision may be, it will be the right one if you follow your heart.

***THIRD:***

New, unexpected opportunities are beginning to open up to you. You have the freedom to choose in which direction you will proceed. Your plan is becoming more realistic. Others will approach you in the hope that they may use your influence for their own aims. Do not pay attention to triteness. It means, on the one hand, not to get upset and worry, and on the other hand, not to brag about your influence. Keep your goal in mind.

***SECOND:***

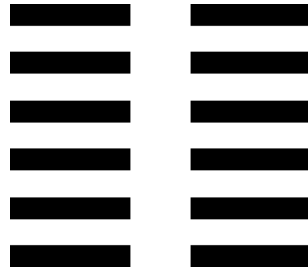
Circumstances and relationships are becoming clearer. The time is ripe for action. Seek a person influential in the area related to your question. Align and coordinate yourself with this person. In order to be accepted, you must be reliable and completely committed to your goal.

***FIRST:***

Although you possess the creative energy necessary to attain your aim, the time is not ripe for action yet. Hold off for a while.



## *Hexagram 2*



### **RECEPTIVENESS**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Earth                      below: Earth  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Earth                      below: Earth

This hexagram symbolizes Earth, and therefore conveys the idea of yielding, softness, subordination, obedience and perseverance. Its essential message is that of a passive attitude and perseverance. If you receive the hexagram RECEPTIVENESS as the answer to your question, you should be tolerant and acquiescent, you should fulfill your duties conscientiously and without complaining, and accept willingly a passive and subordinate role.

Behaving in such a way will bring you appropriate reward, just as assiduously and patiently cultivated soil brings a bumper harvest. Do not take the initiative, but follow others, stronger and more experienced than yourself. Give up acting hastily and do not plunge into anything new until the situation has radically changed.

Such wise conduct will attract you the ultimate good fortune. Since fertility is one of the key ideas of this hexagram, persevere in endeavors towards the realization of your idea.

#### ***WISH:***

Realization is impossible either at this moment, or in the near future. Do not be impatient. It will be realized gradually, after a certain period of time.

#### ***LOVE:***

Success is possible if you keep the feelings of the other party in mind. If you are selfish, impatient or impulsive, the relationship is destined to failure.

#### ***MARRIAGE:***

It may be a harmonious marriage because the partners are well matched, but haste, impetuous behavior and tantrums may ruin the chances.

#### ***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

A girl will be born without any problem.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Diseases afflicting the abdomen and the liver. If you do not seek treatment in time, the condition may develop into a chronic disease.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Seek a compromise patiently.

***TRAVEL:***

If you intend to travel alone, cancel the trip. On the other hand, the circumstances are favorable to travel in a group or with an experienced person.

***EXAMINATION:***

Average score.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

This is not the right moment. Wait awhile.

***WEATHER:***

Cloudy and rainy.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

Be cautious! You are overcome with fear. It forces you to assert yourself into conflict with someone in position of authority. There is a conflict on the horizon that will only make things worse for you. Danger!

***FIFTH:***

Doubts are gnawing at your self-confidence. Eliminate them calmly yet persistently. Do not display your virtues directly, but allow them to permeate all of your affairs.

***FOURTH:***

The situation abounds with problems. Be cautious, because your actions cause awakening of the dark powers in someone. Do not challenge these forces, but do not surrender to them either. Bear your cross without complaining, how ever difficult and humiliating it may be. Opposing others at this point will only make things worse. Remain uncommitted and distant.

***THIRD:***

Do not attempt to make a favorable impression on others. Do not concern yourself with whether they like what you say or do, but whether it is honest, spontaneous and truly significant. Do your work properly and do not try to assert your values.

***SECOND (dominant):***

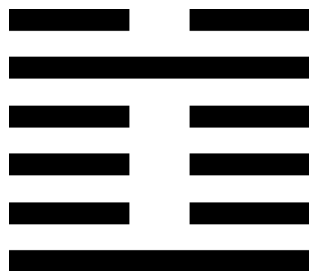
Give up all tricks and artifice. Be open, tolerant and honest and the solution to your problem will appear of its own accord. If you are not open, it will slip by you.

***FIRST:***

The first signs of decay are becoming apparent in the situation. Your usual reactions, such as doubt, anger, envy, fear or alienation are developing inside of you. You have to get rid of those inferior emotions, because your environment will sense them and react negatively.



## Hexagram 3



### DIFFICULTIES AT THE BEGINNING

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Water                      below: Thunder  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Mountain                      below: Earth

The title of this hexagram speaks for itself. Just as a young plant struggles with cold wind, everywhere you turn there is a problem. It is the law of nature that every new venture begins with confusion and obscurity, because we are entering the realm of unknown forces and relations. A wrong move in the beginning may compromise all your later efforts.

You are like a man embarking on a new adventure, who lacks self-confidence at first. You will have to grope in the dark until you get acquainted with the new territory. Obscurities will gradually give way to a clearer understanding of relations; you will adjust your behavior and consult the right persons, who know more than you. This process of mastering new territories must not be forced; it should be a natural development. Do not rush into the unknown with great expectations, or you will regret it. Keep in mind that the way is blocked; you are in a state of confusion and only intelligent and gradual progress can enable you to attain your aim. You need your fellowmen's cooperation because you cannot do it on your own. The situation requires endurance.

Keep in mind that this is one of the four worst combinations in *The Book of Changes*. You are in trouble, and yet are not able to change the situation by making an effort. You will have a lot of problems concerning your job, finances, place of residence and personal relationships. The only right thing to do is to hold fast to the Path of Correctness and wait until the situation clears up of its own accord. And that is difficult!

#### **WISH:**

Its realization is difficult. You must be patient and persistent.

#### **LOVE:**

Many obstacles and difficulties stand in the way of establishing a valuable relationship. You must be faithful and patient.

***MARRIAGE:***

Harmonious marriage with this person is not likely. Persons who are older stand a much better chance of success.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

After many troubles a boy will be born.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Neurotic disorders, diseases afflicting the kidneys, the heart, the nose and the ears. Lengthy and serious. The only hope is gradual and slow recovery.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Time consuming and exhausting. Your prospects are bad. Hasty words, impetuous conduct and aggressive attitude will only make things worse.

***TRAVEL:***

Troubles with water or sex en route. If possible, cancel travel.

***EXAMINATION:***

Substandard or bad score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Troubles. Wait for a new opportunity.

***WEATHER:***

Rainy.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

You are overcome by fear and desire to escape this situation. The immature child inside of you – your Ego – is taking over, so you can no longer see your problems realistically, nor can you find a way out. This will cause you regret. What should you do? Best to begin all over again.

***FIFTH (also dominant):***

Although your position here is that of authority, your doubts are undermining your self-esteem. Getting rid of them will require a lot of effort and time. If you succeed in this, you will be lucky in accomplishing modest goals, but great ambitions will lead you back into trouble.

***FOURTH:***

You are stuck in a bad situation and lack the strength to act independently. The only way to eliminate the difficulties is to find help. You may have to pull some strings to do this. Ask an experienced and straightforward person for help. In this way you will surmount the obstacles and continue on your way again.



***THIRD:***

You are looking for a way out of a fog without a guide, so you are bound to lose your way. Drop the desire to resolve the situation before the time is ripe; otherwise you will suffer new humiliations. It would be wise now to reconsider and alter your goals.

***SECOND:***

You are now ready and relieved to accept the solution you are being offered. But this is a bad solution, filled with hindering new obligations, which would only worsen the situation further. Wait patiently until the situation clears up.

***FIRST (dominant):***

You are facing difficulties at the very beginning. There does not seem to be a way out. Do not attempt to boldly push ahead unaided, for that would be like banging your head against a brick wall. However, do not lose sight of your ultimate objective. A solution will finally present itself through a deep and truthful insight.



## Hexagram 4



### YOUTHFUL FOLLY (INEXPERIENCE)

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Mountain              below: Water  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Earth                      below: Thunder

The relationship between primary trigrams in this hexagram tell us a lot about its nature. Mountain is above Water. When Water evaporates, mist is created. It rises and enfolds the Mountain, so that its outline becomes vague. The hexagram stands for a young or inexperienced person in a situation he or she does not understand. The confusion is not caused by evil or laziness, but rather by inexperience and complete lack of knowledge necessary to deal with the situation.

If you want to find your way out of the mist and onto a clear spot, accept the advice from a wise person endowed with knowledge and moral virtues. Only then will a gradual turn for the better take place. Like everyone else, you too have the inborn tendency to develop and become a better person. This tendency produces the best results in contact with an inspiring Master, who can direct his disciple in the right direction and who can understand him.

The disciple must have a correct attitude towards the Master – humble and full of respect. You should also have the same attitude when you approach *The I Ching* as the Master.

If you happen to have a role of the Master or adviser in a relationship, make sure that other the party has a proper attitude. If he or she is not serious, is disposed to disputes and quarrels, withdraw calmly and do not waste your time. Only in this way can you avoid humiliation and remain in accord with the cosmos. This is significant because the relationship between the primary trigrams suggests the following: Mountain stands for rude young person; Water represents experienced middle-aged person. The young man puts himself in a position above the morally superior person here, instead of following him. It means that he follows the impulses of his Ego in place of wisdom, and by doing so causes the disruption of the cosmic laws.

The hexagram is very auspicious if your question concerns children or scientific and academic research.

***WISH:***

It will be extremely difficult to realize.

***LOVE:***

You are unable to adopt the right attitude towards the other party. It will end in failure.

***MARRIAGE:***

The outcome is uncertain, and, most importantly, it does not depend on you. There is a less than even chance that you will get married.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Relatively safe delivery. A boy will be born.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Infectious diseases; diseases afflicting the digestive system and the brain. There is hope of recovery if the patient rests and is carefully treated.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

It will drag out and cause you a lot of trouble. It is not worth your effort and time.

***TRAVEL:***

Many hindrances and delays.

***EXAMINATION:***

Bad score.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

This is not the right moment. Wait.

***WEATHER:***

Cloudy, rainy, possibly foggy.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

An inexperienced person, who violates the cosmic laws, must be punished by an unpleasant experience in order to return to the right Path. Punishing spiritually undeveloped person in this situation is a proper corrective measure. In this way the disciple will not be tempted to repeat the same mistakes.

***FIFTH (also dominant):***

When we are open to all the possibilities, like an innocent child, especially in a situation where we ask a more experienced person for advice, we will obtain the necessary aid and realize what is happening around us, as well as inside of us. Good fortune.

***FOURTH:***

You have lost a sense of reality about events in your life. You have shut yourself off from others, who are wiser than you, and you obstinately refuse to ask for or receive their counsel. However, if an ignoramus isolates himself, he will remain a fool forever. You will suffer humiliation, but its good side may be that it will shake you up and bring you back to reality.

***THIRD:***

What you really need now is self-discipline and strength of character in order to restrain your inferior elements, which force you to come as close as possible to the object of your desire. The original text states here: "Do not marry a girl who will only have a rich man." If you give in, you will not be able to reach your objective.

***SECOND (dominant):***

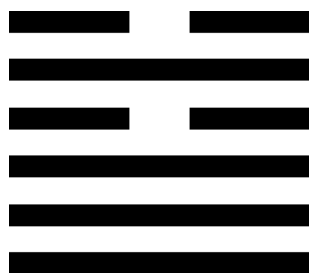
You are in the position of a leader whom many approach for advice and inspiration. Be noble to others, especially to the ones who are not in the Path of spiritual development; be tolerant of their immaturity. It is the right way for a leader to manifest inspiration, wisdom and love for others.

***FIRST:***

You should regard your work more seriously and switch from theory to practice. When you attempt to enlighten an undeveloped person discipline is necessary; otherwise you will have many troubles later. However, too strict a discipline chokes freedom and creativity. Therefore, your approach should be adjusted to the situation.



## Hexagram 5



### WAITING

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Water                      below: Heaven  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Fire                              below: Lake

In this hexagram the lower primary trigram is Heaven, which bears an alternative name “the creative”, because its main characteristic is creating. It suggests activity, movement and positive force. Above it is Water, which signifies danger and therefore blocks the activity. Hence hexagram 5 suggests WAITING in order to avoid the danger. Waiting for the right moment is one of the key principles of *The I Ching*, but it is particularly emphasized in this situation.

Give up radical and energetic activities, restrain your impatience, and wait patiently for a more favorable period before you start off energetically. Be resolute to persevere in such an attitude and quell your desire to act impulsively, for if you move forward aggressively, you will fall right into an “abyss”, and the result will be failure and suffering.

However, if you proceed gradually and cautiously, you will enable yourself to achieve your goal later. This is also suggested by nuclear trigrams – Fire and Lake – that symbolize warmth and joy. Therefore, hold fast to the hexagram’s advice. When a clever man finds himself on a bank of an overflowing river, he will wait for the water level to fall to go across safely.

#### **WISH:**

It cannot be realized now. If you wait wisely, things will later turn to your advantage.

#### **LOVE:**

Keep in touch and nourish the relationship patiently. Be fair and you can hope for success. Impatience will lead to a break up followed by your humiliation.

***MARRIAGE:***

Hindrances, delays and waiting. Your only chance is to realize that this is “a long race”. If you keep in mind this advice and behave accordingly, the marriage will take place.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

There is a chance the pregnancy will last longer than normal. There will not be other problems. Regarding the sex of the child, chances are fifty-fifty.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Afflictions of the abdomen, bowels, blood and brain. The illness will be lengthy.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Circumstances do not act in your favor. Make a compromise if possible. If not, give up the whole thing or retreat.

***TRAVEL:***

There will be delays before you start off.

***EXAMINATION:***

Worse than expected. You must prepare yourself better.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Wait for a better opportunity.

***WEATHER:***

Cloudy, later rainy.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

The calm is over and problems appear everywhere. You may have the feeling that you are in a hopeless situation. Do not lose heart; remember that it is always darkest before the dawn. Aid will come suddenly and the situation will change for the better, if you can only recognize the helping hand. So be entirely open.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

Difficulties are held in abeyance at the moment. But keep in mind that this is just a temporary state of affairs. Use this period to consider the situation more calmly and objectively. During this calm period you should be aware that the problem is not yet solved, that the troubles will appear anew, and that you still need to make many efforts in order to attain your aim.

***FOURTH:***

You are waiting in the very center of chaos. Attempting to oppose problems actively will only make things worse. Withdraw from the situation inconspicuously and without delay.



***THIRD:***

You are beginning to doubt that anything worthwhile can be achieved by following the Spiritual Path. Anxiety makes you take premature action, which leaves you vulnerable to new attacks. The situation is difficult, because you are oversensitive. Your only protection is extreme caution and elimination of inferior elements – doubt and fear - from your mind.

***SECOND:***

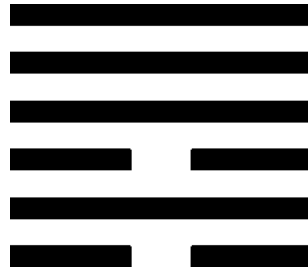
Attempts to achieve your plan will only create new difficulties. There is a chance that you will become a victim of ugly gossip. If that happens, do not try to defend yourself. Remove yourself from the situation and maintain inner peace. The Truth will win in the end.

***FIRST:***

You can sense that there is a serious problem approaching and this makes you anxious. Prepare yourself for it, but give up imagining its dangerous consequences. Rather stay calm inside. Succumbing to an inferior feeling such as fear, only diminishes your strength. Therefore, reject it and live your life as usual.



## Hexagram 6



### CONFLICT

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Heaven                      below: Water  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Wind                              below: Fire

The upper primary trigram is Heaven, which has a tendency to move upwards; the lower is Water, which moves downwards. Thus the trigrams are in opposition, and therefore this hexagram speaks of a conflict that exists either inside of you, or between you and external forces and circumstances. In ancient China they used to say for this kind of situation: “*There is a discord between Heaven and Man.*” In your heart you will probably experience this as a conflict with the external world, but *The I Ching* teaches us that it is the inner conflict which is the principle source of our conflict with others.

You feel you are in the right, but each activity based on your convictions and reasoning will either draw you into a conflict, or, if you are already engaged in one, deepen it.

Give up the cunning strategies and attempts to solve the problem aggressively. Any attempt of this kind will cause failure and misfortune, especially if you are counting on your intellect. Bow your head and wait for the storm to pass. It is wise to ask a more experienced person for advice and to stick to it once you receive it or, if possible, to have this person mediate the conflict. The key idea of this hexagram is avoiding conflict at any price.

#### **WISH:**

It will not be realized.

#### **LOVE:**

The other side is not being sincere. Failure and disappointment.

#### **MARRIAGE:**

The marriage will not go through, but if it somehow does, it will be unhappy.

#### **PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:**

Both will be relatively safe. It will probably be a boy.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Diseases of the lungs, kidneys, brain or blood system. It is serious; there will be many changes and complications during the course of the sickness. Also, if you are a man, you might suffer from premature impotence; if you are a woman, you have problems with suppressed sexual desire.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

The situation is extremely unfavorable. Attempt a compromise via a mediator or withdraw from the dispute.

***TRAVEL:***

Many troubles en route. You will not make it to the destination, unless the only purpose of the journey is pleasure.

***EXAMINATION:***

Poor score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Give up; for otherwise you will run into insurmountable obstacles.

***WEATHER:***

Bad weather – cloudy and rainy.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

Pyrrhic victory is ahead of you. You are stronger than your opponent, and if you engage in an open conflict, you will probably emerge victorious. Unfortunately, this triumph will prove to be meaningless, for it will only create new conflicts. Leave the situation to resolve itself.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

If you are in a conflict, seek advice from an experienced person with a strong sense of justice. If you are in the right, the conflict will in time simply cease to exist.

***FOURTH:***

You want to engage in a conflict because you are apparently stronger than the other party. But this will not help you to achieve inner peace. If you act in this way, you will abandon the Path of Correctness to satisfy the inferior desires of your Ego. This will only give rise to a new conflict inside of you, which will then reflect itself in a new conflict with the external world and so on. Accept your fate calmly. It will bring you inner peace and good fortune.

***THIRD:***

Bow your head like a shrub bends itself during a storm. Avoid putting yourself in a position of prominence, however tempted you may be. Money and status are

worthless now. The only thing that is worthwhile at the moment is the growth of Selfhood through restraint of the Ego.

***SECOND:***

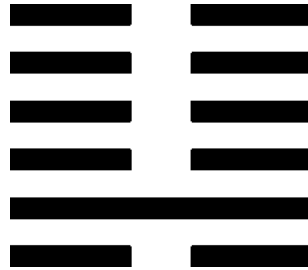
Your adversary is stronger. Your sense of honor or foolish pride is forcing you to engage in an open conflict, because your Ego has taken over. Do not let it seduce you. Withdraw wisely and avoid misfortune for yourself, as well as for those dear to you.

***FIRST:***

Avoid any conflict, or if it has already started, terminate it quickly. The best moment to break off a conflict is at its very beginning. Do not attempt to prove that you are right, but simply retreat. You may feel victimized here, but in the end everything will work out fine.



## *Hexagram 7*



### **THE ARMY (THE WAR)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Earth                      Below: Water  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Earth                      Below: Thunder

The primary trigrams of this hexagram are in discord. In the inverted position, that is, when Water is above Earth, the two are in a harmonious relationship, because Water tends downwards; it then fertilizes the earth, and in this way brings countless forms of life into being. In this hexagram, the situation is opposite, because both Water and Earth tend to move downwards, so they do not merge harmoniously.

It is also the relationship between nuclear trigrams that suggests the characteristics of this hexagram: Thunder is below Earth, which suggests a volcano ready to erupt. Thus, both the relationship between primary trigrams and between nuclear trigrams convey the idea of inevitable conflict, e.g. of the War and Army.

From these basic concepts, other ideas that characterize this hexagram are derived: complications, controversy, disputes, conflicts and chaos. The idea of conflicting masses, not of conflicting individuals, is also emphasized. You are in a dangerous situation, threatened from more than one direction. You will face a lot of difficulties and become involved in unavoidable conflicts.

This period calls for a good organization instead of previous negligence, strict discipline, and correct objectives. Avoid open conflict if you have an alternative. In case an alternative does not exist, that is, if there is no way around the conflict – an able and wise leader is necessary. He must lead his men in a noble yet firm way, and must inspire them with a vision of higher goals. If you are certain that you are such a leader, so much the better. If not, find someone who is, and join him with the utmost loyalty. In either case, you will have good fortune.

In a spiritual sense this is a war against your Ego. The important question here is, who is the leader? If it is your true Self, success and happiness await you in spite of an exhausting fight. If it is your Ego, you will suffer failure and regret your actions.

***WISH:***

Many hindrances will delay realization, but you will finally succeed if you make constant efforts, and if your wish is morally justified.

***LOVE:***

The other party does not share your feelings, is fickle and deceptive; it will create many troubles for you.

***MARRIAGE:***

Do not marry this person, for if you do, you will have numerous problems, disputes and difficulties. The two of you can never be a match.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

After some complications a boy will be born.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Neuralgic pain, abdominal afflictions followed by diarrhea, heart disorders, even tumors. It is serious but you will pull through.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Complications and difficulties. If you are a woman, it does not get any worse than this. If you are a man, you may succeed with help from some influential persons, but you need a clever tactic and a cool head.

***TRAVEL:***

Postpone it; otherwise, you will have many troubles during the course of the journey.

***EXAMINATION:***

Bad score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Give it up for the time being and wait for another opportunity. This one is "rotten".

***WEATHER:***

Unstable, mostly cloudy.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

The stormy sea is now behind you and the objective is reached. You are now in the midst of favorable circumstances. Concentrate on permanent values and aims. Inferior elements must be kept under strict control, no matter if they are inferior people who approach you, or inferior Ego-ideas.

***FIFTH (also dominant):***

Interpersonal relationships are filled with troubles. You need to be advised or guided by a cool-headed and experienced person. Your problem will then be



solved in a satisfying manner. An emotional or inexperienced leader will only worsen the situation. Choose wisely.

***FOURTH:***

It is wise to retreat in this situation, because your strength and abilities are insufficient to surmount the obstacles. This is a clever tactic. Only obstinate and stupid persons go at their enemy bold-headed.

***THIRD:***

This line conveys the image of a beaten army. In this situation the leader (that may be you) has good intentions, but is too weak to realize them. The other possibility is that there does not exist a leader who can unify the group and direct it toward a common aim, so there are instead divergent aims within the group. In spiritual sense, your reaction to defeat should be moderation and acceptance of fate, not anger and injured pride. In this way you can neutralize the consequences of your defeat.

***SECOND (dominant):***

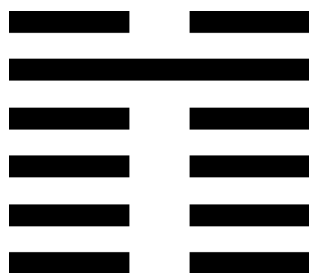
The situation is extremely favorable for contacts with influential persons. If you use this opportunity, you will meet with good fortune.

***FIRST:***

You should be certain that the goal you strive to achieve is truly worthwhile; otherwise you will not make it through, for this is a 'long race'. The other condition is discipline from the very beginning. Without it, you will only invite chaos and disaster.



## *Hexagram 8*



### **UNITY (MERGING)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Water                      below: Earth  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Mountain                      below: Earth

The relationship between primary trigrams explains in a very simple way the name of this hexagram – UNITY or MERGING: Water is above, Earth below. When the water is on the ground, it soaks the earth. These two elements merge, which is the basis of all living creatures on the planet. Here the trigrams are harmonized perfectly, symbolizing good contact with others, mutual help and understanding.

The hexagram emphatically points out joint enterprises, cooperation and team work. Now is the right moment to become closer to your fellowmen, to communicate with them as much as possible, and to set group activities in motion. Whatever your intentions are, make plans with others. Only then will they be successful.

But if you become overly familiar with others – you will regret it. Therefore, behave properly in relationships with your partners. This applies to a business, love, or marriage partnership, as well as a relationship between a disciple and a Master. It should be close but correct.

On the spiritual level, your moral integrity is of greatest significance. There must not be any contradiction between what you think, say and do. A person of loose morality will only cause chaos, misfortune and inevitable fall in every Unity. If you hold fast to the Path of Correctness, whatever you set out to do in this period, in cooperation with others, will have Heaven's blessing.

#### ***WISH:***

It will be realized with someone's help.

#### ***LOVE:***

Auspicious, because both sides feel genuine love. If you are a woman, do not hesitate too much, for you might soon have a competitor.

***MARRIAGE:***

You stand an excellent chance to have a happy and long marriage. Do not postpone it. You may miss the golden opportunity.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Pregnancy will pass without problems. In regard to the child's sex, the sources do not agree. Generally, it is more likely that a girl will be born.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Skin and the system diseases. If the sickness manifested itself recently, it will last a little longer, but recovery is certain.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Attempt a compromise with the aid of your friend or acquaintance. There will not be difficulties; it will bring benefit to both parties.

***TRAVEL:***

Safe and pleasant, with a possibility of unexpected benefit.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Favorable circumstances.

***EXAMINATION:***

Good score.

***WEATHER:***

Clear at first, may rain later. Pleasant nevertheless.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

You took a wrong step in the beginning so all later efforts to achieve UNITY were useless. Examine the situation carefully and objectively to determine where the mistake was made. There is a chance that wrong motives were your starting point.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

This is an auspicious period. There is a mutual attraction between people; the atmosphere is relaxed and many goals can be achieved. You can trust others.

***FOURTH:***

This is a good opportunity to establish a close relationship with the leader or the most influential person in the area germane to your question. Give this person your full support without identifying with him. Do not forget that he is he, and you are you.

***THIRD:***

There is a group of persons around you whose inferior elements are activated. Avoid becoming too intimate with them, because you would regret it – inferior

elements of your own personality will also awaken. Therefore, maintain a correct yet reserved attitude.

***SECOND:***

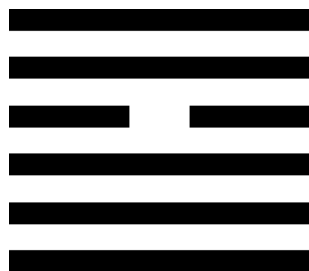
Be who you really are, because that is what being on the Path of the Truth means. Do not chase after the approval of others. Deep down inside people do not appreciate that, and you will lose your dignity. If you behave according to your convictions, others will approach you in the right way.

***FIRST:***

The basis of your relationship with others should be an open and unaffected attitude. The right motivation and acting from the true Self bring good fortune.



## *Hexagram 9*



### **THE TAMING POWER OF THE SMALL (RESTRAINED)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Wind                      below: Heaven  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Fire                      below: Lake

The image of this hexagram, expressed through the relationship of its trigrams, explains the situation we are facing. The upper trigram stands for Wind and clouds; the lower for Heaven. When it is cloudy and windy at the same time, it is depressing. The rain should bring relief, but it has not appeared yet. The situation is unpleasant, full of problems and hindrances, and suppressed energy which does not have an outlet. Your good intentions and plans, however cleverly devised they may be, will be frustrated by details beyond your comprehension. You can make all the necessary preparations, but still you will have no success.

What should you do? Be patient and act very slowly, building a foundation for the later fulfillment of your plans, for you should realize that the time for decisive action has not come yet. It will come later. You need to be patient to endure this situation. The clouds will eventually scatter. This period is extremely inauspicious for new ventures, even for new plans. The most important thing now is to direct your attention inwards, and to keep in check your impulsiveness and desire to change the situation by forceful action.

#### ***WISH:***

It will be frustrated by numerous obstacles.

#### ***LOVE:***

Many problems hamper the realization of this relationship. Actually, it would be better if not realized, because there is a good chance of a tragic ending.

#### ***MARRIAGE:***

Partners are poorly matched. If the marriage takes place, it will not be happy.

#### ***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Possible miscarriage. If the child is born, it will be a girl.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Pectoral, abdominal and venereal diseases. Women may suffer from the uterine afflictions.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Lengthy with many difficulties.

***TRAVEL:***

Many obstacles. If you manage to set off, you will not realize the purpose of the trip.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Wait for a better opportunity.

***EXAMINATION:***

Bad score.

***WEATHER:***

Heavy clouds without rain. Gloomy and depressing.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

Problems are solved and the battle is won, due to persistence in a firm and just attitude. Now you should halt and restrain your desire to chase after the beaten enemy. Consolidate your position through modesty, sacrificing the feeling of power that may come over you. If you continue to plunge into conflict, you will meet with humiliation and misfortune.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

To put it concisely and clearly, you can achieve your aim through cooperation with someone.

***FOURTH:***

The original text states the following here: "If you are sincere, there will be no more blood". Here it means that you can evade a truly great danger if you influence others by giving them honest advice. Anguish and fears will shatter when confronted with the Truth. In this way you will not make even the slightest mistake.

***THIRD:***

We try to force things when we are afraid we will miss the right moment for action. If we are scared, we are not able to be objective and to find the right solution. Therefore, problems seem to be more serious than they really are. If you attempt to force a solution, you will bang your head against a wall.



***SECOND:***

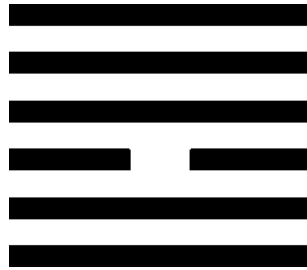
You are tempted to initiate action, but learn from the examples of others and withdraw. Such conduct leads to good fortune.

***FIRST:***

Do not try to solve the problem. It is best to wait in a position where you can choose advance or retreat. If you attempt to force a solution, you will fail.



## Hexagram 10



### CAREFUL CONDUCT

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Heaven                      below: Lake  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Wind                              below: Fire

The upper primary trigram is Heaven, while the lower is Lake, and therefore the hexagram pictures a powerful, active man, behind whom a delicate and feminine maiden walks. In the classical text of *The I Ching*, we encounter an image of a gentle maiden who walks carefully behind a dangerous tiger, taking care not to step on its tail. The meaning of this hexagram is: troubles, difficulties and dangers are plentiful all around you. Nevertheless, if you are careful, modest and moderate in every way, you will avoid stepping on the tiger's tail, e. g. you will manage to 'swim safely to the other bank'.

This period, during which the events which are the object of your question occur, depends solely on you. It could be a fruitful period or a time of defeat, a time of prosperity or a time of chaos. It all depends on your conduct. You will often be tempted to slip into dishonesty, but the forces of evil will not harm you if you behave in a dignified and honest way.

On personal a plane, this difficult or dangerous situation is caused by your erroneous attitudes and fixed patterns of behavior, which have developed over the course of many years. They caused this fateful situation you are facing. Attempting to resist or change it would be "stepping on the tiger's tail". Instead, walk cautiously, carefully and with dignity, and the dangers will scatter like clouds.:

#### **WISH:**

Realization mostly depends on how ambitious your wish is. If it is modest, it is possible to realize it. Otherwise not!

#### **LOVE:**

The relationship is burdened with difficulties; many things could go wrong. If you cherish the original feelings and make honest efforts to nourish the relationship, it stands a chance of success.

***MARRIAGE:***

It is a good match. However, with so many reefs around you, the marriage is not likely to go through. The only chance is through kind and dignified conduct.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Safe delivery. It will be a daughter.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Rather serious sickness which will last long. Diseases afflicting the lungs and the brain.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Your position is weak. Seek a compromise.

***TRAVEL:***

Difficulties and dangers during the course of the trip. If possible, postpone it. If not, be extremely careful and do not engage in love affairs.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Bad prospects.

***EXAMINATION:***

You will hardly make it through.

***WEATHER:***

Cloudy, toward the end of the day windy.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

This is the right moment to reevaluate your aims. What were the consequences of your past conduct? By examining your conduct objectively, you will be able to find clues as to how you should behave in the future.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

Realization of your goal may be dangerous, yet the very awareness of such danger will make it easier for you to succeed in what you propose. You must be devoted to your goal completely. If such commitment makes you anxious, reconsider if this is the right path for you to follow.

***FOURTH:***

Be extremely cautious! If you are certain that you can maintain self-control at all times, you may undertake a significant (and possibly dangerous) enterprise. It is, however, better to restrain yourself from action, devote your time to yourself and meditate. Your insights into a situation will eliminate the danger.

***THIRD:***

Your ambitions far exceed your abilities. You do not possess the necessary strength for the goals you are contemplating. However, if you obstinately push toward the realization, the result will be disastrous. The problem lies in the following: even though you might be in the right, you should not believe that you are strong enough, for you are not! This type of conduct suits only a man willing to sacrifice himself entirely for his leader. Are you prepared to do that?

***SECOND:***

Remain modest and moderate. Do not make demands and do not insist on your rights. Give up overly ambitious goals. Do not challenge destiny by pushing aggressively toward a goal. If you follow this advice, you will have good fortune.

***FIRST:***

Simple and modest conduct will prevent mistakes and enable you to advance. Progress will be slow and gradual. Do not attempt to use others for to achieve your aim, and do not let fantasizing about your aim affect your conduct.



## *Hexagram 11*



### **PEACE**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Earth                      below: Heaven  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Thunder                      below: Lake

The eleventh hexagram is a symbol of peace and harmony: between man and himself, man and his social environment, man and the cosmos.

The upper trigram is Earth, which tends downwards. The lower is Heaven, which tends to move upward. Thus an image of merging of Heaven and Earth is created. Yin and Yang are equal, well-balanced and harmoniously united. In divining, this hexagram is exceptionally auspicious, because it predicts harmony, peace and happiness. The majority of your affairs will go smoothly, for there will be neither tensions nor troubles.

Interactions and communications with others may be extremely fruitful. If your social contacts have weakened during the previous period, now is the right time to strengthen them. Go ahead and make new contacts with complete confidence, because positive feelings and sympathies will prevail, and there will be no doubts or mistrust.

Now that the outer difficulties are gone, pay more attention to your inner state of mind, because you will have a tendency to become overly self-confident and to neglect responsibility for your spiritual development. Keep in mind that however difficult it is to accomplish prosperous harmony and inner peace, to maintain them is even harder.

#### ***WISH:***

It will be realized without difficulties.

#### ***LOVE:***

Partners are spiritually close and well matched. Propitious.

#### ***MARRIAGE:***

Partners' personalities and interests complement each other. It will be a harmonious marriage.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

A boy will be born without a problem.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Afflictions of the head. Recovery is certain and will be fast.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

If you accept a compromise, you will do well and will be at an advantage. Do not obstinately insist on your rights.

***TRAVEL:***

Safe and peaceful. There is a chance that you will travel with a person of the opposite sex, or meet such a person en route.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

You will succeed.

***EXAMINATION:***

Excellent results if you prepare carefully.

***WEATHER:***

Nice and pleasant.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

After the peak has been reached, all the roads lead down the hill. Ebbing of your fortune has begun and can not be stopped. Such attempts will only lead to defeat and humiliation. Accept this situation as a natural phase of growth, and use this time to strengthen ties with people you feel close to.

***FIFTH (also dominant):***

Act impartially. In this way you can achieve your goal and attract good fortune. Unlike domination, modesty is the essential trait of a true leader. In this way you can acquire willing support from others.

***FOURTH:***

This is a favorable opportunity to, through communication, become connected on a truly deep level with morally superior persons. Remain relaxed and be yourself – do not attempt to impress them with your charm, wit and abilities.

***THIRD:***

Nothing lasts forever. This also applies to periods of harmony and peace. You can feel a change approaching and prepare yourself to accept it with a philosophical calmness, for if you adhere to the Path of Correctness, destiny will send you only the obstacles you can overcome. The one who perseveres no matter if the times are good or bad is in accordance with the cosmos.



***SECOND (dominant):***

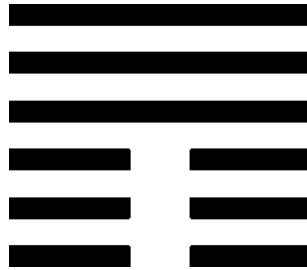
During a peaceful period we are tempted to be too harsh on people who make mistakes. You should maintain a correct and well-balanced attitude. For now is your chance to accomplish significant tasks. You will be able to achieve that if you are tolerant to others. While you are so engaged, do not lose sight of your far-reaching visions. Therefore, avoid becoming involved with groups that strive to achieve narrow interests.

***FIRST:***

If you desire to establish close relationships with others, you must be open. Such attitude will also cause them to open to you. In this way you will attract persons who share your goals.



## *Hexagram 12*



### **STAGNATION**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Heaven                      below: Earth  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Wind                                      below: Mountain

This hexagram symbolizes stagnation in growth. The upper trigram, Heaven, has a strong tendency of moving upward, and the lower, Earth, tends to push downward. Thus there is no tendency toward mutual approach. Heaven and Earth are separated, and so are man and his environment. You will be surrounded by difficulties, problems and troubles. During this period you will not receive aid or cooperation from others. There is a possibility of confrontation with malevolent and evil people; you may also have damages, losses, injuries, and may suffer due to a split up and departure from home.

Generally speaking, hexagram Stagnation symbolizes any of the myriad situations in life, where, for a certain period of time, no progress can be made. What should you do? By no means should you make any compromise of your moral principles! Since it would be fatal to manifest them in public, lay low, hide your convictions, and withdraw from any situation which would cause a conflict inside of you, or drag you into a dispute with your environment, until the period of stagnation is over. In other words, the less you expose yourself, the better. Maintain your present position.

#### ***WISH:***

It is exceptionally difficult to realize.

#### ***LOVE:***

The other party does not feel the same.

#### ***MARRIAGE:***

It is a poor match; separation ensues.

#### ***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

There will be a lot of worries on your mind, so visit the doctor regularly. Husband's aid could be crucial. It is more likely that a girl will be born.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Diseases of the blood vessels and respiratory organs, cerebral hemorrhage and cancer. It is serious. There is a chance that the patient will not regain his/her health.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Defeat.

***TRAVEL:***

You will not reach your destination. Cancel the trip.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Give up those plans.

***EXAMINATION:***

Bad score.

***WEATHER:***

Bad.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

Everything is subject to change, and so are the hard times. When they reach their peak, good fortune is on the horizon. Through an honest creative endeavor you can cause improvement both for yourself and for the world.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

There appears an opportunity for improvement - a way out of your problems. However, you need to be extremely cautious. Maintaining such an attitude during a longer period will certainly lead to permanent success.

***FOURTH:***

Progress will be accomplished if we are truly honest. But if we do not act in accordance with our own nature, every step we take will bring us new troubles. It is obvious that the way out of the stagnation and chaos depends solely on you. Do not attempt to take over the leadership in order to indulge your Ego, because this is the road back to discord and confusion.

***THIRD:***

It is wrong to think that we have the right to decide the morality and conduct of others. If by making such a mistake we attain what seems to be a favorable position, it will soon prove shaky and our plans will not come to fruition. Feeling of shame which appears as a consequence of such errors may make us rectify our conduct.

***SECOND:***

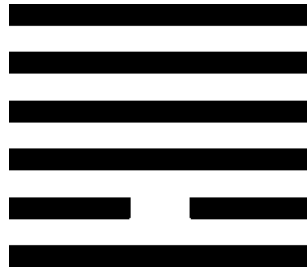
Distance yourself from this new situation both physically and emotionally. Do not attempt to change it! If someone is plunging into perdition, do not involve yourself in it! In order to achieve this, you will have to maintain strict self-control. If you can do this, the result will be success.

***FIRST:***

Do not make compromises with your moral principles. If this is the price you have to pay to remain in the game, withdraw entirely! After a short while, such wise behavior will bring you sudden good fortune.



## *Hexagram 13*



### **BROTHERHOOD (COMMUNITY)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Heaven                      below: Fire  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Heaven                      below: Wind

Hexagram Brotherhood shows us, through the relationship between the trigrams that constitute it, an image of Fire rising towards Heaven. This emphasizes similarity in the basic characteristics of these two elements, their harmony, which conveys the idea of the universal brotherhood. The hexagram indicates cooperation and harmonizing efforts, because the chances of getting along well with others are better than ever. The basic meaning of the hexagram is enhanced by the nuclear trigrams: Wind stirs Fire so its flames blaze up mightily towards Heaven, reaching all the way to the Sky and spreading the glow of Fire all around.

There are moments in life when man should withdraw into isolation, meditate, confront himself and reexamine his motives, activities and accomplishments. This is by no means such a period. Now is the time to enter life's mainstream, to strengthen contact and communication with your environment to the maximum, and to harmonize your goals with those of society, that is, to strive toward accomplishment of those goals in cooperation with others. While you are at it, you should not see other people as a means to attain your own aims, but should rather strive for the welfare of larger groups. Your efforts will be futile if your motives are selfish.

#### ***WISH:***

You can make it come true if you combine efforts with someone, or if you manage to obtain someone's aid.

#### ***LOVE:***

Genuine and mutual. Success will ensue spontaneously and naturally.

#### ***MARRIAGE:***

Although you may also be interested in someone else, the person to whom your question refers suits you very well. Marriage will be happy and permanent. If this is your second marriage, success is even more emphasized.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

There will not be any problem. It will probably be a boy.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

This hexagram indicates a possibility of stress, abdominal and intestinal diseases. Rapid recovery.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Seek a clever compromise. Obstinate insistence on your rights will turn the fortune's wheel to your disadvantage and place you in a bad position.

***TRAVEL:***

Safe journey, with a lot of pleasure and fun.

***EXAMINATION:***

Good score.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Auspicious.

***WEATHER:***

Clear.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

In this period you may join forces with certain persons in order to achieve the goals of a smaller group, e. g., goals which are not significant in terms of universal values. It means realization of the selfish interests of a group, but even this is better than isolation.

***FIFTH (also dominant):***

Difficulties and troubles which arise within this situation cause you to feel angry, furious or despondent. If you openly express those feelings, your fellow men may feel you are shifting the responsibility for your condition on them, and will react by accusing you of the same thing. But nothing lasts forever, not even negative feelings. Approach the other party completely frankly. Together you will be able to eliminate the misunderstanding and reach a new unity and mutual happiness.

***FOURTH:***

Mutual misunderstanding is growing stronger, separating people in such a way that the problem is becoming increasingly difficult to solve. Your selfish obsession with the attainment of your goal leads you further and further away from brotherhood with your fellow men, whom you are now experiencing as an obstacle on the way to making your dream come true. However, it is still better to be isolated than to have constant conflicts with others and to hate them. Such isolation will eventually bring you to your senses.



***THIRD:***

Aspirations toward divergent goals or selfish interests begin to appear in a situation that used to be harmonious. They will block further growth. The only thing you can do is to straighten things out, which may lead to realignment of goals. Unless this happens, nothing good will come of the situation.

***SECOND (dominant):***

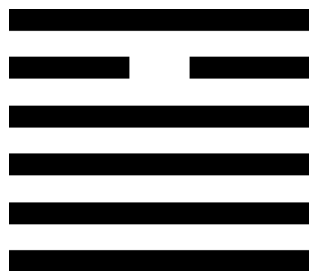
A tendency toward 'brotherhood within the clan', e. g. toward elitism and exclusivity develops inside of you. Such an attitude springs from the conviction that you have more perks and rights than others, as an individual or as a member of an elitist group. Such selfishness will lead you into situations and relationships you will regret.

***FIRST:***

Openness is the basis of true friendship. Its essence is being our true Selves when interacting with others: without hidden fears, without reserve, without inhibitions. It is the beginning of a brotherhood that can enable you to achieve common goals to everyone's satisfaction.



## Hexagram 14



### WEALTH (SOVEREIGNTY)

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Fire                      below: Heaven  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Lake                      below: Heaven

Fire is above, Heaven below. When Fire (sun, light) shines in the Sky, it spreads around freely, symbolizing clarity of comprehension, as well as understanding and freedom. The other attributes of the trigram further clarify its meaning: Fire is a symbol of summer, when everything ripens, while Heaven symbolizes fall - a period of harvest, which implies abundance and wealth. You will seldom have the opportunity to be in such favorable situation, in a period of utmost good fortune. You will be most successful in spiritual and academic domains, but success is indicated in every other area as well.

In the situation your question refers to, you are in the very center of occurrences and in a position of authority. Emphasizing this, *The I Ching* warns you to be modest and moderate in both speech and conduct. In this way you will not be a threat to your environment and others will recognize you as a true authority and defer to you willingly. Otherwise, you will have a hard time trying to avoid a feeling of saturation and a tendency to slip downward.

No matter if spiritual or material wealth is in question, you need to realize that you are not its only owner, and that you have a duty to make it possible for your environment to enjoy this abundance as much as you do. If man aspires to achieve great accomplishments or attain a position of great responsibility, he must shine like the sun on everything and everyone around him. If he immerses himself in a marsh of selfishness, he will never attain true greatness.

#### **WISH:**

If it is appropriate to your status, it will be achieved smoothly.

#### **LOVE:**

Success.

***MARRIAGE:***

Good match. Finances will not represent an obstacle, either.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

You should consult a doctor in the early phase of pregnancy. A girl will likely be born.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Afflictions and diseases of the lungs and high fevers. You will recuperate quickly.

***NEGOTIATIONS, LAWSUIT, DISPUTE:***

You should be moderately aggressive. Success.

***TRAVEL:***

Propitious.

***EXAMINATION:***

Excellent score, but you must continue to work hard to avoid unpleasant surprises.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Successful.

***WEATHER:***

Clear and fine.

***CHANGING LINES***

***SIXTH:***

If we remain conscientious and modest while we are at the peak of power, any envy or doubts others may have will automatically be dispersed. Devote yourself entirely to your tasks and do not hesitate to be appreciative to those who help you. Then you may expect supreme success – Heaven's blessings will manifest themselves in the form of successfully accomplished task.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

Those whom you influence are attracted to you through a bond of complete mutual sincerity. In this way the most valuable relationships are established. This line warns you, however, not to become too intimate at the expense of your dignity. When people are overly familiar, they start acting casually, without the necessary respect, so significant tasks cannot be accomplished.

***FOURTH:***

Quell your pride and envy and do not attempt to compete with others, especially not with those in power. When we quarrel and compete with others, we actually compete with inferior elements of their personalities, whereby our own inferior elements become activated. Direct all your efforts to the business at hand instead, and you will avoid making mistakes.

***THIRD:***

In this situation you should sacrifice something dear to you in order to remain on the Path of the Truth. Only a superior-minded person is capable of making this kind of sacrifice. Such a man will place his abilities and resources at the disposal of the leader he chose, or the community at large. This sacrifice will pay off extraordinarily well. A 'lesser man' can neither comprehend, nor make such a sacrifice. It is up to you to decide what kind of person you are.

***SECOND:***

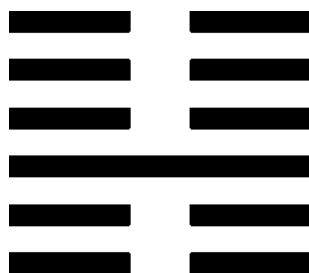
Although you have made some mistakes, you are in good graces with the spiritual forces and with their aid, the situation will clear up. You possess the resources necessary to coordinate all important factors to achieve you aim. This will enable you to attempt ambitious endeavors without hesitation or fear.

***FIRST:***

Your position is exceptionally favorable, but keep in mind that you have not made any mistakes yet, because you have not faced a real challenge. Difficulties may arise later. Be continuously aware of it and you will not make a mistake. WEALTH also refers to a clear understanding!



## *Hexagram 15*



### **MODERATION (MODESTY)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Earth                      below: Mountain  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Thunder                      below: Water

The image of this hexagram implies the idea of equilibrium and moderation. During eons, high mountains gradually erode, grow smaller and fill in the valleys. In this way mountains become worn down and lower, while valleys fill in and level out. Thus both sides tend to create a plane, to balance the extremes, and neutralize the opposites. In short, it is a tendency toward equilibrium.

The spiritual meaning of the hexagram is to forget vanity and feelings of superiority, and to do what is right scrupulously and modestly. Acting modestly and moderately will bring you success. If you wander away from the Path of Humility, the direct result will be failure, just like putting a hand in fire results in immediate pain. You should, therefore, stick to the Path – remain balanced in everything and avoid extreme reactions, however justified they may seem. Your primary objective during this period is the growth of character; life situations create excellent opportunities for it. Give up attempts to show off your power, resources, intelligence and knowledge (mountain tops), but rather aspire to correct the shortcomings of your character (filling in cavities and valleys). As a result, true prosperity will ensue.

#### ***WISH:***

Selfish conduct will cause failure. Temperance and reasonable yielding will, with aid from others, result in accomplishment.

#### ***LOVE:***

Success.

#### ***MARRIAGE:***

This hexagram is a symbol of an exceptionally successful marriage. It is a good match in many aspects. Good fortune.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

There will be no problems. A son will be born.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Diseases afflicting the abdomen and low blood pressure. Recovery is certain, but it will be gradual, and require care and patience.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTES and LAWSUIT:***

Seek a compromise. You must give up unrealistic demands; otherwise, you will fail.

***TRAVEL:***

Safe and comfortable.

***EXAMINATION:***

Good score.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

You may proceed, but keep in mind that haste and impulsive actions lead to certain failure.

***WEATHER:***

Cloudy, clearing from time to time.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

When you achieve success, you should not think that your spiritual development is complete. When you complete an accomplishment, do not brag about it! If difficulties arise, do not blame others! Once you take responsibility for your whole life, you will be able to bring order to your environment.

***FIFTH:***

This line indicates a situation where you managed to establish a relatively permanent modest attitude towards yourself and others, but in order to accomplish your aim you must take forceful action while maintaining this attitude. Do it firmly, resolutely, and persevere until you reach your aim. And when you do, suppress the feeling of complacency, and do not boast. The classical source states: "Do not brag about your wealth in front of your neighbor".

***FOURTH:***

When you have reached the state of true humility, it does not mean that your job is done and that you can rest on your laurels. Modesty must be maintained as a permanent attitude, while we fulfill our duties toward society.



***THIRD (dominant):***

Persevering in strife to accomplish your tasks will bring you praise and “fame”. Do not let this lead you astray and become overwhelmed by pride, because it will cause you to overestimate your true value. Instead of contemplating your own greatness, continue in fulfilling your duties. Rewards will then come at the right moment, of their own accord.

***SECOND:***

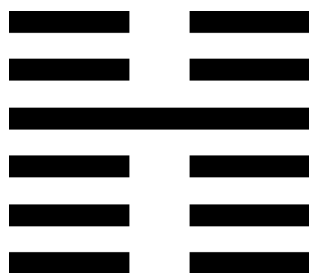
By committing yourself completely to your duties, you will influence the outside world in a good manner. Then you can expect to be entrusted with even greater responsibilities.

***FIRST:***

Significant accomplishments may be achieved if we act calmly and persistently, without demanding recognition for our abilities and work. In this way you will not cause resistance, criticism and envy. At the same time, you should be on the lookout for your own reaction: when we do things in a proper manner, we have the tendency to become carried away and look down on others. This is a departure from the Path of Correctness and a road to suffering.



## Hexagram 16



### ENTHUSIASM (YOU ARE READY TO BEGAN)

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Thunder              below: Earth  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Water                below: Mountain

The idea of spring is imposed on us when we look at the relationship of the primary trigrams that constitute hexagram sixteen – it is an image of Thunder roaring above the surface of Earth. When the thunder is heard after a long winter, it means that spring has arrived, and that plants, animals and men become rejuvenated. The whole world is filled with joy and happiness.

The second meaning of the hexagram is premonition, precognition, foreseeing or knowing beforehand. Your “sixth sense” is activated and you are able to anticipate what will happen in the near future. The time is ripe for new plans and new enterprises, generally speaking for changes for the better. At this moment, the most important thing is to make the necessary preparations (especially the important documents), and to remain cautious at all times, in order to prevent getting carried away and straying from the Path of Correctness due to excessive enthusiasm. In this way you will maintain good fortune; otherwise, you will not be able to avoid trouble.

Make sure you do not lose time on trivia, sloth, idle talk and frivolous pleasures; you will have a strong urge to do so.

#### **WISH:**

Be persistent. There will be moments when the realization will seem impossible, but you will succeed in the end.

#### **LOVE:**

May succeed if both sides act considerately and tolerantly. If partners act selfishly or disregard the feelings of the other, it will end in failure.

***MARRIAGE:***

Partners' personalities are highly compatible, so you can expect a good marriage. Minor complications may arise owing to the interference of your partner's family, but this will not prevent the marriage from taking place nor affect its stability.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Safe and without a problem. It will be a boy.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Afflictions of the liver and the abdomen. Lengthy diseases will be cured gradually, but a sudden acute disease may prove to be fatal.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Adjust to requirements of the compromise. Do not rush into confrontation at any price; you will be defeated.

***TRAVEL:***

If you remain cautious during the course of the journey, it will be pleasant and beneficial. If you are planning a trip to the mountains, make sure you go with experienced people.

***EXAMINATION:***

Good score. However, do not relax afterwards, but keep on working hard.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Propitious.

***WEATHER:***

Cloudy at first, later clearing.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

The period of good fortune is behind us and now our Ego (or our inferior elements) is taking over. It is attempting to solve the problem by force or aggression. Only when we find enough moral strength inside of us to control these inferior elements, can we continue with spiritual growth.

***FIFTH:***

The situation is unpleasant. You are facing barriers which prevent you from achieving total harmony. Luckily, the very awareness of this will save you from the final defeat.

***FOURTH (dominant):***

Now is the time to accomplish significant things, if you just show some faith in the future. A favorable period is ahead of you. If you manifest such an attitude in your

actions, you will attract persons who will support your endeavors, without you convincing them to do so. Your confidence in the Path you follow will be enough.

***THIRD:***

You are raising your eyes toward heaven, expecting Providence to save you from this predicament, but all is in vain. You must pay the price if you want to get out of the state of inertia or laziness. Nobody else can set you in motion; you have to do it yourself. Providence operates on a much higher level.

***SECOND:***

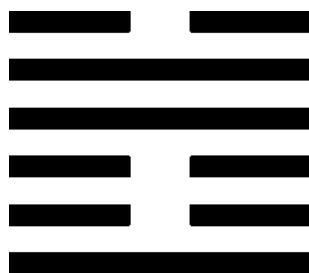
Weaklings are the ones who become swept away by changes of fortune. When the tide is high, they give themselves credit for it; when it is low, they blame others. A true leader keeps to the Middle Path, where the extremes are harmonized. To remain always on this Path, let yourself be guided by your moral principles. In this way you can see the situation through and act according to its demands.

***FIRST:***

Having connections with people in high positions does not mean that you are in such a position yourself. If you boast of your connections, you will cause envy and disaster. On the personal level, the act of boasting means surrendering to the inferior thoughts – pets of our Ego, such as “I am better than others”, “I am above the crowd” etc.



## Hexagram 17



### FOLLOWING (ADAPTATION )

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Lake                      below: Thunder  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Wind                      below: Mountain

Hexagram seventeen conveys the following ideas: to follow, obey, adapt, accompany, join, accord with, and to yield. To remain in harmony with the movements in the cosmos and human society during this period, you need to surrender yourself to the forces which control the situation. Do not insist on your convictions or attempt to justify them, although you feel compelled to do so. The hexagram suggests an image of a young maiden (Lake) leading a strong man (Thunder). The stronger person yields consciously and willingly to the weaker one, because such conduct is required by the current situation and is the only way to success.

Respect the opinions of others and accept their momentary superiority. Be flexible in interpersonal and social interactions and yield without resistance. This is the wise thing to do now. If you can do this, success and safety will inevitably ensue.

In the spiritual sense, this hexagram emphasizes that we should follow the highest moral principles, even though it is often difficult. We should stick to the Truth, despite the inferior thoughts that this path will not bring us success, that to be good means to be weak, that others will take advantage of our kindness, etc. If you strive for the Truth, that is, for the highest and ultimate, in the long run all things will fall into place.

#### **WISH:**

In order to realize it you need assistance, but even then there will be delays. If you are a man, look out! You are probably facing a situation where you are attracted to a beautiful woman. There is a fair chance that you will leave your wife or partner for her.

#### **LOVE:**

Success. However, love based only on sensual desires will not last, and the relationship will break up.

***MARRIAGE:***

Good chance of success. The other party strongly desires the marriage. The hexagram suggests a considerable difference in the partners' ages.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Safe. It will be a girl.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Venereal diseases and kidney ailments. Although it may not appear serious at first, it could develop into a serious sickness. A thorough medical examination is needed as soon as possible.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Bad prospects – there is even a possibility of imprisonment. Seek a compromise.

***TRAVEL:***

You will not have accidents. Best to go with a companion.

***EXAMINATION :***

Good score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

You will stand a good chance if you plan everything thoroughly.

***WEATHER:***

Heavy rain followed by thunder.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

In this situation people gather around you, seeking your leadership, because they are attracted by your expertise and knowledge of the situation, as well as your adequate conduct. You know just what to do and say at each moment. Take action without hesitation and assist others unselfishly. You will be amply rewarded.

***FIFTH (also dominant):***

This is the right moment to set your mind on great achievements. If you mercilessly rid your mind of inferior elements and aspire for the best, it is almost certain you will have good fortune.

***FOURTH:***

By holding fast to your principles and following the Path of Correctness, you begin to influence others automatically. When our inferior Ego notices this influence, it wants to maintain it, because it enjoys influencing others per se. In this way Ego drags us away from the Path of spiritual correctness. Discard everything that flatters the low elements of your personality and stick to moral principles, aspiring at the same time for worthwhile goals. You will then stay on the Path.



***THIRD:***

When you become close to really worthwhile persons, or when you set your mind on high ideals, the inferior elements of your personality or your former inferior conduct will automatically fall off. As long as you hold to your ideals you will remain on the Path of the Truth, which will lead you to your aim. In addition, your spiritual growth will be extremely accelerated.

***SECOND:***

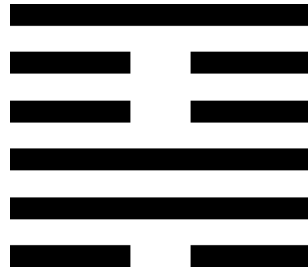
You are facing an important choice and have to make up your mind. Reexamine your standards and moral principles. If they are unworthy – because they are inferior or imaginary, you will lose contact with the powers of Truth and Light. So go ahead and make up your mind!

***FIRST (dominant):***

Changes are beginning to occur, either in your circumstances or in your objectives. In order to accomplish what you have in mind you must communicate with all kinds of people, while remaining objective inside and holding fast to your moral principles.



## *Hexagram 18*



### **DECAY**

#### **(REMOVE THAT WHICH HAS BEEN SPOILED)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Mountain              below: Wind  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Thunder              below: Lake

As always, the relationship of primary trigrams explains the name of the hexagram – DECAY. You will notice that the upper trigram is Mountain, and the lower Wind, which means that Wind is below Mountain. Mountain blocks it and prevents it from flowing freely. If the air does not circulate, it becomes spoiled, frowzy, begins to stink and to poison the living creatures. Therefore, hexagram eighteen symbolizes decay, ruin, chaos, corruption and deceit. In divining, this means that you are in an extremely complicated, and time confusing, in short – a bad situation. Your abilities are hampered. Troubles, difficulties and complications are all around you. Affairs at home and in the family circle are also full of troubles and confusion. There is a fair chance of a latent sickness or an illicit love entanglement in you're life or in a the life of someone close to you.

This 'rotten spot' may be in the area of your interpersonal or emotional affairs. If you are a woman, it is almost certain that you are in the midst of a complicated love affair. You are already deep in it, and it is unhealthy indeed. There is a chance of unwanted pregnancy, which will only further complicate the situation.

The only thing left for you to do is to put all your efforts into repairing the situation through elimination of unhealthy or harmful elements. Otherwise, the result will be failure and great misery. Removal of the rotten spot may change your luck for the better, so, to put it bluntly, if you receive this hexagram, remove that which has been spoiled! However, you must do it decisively yet wisely, because you will have a strong tendency toward eccentric acts which will only worsen the situation further. Keep this tendency in check. Decisive action of repairing that which is rotten is not the same as hysteric aggression.

***WISH:***

It will not be realized. Change your course and try again, but even then the chances are small.

***LOVE:***

Partners are already intimate, but there will be many disputes and suffering. Best to sever relations at once.

***MARRIAGE:***

This is a poor match, with constant friction and suffering. To make things worse, the other party is having an affair with someone.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Be careful, for there is a chance of a miscarriage. If the pregnancy is carried through, it will be a boy.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Serious diseases afflicting the stomach and abdominal region. Thorough medical examination, even surgery may be required.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

It will get protracted and last much longer than you think, because this problem cannot be easily resolved. Best to change the course of action or tactics.

***TRAVEL:***

You will have troubles en route, may even be robbed. Cancel it if you can.

***EXAMINATION:***

Very bad score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Propitious if you find a new, better course of action.

***WEATHER:***

Cloudy and windy.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

You have withdrawn from the public in order to follow the Path of Correctness. Such action is justified and even necessary at the moment, because destiny is offering us a chance to transcend the situation spiritually. Only if we are free of daily petty problems and shallow forms of “social life”, can we continue straight towards the accomplishment of universal goals and personal spiritual growth. However, we must not allow our feeling of being on the right path to develop into an attitude of critical superiority, because we feel that others are below our level. This would automatically stop our growth.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

The circumstances are right for reform both in yourself and in your environment. Assume this responsibility and do what must be done. Your environment will support your efforts; acknowledgements will follow.

***FOURTH:***

The state of affairs is becoming worse because you, in order to attain others' love and acceptance, tolerate their improper conduct. Such tolerance is wrong, because it contributes to the process of "decay", instead of eliminating it. Judge carefully what is good and what is not, and then hold fast to good. In this way you will do what is best for yourself and for others.

***THIRD:***

Actions you take to eliminate "the spoiled spot" are hasty and rash. Your attitude towards the inferior elements of your fellow men is too harsh. Consequently, they will view you as a tactless and inconsiderate person. Although you would have been better off avoiding making such an impression on others, it will not do you much harm.

***SECOND:***

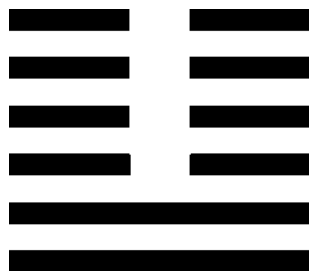
You are about to become aware of your mistaken attitudes towards yourself and especially others. Reform them gradually and very cautiously, because this process will hurt those dear to you. But it must be done!

***FIRST:***

In this situation, 'eliminating decay' means rectifying our harmful behavior, forced upon us by tradition. For example, a husband becomes involved in extramarital relationships, because it is a "man's right". Or, a woman manipulates her partner using sex, because it is what her mother used to do with her father, etc. This change in your conduct may seem too radical, but it must be carried through (though with necessary caution). Success will be your just reward.



## *Hexagram 19*



### **APPROACH**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Earth                      below: Lake  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Earth                      below: Thunder

What is the message of this hexagram? Yin energies, which have dominated the situation for some time, are beginning to retreat, because the two strong Yang lines at the bottom are pushing them upwards. Thus hexagram nineteen symbolizes advance, expansion, increase and progress, in other words, **APPROACHING** the aim; hence its name.

Looking from another viewpoint, we find that Lake is below Earth. The Lake soaks the world that exists at the surface of Earth and makes its fertile, creative growth possible. Consequently, the hexagram also indicates mutual aid, trust and cooperation.

In divination, this means you will have good fortune while proceeding toward your aims, but only if you handle your affairs without force, in a friendly and cooperative manner. Mutual trust between you and your colleagues is imperative. Your plans will be even more likely realized if you cooperate with younger, open people. Be amicable, warm and entirely frank in these interactions. Keep this in mind throughout the period, because at times you will have a tendency to act arrogantly, capriciously and aggressively.

Let us summarize: controlled conduct followed by frankness and trust in others will lead you to success and promotion, particularly if you develop inside of you a forceful aspiration to accomplish your goals **NOW**. Persons working in the field of mass-media can expect even greater success. Do not forget the welfare of your colleagues while you strive to accomplish your goals. It will consolidate your position now, but also in the future, when your good fortune begins to ebb away.

**WISH:**  
It will be realized.

***LOVE:***

Very good chance of success, but you must remain collected and maintain self-control. Do not attempt to be a dictator in this relationship. If you are a woman, you will have many temptations. It is quite possible that you will change your present partner.

***MARRIAGE:***

Good match and a harmonious marriage.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

A girl. Delivery will be safe, but good care is required thereafter.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

This hexagram suggests urinary system, abdomen and bowel disorders as well as venereal diseases. Sicknesses caused by anxiety are also a possibility. Recovery is certain.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Seek a compromise as soon as possible. The more time goes by, the less chance you have.

***TRAVEL:***

It will be propitious, especially if it is a short trip.

***EXAMINATION:***

Good score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

You may proceed with your plans. The outcome will be auspicious.

***WEATHER:***

Cloudy at first, later clearing.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

A person in this position brings the ultimate progress to his environment, not owing to his power, but to his modesty. He allows others to use freely his experience and knowledge. This is magnanimity in everyday life, and true spiritual greatness.

***FIFTH:***

You are in the very center of the situation and have become the focus of attention. This is, by the very nature of things, a position of sovereignty. To interfere now in the activities of people who support you would be a mistake. If they are competent, let them have the freedom of initiative. In such a way you will achieve the ideal of true authority.



***FOURTH:***

Progress is accomplished! Your new position requires taking on greater responsibilities. Make an effort to assess the situation correctly, because this assessment will be the basis of appropriate conduct, which will enable further progress.

***THIRD:***

Progress and success are not only possible, but highly probable. But when our influence grows, we have a tendency to forget our limitations. You must remain modest and prevent yourself from becoming overly self-confident. In this way you will avoid obstacles that await haughty people.

***SECOND (also dominant):***

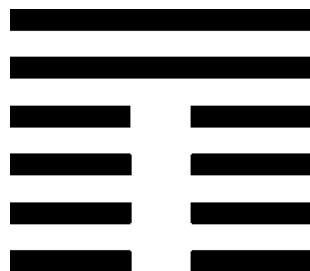
The situation is becoming somewhat difficult, but if you adhere to in your principles you will win support from the higher spiritual forces and become able to achieve your goals. Exert all your strength to maintain inner balance, and events in the outside world will become a positive and favorable reflection of your attitude.

***FIRST (dominant):***

The classical source states: “Cooperative attitude ... perseverance”. A favorable period is approaching and you are seized by positive feelings and optimism. Join efforts with people who share this enthusiasm in order to accomplish aims that are unmistakably worthwhile in the ethical sense. Hold fast to your moral principles and you will be in harmony with your True Self; that is, you will remain at all times on the Path of the Truth.



## *Hexagram 20*



### **CONTEMPLATION (SELF-EXAMINATION)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Wind                      below: Earth  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Mountain              below: Earth

If you received this hexagram as the answer to your question, you are about to experience a decline in your fortunes. It seems that you are in the midst of confusion and that difficult times are ahead of you. However, the real problem is not in the outside world, but inside of you. Thus, the hexagram instructs you to observe, examine and analyze yourself, and meditate. All these psychological processes refer to one thing: you must determine through meditation and self-examination what was amiss in your previous conduct.

This is your last chance; it **MUST** be done, for you to perceive the situation clearly and recognize the correct thing to do from the spiritual point of view. However, barriers inside of you prevent you from doing it. Those barriers are certain misconceptions, charged with emotions, which must first be elucidated through an act of self-examination, and then eliminated.

This hexagram often means that the problem is more of a theoretical than of a practical nature, and that it arose so that we would learn a certain universal principle of life. For example, the principle of cyclic change of favorable and unfavorable periods, or how outside circumstances depend on our state of mind; also, that the positive influence we exert on the environment decreases if we have doubts, and that the most positive influence on others is created by altering our own negative state of mind into a positive one, and by holding fast to the Spiritual Path. The more clearly you can see yourself, your shortcomings and your true path, the more clearly others will see you.

The other basic trend in your present situation is change. You will develop a strong tendency to change your job, place of residence, or circle of friends and acquaintances.

***WISH:***

It appears hopeful on the surface, but in reality your chances are less than even. If you, however, manage to realize it, there will be many delays and it will differ from what you expect.

***LOVE:***

Many temptations and frequent quarrels with your partner. No hope for success.

***MARRIAGE:***

Many difficulties and a less than even chance that you will marry this person. If you propose, you will meet with failure. Let the other party do it, however long it may take. It is the only way.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

There will be troubles both during the pregnancy and the delivery. If the child is born, it will be a girl.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Diseases afflicting the abdomen, respiratory and nervous system. There will be many changes in the condition of the sickness. Whether the patient will recover depends on convalescence and on applying the correct medical treatment. Look out for accidents. You can prevent them by being exceptionally cautious.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

You will lose if you rush the outcome. The other party has an advantage at the moment. Many of your efforts will prove useless. All in all, compromise is the best solution.

***TRAVEL:***

Carelessness will increase the possibility of injuries and accidents.

***EXAMINATION:***

Bad score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

The time is not right.

***WEATHER:***

Unstable and very windy.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH (also dominant):***

At this moment you are beyond the situation and therefore capable of seeing the existing interactions objectively. It is about time you understood that freedom from error and life without blame are the highest good. We can achieve such freedom if we sacrifice emotional reactions caused by our Ego, such as sulkiness, jealousy,

anger and rage. We make this sacrifice for the common good, without outside pressure, aware that a superior man improves himself.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

Only through meditation and self-examination can you gain an understanding of how your innermost feelings have a very specific (good and bad) effect upon the outer world. If your activities are correct and noble, you are on the Path of the Truth, even though the immediate effects of your conduct may seem damaging and harmful to you. You are without blame. To a superior person, this is the greatest reward.

***FOURTH:***

The time has come for you to transcend your current position and separate yourself from the masses, because you have better insight into actual social forces than the majority. There is no question in your mind as to which social group or leader you will support in your actions. Acting based on your insights will enable you to grow further spiritually.

***THIRD:***

In order to mature spiritually you must avoid contemplating your ideas and fantasies at great length. This is, for the most part, useless. Your true progress shows itself through the effects your actions have upon the outside world. In order to make this influence creative and correct, set a limit on your actions.

***SECOND:***

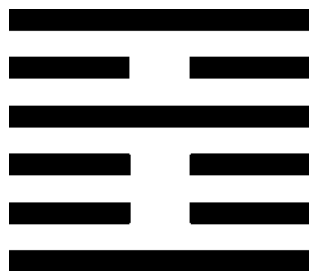
You have acted in a proper and spiritually correct way for some time now, and therefore expect to see visible progress. Yet, true progress must be slow and gradual in order to be permanent; it is seldom very obvious. This line suggests that you are seized by doubt in your inner forces, because there is not any visible improvement. This is a limited viewpoint.

***FIRST:***

Observation of isolated events is superficial meditation. This line points out that all events are parts of a larger meaningful whole and of invisible forces at work. Try to view them as such.



## Hexagram 21



### REFORM (CHEWING INTO BITS)

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Fire                      below: Thunder  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Water                      below: Mountain

The name of hexagram twenty-one is Shih Ho in Chinese, which denotes lips coming together after biting or chewing something. Thus, the hexagram suggests that, in regard to your question, there is something “between your teeth” that bothers you; that there is an obstacle in your way, but you can reach your objective if you eliminate it decisively, if you go forward with courage, just like chewing it into bits. This problem troubles you for a long time and paralyzes your every activity. Hesitation and postponement of action, whether physical or spiritual, will not solve it. You must take positive action, and even though you should avoid unreasonable rashness, you must proceed bravely. Such action will lead you to your goal.

It is more than likely that you will get involved in a quarrel or dispute. If this happens, you must handle the conflict personally, without relying on others. At all events, anything is better than spinning your wheels, provided that you are reasonably cautious. This is important because you will have a tendency to hesitate and postpone unpleasant confrontations. Decisive action is the only cure for this situation, thus the old saying – “Fortune favors the bold” – applies.

#### **WISH:**

Many obstacles and possibly someone’s interference make its realization difficult. Your only chance is decisive action.

#### **LOVE:**

A person of the opposite sex will obstinately hinder the realization of this relationship. If you persevere, success is yours.

#### **MARRIAGE:**

Many obstacles and differences of opinion regarding important issues will prevent you from marrying or saving the marriage. Your partner’s family will actively interfere. Success will depend on the extent to which you can persist in building a

healthy marriage. In short, there will be a lot of problems, but ultimately, success depends on you.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

The delivery will be safe, but the mother will have plenty of troubles later. Regarding the child's sex, the odds are even.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Hysteric disorders, nervous breakdown, problems caused by rotten teeth, and malignant diseases are likely. If an operation or special medical treatment is necessary, do not hesitate. The disease will be lengthy.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Best to solve the problem through clever yet decisive action. A positive, optimistic and moderately aggressive attitude will lead you to victory.

***TRAVEL:***

It will be hard to avoid a mishap en route, but in the end you will reach your destination.

***EXAMINATION:***

You will probably not pass.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Many difficulties. Proceed with courage and you will succeed.

***WEATHER:***

Strong rains and wind, later clearing.

***CHANGING LINES***

***SIXTH:***

A person who cannot recognize his own errors will drift further and further from the Path. And when he is no longer on the Path, he cannot understand the warnings of others. Continuing to push obstinately will cause humiliation and regret. The original text states: "There will be evil."

***FIFTH (dominant):***

You would like to be gentle and yielding, but you must be objective and just. Do not accept certain relationships only because others want them. They too must make efforts to make these relationships morally correct. They must also understand, through their own experiences, that correct conduct is the only way to build a proper relationship with others, and that spiritual growth is the only source of a permanent relationship and unity.



***FOURTH:***

That which must be “chewed into bits” is a big thing indeed, and has a powerful position in relation to you. Once you begin to act in this direction, be persevering. Avoid extreme conduct: when the results of your efforts show, do not relax and become careless, but do not be too strict either. Be open, careful and persevering. In this way you will ‘bite through’ the obstacles that prevent you from having morally correct relationships with others.

***THIRD:***

You lack both the strength and the authority to carry out the REFORM, and to punish persons who commit violations. All your efforts meet with indifference and you feel humiliated because of the inefficiency of your actions. Yet the problem must be “bitten through”, and therefore your endeavors are justified.

***SECOND:***

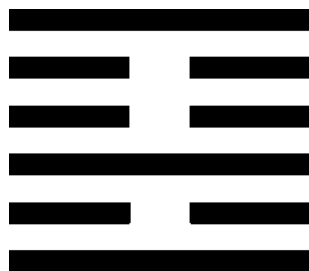
If you continue in wrong behavior, e. g. behavior harmful to your spiritual growth, you will meet with increasingly severe punishment. It will cause you to feel regret, but you should know that it is just. It will bring you back on the Path.

***FIRST:***

A person can learn his/her lesson only through unpleasant experiences. When we depart from the Path for the first time, the punishment is mild, but later becomes harsher and harsher. In this way a positive change, that is, a REFORM of our wrong attitudes and conduct is accomplished.



## *Hexagram 22*



### **GRACE (BEAUTIFUL APPEARANCES)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Mountain              Below: Fire  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Thunder              Below: Water

Poets and those in love describe the beauty of a sunset from ancient times. Such an image is suggested by this hexagram through its trigrams: Fire, from which the idea of the sun is derived, is below Mountain, which means the sun sets behind the Mountain. Sunset is a magnificent sight, but it lasts briefly. The sun will set and darkness will fall. In divining, the sunset signifies outward, transient beauty, which can be deceiving, and, what is more important, it means the waning and ending of a beautiful and happy period. The scene is beautiful, but the beauty is neither permanent nor essential.

At the same time, on another level this hexagram suggests that because of the setting sun we cannot see things and connections clearly, so that our observations and thoughts lack keenness, clarity and farsightedness. Wrong estimations and errors of judgment are inevitable. You need to be extremely cautious in order to minimize the harmful consequences of your mistakes. Be on the lookout, because you may be cheated, deceived or slandered. You will be particularly susceptible to deceit by fascinating persons – smooth-talking and confident, who have no firm moral principles.

The key characteristic of this hexagram is unfulfilled expectation. On the other hand, this is a favorable hexagram for all problems and questions pertaining to art, entertainment, radio, television and advertising, because art and putting oneself across well are in harmony with your present situation.

#### ***WISH:***

Modest wishes will be realized after some delay. Wild and extravagant ones will certainly not.

***LOVE:***

It is possible to temporarily create a successful and pleasant relationship, but since your expectations have no realistic foundation, the final outcome will be disappointment.

***MARRIAGE:***

Your visions of getting married and of a happy life together will be scattered. The other party is hiding something. Best to give up this marriage.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

A girl will be born without problems.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Fever and other seemingly harmless symptoms may camouflage serious disorders. Take care in treating your health, or you may become seriously ill.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Inauspicious. If possible, make a compromise.

***TRAVEL:***

Propitious if your motive is tourism or pleasure.

***EXAMINATION:***

Good score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Good fortune.

***WEATHER:***

Clear and nice at first, later cloudy.

***CHANGING LINES***

***SIXTH:***

You are slowly beginning to realize that discarding the 'decorations' which people use to adorn themselves, clips your inferior Ego's wings. Your True Self shines on your environment now more powerfully than the most cunning and charming pretensions. Your path is the Path of Simplicity and Truthfulness. Good fortune.

***FIFTH:***

A strong desire develops inside of you to make the people you admire notice you, and to be in closer contact with them. This is followed by the inferior feeling that you do not deserve their attention, because you believe that a modest man can never awaken someone's interest, but only a loud and boastful one. Get rid of this desire. In the long run your inner worth will be fully recognized.

***FOURTH:***

You attach much more significance to charm, wit and intellectualizing than to simplicity, modesty and inner worth. Humbleness and aspiring after spiritual growth create the most reliable connection with your True Self. They lead to true self-knowledge and worthwhile and lasting relationships with others.

***THIRD:***

Apparently everything has gone as planned, so you are becoming self-satisfied and have a tendency to relax. You may have to pay dearly for it. Continue to persevere in your efforts to accomplish still higher goals, while holding fast to your moral principles.

***SECOND (dominant):***

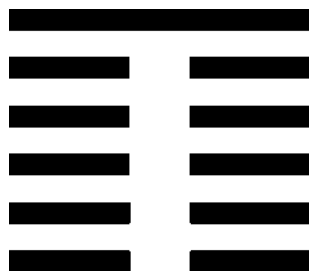
You are attempting to solve problems and to improve relationships with others in the wrong manner, through a beautified image of yourself, and not through your True Self. Acting gracefully for its own sake is shallow and worthless. You are paying attention only to the result, and not to whether the path which leads to it is correct. For the followers of the Truth, the goal is inseparable from the path that leads to it.

***FIRST:***

In this situation the most important thing is to be your True Self. Do not attempt to make a favorable impression, do not boast or assume an air of importance. Attempt to solve the problem the way you are.



## Hexagram 23



### DETERIORATION

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Mountain              below: Earth  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Earth                      below: Earth

This hexagram and the ideas derived from it advise extreme caution and endurance. It indicates DETERIORATION, tearing up, splitting apart, separation, stripping, denudation, paring down and the like. Five passive Yin lines are pressing out one Yang line. It is tottering and ready to fall. In divination, the hexagram means that your luck is at its lowest level. The only thing left to do is to wait and maintain the status quo. Do not contemplate going forward, however attractive it may seem. If you determine that it is wise to retreat, do not hesitate to do so.

*The I Ching* points to a fact which is an important part of all worthwhile philosophic teachings that have withstood the test of time: periods of progress and deterioration alternate regularly and when the time for ebb comes, nothing can stop it. Our attempt to prevent it in this situation would only accelerate it.

At the present, your social milieu is dominated by inferior elements, and incompetent persons are in positions of authority. The process of DETERIORATION will continue for some time, until it wears itself out and the pendulum of cosmic forces starts off again toward the opposite end.

On the other hand, this hexagram suggests rebirth. If you received it after a long period of troubles, a turn for the better is at hand.

If you received this combination in regard to a serious chronic illness or an old patient, recovery is very unlikely.

#### **WISH:**

It will not be realized.

#### **LOVE:**

The other party does not love you. If a permanent relationship is established, it will end in tragedy.

***MARRIAGE:***

It is a bad match. The other side can not be trusted. You stand a slightly better chance if this is your second marriage.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Pregnant women must avoid exertion; otherwise there will be a miscarriage. If the pregnancy is carried through, delivery will be without complications. It will be a daughter.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Venereal diseases, tuberculosis, diseases afflicting the head and respiratory organs. There is also a possibility of peritonitis. If the sickness is serious, there is a less than even chance of survival.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Total defeat.

***TRAVEL:***

Do not go. Trouble may occur during the course of the journey . At any rate, do not go by plane!

***EXAMINATION:***

Very bad score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Best to give up your plans.

***WEATHER:***

Continuous bad weather.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH (dominant):***

The spiritual Path of Correctness, which we have doubted during the period of DETERIORATION, is beginning to seem worthwhile again. The process of deterioration has ended, because nothing lasts forever, not even the periods of evil and adversity. The power and influence are back in the hands of honest and virtuous persons, who have the support of the environment. Inferior persons are destroyed by their own evil, for when we ignore them and continue to pursue our higher goals, they lose the object to which they can direct their energy, and end up eating away at themselves.

***FIFTH:***

The situation is beginning to improve, for when you are persevering in the correct attitude, it begins to manifest itself in the outside world. The explanation is simple: when you stop trying to force solutions through disputes, inferior elements sur-



rounding you begin to give in and stop competing with you. Accepting the situation as it is leads to success.

***FOURTH:***

You are confronted with danger, even with a crashing defeat. To make matters worse, not even your correct attitude can change the circumstances. However, try to find strength in the fact that the unfavorable period has reached its peak and its improvement must inevitably follow.

***THIRD:***

You are pushed into a situation where you must deal with inferior persons or ideas. The way out of it is to remain focused on your True Self. In this way you can distance yourself from the bad influences manifested in the first two changing lines of this hexagram. By continuing in the Path of Correctness, you will attain the necessary stability to resist the inferior influences.

***SECOND:***

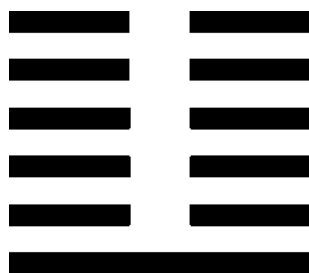
You are in the midst of a very dangerous situation. You must be completely focused in order to adjust to it. Bow your head like a shrub bends its branches when the cold wind blows. Do not insist on your rights or take a self-righteous attitude, because it will result in serious misfortune. Be especially careful not to act impulsively, seized by thoughts such as "I'll do it, come what may!"

***FIRST:***

The situation is full of danger. Inferior persons are undermining your position, in the same way that rodents can undermine the foundation of a once stable house. Worst of all is that you can do nothing to prevent it, except wait patiently until this difficult period is over.



## Hexagram 24



### RETURN (THE NEW BEGINNING)

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Earth                      below: Thunder  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Earth                      below: Earth

Like human life (microcosm), the whole universe (macrocosm) is susceptible to the law of cyclic change. This idea is the basis of *The I Ching*, and is also contained in its name – *The Book of Changes*. This hexagram particularly emphasizes it. No matter what man does, no matter how correct and honest his actions may be, day and night, summer and winter, good and bad fortune alternate in life inevitably.

When you receive this hexagram, it usually means that a period of stagnation is about to end and that a new active period is ahead of you. You probably feel anxious to proceed with your plans, but keep in mind that you are at the very beginning of an active cycle and that there are still some obstacles in your path. A rash movement forward could render your efforts useless. The process of retreating and disappearing of obstacles will continue at its own pace, despite your efforts. Do not attempt to make buds blossom early by opening their petals by force. Just surrender to the natural course of events. This hexagram also augurs the beginning of the successful realization of your plans, so the best way to be in accordance with the natural movements is to relax.

In the spiritual sense, RETURN means returning to the Path of Correctness you have previously abandoned, or are about to, because of the doubts Ego implanted deep inside of you, in an attempt to gain control over your actions.

#### **WISH:**

Do not be impatient or impulsive, and it will soon be realized.

#### **LOVE:**

It is a little complicated, because a few women are interested in the same man. Success can be achieved only through sincerity and perseverance.

***MARRIAGE:***

Partners are well matched, and will be brought in time even closer together. In this situation *The I Ching* offers the following advice: If this is your first marriage, do not accept the first proposal, wait for the second one. If this is your second marriage, success is a certainty.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

A boy will be born without problems.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Health condition has a tendency to transform itself into its opposite. Good health may mean the return of an old disease. If you are ill, the recovery will take considerable time, but it is certain.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

It will be lengthy and stressful, but you will be successful in the end.

***TRAVEL:***

Propitious, especially if you do not travel alone.

***EXAMINATION:***

Your score has improved.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Auspicious.

***WEATHER:***

Gradually improving.

***CHANGING LINES***

***SIXTH:***

This is an unfortunate situation, because you have missed the opportunity to make positive changes. If you attempt to make the desired change by force, you will sustain a crashing defeat, maybe even a tragic end. A way out of this unfortunate situation is to wait out the entire cycle for another chance for change.

***FIFTH:***

You are in a position of respect, but have nevertheless kept the ability to recognize your shortcomings and mistakes. You will therefore be able to change them and return to the Path of Correctness, although this return may seem like the beginning of something entirely new.

***FOURTH:***

This line states: "Independent of his environment, he follows the Path of Correctness alone." It means that your current milieu is inferior. You are the only person aware of the possibility of improvement and you move in that direction. Others are

not capable of following you. During this period, your path is one of morally correct isolation.

***THIRD:***

This line states: “Returning anew. Danger”. It signifies a person who is constantly vacillating on the Path of Truth because of the imagined and illusory advantages of other paths. Such vacillation, in addition to being a waste of time, is extremely dangerous. However, after a long while the situation will change for the better.

***SECOND:***

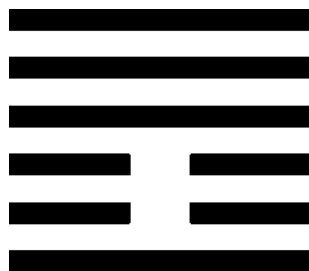
A good example is worth more than a hundred advisements. If your pride is injured because of the unfair conduct of others, sacrifice this emotion and restore the attitude of placid perseverance in striving to achieve your aim.

***FIRST (dominant):***

Doubts in the Path of Truth are developing inside of you, so you are beginning to depart from it. Do your best to reestablish your self-control. Hold on to what is right and moral. In this way you will remain on the Path and at the same time considerably strengthen your character.



## *Hexagram 25*



### **INNOCENCE (UNEXPECTED EVENT)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Heaven                      below: Thunder  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Wind                                      below: Mountain

The upper primary trigram is Heaven; the lower one is Thunder. Their relationship conveys the idea of a natural course of events that is beyond our control. Thunder is unpredictable – it may bring gentle rain, as well as fear and disaster. Whatever the outcome, we cannot control it. Since it is sometimes beneficial and sometimes not, the ancient Chinese named this hexagram INNOCENCE or UNEXPECTED EVENT. When you receive it as the answer to your question, let things take their natural course. Do not take aggressive action, yet do not shirk from doing what you are supposed to, either. You must not neglect your responsibilities.

INNOCENCE is a state of freedom from attempts to figure out what is going to happen, from the desire to guess what is expected of you, and most of all, from the inner pressure to act in accordance with such suppositions.

INNOCENCE is a spontaneous surrender to the natural course of things, whether if we like it or not.

Give up wishes which involve great personal success or gain. If you do not restrain them, you will meet with misfortune. Act with utmost sincerity in your interpersonal relationships. Good advice on how to act in this situation would be as follows: the path to your goal is an indirect path! Follow the natural course of events without attempting to influence it, but maintain your position. Flow with the current, but do not dive in hoping to find a gold nugget, or jump out of the water so that people can see you.

#### ***WISH:***

Trying to force realization will lead to failure. The time is not ripe yet. Surrendering to the natural course and holding fast to the moral norms may bring success.

***LOVE:***

Success depends on a degree of mutual honesty and sincerity. Generally speaking, there will be complications.

***MARRIAGE:***

There will be difficulties and misunderstandings. Sincerity and mutual tolerance are indispensable. If these requirements are satisfied, you will meet with success. If you marry for the second time, you stand a much better chance of success.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

No problems. A son will be born.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

If you are a woman, the condition of your health is more serious than if you are a man. With the appropriate treatment gradual recovery will take place. On the other hand, a negligent attitude towards health will decidedly cause complications.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Do not allow yourself to be guided by emotions, or you will suffer failure. If you have reason on your side and if you are calm, you stand a chance of victory. In any case, do not force the outcome.

***TRAVEL:***

You may go.

***EXAMINATION:***

If you prepare yourself well, you will be successful. Do not resort to tricks.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Do not force it.

***WEATHER:***

If the first line of your hexagram is a changing line, it will rain. If it is the second one, it will be windy.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

Do not move, do not take any action. Even innocent actions will create resistance, chaos and misfortune. It is as if you stepped into quicksand – any movement to improve the situation will only make it worse. Therefore, do nothing! Just endure it for a while.

***FIFTH (also dominant):***

You will meet with an accident, but you should not worry too much about it. Maintain the attitude of “innocence”, that is, of spiritual openness. Free yourself from



prejudices and preconceptions and the solution will come of itself, through the natural course of events.

***FOURTH:***

This line states: “Do not listen to others!” This can mean that you should not follow the inferior elements of your personality, such as hatred, impulsiveness, fear etc. Its meaning can also be literal – that you should not listen to others, but to trust your own intuition and act in accordance with it.

***THIRD:***

Sudden and apparently undeserved misfortunes sometimes happen in life. In this period you might meet with such misfortune. Accept it as part of life and it will pass. Protesting and opposing “unjust fate” will only get you into more serious troubles.

***SECOND:***

Now is more important to do what is necessary than to contemplate the result. Only in this way can you remain “innocent”. This means achieving worthwhile results.

***FIRST (dominant):***

Move forward sincerely and with a pure heart, and everything will turn out well. Trust your instincts and your “inner voice”.



## *Hexagram 26*



### **THE TAMING POWER OF THE GREAT (CONCENTRATED ENERGY)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Mountain              below: Heaven  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Thunder              below: Lake

In Chinese, this hexagram is called Ta Ch'u, which means accumulation, storing up, concentration, fullness and abundance. We can see that the lower trigram, Heaven, which symbolizes strength and creative energy, is trying to expand and move forward; the upper trigram, Mountain, is blocking the creative energy so as to prevent it from manifesting itself. As a consequence, energy will accumulate, accrue and mount up until it reaches a critical level. Only then will it be able to manifest itself through activity.

CONCENTRATED ENERGY means precisely that: you should summon up all forms of your energy, restrain it and then, while controlling it, direct it towards your aim. This is the basic principle of transforming the kinetic energy of water into electric energy: a dam is first built to embank the river, so that an artificial lake is created. The potential energy then raises to a certain level, whereupon it is in a controlled way directed towards turbines.

This image is also relevant to the events in your private life. Accumulating and storing up energy means gathering wealth, information, knowledge of the goals you wish to realize, mobilization of the personal traits necessary to achieve them, and waiting for the right moment to act.

The same principle should be applied by a group leader (when he receives this hexagram), if he is to follow the path of cosmic harmony. A group is an assembly of individuals and different types of energy which must act together in harmony in realization of a common goal. If the group does not accumulate enough energy or if the leader does not harmonize it properly, the energy will scatter in different directions without creating any positive results.

Let us summarize: The advice of this hexagram is - accumulate energy and means and wait for the right moment! Your knowledge, wealth, strength and re-

solve are in the process of maturing and filling up. They will be brought into full play in a while. After a temporary stagnation, you can expect a turn for the better.

***WISH:***

You will have many troubles, slowdowns and delays in the beginning. If you do not act impulsively or rashly, you will finally realize it. However, it will take some time. Precipitation could ruin everything.

***LOVE:***

A third party, or maybe your older relatives or those of your partner will cause trouble. Remain firm in your attitudes and the relationship will be a success.

***MARRIAGE:***

Although you feel strong attraction and a desire to marry this person, restrain yourself! Relax and wait for the right moment. It probably means waiting for the other party to make a move.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Pregnancy will be longer than normal. There could be complications. It will be a boy.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Lengthy disease of the chest or abdomen. Sickness may show on the skin. Medical treatment will be carried through with difficulty.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

It will be troublesome and lengthy, but if you do not ruin your previous endeavors with haste, the outcome will be favorable.

***TRAVEL:***

You will meet with sudden obstacles. Also, while you are away, an accident may happen at home.

***EXAMINATION:***

Good score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

It will be time-consuming, but the outcome will be favorable.

***WEATHER:***

Very humid at first, later clearing.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

The original text states: "Achievement of greatness through Heaven's blessing". Obstacles have disappeared. It is the right moment to direct your concentrated en-

ergy toward accomplishment of great deeds. When our inner contradictions are harmonized, our creative energy results in the true accomplishment.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

Your heart's desires are pushing you to do certain things, but even now, self-control is the only way to achieve inner spiritual freedom. A good leader knows that he must primarily control himself in order to indirectly control the whole group. He uses intelligence instead of force. Good fortune.

***FOURTH:***

The pressure of accumulated energy compels you to move forward. Such action would be fruitless, because others are not susceptible to your ideas. Keep your energy in check and do not waste it before the time is ripe. That moment is approaching.

***THIRD:***

“When horse is properly tamed, you may proceed toward your aim carefully.” The original text of this line is clear enough. Your path is beginning to open, so that there appears a possibility to achieve your goal. However, remain cautious at all times, because your inferior elements may awaken.

***SECOND:***

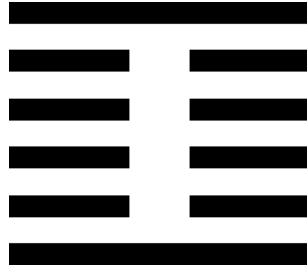
You are tempted to move forward, but the timing is not right, “fruit is not ripe yet”. Stay where you are and you will avoid trouble.

***FIRST:***

You must remain composed now. Although you are bursting with energy, if you take action now, nothing good will come of it. Be wise and wait.



## Hexagram 27



### HEALTHY FOOD (THE MOUTH)

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Mountain              below: Thunder  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Earth                      below: Earth

This hexagram stands for the mouth and nutrition. The mouth is our first connection with the world, the area through which we start communicating with our mother and the environment. Our energetic exchange with the environment is carried out through the mouth: food comes in and words, the means of energetic influence over people, come out.

However, food is not only what we eat, but also everything that we allow to enter our sphere of awareness in a variety of ways: the words, emotions and thoughts of others, what we read, think and dream about. Good food nourishes the body and makes it healthy. Wrong food poisons it, makes us sluggish and sick. Spiritual food affects our body in the same way. The content of what we learn, what we expose ourselves to, and the thoughts we allow to enter our sphere of awareness must be healthy and correct; they must be “healthy spiritual food”, if we want to develop spiritually according to the laws of the evolution of mankind.

In divining, apart from the literal meaning that in this period you must pay special attention to what you eat and drink, it also means that you must select carefully what you think and say. Careless little lies may lead you into trouble; certain words that just slipped out may hurt others and have extremely unpleasant consequences for you. You should therefore pay special attention to the cultivation of your character and treat others carefully and correctly .

If your endeavors involve influence on others – if you “feed” them, be certain not only that the “food” is “healthy”, but also as that these persons are worthy of it. Otherwise, spiritually inferior persons who are at the same time your subordinates may involve you in trouble.

#### **WISH:**

Great difficulties at first; realization will come later, but it will differ considerably from what you expect.

***LOVE:***

It is highly likely that you will get carried away by emotions, and that your judgment will be obscured. Calm down, come down to earth, and try to be cool-headed in evaluating the situation. Maybe you set your sights too high.

***MARRIAGE:***

You will likely marry this person, but the success of the marriage depends on mutual trust. THE MOUTH suggests that you will have financial difficulties and frequent disputes and quarrels.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

If delivery takes place in winter or spring, it will be a boy. If it happens in summer or autumn, a girl. Mother will feel weak for some time after giving birth.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Be careful about what you eat! You need natural, healthy food. The sickness is serious. The mouth, stomach, bowels, throat or teeth may be afflicted.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

You have only an outside chance of success. Best to seek a compromise.

***TRAVEL:***

You may go without worries, unless it is a very long journey.

***EXAMINATION:***

Good score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Hold on to what you already have. The time is not right for a change.

***WEATHER:***

Cloudy.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH (also dominant):***

Only if you keep your inferior elements (negative thoughts and fantasies) under control, will you be able to nourish others in a healthy way. Your mind is focused now on recognizing an opportunity to influence others in a positive manner. If you take full responsibility for this, many will benefit from it, while you will avoid the danger previously created by your inferior elements.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

Everything will work out fine if you avoid carrying out significant decisions in this period. This is not the right moment because you lack the strength to accomplish anything on your own. It is, however, possible to achieve your goal, but only indirectly and much later.



***FOURTH:***

Act correctly and keep only positive thoughts – the real food for your spirit – in your mind. Such an attitude will suddenly bring you the necessary help. In this situation, “help” refers to clever people.

***THIRD:***

By seeking acknowledgement of your value in the words of others, in their praise and flattery, you are seeking “bad food”. When you put the inferior elements of your personality under control, you are on a “healthy diet”.

***SECOND:***

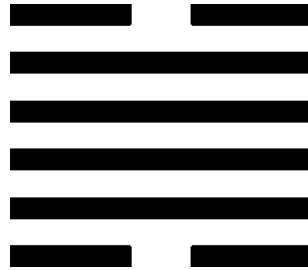
When man leaves the Path of Correctness and attempts to reach certain things that exceed his abilities, misfortune follows. Also, if we do not fulfill our duties properly, we will be the ones punished by the consequences.

***FIRST:***

Observing the values and accomplishments of others, you are seized by envy, frustration and self-pity. Such inferior feelings radiate from inside of you and attract misfortune and trouble. Cut it out!



## *Hexagram 28*



### **PREPONDERANCE OF THE GREAT (EXCESSIVE BURDEN)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Lake                      below: Wind  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Heaven                      below: Heaven

The original meaning of this hexagram's name is excess or excessive force or a burden which is too heavy. Looking at the hexagram, we see that its bottom and top line are two weak Yin lines, which are attempting to limit and keep within themselves four strong Yang lines. Therefore, the hexagram resembles a building which has an overly heavy roof and a weak foundation, or a man whose legs are weak, and yet he carries an extraordinarily heavy burden on his shoulders. He is tottering under its weight and about to fall. The original text describes a ridge of the roof bending to the point of breaking.

In divination, it means that your responsibilities and duties are too demanding, so that they exceed your strength and resources, which makes the situation painful. In such circumstances, you are overly aggressive, selfish and inflexible, or scared, weak and passive. You must reexamine your abilities and select the appropriate way out of the situation. You can also look at the circumstances described in this hexagram from the opposite point of view: there are moments of temptation in life during which great progress may be achieved if we adhere to the Path of Correctness in spite of difficulties. Everything around you is in a state of commotion and whether it will begin to improve or become even worse, depends solely on you.

Remember that you have prepared for this situation since long ago. At the first moment, it seems that it exceeds your strength and abilities, that an EXCESSIVE BURDEN is breaking you, but if you focus all your energy on acting properly and conscientiously, you will unexpectedly receive aid from the Invisible Forces and emerge victorious.

#### ***WISH:***

At times it may seem within your reach, but it will not be realized.

***LOVE:***

Partners are already intimate! The other party does not suit you; it is only sensual desire that prevents you from breaking up.

***MARRIAGE:***

You are incompatible. Many obstacles will prevent the marriage from taking place. If you marry despite the obvious problems, your married life will be filled with disputes, suffering and misery.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

There will be difficulties during delivery, because the fetus is too big for the mother's body. With regard to the child's sex, it may be either one.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Afflictions of the spine and the lungs. It is very serious, but not incurable.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Many obstacles and problems. You will likely suffer defeat.

***TRAVEL:***

You may have trouble during the course of the journey. Best to cancel it for the time being.

***EXAMINATION:***

Your prospects are bad.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Detailed plans will not be of any help to you, because the problems ahead of you are unpredictable. This is not the time.

***WEATHER:***

Cloudy in the morning and evening, clearing in between.

***CHANGING LINES***

***SIXTH:***

The top line of this hexagram speaks of deep water that is already above the head of the person. The meaning of the metaphor is that the goal you aspire is almost unattainable, because "the water is too deep" for you. It also means that you may be capable of achieving it one day, but only if you "grow up". But what is most significant is that the goal is extraordinarily worthwhile and your defeat, despite its dangers, is not complete, because you will gain significant spiritual insights as a consequence of your efforts to accomplish it.

***FIFTH:***

Ideals are unrealistic; it is reality that counts. When estimating your objectives, weigh them well to see whether they are achievable in reality, whether you have enough self-confidence, and finally, whether you have adequate support.

***FOURTH (also dominant):***

Now there are two paths ahead of you. One will make you rely on others and consequently suffer a breakdown and humiliation. The other will force you to find strength deep inside of you, to compose yourself and reach your desired objective alone, without anyone's help. In this way you will become the master of the situation.

***THIRD:***

You are not capable of accepting clever advice not to rush too far ahead. Now you are faced with insurmountable obstacles, but you are attempting to force your way through. You are banging your head against a brick wall. You resemble a ridge of the roof burdened beyond its breaking point.

***SECOND (dominant):***

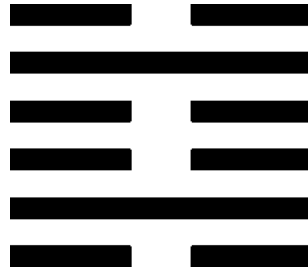
You appear to be in a blind alley, but there is a way out, and a turn for the better is possible. If you intend to ask for help, address beginners or modest persons.

***FIRST:***

Be extremely cautious. Big trees fall when storm rages, while the grass, which bends all the way to the ground, survives. This metaphor should serve as a reminder for your conduct during this period. Before you take any significant step, think it out and plan it to the smallest detail.



## Hexagram 29



### ABYSS (DANGER)

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Water                      below: Water  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Mountain                      below: Thunder

Of the sixty four hexagrams of *The I Ching*, eight of them are doubled. This is one of them, because the trigram that it signifies, Water, is doubled. When Water, which symbolizes trap and danger becomes doubled, it points out that the idea of danger is exceptionally emphasized. You are in a situation of true danger. What is even worse, your efforts to pull yourself out of it cannot help you, but will only bring about further worsening of the situation.

Since the circumstances are so unfavorable, we shall repeat once again: **you can do nothing to remove the dangerous elements and each attempt to do so will only make the danger greater.** In the cycle of bad luck, your luck is at its lowest ebb.

Although the circumstances in the outside world are for the most part reflections of our states of mind, here we can see the opposite effect at work: danger is caused by occurrences in your immediate surroundings, while the negative states of mind you succumb to (fear, depression, desperation, impotent rage etc.) represent a reflection of your perception of this situation as extremely dangerous.

What can you do? Any attempt to eliminate the danger by making an effort or by relying on your wit will have no result. You cannot retreat either, for the danger is in front of you as well as behind you. The only thing left for you to do is to face the situation and endure in the “trap” for as long as necessary for the circumstances to change. It will be very difficult, painful, and at times even unbearable, but there is no other way.

The most important thing is to confront the dangerous situation, holding on firmly and steadily to your moral principles. Do what needs to be done. You must not make compromises with your sense of justice and honesty, even for a moment. If you adjust to the dangerous situation while keeping your moral integrity, your True Self will remain intact.

***WISH:***

It will not be realized.

***LOVE:***

Temptations, suffering. Also, your partner will not be understanding. No hope for success.

***MARRIAGE:***

Incompatible natures; trouble and problems everywhere. If the marriage goes through, it will not be a love match and will not last.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Miscarriage is a real possibility. Delivery will likely be difficult. If the child is born, it will be a boy.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Disease is dangerous and difficult to cure.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Time consuming; you will waste your time and energy for nothing.

***TRAVEL:***

Cancel it. If you go, you will have an accident or be robbed.

***EXAMINATION:***

Very poor score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Unfavorable during this period. Wait for a better moment.

***WEATHER:***

Period of continuous rain.

***CHANGING LINES***

***SIXTH:***

Obstinacy and banging your head against a brick wall brought you extreme danger. There is no way out of the thorny forest you pushed yourself in. You will experience a long period of trouble and chaos in interactions with others as a consequence of your weak self-control. The solution is to return to the Path of Correctness and wait.

***FIFTH (also dominant):***

Do not exert yourself more than necessary and do not set very high goals for yourself. This is all the wisdom you need at the moment. If you are not too haughty or self-satisfied, you will attain your aims without unnecessary danger. At this stage, danger will disappear almost of its own accord, almost without your efforts.



***FOURTH:***

This danger cannot be eliminated by pretending you are strong or by bluffing. Be frank with others, act sincerely and in a simple way, and you will understand the situation and find the way out.

***THIRD:***

You are in a dangerous situation, as if between two abysses. You cannot move forward, nor can you retreat, because you will fall into an abyss in both cases. In order to realize the extent of the danger you are facing (which you do not realize fully at the moment), you must compose yourself and reflect upon your position calmly, and then do nothing but wait for the situation to change.

***SECOND (dominant):***

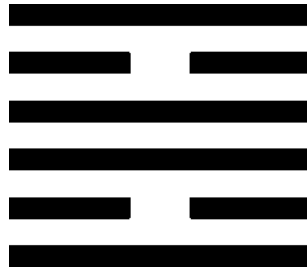
Due to the danger, you are compelled to act impulsively. But the danger is so great it cannot be eliminated with a single act. You must do it gradually – step by step – to avoid misfortune.

***FIRST:***

Because you have confronted the same danger several times already, you resigned yourself to your fate and ceased to resist evil. Such an erroneous attitude is a consequence of the shortcomings of your personality, which separate you from the Path of Correctness. You should realize your weaknesses and begin to eliminate them. Only then can you return to the Path and remain in accord with the cosmos.



## *Hexagram 30*



### **FIRE (ADHERENCE)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Fire                      below: Fire  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Lake                      below: Wind

In hexagram 30 both upper and lower trigrams are Fire, so its meaning is emphasized. This hexagram also being a symbol of the sun (and here it is doubled), it describes a situation where one sun is setting in the west, while another is simultaneously rising in the east. Thus the sight is filled with light, blaze and beauty.

Apart from the above mentioned, Fire is a symbol of spiritual brilliance, lucidity, clarity and clear understanding. But at the same time, it is also a symbol of excessively active human spirit, filled with desires and passions, lost in search of external beauty – in short, a symbol of unstable human nature.

Although Fire is beautiful, it is difficult to control, for it continuously changes direction and form. It lacks stability. It is often manifested as a strong desire and ambition that can burn man out, if it is not dealt with wisely.

The meaning of this hexagram mostly depends on the person who received it. For honest, conscientious persons who possess self-control, events will chiefly develop in a satisfactory and pleasant manner. Dishonest, overly ambitious and vain persons, chasing after superficial beauty and deceitful impressions, will certainly get burnt. The very appearance of the trigram Fire, with weak Yin inside, and two strong Yang lines outside, suggests that all the energy radiates towards the outside, while the center, as is the case with Fire, is empty. In hexagram 30 this is doubly emphasized.

#### ***WISH:***

It may be realized, if you proceed toward the goal with honesty and sincerity, especially if you are aided by an older person. Success is most probable in activities that are in some way connected to letters: literature, journalism, printing business, examinations, academic papers and asking for favors through letters.

***LOVE:***

Both partners are passionately interested in the relationship, but impulsive and imprudent conduct will lead to failure.

***MARRIAGE:***

Although you are interested in this person, it is clever to postpone the marriage for a while. Be absolutely honest yet reserved, and you will create a happy marriage in the end.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

A girl will be born, maybe even twins.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Abdominal and eye diseases; disorders followed by fever. The condition may appear suddenly, or, if it was latent for some time, it may suddenly worsen.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

If justice is on your side and you are sincere, your chances are good. If not, you will be defeated. Generally speaking, the party that is more aggressive has worse prospects.

***TRAVEL:***

Propitious moment, especially if you go as a tourist and your purpose is pleasure.

***EXAMINATION:***

Good score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Prepare yourself carefully and in detail for what you have in mind and you will stand a fair chance of success. A negligent attitude and careless conduct will cause crushing disappointment.

***WEATHER:***

Sunny, clear and warm.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

Now is the moment to remove disharmonious elements from your interactions with the environment and your own personality. You should not praise the virtues of others, nor execrate their weaknesses. Calmly, persistently and with a clear head attempt to understand where the source of the trouble lies, then eliminate it. Harmony will follow of its own accord, whether in personal relationships or within your being.

***FIFTH (also dominant):***

Now that you have experienced troubles and emotional suffering, you suddenly attain a clear insight that the problems you confront are lessons in life, which are there to make you stronger, not weaker. Deep and radical changes of heart are always followed by sadness. After that you are ready for a more exalted and enlightened life.

***FOURTH:***

Boastful and self-advertising conduct will thwart accomplishment of the true aim and bring about trouble. The situation resembles a meteor – it burns fast and burns out fast. Restrain yourself and take it easy.

***THIRD:***

Fear, doubt and thoughts concerning how long it will take for you to accomplish a significant success begin to develop inside of you. You should reject them consistently and accept fate as it is. Then you will be in accord with the cosmos, while Ego will not succeed in imposing its destructive games on you. However, if you surrender to the harmful thoughts, misfortune will ensue.

***SECOND (dominant):***

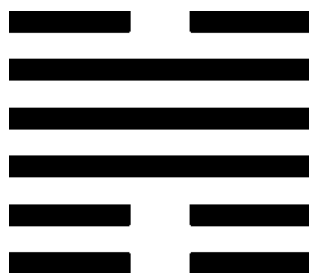
You will attract favorable circumstances through constantly aspiring for inner balance and manifesting modesty in your attitude and conduct. Avoid extremes when showing emotions, in your speech and in your demands on others.

***FIRST:***

This line symbolizes a beginning that, like a seedling, contains within it all further phases of the plant's growth. For this reason, you must begin properly, with good preparations and a clear head, keeping your goal in mind constantly. Reject doubts and fears that obscure your path.



## *Hexagram 31*



### **INFLUENCE (MUTUAL ATTRACTION)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Lake                      below: Mountain  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Heaven                      below: Wind

If a man can feel someone or something well and precisely, and acts in accordance with this feeling, there is a relationship of **MUTUAL ATTRACTION**. This hexagram speaks of such a relationship, which is the basis of moral influence on others. Gravitation or mutual attraction is the most obvious force in nature. In human society, too, the most conspicuous relationships are the relationships of mutual attraction – between man and woman, parents and children, disciple and Master.

The relationship of the primary trigrams clarifies the situation and existing relationships. Lake is above, Mountain below. Lake symbolizes gentleness and tends to move downwards. Mountain signifies strength, and with its top strives to move upwards. Thus these two forms of energetic movement are in a harmonious union. Although both of them maintain their natural characteristics, they create a harmonious relationship through mutual influence. Such interaction does not mean that one form of energy subdues and subjugates the other, but that their relationship is complementary, that they supplement each other and find in this relationship each their own fulfillment. This is precisely what happens in each truly worthy relationship, which has **MUTUAL ATTRACTION** as its basis.

In divining, this hexagram suggests that the situation will develop favorably and that the outcome will be propitious, on condition that the person who asks the question is honest, frank, tolerant, and willing to cooperate.

Unfairness and becoming involved in perverted relationships of any kind will cause a complete turn for the worse in your circumstances, because there is a rather realistic possibility that you will leave the Path of Correctness and start following the inferior elements of your personality.

***WISH:***

It will be realized in a way that will surpass all your expectations.

***LOVE:***

Definite success – a relationship of deep mutual love and passion.

***MARRIAGE:***

Partners are well suited for each other. Harmonious and happy marriage.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Safe and sound. Regarding the child's sex, chances are equal.

***SICKNESS AND HEALTH:***

The illness is not serious and can be cured easily. It has probably developed due to mental exertion and excessive work.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

You should attempt a compromise. The other party is also contemplating it; thus, it is best to take the initiative.

***TRAVEL:***

You may go free of worries. You will probably have pleasant company on the way, but be cautious in regard to the opposite sex – do not engage in illicit love affairs.

***EXAMINATION:***

Excellent score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

You may proceed with the realization that you will get the job later.

***WEATHER:***

Rainy but pleasant.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

You are beginning to realize that it is erroneous to influence others with words and logic. It may seem that they agree with you, but they will not be compelled to take real action. The only true influence is created through examples, not words. In this way a fruitful, indirect influence is exercised via our and their subconscious.

***FIFTH (also dominant):***

You want to set others in motion and influence them, but most of the time your efforts do not bring the desired results, unless your conduct comes from the very center of your being. Attempting to influence others by force is leading you astray from the Path of Correctness. Give up such ideas.



***FOURTH (dominant):***

Direct influence on a situation or our fellow men has a bad outcome, because it makes us act in a calculated way. You should remain completely “innocent” in your attitude. In other words, hold to the Path of Truth without compromises. Thus your ideas, through your conduct, influence your environment in the most efficient way. This is a natural and evolutionary process.

***THIRD:***

You must gain self-control! If you follow your desires, which are plenty at the moment, you will get in touch with the inferior aspects of others’ personalities. For example, sexual intercourse that is not followed by deeper feelings has a shallow aftertaste. By keeping your desires under control, you will achieve inner freedom, which is the essential element of the correct influence on our environment.

***SECOND:***

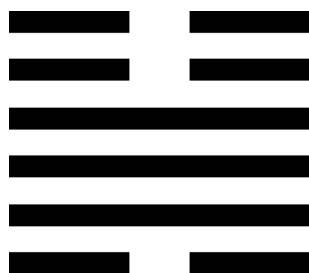
In your present position, you are restless and tense. You feel inner pressure to take action. Resist such pressure and remain calm and reserved. This will bring you good fortune. At this moment, getting involved only in a physical relationship will ruin your chances for a deeper and more meaningful connection.

***FIRST:***

At this stage, the relationship is shallow and your influence weak. If you yourself do not believe your ideas and feelings, you will not be capable of transmitting them to others. To act now would be premature.



## *Hexagram 32*



### **PERSEVERANCE (CONTINUING)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Thunder                      below: Wind  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Lake                                      below: Heaven

The essential message of this hexagram is: be persevering, hold on to the time-tested values, avoid activities that lead into the unknown and the untested. Traditional values, proven procedures and permanent forms of connections between people are emphasized.

Above is Thunder, below Wind. Neither of these two forces is permanent; however, the natural laws that create their essence are eternal. Male (Thunder) is in a position above the female (Wind), which points to their natural union and oneness. Marriage, in contrast to love affairs, is a permanent relationship; a woman and man marry with the intention of spending their whole lives together.

Why does this hexagram emphasize PERSEVERANCE and CONTINUING? Because here we see two forces in action, the effects of which are more obvious than usual: a tendency to maintain the status quo by holding on to traditional values, and a tendency to want to alter the existing state that has become boring. The latter tendency compels you to embark on a quest for something new and exciting.

Remain passive and maintain your present position! In this period, you should abandon new plans, ideas, and becoming involved in new relationships. In this way you will avoid trouble and obtain permanent good fortune. Gradual prosperity, based firmly on a healthy base, should be your goal, rather than a quick and spectacular success.

#### ***WISH:***

It will be realized if you do not rush without thinking and if you surmount obstacles gradually, one by one, with due persistence.

#### ***LOVE:***

Mutual feelings are permanent; however, suppressed desires will surface from time to time.

***MARRIAGE:***

Good match. It will be a harmonious marriage. Partners will grow old together.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Safe delivery. Boy and girl have equal chances of being born.

***SICKNESS AND HEALTH:***

Chronic diseases may be activated during this period, but the patient will be safe.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE LAWSUIT:***

Adverse. Attempt to make a compromise, even though it may take a while to accomplish it.

***TRAVEL:***

Short trip is propitious. Long one should be delayed.

***EXAMINATION:***

Good score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Give up your plans and maintain the present position.

***WEATHER:***

Clear and windy.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

Perseverance is not a positive quality of itself. If you are in a perpetual state of restlessness and anxiety, you will create serious problems for yourself. Restlessness appears when you contemplate the mistakes of others. Instead of letting things develop of their own accord, you are attempting to cause the desired changes through criticizing others or through aggression. While doing this you persistently remind yourself that the person in question has not improved yet. It enables you to justify your critical or aggressive attitude. You should distance yourself from the mistakes of others, while remaining in close touch with the cosmos. Only then will your anxieties disappear, and the mistakes of others be viewed as a means through which they can learn lessons in life.

***FIFTH:***

Different goals require different kinds of perseverance or different methods. If you are in a situation where you follow someone, what you need is female perseverance, where you are in a subordinate position – the position of a follower. You need to adjust to that person. On the other hand, if you are the initiator, you must shoulder the responsibility on your own and your actions must be daring, flexible, and inventive. You should be ready to take a risk. It will pay off.

***FOURTH:***

In the original text this line states: “There is no game in that field. To persevere in hunt is in vain.” Judge calmly whether your goal may be achieved, and reexamine your ambitions. It does not matter how persistent the hunter is, if there is no game.

***THIRD:***

Proceed firmly on your Path. In this situation external influences are dragging you away and, causing your uncontrollable and unpredictable behavior. Such behavior will bring you humiliation. Do not pay attention to the progress others have accomplished. Return to your Inner Self and continue in the Path of Truth.

***SECOND (dominant):***

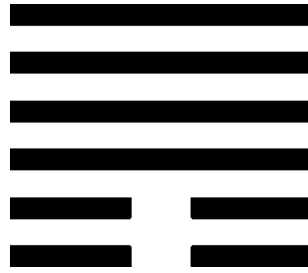
Hold on to the Path of Correctness, which leads between pairs of extremes: yielding and self-assertion, gentleness and harshness. Be moderate and you will avoid chaos.

***FIRST:***

In order for positive changes to be long-lasting, they must be gradual. You cannot change your life style overnight, nor instantly apply new methods and systems. The only wise counsel at this moment is: “festina lente”, or make haste slowly.



## Hexagram 33



### RETREAT

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Heaven                      below: Mountain  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Heaven                      below: Wind

*The I Ching* repeats persistently and emphatically that only change is eternal, in the universe as well as in human beings. Everything that exists goes through phases of growth and decline, activity and passivity, advance and retreat. In a period of growth and expansion we must move forward to be in accord with the cosmic movements. In the same way, during a passive phase, when the ebb is low, in order to remain in accord with the cosmic tendencies we must consolidate our position or retreat.

If we view cycles of growth and deterioration, movement and stagnation, progress and retreat in such way, we can experience retreat, which is sometimes necessary, not as a defeat or injustice, but as an essential part of life's game and life's wisdom. In certain periods timely retreat offers us safety; advance in the same period causes collapse and humiliation.

In daily life, this hexagram suggests decline of power, influence, wealth and weakening of close connections with others. Although the situation looks unfavorable in the beginning, if you retreat with dignity, you will eventually meet with good fortune. If you are experiencing difficulties at the moment, you will not find an immediate solution, but will come through the retreat in a stable and protected position.

Be cautious in words, deeds, and thoughts (do not let yourself be overcome by negative thoughts). In this way you will find a safe refuge. Otherwise, you will be slandered, lose reputation, become involved in endless complications or have financial losses.

This is a time of RETREAT from danger. It does not mean weakness, but wisdom and adjustment to the cosmic changes.

**WISH:**  
Many obstacles will prevent its realization.

***LOVE:***

It is obvious that the partners' personalities are incompatible. If you are a man, you should know that the woman you are attracted to has someone else in mind.

***MARRIAGE:***

Partners cannot live in accord. Even if you do marry, you will not be happy and there will be constant friction between partners.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Miscarriage is a realistic possibility. If the child is born, it will be a boy.

***SICKNESS AND HEALTH:***

Diseases of the bone marrow, chest and abdomen; emotional and neurotic disorders. The sickness will probably be lengthy. Best to change the place of residence.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

You will meet with defeat. Back out if you can.

***TRAVEL:***

Many troubles en route, with the possibility of a disaster. Cancel it. The exceptions are religious persons – you will find peace of mind and have worthwhile experiences if you visit places with a spiritual reputation.

***EXAMINATION:***

Bad score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

This is not the right moment, unless your plan has to do with theaters, hotels, the entertainment business and the like.

***WEATHER:***

It will worsen. You can expect rain.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

This line describes a man capable of retreating with a feeling of great inner freedom. By severing contact with inferior elements of human nature or a certain situation, we are free to continue in the Path of Truth and Correctness.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

If you are principled and imperturbable on the inside, while flexible and diplomatically adjustable on the outside, you will be able to withdraw from this situation while maintaining friendly relationships with others. Do not engage in discussions regarding the reasons for your withdrawal. Such friendly, resolute retreat brings good fortune. Hesitation and remaining in that situation would soon cause misfortune and regret.



***FOURTH:***

If you retreat willingly and at the right moment, persons with bad intentions will suffer defeat. By withdrawing from the conflict you will save yourself from their hatred and fury and avoid humiliation. The strength of their ego-structures will subsequently wither, and their determination to harm you will disappear. Such conduct exceeds the strength of spiritually undeveloped persons; they will feel humiliated, confused, and will look away.

***THIRD:***

“Keep away from the powers of evil. At this time it is dangerous to proceed. Focusing on your private life and personal relationships brings good fortune.” This excerpt from the classical source is clear. Now is the time to focus on relationships with the closest friends or relatives we usually neglect as long as we are doing well. In this way we will avoid being noticed by persons with bad intentions.

***SECOND:***

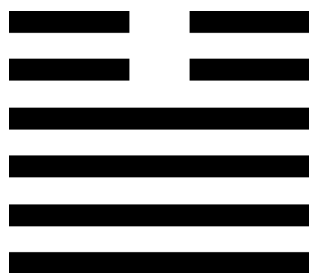
Sometimes retreat requires as much strength as advancing does. This is such a moment. There is no way to avoid difficulties. However, if you remain soft and flexible on the outside, while firm and imperturbable on the inside, the problems will not break you.

***FIRST:***

You did not retreat from danger in time. Your Ego was fascinated by danger in the same way a frog is hypnotized by snake’s eyes. Perhaps you are contemplating a compromise with the elements of evil, or you are entangled in a net of fear or hatred? You should have retreated sooner. Now it is too late, so avoid any action, for it would only increase the danger.



## *Hexagram 34*



### **GREAT POWER**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Thunder                      below: Heaven  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Lake                                      below: Heaven

Both primary trigrams of this hexagram are symbols of strength. Thunder, which echoes in the sky, provokes admiration and veneration. At the same time, the idea of excessive power in relationships with the environment is implied. Yang energy is represented with four lines – from the first to the fourth - so it pushes out two weak Yin lines. This means that GREAT POWER breaks and overcomes obstacles without difficulty, and that your influence and expansion cannot be stopped.

Existing excessiveness is the other side of the coin. In your relationships with others (in the area of your question), you will have a constant tendency to unscrupulously apply the power you obtained by accident, due to the course of events or your earlier accomplishments, thus causing misfortune.

In regard to your question, this hexagram means that you have the wind at your back, and that you have seldom been as lucky as you are now. However, demonstrations of force and aggression, obstinate insistence on your rights and lack of tolerance regarding the weaknesses of others will cause impulsive reactions, conflicts with the environment, and misfortune.

Therefore, the key question in this situation is whether your actions and conduct are correct and your goals morally justified. You will be the center of attention during this period, and your words will have a strong impact on your environment, since it will be extremely susceptible to your influence. However, you must consider the moral correctness of your actions. Power itself cannot be a goal. It must serve justice. Be exceptionally cautious and morally correct in the most sensitive areas of human relationships; those are the ones that involve money, emotions, power and sexual intercourses. Even the slightest deviation from the Path of Correctness may cause long-term negative consequences and chaos.

#### ***WISH:***

Success is a certainty, but the realization will differ from what you have in mind.

***LOVE:***

Do not press too hard. Put on the brakes and reexamine this relationship calmly. You should treat the other party correctly and all will end well, no matter if it matches your initial conception.

***MARRIAGE:***

Partners are compatible, so the marriage can be harmonious and happy, on the condition that both parties are tolerant. However, you will develop a tendency toward extramarital affairs. If you do not restrain it, you will most certainly ruin the marriage.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Son will be born. Delivery will be an ordeal for the mother.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Disease will suddenly manifest itself. Brain diseases, pneumonia or a sudden case of high blood pressure. In order to recover, the patient must rest and be carefully nourished.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

If you do not insist obstinately on your vision of justice, you will meet with success.

***TRAVEL:***

You may go on a trip, but be careful. Keep your excessive self-confidence in check.

***EXAMINATION:***

Good score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

You stand a good chance.

***WEATHER:***

Nice; it may thunder, but will not last long.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

The original text of *The I Ching* compares a man in the position represented by the sixth line with a goat entangled in a barbed wire fence, because it rushed forward. By pushing obstinately towards realization of a desired goal, it created bigger, instead of smaller resistance. Now you find yourself in a blind alley, and whatever you do will only make the situation worse. You must realize your mistake, compose yourself, and calm down. Only then can you solve the problem.

***FIFTH:***

The natural course of events is favorable, thus to apply power now would be erroneous. You should not exert yourself, nor try to prove anything. Simply abandon your preconceptions about what should happen and how.

***FOURTH (dominant):***

You are in a situation where a war is not won by a single strong blow, but by a persistent fight. Persistent efforts to do your best will give a surprisingly good result. When you are honest in your conduct and unyieldingly persistent in your actions towards the goal, barriers disappear by themselves.

***THIRD:***

Hidden strength reaches furthest. It is a characteristic of extremely strong people. On the contrary, weaklings parade their powers whenever they have an opportunity. Such conduct causes resistance among their fellow men, negative attitudes toward the braggart, and represents a source of constant danger. So choose wisely how to act.

***SECOND:***

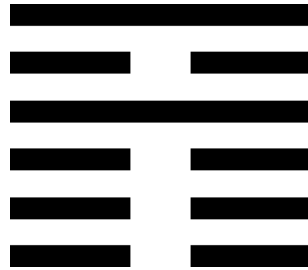
Modesty is imperative now. When you come across weak resistance, you have a tendency to feel overly self-confident and to claim the right to tell others what their weaknesses are, to suggest what they should and should not do. This means your Ego is usurping the throne of your mind.

***FIRST:***

That which is on your mind will not lead you to your goal, even though you are full of energy and enthusiasm. You should not invest all of your energy, strength and resources in an early stage of a situation, because you will soon become short of breath.



## *Hexagram 35*



### **PROGRESS**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Fire                      below: Earth  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Water                      below: Mountain

Fire (light) is above Earth. It conveys symbolically the image of daybreak, when the sun rises above the horizon, radiating its benign warmth on all living creatures on the Earth. As a consequence, everything grows, sprouts, blossoms and ripens. This is a time of advancement and progress, a time for people who reached a certain level of self-development and spiritual maturity to manifest those qualities in the external world. If your aims are morally correct and worthwhile, now is the time for action!

In everyday life this hexagram means that you are in a period of a good, even prosperous fortune. The situation will develop according to your expectations, your business will prosper and your reputation will rise. Cooperation with others and enterprises which aim at common good, will be exceptionally successful.

However, the hexagram contains a small warning as well. Do not act on impulse. The upper trigram - Fire (e. g. clarity of comprehension) - points out that, from the very beginning, you must know precisely what you want, that your goals must be completely clear, and that you need to become acquainted with all the aspects of what you are striving to achieve.

The hexagram also symbolizes a person brilliant and magnificent on the outside, yet shallow on the inside. Be therefore modest and industrious even in the period of PROGRESS, and avoid bragging, boasting and looking down on others.

**WISH:**  
Success is a certainty, but there might be a short delay.

**LOVE:**  
Success is certain.

***MARRIAGE:***

It is a good match that will lead to a harmonious and happy marriage.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

It will go smoothly, without complications. A boy is likely to be born.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Diabetes and abdominal diseases. Recovery possible. Recuperative period will be short unless the patient is old.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Put your plan into action and success will be yours.

***TRAVEL:***

Propitious and without problems.

***EXAMINATION:***

Good score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Good fortune.

***WEATHER:***

Clear and fine weather.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

Be harsh on yourself and tolerate others. In this way you will avoid mistakes you may later regret. Although aspiring to achieve your aim is logical, do not rush too far ahead. A balloon that is inflated too much must eventually contract.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

Even though you are in a position from which you can influence others significantly, you should remain modest and distant. Maintain the same attitude even when the situation turns into its opposite. Remain focused on your final aim and good fortune will follow you.

***FOURTH:***

When you achieve PROGRESS with the help of morally inferior people, or by questionable means, truth will sooner or later emerge and you will suffer the same fate as a rat caught in a trap. Therefore, stick to your moral standards. Neither the state, nor a stick in the hand of a guard, can rule men. Only moral laws protect people from evil.

***THIRD:***

This is not the time for individual enterprises. Hindrances will be overcome if you join forces with others.



***SECOND:***

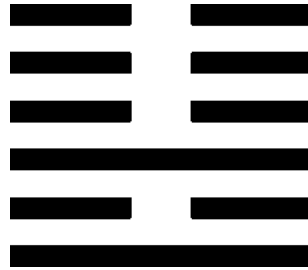
Your communication with a person of authority in this situation is weak, so you are lonely and you suffer. This, however, is better than making compromises with your moral principles, because there is just one morality, just as there is just one geometry. These words do not have plural forms. Continue alone in your righteous path. If you persevere in this, help will arrive from unexpected sources, and all will result in good fortune.

***FIRST:***

Your actions were correct, but there is no progress. As a result, you are beginning to feel anger. You should not let this feeling take hold of you, but continue doing your work persistently, and be cordial and noble to others. In this way you will avoid mistakes which would cause you regret.



## *Hexagram 36*



### **DARKENING OF THE LIGHT**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Earth                      below: Fire  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Thunder                      below: Water

This hexagram stands in opposition to the previous one. Earth is above, Fire below. It means that the sun is descending and darkness is falling. Such an image imposes certain conclusions regarding your present situation. In short, in this period you are confronted with hostile forces or unfortunate circumstances. They are thwarting the achievement of your aims, and at the same time, are gnawing at your moral principles and your innermost beliefs.

You are in the darkness, you do not see things clearly, and each attempt to change the situation through positive action will worsen the circumstances. Lay low and hide your true personality and your abilities. When the sun is shining, birds are spreading their wings, flying high and singing. However, when stormy clouds appear, they pull in their wings, find a safe shelter on the ground, stop singing and wait for the storm to pass.

Do not pay attention during this period to the complaints of others that you are slow and indecisive, that you should do something, etc. "The darkness fell", so you cannot make them see you for what you really are.

It is likely you will have a series of unfortunate events at home, at work, or in social interactions in general. You may sever relations with an old friend or relative. Remember, this is a period of bad fortune, difficulties and troubles. Others may be jealous of you, might show intolerance, envy, or attempt to cheat you. You may be injured, deceived, or robbed. The most important thing is to lay low and calm down, like the birds in the given example. This is particularly true of your convictions and your highest principles. To show them now would be useless, even dangerous. At the same time, hold on to them deep inside as fast as you can. Lao Tzu states the following in regard to the conduct of a Superior man in such circumstances: "He uses his intelligence by means of hiding it".

***WISH:***

Many obstacles. It will not be realized.

***LOVE:***

Unsuccessful. If you are a woman, you will experience complete failure with this person, unless you willingly accept the status of a mistress. He does not love you and what you desire in a love relationship will never be achieved with him. Best to pull out of this relationship immediately.

***MARRIAGE:***

Failure due to complete incompatibility of partners' natures. Even if you do marry, it will not last long. But you may be considerably happy in a "secret marriage" with a third party.

***PREGNANCY AND DELIVERY:***

A girl will be born. There is a possibility of a difficult delivery and childhood diseases shortly thereafter.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Latent diseases may seriously damage your health. You must be extremely cautious – make sure to visit a doctor as soon as the first symptoms appear.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

If you are persistent, defeat is a certainty. Moreover, there is a possibility of arrest or imprisonment.

***TRAVEL:***

Not propitious. There is a good chance that you will be injured or suffer a misfortune. If you have a choice, do not go.

***EXAMINATION:***

Bad score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Stay where you are! Wait for a better opportunity.

***WEATHER:***

Continuous bad weather.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

This is the peak of the darkness, but hope develops inside of you, because it is darkest before the dawn. Powers of evil in us or in others that have attempted to rule the situation, are at the lowest level; they are withdrawing and disappearing by themselves. Through modesty and perseverance you have attained a clear percep-

tion of the situation, and this gives you strength to continue in the Path of Correctness.

***FIFTH (also dominant):***

You are in the midst of pitch darkness. Elements of the situation are in discord with your inner principles, but you are not able to prevail over them. Bow your head and hide your convictions, principles and knowledge and continue in your Path inconspicuously. In your interactions with the outside world you need unbreakable persistence and extra caution, but you will be rewarded in the end by good fortune.

***FOURTH:***

Since the lower trigram (Fire) represents light and the upper trigram (Earth) means darkness, the fourth line marks the beginning of stepping into darkness and obscurity. This being the very beginning of the darkness, you can see the situation very clearly. If you realize that your previous conduct was not correct, it is the right moment to distance yourself from it.

***THIRD:***

Sometimes it is not possible to avoid conflict. This is an example of such a situation. You must not make a compromise with evil inside of you or others. Circumstances allow you to put the situation under control by a flexible attitude. While at it, you must be exceptionally careful and patient. Evil cannot be rooted out completely overnight. The only way to achieve it is to continue in the Path of Correctness.

***SECOND (dominant):***

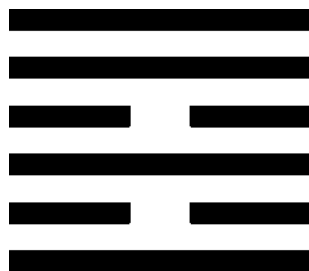
You have tried, at the expense of great endeavors, to eliminate problems, but you have failed. Now you are tempted to give up everything. However, your inner light is still smoldering, and is not allowing you to leave the Path of Correctness. If you believe in the hidden forces of Justice, will arrive unexpectedly, inspiring you to continue toward achievement of the common good.

***FIRST:***

This situation is difficult or is about to become so. Do not attempt to rise above it by taking the initiative, giving constructive suggestions etc, because it will cause opposition, envy or open animosity. Continue doing your work as calmly as you can, do not take on new assignments, and ignore rumors and gossip.



## *Hexagram 37*



### **FAMILY**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Wind                      below: Fire  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Fire                      below: Water

Here the trigrams represent through their position correct relationships in the family. Fire gives warmth and light, while Wind is soft and permeating. A happy family is based precisely on these characteristics, just as all well-harmonized social groups with many members are. If there is no emotional warmth, the family is denuded of its essential trait. On the other hand, too strong a fire creates friction and conflict. Nuclear trigrams of this hexagram speak of the balancing of energies, because Water, in contrast to Wind which stirs up Fire, has a calming effect and restrains it.

In times when you get this hexagram, traditional values and forms of conduct, such as fidelity, loyalty, emotional warmth in interactions and tolerance to the shortcomings of other group members, are emphasized more than usual.

There is no doubt that at this moment good fortune is following you like a shadow. How can you keep it by your side? The safest way is not to take impulsive or risky action. Hold on to what you already have! And when you do begin something new, let it be in cooperation with others. Joint enterprises are more likely to succeed than individual ones.

Given the fact that you are used to a stable situation and well established relationships, you will probably feel the desire to experience emotional excitement and achieve ambitious goals. Keep such desires in check; otherwise, trouble will necessarily follow.

Generally speaking, FAMILY symbolizes correct relationships between people: in marriage, in love relationships, in the spiritual family (between Master and disciple) and in larger groups. The most important thing is to willingly accept the role in a group which is naturally yours. Taking on inappropriate roles due to great ambitions, or, on the contrary, avoiding responsibilities due to inertia and laziness, will lead to disputes and misfortune.

***WISH:***

It can be realized, especially with help from others.

***LOVE:***

Success is probable. If you are a woman, your partner is meek, yielding, and you feel like something is missing in this relationship. Advice *The I Ching* offers you is: do not go after “forbidden fruit”; be happy with what you have.

***MARRIAGE:***

This is a very propitious hexagram for partners in existing marriages, as well as for the ones who are yet to marry.

***PREGNANCY AND DELIVERY:***

Safe delivery. A girl will be born.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Abdominal disorders and colds; men may suffer from temporary impotence. Illness will be neither serious nor lengthy.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Clever compromise will lead to a positive outcome.

***TRAVEL:***

Safe and pleasant.

***EXAMINATION:***

Good score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Generally speaking, you will be luckier at home than outside of it, so it is better to give up changes.

***WEATHER:***

Clear and windy.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

If you are, as leader, inspired by higher principles and guided by the Inner Truth, you will contribute to your spiritual growth. Your responsible conduct and unselfish devotion to others will cause the other members of the group to reflect honestly upon their own mistakes and correct them. Your insight and your adherence to the Path of Virtue will bring you everyone’s recognition and respect.

***FIFTH (also dominant):***

Extraordinary good relationships between the leader and followers exist within the group. The true leader creates an atmosphere of mutual love and handles group affairs in such a way as to benefit all. Thus, group relations are based on love and



trust, not on fear. Now you can accept openness from other members and be open yourself.

***FOURTH:***

Pay attention to the group's material needs. At the moment, group interests are more important than your personal ones. The welfare of the group should be your main motivation.

***THIRD:***

The situation demands that you proceed on the path of balance, avoiding neglect, as well as overly strict discipline. If your emotions get out of control you will regret it. Harsh words spoken in anger may cause irreparable damage.

***SECOND (dominant):***

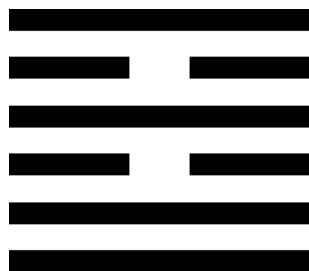
Act patiently and tactfully toward members of your group. In other words, be tolerant. Also, pay undivided attention to the work you are doing for the group.

***FIRST:***

In a relationship with an individual or a group, you must clearly determine roles and responsibilities from the beginning. You and your fellow men need discipline. Harmful conduct can be removed most easily in the beginning, while the evil is weak.



## *Hexagram 38*



### **OPPOSITION (MISUNDERSTANDING)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Fire                      below: Lake  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Water                      below: Fire

The title of this hexagram, OPOSITION or MISUNDERSTANDING, is derived from the opposite tendencies of its primary trigrams. The upper one, Fire, is rising upwards, while the lower one, Lake, is moving downwards. It is obvious that these two hexagrams are in opposition or contradiction. Regarding your question, this may mean opposition between you and your environment, between you and a specific person, or conflict of opposite tendencies within you.

In divination, it means that significant projects are doomed to fail, that difficulties will inevitably follow you during this period, and that most of your expectations will not be fulfilled.

For the time being, joint enterprises and fruitful cooperation are impossible. Your well-intentioned suggestions will be met with suspicion and rejected without logical reasons, while your plans will not be carried through. You will often be tempted to become involved in arguments with persons close to you. There is also a realistic possibility of hurting someone.

This hexagram is much more favorable regarding realization of minor, modest goals. Wise advice would therefore be to be moderate and modest, to avoid ambitious and attractive plans and to direct most of your energy toward consolidating your present position and strengthening existing friendships. If someone is opposing you, and this is important to you because you do not understand each other, there is a tendency towards alienation both in you and in that person. This is indeed unfortunate, especially if you were previously close. You cannot make things right by blaming that person, by direct criticism or by fawning over him/her. You must continue in your Path of Correctness with dignity, relying on the belief that the Inner Truth will slowly melt down and penetrate the armor of his/her ego.

***WISH:***

Realization is difficult due to the active resistance of others.

***LOVE:***

Personalities are incompatible, which will lead to a parting. This hexagram is particularly bad for men. In addition to your heart being broken, there will be other, much worse consequences.

***MARRIAGE:***

Different interests and views on life, together with active involvement by both families will prevent this marriage from taking place; in case partners are already married, it will lead to a breakup.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

There may be problems during pregnancy and delivery. Regarding the child's sex, it may be either of the two.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Serious afflictions of the internal organs. There is a chance that the doctor made a wrong diagnosis or prescribed a wrong treatment. If possible, change doctors.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

In general, your chances are bad. This is a time for a peaceful settlement, but in order to reach it, be flexible, yielding and avoid provocations.

***TRAVEL:***

Many obstacles may prevent you from realizing the purpose of the journey. Best to delay it.

***EXAMINATION:***

Bad score. Beware of misunderstanding the questions.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

This is not the right time. Your plans will not come to fruition.

***WEATHER:***

Cloudy and rainy.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

A sage from *The I Ching*, or a certain person with whom we are presently involved in a relationship, does not want to hurt us. At first, such a person may seem evil. In this way, due to a misunderstanding, we may experience a true friend as an enemy and take a defensive or aggressive attitude towards him. When, through an insight, we realize that our attitude was erroneous, there will be a complete turn in

the situation. The person we thought of attacking as an enemy will prove worthy. The opposition will disappear by itself.

***FIFTH (also dominant):***

You are misunderstanding the messages of the Sage and therefore are feeling that you are doomed by destiny. Through such misunderstanding you are becoming even more isolated. When you realize your mistake, you will find out that some are reaching out to you and offering their friendship, which you have rejected for a long time due to disbelief. Together you will accomplish significant things.

***FOURTH:***

Confronted with opposition from everywhere, you will probably feel lonely and isolated. But you will soon discover that there are others who share your opinions and attitudes. By cooperating you can overcome obstacles and accomplish significant things. This will finally convince you that holding to the Path of Correctness always leads to success, although there sometimes may be short or long delays.

***THIRD:***

Confrontation with the opposition in public, or defeat you suffered in front of others should not be taken personally. Do not let circumstances affect you too much, but continue on your Path of Correctness instead. The events will then have a favorable, even a happy ending.

***SECOND (dominant):***

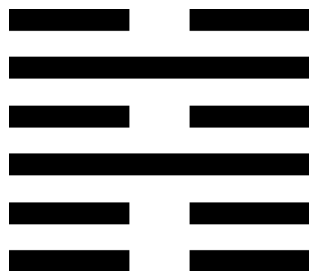
Open yourself to others completely and disbelief, misunderstanding, and your opposition with them will be dispersed. Such an attitude will lead to the creation of fruitful ideas inside of you, or to unexpected encounters with worthwhile persons.

***FIRST:***

There is no need for you to strain yourself; just relax and let the flow of events guide you. If you are alienated from a worthy person, let the course of events reestablish your relationship. In this period, inferior persons will probably attempt to contact you. Ignore them and they will give up.



## *Hexagram 39*



### **HINDRANCES (TROUBLES and DIFFICULTIES)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      above: Water                      below: Mountain  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    above: Fire                              below: Water

Just as the title of the hexagram suggests, you are in a period (or just ahead of it) of hindrances, obstacles that cannot be overcome easily, troubles and difficulties. Water, a symbol of danger, is in front of you, thwarting forward movement. A high and steep Mountain is behind you, blocking your way back. Thus the meaning of the hexagram is extremely unfavorable – you are in the midst of danger, without a possibility of pulling out either by taking action, or by withdrawal.

In divining, it means you may be cheated, robbed or betrayed by a subordinate or even by a close friend. You also stand a good chance of losing something exceptionally dear to you.

What should you do? Since decisive action, no matter how cleverly devised, only makes things worse, and the same applies to withdrawal, the only thing left for you to do is to clench your teeth and wait motionless for the time of HINDRANCES, TROUBLES and DIFFICULTIES to pass. You need extraordinary discipline to restrain yourself and endure without experiencing harmful reactions that would only worsen the situation. You should be aware that you are confronted with a series of troubles for which there is no cure. The more you struggle, the deeper you will get stuck. Therefore, do nothing! Just endure until the troubles pass.

Now is the right moment to seek advice and help from the worthy and the honest, because the original source states: “Meeting a great man will prove useful”. But these words may also have a different meaning: when others treat us unjustly, we automatically view them as evil and are convinced that they cannot change. Such ideas originate from our Ego and prevent us from seeing things in their true light. We must always keep in mind that the potential to become a “great man” exists in each person, because it is the essential truth, which applies even to persons whose current conduct is evil.

***WISH:***

It will not be realized.

***LOVE:***

All kinds of troubles and complications await you in this love relationship.

***MARRIAGE:***

It is a very poor match. There will be many mutual disappointments and, most likely, infidelities. Best to break up.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Possibility of complications and a difficult delivery. The child may be sickly at first. A son will be born.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Serious and difficult to cure. Diseases of the lungs, kidneys and liver.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

No chance of success. Stop it if you can. Do not go to court.

***TRAVEL:***

Trouble and inconveniency during the course of the journey.

***EXAMINATION:***

Difficult questions and a bad score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Most certainly not! Wait for a better opportunity.

***WEATHER:***

Bad weather will continue.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

Action toward your goal will cause serious problems. Be motionless and the circumstances will suddenly change for the better. This line emphasizes the meaning of the whole hexagram: in times of trouble and hardship turning to your True Self brings about 'the wise counselor' and makes the troubles in the outside world disappear.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

You are in the midst of difficulties, troubles and hardships. You must confront this situation without attempting to avoid it or to withdraw. When you manifest such perseverance and firmness on the Path of Correctness, the invisible forces arrive to help you: you will spontaneously say the right word at the right moment and do the right things on impulse, without thinking. Obstacles and troubles will disappear.



***FOURTH:***

You cannot remove obstacles through individual action. You need the aid of others, because those problems can be solved only by joint efforts. However, you should let things “come to you”, not chase after them to handle them.

***THIRD:***

Consider your plan thoroughly. Your troubles are caused by your attitudes. You should not tell others what to do or what is good for them, because this will lead you into a truly dangerous situation. They must be free to return to the Path of Correctness on their own will and based on their own insights.

***SECOND:***

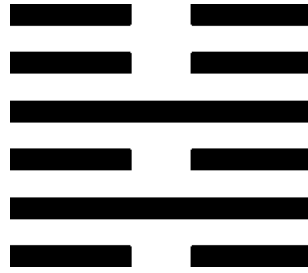
This line tells us that the trouble you encountered is not caused by your mistake, but is a part of your Path of Self-development. Such hindrances are opportunities for your maturation. You must surmount them without complaints or self-pity.

***FIRST:***

Obstacles and troubles stand in the way of a person who approaches others. Do not do it! Wait for them to come to you. Withdraw from the situation and be patient until the troubles pass.



## *Hexagram 40*



### **DELIVERANCE (SOLUTION TO A PROBLEM)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Thunder              below: Water  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Water                below: Fire

The name of this hexagram in Chinese is HSIEH, which means release, loosening, solving, the alleviation of troubles and dispersion of difficulties. Water in the form of ice represents a serious obstacle to movement, but Thunder has the power to suddenly break it and release the energy accumulated underneath. Water also appears in the form of rain, and when the first rains, followed by thunder, arrive, it means that the long winter is ending, that it is becoming warmer and that the nature is starting to enliven the earth. In divination, the hexagram marks the end of the period of obstruction and blockade, which the previous hexagram (no. 39) describes. A theater of life is ready for new movements and a new release of energy.

In the previous hexagram (HINDRANCES), the advice was to remain calm and use the time to gather strength, instead of wasting it on fruitless attempts. This one (DELIVERANCE) gives you the opposite advice. Since the situation has fundamentally changed, because the powers of obstruction have started waning, a new cycle of life is beginning. In order to stay in accord with life's tendencies, we must become active. Now is the right moment to solve all our problems in an active and positive manner.

One of the meanings of this hexagram is "loosening" in the sense of "untying our psychological knots" in life. "Knots", which trouble some people their whole lives, can be "untied" by forgiveness. A man capable of forgiving others can find inner peace. An attitude of forgiveness makes our aggression and desire for revenge disappear. At that moment we are freed from the influence of negative energies. Instead of being in a passive position, at the mercy of external reality, by forgiving others a person actually frees himself and creates his own new reality.

It is time for you to take direct action, to clear the air of long-lasting problems, from misunderstandings and accumulated discord. You must do this deci-

sively and without hesitation. Grab this chance and move resolutely forward. If you are slow and indecisive, as you have been many times in life, you will miss this opportunity.

Forgive and forget the past, but if you are dealing with an old bad habit, or a bad person, be open and direct. Call things by their names, solve the problem resolutely yet without insulting others, so that there is no room for doubt. Such is the way of liberation and release.

***WISH:***

Success is possible if you do not hesitate.

***LOVE:***

Do not waiver, ponder or withdraw. Take the initiative and success will be yours.

***MARRIAGE:***

Good match. Harmonious and long-lasting marriage is possible.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Safe delivery. Boy.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

With proper care the patient will undoubtedly recover.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Be frank, state clearly what you want and do not hesitate. After a short delay it will be resolved in your favor.

***TRAVEL:***

Good fortune and fun en route. You are likely to meet a person who will help you with your work considerably.

***EXAMINATION:***

Score above average.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Take immediate action.

***WEATHER:***

Rainy weather will continue for some time.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

You are facing either a serious problem, or an aggressive person that is causing you a lot of trouble. You must prepare carefully in order to clean up the situation. Beware, you face a tough enemy with whom you have had problems before. There-

fore, you must be cautious for a long period of time. You will finally meet with success, the air will be cleared, and the outcome will inevitably be success and good fortune.

***FIFTH (also dominant):***

You will find spiritual balance and tranquility and earn the respect of your environment if you remove harmful, deep-rooted habits. This can only be done through extreme resolution to resist them. They will persist in attempting to return to your mind disguised, armed with convincing arguments. Do not yield to them, for inner freedom brings about freedom of Being in the outside world. The reward is true happiness.

***FOURTH:***

When you give up pretentious conduct and return to the Path of Truth, parasitic persons that cling to you must fall off. It is then that you will find true friends with whom true understanding is possible.

***THIRD:***

This line represents an incompetent person in a high position. By force of circumstances, you have found yourself in a position of power, yet you do not know how to control it. You are playing someone else's role, pretending you are someone else. If you continue in this manner, you will be humiliated. Do not pretend, but relax and be yourself. When a person finds himself, he can laugh even in hell.

***SECOND (dominant):***

Now is the moment to actively and decisively move toward the realization of your goal. If you remain passive at this stage, the favorable opportunity will be lost. Inferior ideas or people are swarming around you, flattering your Ego. You should act as an arrow – straight and without hesitation, in order to free yourself and others from false ideas and inferior conduct.

***FIRST:***

Adopt an honest attitude and inner conflict will be resolved, while the problem that existed in the external world will disappear. But remain calm and immovable on the inside, because your energy is not ready for activity yet. If you go forward now, it would be premature and the conflict would regenerate itself.



## *Hexagram 41*



### **DECREASE**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Mountain              below: Lake  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Earth                below: Thunder

Cyclical changes, as we have stated several times already, are a law of nature. After the tide comes the ebb, after ascent, descent and fall. Now you are at the beginning of a phase of decrease, reduction, weakening and loss. It is a normal process and it depends on your conduct whether it will make you miserable, or whether you will adjust to it as an aspect of life and in the end, in spite of the sacrifice you must make, benefit from it.

The right way to benefit from this situation is to reduce your emotional burden – lead your life in a simplified and modest way. In this way you will avoid serious mistakes and hasty actions. Simplicity of living is good both for you and for your spiritual growth.

Control your impulses and emotional reactions. Be more moderate than usual in expressing your emotions. By sacrificing the intensity of your emotional reactions, you will switch the emphasis to the spiritual aspect of your being. This is the time to look honestly and with a sharp eye inside yourself, in order to realize what it is that you must dispose of.

A man who truly understands the principles of cyclical growth and decrease of all things can avoid difficulties in life and interpersonal relationships. Maintaining balance, in its essence, is a process of adjusting our attitudes and actions to life's currents. In this period, it is normal for your social contacts and communications to weaken. Instead of forcing them, which opposes the natural course of events, focus your strength and energy on the realization of personal aims and activities that demand isolation. In this way, the period of DECREASE will be the first phase of the next cycle of growth, increase and gain, which will inevitably follow.

***WISH:***

For the present, it cannot be realized. Make an effort and be persistent. Such behavior may later lead to success.

***LOVE:***

Approach the person you love sincerely and with a pure heart, and do not worry about the outcome.

***MARRIAGE:***

Partners are well matched, so there is a good chance of a happy marriage. The woman will likely be dominant, but that is a good thing in this relationship.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Will pass without a problem. It will probably be a girl.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Generally weak condition, anemia and exhaustion. The condition is serious, but recovery is possible with good care.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Adverse. Seek a compromise through a reliable friend.

***TRAVEL:***

During the course of the journey, be cautious in every aspect.

***EXAMINATION:***

Bad score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

At first, problems and difficulties; thus, it will seem that your plans will fail. After a while, events will turn to your favor.

***WEATHER:***

Rainy and cloudy.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

The Blessing of the Providence has such strength, that you can set goals for yourself that include universal values from which many can benefit. Your endeavors to accomplish them will put you in the center of social interest and in a distinguished position. This involves a higher level of responsibility as well – you must not look down on others, point out their shortcomings, nor dominate them in a cruel way.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

Your perseverance in the Path of the Truth and Correctness brings you just reward. You are chosen by Fate. It has, through a subtle game of the invisible forces,



brought you to this situation where the forces of heaven and of human beings are in total accord. Fear nothing; you have the blessing of the Providence!

***FOURTH:***

This is the moment to focus on your harmful habits and shortcomings, and to attempt to root them out. Such behavior will make others feel better when in your company; thus, the desire to help you will develop inside of them. A humble attitude and openness will draw help from the invisible sources, as well.

***THIRD:***

Now you can have a harmonious relationship with a certain individual. The two of you will make a good team, capable of great accomplishments. But if you let a third person join you, friction, distrust and conflict will appear, so one of you will be forced to leave the group. Therefore, prevent this situation by diplomatic means. Now is not a good time for you to be alone either.

***SECOND:***

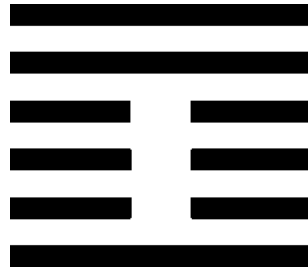
Desire to aid others too much and excessive kindness will throw you off balance. Could it be that you wish to aid the ones who do not deserve it? An old saying teaches us: “Too good – no good”. Only actions that maintain the integrity of the Self are worthy.

***FIRST:***

It is time to forget personal goals and gain and offer unselfish aid to others instead. However, exercise moderation in this. To give too much to a passive person, means keeping him/her in the state of passivity. On the other hand, to give too little to a person that deserves more, means causing him/her damage.



## Hexagram 42



### INCREASE (BENEFIT)

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Wind                      below: Thunder  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Mountain              below: Earth

When fruit is ripe, it is the right moment for harvest; this time must not be missed. If we have a favorable opportunity in front of us, brave and direct action must take place, even if it involves some risk. This is precisely such a situation, when we need to “go across the great water”. This expression is often used in the original text of *The Book of Changes* to signify becoming involved in a new, significant undertaking. In times of old, when travelers or hunters would encounter a big river, a significant question would be asked – should they go across or return to where they came from? This hexagram suggests that you are facing such a choice now, and that you should courageously cross the big water, because success, or benefit, awaits you. Circumstances are favorable, because the combination of factors pertinent to the accomplishment of your goals, suggests a favorable outcome.

Most important is the following: the accomplishment of your aims is not of a personal nature, but should benefit the group you belong to, or even your whole environment. Tremendous energy is present, but this kind of energy can only be used for the unselfish accomplishment of universally valuable goals. One of the names of this hexagram – BENEFIT – points to the benefit for people around you, which will be achieved based on your unselfish deeds.

There is not even the slightest doubt that you have “invisible” aid in this situation. It will lead you to the state of inner and outer independence. You have followed the Path of Correctness and entered a period of self-confidence and tranquility. In comparison with other times, advance is easily achieved now. But this period will not last forever, so you must use it the best you can. In the most concrete terms, it means contributing to the INCREASE of positive values in your society. So go ahead without hesitating!

#### **WISH:**

It can be realized.

**LOVE:**

You can build a deep and permanent relationship with this person.

**MARRIAGE:**

If you are a woman, a marriage proposal may surprise you. Be it as it may, partners are compatible. You should not drag out the decision to marry.

**PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:**

Safe pregnancy and peaceful delivery. It will probably be a girl.

**HEALTH AND SICKNESS:**

Health condition is rather serious. Diseases afflicting the throat or stomach, and venereal diseases. If carefully treated, the patient will recover. Otherwise, the condition may become chronic.

**NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:**

Give up ambitious demands and aggressive conduct and you will be successful.

**TRAVEL:**

This is a favorable time to travel. It will be especially auspicious if the purpose is business.

**EXAMINATION:**

Extraordinary good score.

**NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:**

Your plans will be realized.

**WEATHER:**

At first cloudy, later clearing.

**CHANGING LINES**

**SIXTH:**

This line points to your excessive ambition and warns that the abuse of power leads to severance of contact with the higher forces, this being something you will regret. When we aid others, we should do it with a pure heart, unselfishly. If we are insincere and selfish, we will get stuck in the marshes of Ego and become open to attack.

**FIFTH (also dominant):**

You are in a position from which you can achieve a lot for others. You are also capable of acting nobly and cordially quite spontaneously. You feel the inner need to act in such manner – you do not act like this so that others will be grateful, or to delight in your own kindness.

***FOURTH:***

You are in a position of influence. Through an honest attitude and rational conduct you will be able to influence a great number of people in order to achieve goals of common interest.

***THIRD:***

Difficulties and troubles are ahead of you. If you stick fast to your principles and to the Path of Correctness, you will have no regrets. After a while, what seemed like a pack of troubles will turn to your benefit.

***SECOND (dominant):***

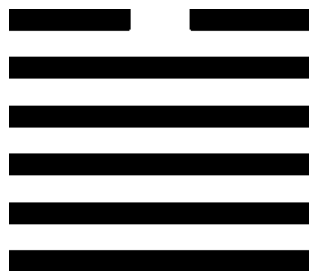
You are fortunate to be the focus of exceptionally beneficial cosmic energy. It seems like “luck” to you, because everything is going as planned. Continue to be open and susceptible, but control your excessive self-confidence and impulsive reactions.

***FIRST:***

The original text states: “This is a good time to accomplish a great task. Good fortune.” Usually the first line does not possess enough energy for accomplishment of major undertakings, but this one is an exception – great energy is at your disposal, with which you can achieve a goal you had previously not even considered. If the goal is morally justified, success is a certainty.



## Hexagram 43



### RESOLUTION

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Lake                      below: Heaven  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Heaven                    below: Heaven

The appearance of the hexagram DECISION shows that Yang energy is forcefully ascending upwards, thus pushing one remaining Yin line out of our sight. Such a course of events appears to be positive, but excessive harshness transforms into roughness, too much sunshine will burn the fields instead of enabling fruits to ripen, while excessive courage turns into negligence and madness, which inevitably lead to misfortune.

Five Yang lines have a weak contact with the top Yin line. It indicates your isolation from society. You will have to realize your aims on your own.

Everything will seem to go according to your plans, at least at the beginning, but a problem will soon appear, either in the external world, or within your personality. Whichever the case, the negative elements must be rooted out. You cannot ignore them or withdraw now, but must surmount and eliminate them through an unshakable RESOLUTION. Any kind of compromise with the elements of evil is now absolutely out of the question.

*The I Ching* usually demands privacy and silence regarding resolutions and the process of putting them into effect from the person who asked a question. However, this is not such a case. You must announce your decision to surmount the difficulties. It means that you must inform your acquaintances, friends and relatives of your plan. In regard to your resolution, you must carry it out consistently but calmly, without violence or impetuosity.

In everyday life, due to a lack of vigilance, you may become involved in a conflict or a dispute, which will soon spread like wildfire. The next unpleasant possibility is losing or misplacing important documents. But even that is not all. Your subordinates will have a tendency to create numerous problems for you, beginning with a kind of conspiracy against you. In your personal interactions, you will likely become emotionally involved with a person who does not love you; in

case you are married, you and your partner will feel tired of each other and consider divorce. It seems like your troubles will never end.

The only way to surmount these difficulties is to eliminate harmful elements through a firm resoluteness. Do it!

***WISH:***

Many difficulties in the outside world or your uncontrolled emotions will prevent the realization.

***LOVE:***

This is a one-sided relationship; the other side does not feel the same. It will end in failure.

***MARRIAGE:***

Partners are entirely incompatible. In such a marriage there can be no joy or happiness. Even if you marry in spite of this, an unpleasant parting will take place.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

A boy will be born. Minor difficulties may arise during delivery.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

The disease may be serious. Your condition demands a thorough medical examination.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Failure is highly probable. Best to drop it.

***TRAVEL:***

Unpleasant events, even a misfortune may happen en route.

***EXAMINATION:***

Poor score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

The chances are against it.

***WEATHER:***

Cloudy, possible rain.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

You are on dangerous ground where, because of a partial success you achieved, your resoluteness may turn into premature forgiveness. Such error would most certainly lead you to misfortune. Beware, although things are looking much better now, it does not mean that they are entirely cleared up. If you reestablish friend-



ship with the person or persons who wronged you while there are still problems between you, you will push yourself off the Path of Correctness. Justice and correct relationships must be based not on words, but rather on essential changes in conduct.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

This line describes the position of a leader. Your position is such, that you must make an important decision. You must root out the “weeds” completely. In order to do this you need great resolve and perseverance in holding to the middle Path of Correctness. You must not be guided by destructive tendencies and a desire for revenge, but by Justice.

***FOURTH:***

There is a series of difficulties ahead of you, so that excessive resoluteness, which transforms into obstinacy, develops inside of you. It will close you up emotionally and make it impossible for you to learn from life experiences or listen to your heart’s voice. A wise man would bow his head and let others lead him. The difficulties would then disappear of their own accord. Are you wise enough?

***THIRD:***

Even though your environment supports you in a conflict with your opponent, you can rely only on yourself. The situation is obscure; it is apparently forcing you to act, that is, to do one of the following: to go directly against this person, pointing out all of his/her evil deeds, or, after a first sign of improvement in your relationship, to become closely involved with him/her all over again, although things between you are not entirely cleared up yet. However, you must remain in a state of Taoist non-acting, e.g. you must remain at a distance.

***SECOND:***

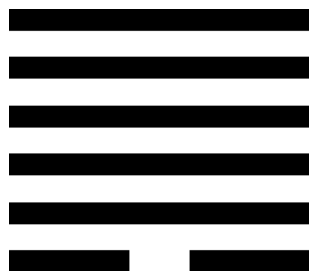
At this stage, just like at the previous one, to react adequately means to observe and estimate the situation, not to act directly. Your ideas are pushing you to do something but you must restrain yourself, as it is now necessary to remain distant, in the Taoist state of non-acting. Then there is no danger.

***FIRST:***

You are still far from success, whether you want to remove an obstacle, or a defect of your personality. At this initial stage, do not “attack” the difficulty directly, as you are still weak. First, you must acquire someone’s support and cooperation. If you make a mistake now, it will cost you dearly later on. Danger lies in your excessive self-confidence.



## *Hexagram 44*



### **ENCOUNTER (DISTURBANCE)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Heaven                      below: Wind  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Heaven                      below: Heaven

This hexagram – ENCOUNTER – is derived from Hexagram 1 (CREATIVE FORCE), which is composed of pure Yang energy, that is, of six Yang lines. When Yang energy reaches its peak, it begins transforming into its opposite; hence the first Yin line appears, which means the decrease has begun. At the moment the sun reaches its zenith, it begins to move towards sunset.

Everything seems to be going smoothly. However, a still invisible danger, darkness, a negative manifestation of energy, is approaching. The first Yin line, which appears at the beginning of the hexagram, signifies any kind of negative – shortcomings of our personality (or those of others), or bad objective circumstances. The hexagram suggests that this negative energy will push out the positive and prevail.

In divining, it means that the waning of luck has begun, and that you should beware of “unpleasant encounters”, accidents and misfortunes. Someone may slander you, or hurt you in a dispute which may be caused by trivialities. Beware of traffic accidents as well. Generally speaking, trouble will appear where you least expect it. Therefore, be cautious and prepared.

On the spiritual plane, this hexagram describes a situation where a man begins to lose control over his life, because he gives in to irrational and unpredictable emotions. An advance of the negative forces leads you into temptation to leave the Path of Correctness. Such temptation appears either as a reaction to the inferior nature of others’ personalities, or from the pressure of our own inferior elements.

Although the original text named this hexagram ENCOUNTER, the true encounter cannot happen. Uncompromisingly refuse contact with persons of low morality and at the same time chase away negative and harmful thoughts from your own mind. Do not hesitate to face bad persons or state your opinions in public. These opinions of yours will now have a visible influence on your environment; it

is the only way for the inevitable transformation of positive energies into negative ones to affect you as little as possible.

***WISH:***

Sudden obstacles will prevent it from coming true.

***LOVE:***

The other party is insincere; no chance of a harmonious relationship.

***MARRIAGE:***

Partners are incompatible. Best to give up this marriage.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

A girl will be born. Mother will need devoted care after delivery.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Your health will gradually worsen. Possible diseases include tuberculosis, hemorrhoids and acute constipation.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Lengthy and unfavorable. Strive to reach a settlement if possible.

***TRAVEL:***

Avoid contacts with the opposite sex and sexual intercourse en route, as these would cause you serious trouble.

***EXAMINATION:***

Bad score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Unfavorable time. You will not be successful.

***WEATHER:***

Nice at first, will worsen later on.

### **CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

This line describes a man who isolates himself from the group or leader, due to his pride. He refuses cooperation and continues in his way alone. Others will consider you vain. It is, therefore, better to withdraw calmly and inconspicuously, and sever contacts with others for a while. Such behavior leads to isolation and limits your experiences, but it is correct.

***FIFTH (also dominant):***

You can be the master of the situation without imposing your will on others and without emphasizing your values, but by influencing yourself. It brings about the

correct, indirect influence on objective circumstances. Such conduct is in accord with the cosmic movements, so you will be able to achieve your goal in a morally acceptable way.

***FOURTH:***

If you look down on persons who have a modest status in society, you will alienate yourself from them, so that later, when you need their support, you will not get it. At the same time, you will become alienated from your True Self, because Ego will be pulling the strings, and its essential trait is separating itself from the world and from other human beings.

***THIRD:***

You are tempted to get engaged in disputes in order to emphasize your attitudes, so that others will understand you or in order to become conspicuous. This will lead to a conflict with others or to an inner conflict. Distance yourself from worthless ideas and persons and you will remain on the Path of Correctness, despite desires and ambitions originating from your Ego.

***SECOND (dominant):***

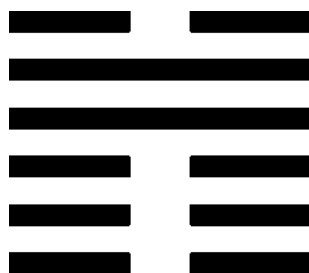
Keep the situation under control! Do not let inferior elements of your personality, or any morally inferior person, come to the fore. Quell evil at the beginning, while it is weak, but in an inconspicuous manner, without bragging. Do not open your heart to everyone either, but only to persons whose morality you can rely on.

***FIRST:***

You must restrain yourself now! An apparently favorable opportunity is ahead of you. However, it will not enable you to develop healthily, but will bring you danger instead. Put the inferior elements under control, especially the ones in your own personality; do this right away, while they are weak. If this first line is the only changing line in your hexagram, the hexagram will transform into “CREATIVE ENERGY” and all will be well.



## *Hexagram 45*



### COMING TOGETHER

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Lake                      below: Earth  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Wind                      below: Mountain

When water (Lake) is on Earth, a fortunate union is accomplished, because this is a natural course that leads to blossoming of all forms of life. The basic idea of hexagram 45 is gathering, coming together around one center or leader, assembling and accumulating the necessary methods or critical personality traits needed for creative work. In this period creativity is at its peak; you can have satisfying interactions with your environment, and bonds between the leader (or the most important person in the group) and the followers are exceptionally emphasized.

Others will render cooperation and give you their full support. If you are employed, you may expect a promotion or a raise. If you are about to marry, you will have more than one opportunity for a good marriage.

The nobility and virtues of the persons with whom you have contact during this period are of great significance, because success and failure in life depend, in large part, on the people we associate with. You should enter serious and permanent relationships with your eyes wide open, keeping in mind that the deepest relationships begin spontaneously, and cannot be forced.

In a psychological sense, the hexagram speaks of gathering, or, to put it more precisely, mobilizing the character traits necessary in times you find yourself in a role of a leader or the center of an activity. In order to play your role properly, you must see clearly whether the aim, the realization of which is the purpose of this group, is worthwhile, and what exactly should be done to accomplish it. If there are divergent aims in the group, factions, which will push in different directions, will be formed, energy will be wasted, and inner conflicts will arise.

Your task is to direct the relationships among group members (be it a family or a larger social group) in such a manner, that all endeavors lead to the accomplishment of a common goal. Do not think too much about your personal benefit, but rather concentrate on the benefit of all the group members. Your personal benefit will come of its own accord, as a consequence of such an attitude.

***WISH:***

It will very likely be realized.

***LOVE:***

Success, because a harmonious relationship will be established with ease.

***MARRIAGE:***

You will have a happy and harmonious marriage with this person.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

A girl will be born. Delivery will go smoothly.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Diseases afflicting the abdomen and the chest. Recovery will be quick.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Compromise is the best solution.

***TRAVEL:***

Pleasant and beneficial.

***EXAMINATION:***

Good score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Propitious. Proceed without hesitation.

***WEATHER:***

Heavy rains.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

When others misinterpret our conduct, they leave and reject us, while we feel regret and frustration. Focus on your innermost Self and you will realize that your Ego, through pride, has separated you from others. When you harmonize with your Self, inner harmony will be reflected in the outside world, and oneness with others will be possible again.

***FIFTH (also dominant):***

This line states that you have great influence now on members of your group. Through it you are creating harmonious relationships in the group, so that many are grateful. If some persons disbelieve you at first, continue in the Path of Correctness and virtue, without attempting to persuade them. Their disbelief will melt away when confronted with the stability of your character.



***FOURTH (dominant):***

You are one of many persons gathering together to accomplish of a significant goal. Sacrifice your personal interests to the ones of the group, and it will pay off amply. You may act on your own for some time, but your activity will contribute to the general unity and eventually lead to success.

***THIRD:***

You are lonely and sad, and even feel rejected. You should realize that the group does not accept you because you are too aggressive and demand too much for yourself. If you attempt to enter the group in an aggressive manner, you will be humiliated. Attempt to achieve your aim through harmonizing with a person who has influence within the group.

***SECOND:***

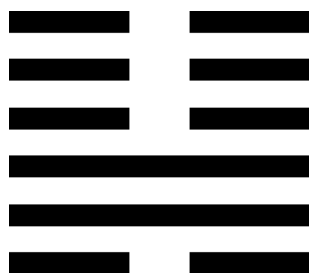
Persons who have similar goals feel mutual attraction without a conscious effort; that is, spontaneously. You may feel attracted to others in the form of a sudden impulse. Such an impulse represents a manifestation of invisible creative forces of the subconscious. You should obey it; a fortunate and fruitful unity will be created as the outcome.

***FIRST:***

You have an ambivalent attitude towards the group: you would like to join it, but at the same time, you are hesitant and remain apart. Determine precisely who the leading force in the group is, and subsequently express your desires clearly. You will receive aid from persons who resemble you. Good fortune.



## Hexagram 46



### ASCENDING

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Earth                      below: Wind  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Thunder                      below: Lake

*The I Ching* seldom advises hasty action and aggression, and warns the person who asked the question that sudden success is usually short-lived. This advice is particularly emphasized in this hexagram. Its Chinese name is Sheng, which means to rise, push forward, advance and ascend slowly. Upper trigram – Earth – is above Wind, which also symbolizes trees and forest. Therefore, through symbols, an image of a seedling of a tree, its energy moving up through Earth, the embodiment of yielding and receptiveness, begins to take shape in our spiritual eye.

This is a natural course of development, where we see soft energy, abundantly endowed with life, in action. When Earth (yielding) unites with Wind, which is soft and all-permeating, the result of such natural interaction is prosperity and great accomplishments.

Trees grow and develop slowly and gradually. You should achieve your aims in the same manner: by adding gradually one element on top of another, just like a house is built brick by brick. By gradually gathering means and developing abilities, you will achieve your goal in a natural and stable manner.

This is not the time to blaze a trail quickly and resolutely. Safe development consists of a series of small, successful steps, like going up stairs. Therefore, persons who yearn for quick success will have problems. Quickly accumulated wealth leads to unbalanced conduct and bragging; quick ascent to a quick fall.

Let us summarize: this is a favorable period for a safe and natural ascent, with well-planned and logical stages of development. By pushing upward towards success in this way, your abilities will be adequately recognized. You may rise in rank, receive a raise, or, generally speaking, become recognized in some way.

#### **WISH:**

Do not be hasty and success will be yours, especially if you ask an influential friend for assistance.

***LOVE:***

Do not rush into this relationship. This is not a case of love at first sight. Let the relationship develop naturally and love will be born at the right moment.

***MARRIAGE:***

Excellent match. Stable and happy marriage.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

You have nothing to worry about, for all will go well. A girl will be born.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Skin diseases, allergies and afflictions of the lower abdominal region. Recovery is certain, but it will be slow and gradual.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Attain your rights and interests in a logical way. Try to find a mediator. The matter will be settled favorably for you.

***TRAVEL:***

Safe, pleasant and successful.

***EXAMINATION:***

Excellent score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Now is the time to do it.

***WEATHER:***

Very nice.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

This is not the time for advancement anymore, but for self-analysis, reevaluation and serving others. If you attempt to advance further, you will enter the darkness. This will cause you to act impulsively and at random; such conduct leads to danger. Instead, you must behave in an exceptionally controlled and calm manner. It is in discord with the cosmic order to act when you should remain motionless.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

Go up the stairs of success gradually, without skipping any! Overly ambitious conduct will cause neglect; it invites trouble and stops the ascent, which is in accord with the cosmos. Keep inferior elements of your personality in check and continue ascending, no matter if it concerns advancement in society, or your spiritual growth. Then you will have the blessing of heaven.

***FOURTH:***

Your endeavors to develop and perfect yourself are honest and painstaking. Hence you are in good graces with the higher forces and your advancement is happening even faster; now it is going in the right direction and has a deep meaning.

***THIRD:***

The road ahead of you is clear, so you can advance with extraordinary ease. This will cause you to develop inordinate ambitions to use this opportunity. Therefore, make sure the easy success does not lead you into negligence and excessive self-confidence.

***SECOND:***

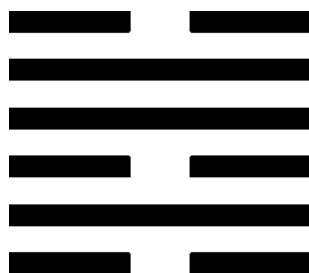
Even though you are not able to offer much regarding knowledge and resources, your ascent is quite certain, because you are honest and open. The second line, which signifies inferior position, is ascending towards the fifth, the superior one. You will push your way from a lower position in the hierarchy to a higher one, and take over the leadership.

***FIRST:***

In this situation your status is unenviable, but your way to the top is open. Your success is secured through industrious work and diligence. Influential persons, whose status is higher than yours, notice you and are willing to help you advance. No one will create trouble for you.



## Hexagram 47



### DISTRESS (EXHAUSTION)

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Lake                      below: Water  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Wind                      below: Fire

Out of the 64 hexagrams in *The Book of Changes* this one is the second worse. Its name is DISTRESS or EXHAUSTION. It stands for suffering, misfortune, exhaustion, lagging behind and limitation. In the broadest sense it means to fall in a trap, to be in DISTRESS and see no way out of it. There is no human being, no matter how lucky in life, who will never get into trouble, be discouraged, feel oppressed and miserable. This is one of such situations, a fateful moment you must go through. You are in a trap and the only thing you can do is act according to the advice in the original text that states: “You are caught in a net. This is a time to turn to yourself. A great man cultivates his personality in such a manner as to change his future through it. Although his environment does not believe his words, he is blameless.”

In the hexagram Lake is above, but there is no firm bottom below it, which means that the water has leaked out through cracks, leaving Lake exhausted and lifeless. You are in the midst of difficulties, troubles and dangers. Advancement is not possible. Every attempt to take a step forward will only worsen the already difficult situation. You are exhausted both physically and emotionally. You may even be considering leaving home and going away to places unknown.

In such situations, *The I Ching* teaches us to remain calm and to turn to ourselves, as our spirit is stirred up and troubled, our activities do not start from the center of our Being, and our words are not believed. The most important thing is to stay on the Path of Correctness, to focus our energy instead of wasting it, and to face troubles calmly.

“When our eyes become used to darkness, we will be able to see clearly again”, says a Chinese sage. A truly worthy person meets each situation in a correct manner. In favorable circumstances he directs his strength so as to aid others unselfishly; in distress he takes care of himself.

What is most important is not to let fear nest in your mind. For, if you are seized by fear, all inferior elements of your personality will raise their heads and the misfortune will be even greater. Therefore, accept the situation in a philosophically tranquil manner, hold fast to the Path of Correctness, and turn to yourself and to your spiritual growth.

***WISH:***

It cannot be realized.

***LOVE:***

Misunderstandings and conflicts. Failure will follow.

***MARRIAGE:***

Trouble and mutual intolerance due to incompatibility. Best to give up this person.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Negligence and lack of care during the pregnancy may cause great trouble. A girl will be born.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Diseases afflicting the lungs, the abdomen and internal organs in general. It is serious, dangerous, and will last a long time.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Lengthy. You do not stand a chance. Best to drop it.

***TRAVEL:***

Do not go. Serious accidents, or other misfortunes en route.

***EXAMINATION:***

Poor score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Now is not the time.

***WEATHER:***

Continuous bad weather, with plenty of rain and thunder-storms.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

You are indecisive and hesitant, because you doubt that the path you have chosen is the right one. You hesitate to continue, as many frustrations from the past inhibit you. But if you restore resoluteness through an effort of will, you will realize that the obstacles are illusory. It is precisely the resolve to continue on the Path of Virtue despite everything, which will eliminate the feeling of helplessness caused by your inferior elements.



***FIFTH (also dominant):***

You are trapped again! This time the trap consists of inferior elements of others' personalities. That is to say, you show kindness and tolerance, which some people abuse. You cannot react to evil with evil. You must continue in the Path of Correctness, enduring injustices, until your virtues conquer the darkness in others. In this way you will awaken their virtues, while you yourself will be blessed by the cosmic Invisible Forces.

***FOURTH:***

This time you are imprisoned in a golden cage that consists of fixed ideas, prejudices and a feeling of being above others, which is followed by empty pride. Due to these inferior elements, of which the bars of your cage are made, your growth is painfully blocked and followed by humiliation. However, if you return to the Path of Correctness and endure on it for a longer period in spite of your troubles, things will finally turn for the better.

***THIRD:***

The feeling of misery inside of you is caused by your egoism. You have lost the connection with Self, with your own center. This creates confusion inside of you and makes you incapable of perceiving precious signals and facts. What should you do? Calm down, cast away all preconceptions, find your center and set new goals for yourself.

***SECOND (dominant):***

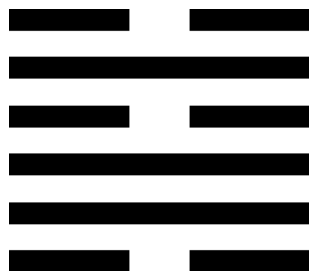
You are in a trap, this time due to someone's favors. His/her affection and favors only damage your character because they oblige you, and therefore must be cast away. Persons who yearn for high status in society usually make compromises with their moral principles, in order to repay favors they have received during their rise in society. This line warns you that accepting such favors brings misfortune. Avoid the trap.

***FIRST:***

Here the original text states: "When man enters a dark valley, he gets caught in thorns. For three years he will see no light". If you let yourself be seized by treacherous doubt in the value of the Path of Correctness, you will be entrapped. You should know that you created this trap yourself, although you strive to find someone else to blame. If you do not overcome this doubt, you will feel fettered like a slave deprived of free will. Cast away the doubts, be entirely open, and the way out will show itself at the right moment.



## Hexagram 48



### THE SPRING (THE WELL)

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Water                      below: Wind  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Fire                              below: Lake

One of the meanings of this hexagram is deep, inexhaustible and permanent source of inspiration and spiritual teachings. Its name also refers to *The I Ching* itself, the source of eternal wisdom.

In times of old, tribal communities would build their settlements around a well or spring. People were born and died, generation after generation, but the spring would always remain the same, unselfishly giving people clean water to quench their thirst. Therefore, the spring or fountain was chosen in many cultures as a symbol of life energy or wisdom, which everyone can use.

On the deepest level THE WELL symbolizes the Master, whom we approach for spiritual guidance, or the Truth itself, which is the deepest essence of our being.

In everyday life, man can “wander away” into various philosophical disciplines and teachings, engage in numerous activities, but from time to time has to return to the source of all things, to the source of his true nature.

The well must be treated as a shrine; water must remain clean after we have used it, so that others can also quench their thirst. Similarly, the follower of the Spiritual Path, by approaching the Master (or *The I Ching*) in a correct manner, enables himself to grow spiritually, and also leaves open access for the persons who will come after him. A person who has a negligent attitude towards THE SPRING or Master, pollutes it and inflicts evil on himself and others.

In a psychological sense, when we receive the hexagram THE WELL, that usually means that we are seized by inner doubt or fear. Disbelief in our Path develops inside of us. It is necessary to eliminate those doubts and fears and continue on the Path of the Truth, ignoring everything non-essential, trivial or inferior.

***WISH:***

Realization is difficult; if you desire quick fulfillment, it will not happen at all. Success is possible through persevering endeavors during a longer period of time.

***LOVE:***

Precipitation and insistence on making quick contact will result in failure. Let the relationship develop naturally, be sincere, and treat your partner with respect.

***MARRIAGE:***

There is a fair chance of a good marriage, but haste will ruin everything. Sincerity and constancy will lead to marriage.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

A boy will be born. There may be trouble during pregnancy and delivery.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Colds and afflictions of the lower half of the body. Recovery will be slow. Devoted care is necessary.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Adverse. Best to seek a compromise. If it looks great in the beginning, be cautious, because it may turn for the worse towards the end.

***TRAVEL:***

Postpone it.

***EXAMINATION:***

Average score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Best to maintain the status quo.

***WEATHER:***

Cloudy and rainy.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

Clean water in the well constantly renews itself and quenches the thirst of many beings. You can see things and circumstances very clearly, are able to tolerate the mistakes of others, give them worthwhile counsel and help them achieve their goals. Good fortune; this is an exceptionally favorable situation.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

This line signifies a spring of clear water at the bottom of the well, which can quench the thirst of many. Deep down in your being is a source of true inspiration, of deep insight and wisdom. This period enables you to be a true leader, who will benefit his environment. Your insights and energy must not remain isolated, be-

cause people must have “water to drink”. You must focus on everyday life in order to continue your growth and be of use to others.

***FOURTH:***

This is not the time to achieve goals in the outside world, so you must devote yourself to your own growth. Reexamine your aims and your way of life. Refuse to be a part of others’ plans! Once you put your own life in order, it will be easy to turn to the activities in the outside world.

***THIRD:***

Now the water in the well is clean, but nobody is drinking it. Even though you comprehended the situation well on the intellectual level, you are not doing what you know needs to be done, but are holding on to your old behavior, dictated by your Ego. You should believe in your Path, trust the unknown future, and accept calmly and openly whatever comes your way.

***SECOND:***

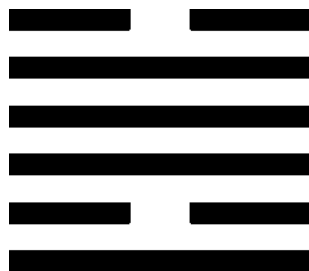
Your energy and abilities are wasted, just like water leaks from a punctured bucket. When it is most important, you lack the strength to accomplish your task and influence the world around you in a positive manner. Holes in the bucket may also represent your doubts about correctness of the Path, or your inability to engage in a fruitful relationship with your Master, because you are not able to use the knowledge he gives you. Realize that the punctured bucket is you.

***FIRST:***

The first line, being the “lowest” in the hexagram, stands for the bottom of the well. Water is dirty there. This image represents a man whose mind is not purified – who does not understand the situation. Your spirit is upset or foggy. Your perception of the situation is incorrect or distorted; you are influenced by appearances, and cannot see the essence. At the same time, you are fettered by numerous desires and occupied with trivia.



## *Hexagram 49*



### **FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE (REVOLUTION)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Lake                      below: Fire  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Heaven                  below: Wind

No matter how much man strives to maintain good fortune when he has it, change is necessary and happens inevitably. In fact, it is Ego, which is trying desperately to keep the circumstances that suit it and prevent the undesirable course of events that will denude it. In contrast, our True Self identifies with the course of events, no matter what they are, because its essential characteristic is oneness with all-existence. When our actions spring from our True Self, not from Ego, we know that nothing is eternal and that everything changes: seasons, sowing and harvest, cycles of good and bad luck. Changes are natural as well as necessary. Everything that does not change becomes rotten, and decays, like stagnant water in a swamp.

Change is in the very essence of life, but it is also in a dialectic unity with stability. In order for life's processes to develop naturally, periods of stability and periods of change must replace one another. However, although change is an essential part of life, it is not a goal in itself. Activities, ideas, and attitudes towards life should be changed when they fulfill their purpose, when they no longer serve progress and improvement, when they become stagnant and outdated. Change is then useful and necessary.

This is precisely such a period. Social interactions in your environment, as well as in your personal relationships, have reached a point where change is necessary. What is most important here is to determine the right moment for action and to carry out the changes in a well thought out manner. Remember, this is not a war, but a peaceful revolution. Therefore, avoid impulsive and excessive behavior at any price. If you follow this advice, the outcome will be progress and improvement. It is very important to behave in accordance with your morality and realize that the REVOLUTION is necessary, and that without it, in the present circumstances, you cannot advance.

***WISH:***

It will go slowly at the beginning, with many difficulties, but if you courageously choose a new approach and hold fast to it, it will eventually be realized.

***LOVE:***

This person does not suit you. Either change your attitude towards him/her completely, or find another partner.

***MARRIAGE:***

It mostly depends on whether this is your first marriage. A first marriage does not stand a good chance, as it will end in divorce. If this is your second marriage, it will be happy.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

There will be no complications during delivery, but mother will have minor troubles thereafter. In regard to the child's sex, the odds are even.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

A health condition, which you have neglected for a long time, may suddenly worsen, so that your life will be in danger. It is necessary to undergo a detailed examination, to go to the hospital, change the doctor or method of treatment. Your heart, blood vessels, eyes or abdomen are likely to be afflicted.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

A problem will suddenly appear. Changing your strategy will lead to a favorable outcome.

***TRAVEL:***

Propitious, especially with a partner. If you have traveled to the same place before, change your destination.

***EXAMINATION:***

Very good score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Favorable.

***WEATHER:***

Weather will change. If it is bad now, it will clear soon, and vice versa.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

This sixth line represents either an essential, inner change, or a superficial one, brought about by external pressure. Whatever the nature of the change, the objective is reached. Insistence on further changes would worsen the circumstances. Although you may not be entirely satisfied with what you have accomplished, you



should not strive to reach imaginary perfection, but be satisfied with the results, and should stabilize the change you have attained.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

You yourself, as well as the persons around you, are beginning to comprehend the nature of the change that is taking place. Its aim is just and entirely clear, thus the environment gives you its support willingly. The change will be positive, fast and dramatic!

***FOURTH:***

If we wish to change others for the better, we must give them good example by keeping to the Path of Correctness. If your motives are worthy and you have prepared yourself conscientiously and carefully, a FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE for the better is at hand.

***THIRD:***

Now you must find the golden midpoint between acting and waiting. If you hesitate for too long, because the task seems too difficult, you will put yourself in a stagnant and dangerous position. Desire for quick success will most certainly cause you to fail. Therefore, you must realize that change is necessary, do your best to accomplish it, and keep in mind that this is a long road.

***SECOND:***

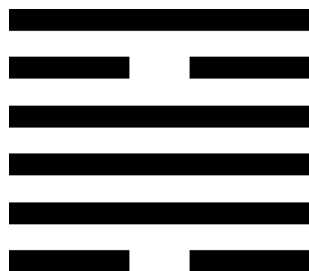
The time is right; fruit is ripe. This is the right moment to initiate action. Moreover, change is necessary now. You must be entirely committed to your task; however, change can be achieved only gradually.

***FIRST:***

The time is not ripe for action. Wait, accumulating your energy, and meditate upon your previous mistakes. That is the best way to prepare yourself.



## *Hexagram 50*



### **THE CAULDRON (COSMIC HARMONY)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Fire                      below: Wind  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Lake                      below: Heaven

This hexagram has several related meanings. In ancient China cauldron was a ritual vessel, in which sacrificial food for the Deity was cooked during a formal ceremony. It also refers to the tripod, which was a highly appreciated object in China, because it signifies stability, balance and harmony. Pieces of furniture with four legs may be shaky if one leg is shorter, but not the tripod, for it is stable by its nature. The tree legs of the tripod stand for the environment, your financial situation (wealth), and intelligence. All three of these elements are in sound and secure condition. It means that all important components of your life – material, emotional and spiritual – are harmonized with the cosmic tendencies. Hence, they are entirely secure and stable. In divination, this hexagram means harmony and undisturbed development in regard to your question.

However, in order to attain and continue that harmony to the utmost extent, a certain sacrifice is needed. In fact, this hexagram speaks a lot about that sacrifice – about what is required of you so that you could deserve this great fortune and harmony.

Before the sacrificial food for the Deity is ritually cooked, the vessel (the cauldron) and the rest of the equipment must be properly cleaned. Before you engage in the accomplishment of important goals, you should rid your spirit of inferior elements, establish permanent worthwhile habits, and choose moral means. If the means you have previously used were inefficient or ethically imperfect, you must perfect them; make them worthy of the Deity.

In the spiritual sense, sacrifices we make to the Deity, that is, the Truth, are our inferior elements – our Ego. Its crucial trait – isolation from the world – creates a wall between us and the Truth. By sacrificing our Ego, we inevitably come closer to the Truth and let ourselves be guided by forces of the Higher Consciousness

along the Path of Correctness and the cosmic harmony – not by our inferior, tiny Ego.

In divining, this hexagram stands for wealth, fortune and harmonious relationships with the environment and the cosmos. It is particularly favorable for projects carried out in cooperation with others, for new methods, procedures and strategies. It is an exceptionally auspicious hexagram, on the condition that you make the necessary sacrifice.

***WISH:***

You need the cooperation of others. When it becomes realized, it will differ from what you had in mind, but you will be satisfied anyway.

***LOVE:***

Partners yearn for each other. Definite success.

***MARRIAGE:***

This is an almost ideal situation for a happy marriage. Partners are harmonized in every aspect; the relationship is permanent, sound and happy. A third person may appear on the horizon – an ex-lover, a parent, a child from a previous marriage, lover, or someone else – yet this will not affect the spouses' happiness in the least.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Delivery will be safe, but mother should take care immediately afterward. If it is the first child, it will be a son. If the second, a daughter.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Colds and diabetes. Recovery will be fast, followed by a period of good health.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Favorable outcome.

***TRAVEL:***

Safe and pleasant, especially if you travel in threes. Do not brag en route, for something unpleasant may happen at home while you are away.

***EXAMINATION:***

Excellent score.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Very auspicious.

***WEATHER:***

Clear and fine, maybe with a pleasant breeze.

## CHANGING LINES

### ***SIXTH (also dominant):***

The road of explanation is long and winding; the one of example is short and clear. This is how you should give truly worthwhile counsel to your environment – through a personal example. Your spiritual growth is extremely accelerated, which affects people around you immensely. Despite criticism, insults and attacks, you keep to the Path of Correctness. It makes a very strong impression on the environment, attracting others to follow your example.

### ***FIFTH (dominant):***

Act modestly (even though you may have reason to be immodest) while striving to accomplish worthwhile aims, and all the pieces of this situation will fall into place, in such a manner that the road for your further growth will open up. You will attain some very deep insights and worthy cognitions.

### ***FOURTH:***

You cannot achieve your goals at the moment, because you lack the resources, energy and a clear perception of the situation. It may also be the case that you have made connections with the wrong persons. If you attempt to realize your plans by force, the outcome will be devastating.

### ***THIRD:***

The classical text states here: “Handles of the cauldron are cracked. Food cannot be served.” What it means is the following: although your intentions are pure, your progress is hindered from time to time, as the environment does not notice nor recognize your abilities and endeavors. But if you continue modestly and persistently, without complaining about your fate, obstacles and incomprehension of others will disappear, and things will change for the better.

### ***SECOND:***

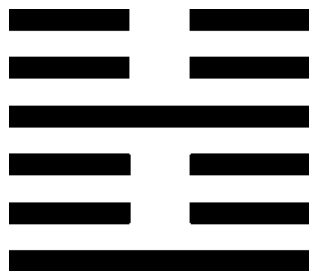
Your stability and strong commitment to moral conduct without any hesitation may invite the envy of your fellow men. Inferior elements of their personalities “raise their heads”, because they are bothered by the fact that you, walking on the Path of Correctness, are becoming more and more self-sufficient and distant from the environment that is not capable of doing the same. You must not react to provocations coming out of envy. If you behave in such a manner, success is secured.

### ***FIRST:***

To achieve your aim start from the very beginning; use new previously unused methods. Others may consider them strange, but you should not pay attention to that, for your ideas are worthy and appropriate. Most important is to purge your spirit of outdated ideas and prejudices at the beginning. Then success will be yours.



## *Hexagram 51*



### **SHOCK (SUDDEN AWAKENING)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Thunder              below: Thunder  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Water                below: Mountain

We often receive this hexagram when we are about to experience significant and far-reaching changes in life. They happen suddenly and awaken us from stagnation and apathy. They may be the loss of your job or an old friend, separation from persons dear to us due to circumstances we cannot control, divorce or parting, or a sudden realization that we are not young or healthy anymore. The essence of such experiences is that through these new circumstances new limitations and deprivations are imposed on us, which can sometimes seem like a punishment.

Yang energy (the bottom line in both trigrams) was suppressed for a long time by Yin energy (the second and third lines in both primary trigrams). Now, seeking a vent, it is suddenly released with an explosion, thereby causing shock and veneration. All interactions in the cosmos and human society, as well as those inside of you, will be abruptly set in motion.

Although life functions best in a state of equilibrium, shock is sometimes necessary to eliminate inertia and apathy. The purpose of the Thunder that echoes mightily in the sky is awakening and initiating controlled and meaningful activity. In such a case, it represents the true grace of the divine forces. Thunder that jolts the apathy off of us may appear in our psychological or social field as a parent, experienced friend, significant book, spiritual Teacher, or our own True Self, which appears suddenly from the darkness of our subconscious.

In everyday life, this hexagram means that many difficulties are swarming around us, that the situation is unstable, full of shocking surprises, but that it will change for the better. If you take the necessary actions with caution, step by step following a logical order, you will overcome the difficulties and the changes will be correct and positive. You will reach your objectives, even in a situation that resembles a thunderstorm. You may suddenly become famous, engage in a successful business, or obtain support from influential persons. If you had remained pas-

sive, you would not have succeeded. Taking the opposite approach, relying on old prejudices and harmful habits will inevitably cause failure.

Therefore, when you find yourself in a situation of SHOCK, which the hexagram describes, do not lose your head. Remain calm and keep constantly in mind that this is a sign of fate, the purpose of which is essentially good – to force us to reexamine ourselves and become stronger. Nevertheless, and most importantly, it gives us a chance to remain on the Path of spiritual growth, that is, in accord with the cosmic movements. We can achieve this through correct conduct.

***WISH:***

If you act in a well thought out manner, you will surmount the obstacles and bring your wish to fruition.

***LOVE:***

There are many obstacles that need to be overcome, but if you are persistent, success will be yours.

***MARRIAGE:***

If this is your first marriage, the prospects of building a harmonious relationship are not good. Remarriages stand a much better chance.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

There will be problems during pregnancy or delivery. It will be a boy.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

There is a possibility of becoming sick with an old disease again. It is serious. Recovery will be gradual. Neuralgia, cerebral diseases, nervous disorders and high blood pressure. The sickness is most dangerous at the beginning.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Stick firmly to your attitude. Do not give in or accept compromises and the outcome will be favorable.

***TRAVEL:***

A trip to the south is auspicious; to the east is not. There may be a surprise en route, but it will not prevent you from realizing the purpose of the journey.

***EXAMINATION:***

Although you will suffer from anxiety and have other problems, your score will be higher than you expect.

***NEW JOB, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

You may try to carry out your plan, but do not force it.

***WEATHER:***

Unstable, maybe with thundershowers.



## CHANGING LINES

### **SIXTH:**

A series of shocking events, with you in their center, causes not only your anxiety, but also chaos among your fellow men. If you become panic-stricken and lose your inner balance, you will meet with adversity. Your fellow men cannot help you. Withdraw, although others may consider you heartless and criticize you harshly for it. Yet such action is justified!

### **FIFTH:**

Shocks are happening one after another, as if they will never cease, bringing a real danger with them and causing losses. *The I Ching* usually advises courage, but in this situation, a little fear is not bad. Remain passive and the situation will finally clear up.

### **FOURTH:**

You are unprepared for a shocking event. You are in its very center – paralyzed, feeling that everything is lost. Your Ego betrayed you again. The only thing left for you to do is to maintain inner peace and restrain yourself from action during this period.

### **THIRD:**

The original text states in the place of the third line: “Frightened by thunder, you cannot act calmly. Be prudent and rectify your conduct. In fact, there is no real trouble.” Put all your efforts into maintaining self-control in this situation, and attempt to find a solution to the problem calmly. However, do not do anything while you are scared and nervous.

### **SECOND:**

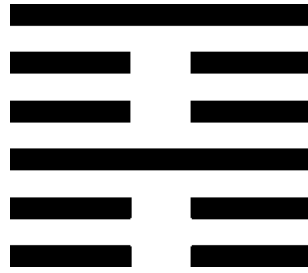
You are in the midst of a shocking event. Real danger is present, and a possibility of losing your privileges, status or property. By no means attempt to resist these forces, but rather withdraw from the dangerous situation and commit yourself to self-examination and meditation. Through such wise behavior, you will regain what you have lost at the beginning. Instead of suffering losses, you will meet with good fortune.

### **FIRST (dominant):**

You will be shocked by a sudden event. The normal reaction to it will be arousal of anxiety or strong fear. However, do not panic! You must go through this experience. Just remain calm, for tension will transform into balance and the outcome will be positive.



## *Hexagram 52*



### **MOUNTAIN (REMAIN CALM)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Mountain              below: Mountain  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Thunder              below: Water

This is one of those hexagrams where both primary trigrams are the same. Hence, the meaning of the hexagram is emphasized. In this case, both trigrams are Mountain. That image imposes on us the idea of motionlessness, immobility and stability, as well as stoppage, rest and silence. When you receive this hexagram as the answer to your question, it is a sign that you are facing a barrier that is insurmountable for the time being. Circumstances are preventing you from going forward and solving the problem. Any action, especially an aggressive and impatient one, would only worsen the situation, maybe even cause misfortune.

Barriers, obstacles and troubles are everywhere around you. Such a condition is not easy to bear, because you are feeling a strong desire to solve the problem by taking action. Keep in mind that activity is a characteristic of Yang energy, which is weak in both trigrams that compose this hexagram. In this kind of situation, the only wise thing to do is to **REMAIN CALM**.

However, this does not mean doing nothing. You should understand this in the sense of Taoist non-action. Here it means to give up the aspiration to force a solution to the problem. Such conduct would only create new problems, troubles and chaos. Remain calm instead, which is exactly what the hexagram suggests with its name, and use this period to gather energy for later, when the right moment for action comes. Do not let yourself be seduced by the possibility of success or gain, speak no more than necessary, particularly about your problems, and with all your might maintain the conviction that the period of motionlessness will pass and the right moment for action will come eventually.

The period after sleep, awakening and work should be used for meditation, that is, concentrated and calm reflection on the problem and its causes. If you accept this advice, you will attain inner peace, which will reflect positively on your interactions with the environment, and at the same time prevent you from making impulsive mistakes you would regret. Remember, the hexagram points out that you

should learn to maintain spiritual tranquility and relax in the situations that cause your impulsive reactions.

***WISH:***

You see obstacles everywhere you turn. It is now impossible to realize it. Wait awhile.

***LOVE:***

Adverse! The other party does not love you.

***MARRIAGE:***

Success is impossible, since the partners are not compatible.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

There is a possibility of a late delivery and complications during its course. It will be a boy.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

The sickness will be lengthy and difficult to cure. Possible diseases include rheumatism, cerebral sclerosis, afflictions of the liver and tuberculosis.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Protracted with unfavorable outcome. The only possibility is seeking a compromise patiently.

***TRAVEL:***

The time is exceptionally unfavorable. If you insist on traveling, the circumstances will force you to cancel the trip.

***EXAMINATION:***

Substandard or barely sufficient score.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Drop it! Best to maintain your present position.

***WEATHER:***

Cloudy and rainy. However, if it was windy before, it will be nice.

***CHANGING LINES***

***SIXTH (dominant):***

When you are completely composed and peaceful, without irritating desires and impulses, your self-control becomes a power as such and permeates all components of your life. You are capable of seeing your interactions and the essence of things in their true light, which is the true wisdom.

***FIFTH:***

Your words should come from yourself. This means that you should only speak when you really have something to say, and when you do, make sure it is your own opinion, not adopted ideas and words. You should also beware of idle talk and expressing yourself carelessly. Only then will your words become efficient and useful.

***FOURTH:***

You are able to attain self-control now, especially control of desires, doubts and envy. You will not regret the effort it took.

***THIRD:***

There is a conflict inside of you: you have a strong urge to change the situation, but at the same time, want to maintain your peace and self-control. However, continuous restraining exhausts man. You should rid yourself of negative feelings through peaceful meditation; self-control will then come naturally. For example, we should not force ourselves to love others, which is impossible to achieve, but rather we should recognize antagonistic feelings toward them, and adopt a just and balanced attitude.

***SECOND:***

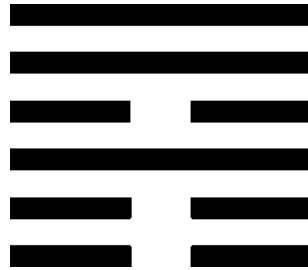
A lump of earth is pushed downhill and now keeps rolling faster and faster due to inertia. You are no longer able to control the situation, although you want to. You should not worry about what others are doing. If you give them advice, they will not obey it. Continue on your Path and let them plunge into trouble if they want.

***FIRST:***

You must wait for the circumstances to change in order to take action. Now you are capable of understanding the situation and realizing that the time is not ripe yet.



## Hexagram 53



### GRADUAL DEVELOPMENT

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Wind                      below: Mountain  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Fire                      below: Water

The title of this hexagram, derived from the relationship of its primary trigrams, speaks for itself. The upper trigram, in addition to being a symbol of Wind, stands for trees as well. The lower trigram is Mountain. These elements, taken together, depict trees that grow gradually and cover a mountain, making it fertile and suitable for life for many creatures.

GRADUAL DEVELOPMENT means arranged, natural growth and step-by-step accomplishment of our aims and wishes. With forestation, there is no success overnight. Trees grow slowly and turn a bare Mountain into a fertile area. In the same way, there can be no overnight success or sudden change in the situation pertinent to your question, but gradual progress is certain.

*The I Ching* warns you not to let yourself become overwhelmed by impatience and desire to take action and force a favorable outcome, because this is a shortcut to trouble. Exactly the opposite type of conduct is necessary: gradual, well thought out, patient and persistent. Then far-reaching and permanent changes will be quite attainable; your future will be bright, filled with optimism and a series of victories.

You should enter new relationships gradually and with reservation. This is not the time for quick friendships or love at first sight. As the relationship develops, you should gradually become more open. Approaching the other party suddenly, intense emotional outbursts and complete frankness at the beginning will cause reactions that are the exact opposite of what you wish for. As the relationship grows deeper, you will feel even better and more self-confident. However, be cautious all the time, for GRADUAL DEVELOPMENT applies during this whole period, not only in the beginning. When you feel luck is on your side, you can easily become overly self-confident and inclined towards risky actions. Do not do it, or you will burn yourself.

***WISH:***

It will take some time. Immediate realization is impossible.

***LOVE:***

In love, more than in any other aspect of life, it is important that a relationship develop slowly and gradually. A bud opens gradually and finally blossoms. If its petals are opened by force, it will wither.

***MARRIAGE:***

The partners are compatible, so there is a fair chance of a harmonious marriage. Do not expect heavenly happiness in the beginning.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

For the most part, both will go well. It is more probable that a girl will be born, especially if the delivery takes place in the spring or summer.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Diseases afflicting the abdomen, ears and nose. The disease should be treated promptly, for neglect may have tragic consequences. If you have been treated for a long while without improvement, change the doctor.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Do not be obstinate and do not attempt to end it quickly. Proceed slowly and persistently toward your aim.

***TRAVEL:***

Propitious, especially if you go by plane.

***EXAMINATION:***

Average score. If you take several exams in a row, your score will gradually improve.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Auspicious. You may proceed. However, do not rush or push too hard.

***WEATHER:***

Gradually improving.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

If you adhere to the Path of Correctness, you will accomplish great achievements in your chosen area. Do not withdraw into yourself, because this is not the time for it. You should not be overly idealistic either, because such an attitude is of no practical value. Communicate with others as much as possible. Since you are on the Path of Correctness, you will give them the right example with your conduct and earn their respect and admiration.



***FIFTH (also dominant):***

Those around you, particularly the persons you are close to, are misinterpreting your motives and conduct. This cannot be corrected, so give up fruitless persuasion and wait until this period is over. Understand that periods of isolation inevitably appear on the road of spiritual growth. If you accept this rationally, the problems will finally be solved in your favor.

***FOURTH:***

Now it is most important that your position be secure. Do not set your aims too high or remain in the present position for too long. Be flexible and adjust to changes.

***THIRD:***

If you undertake a risky enterprise, you will put yourself and those close to you in an unpleasant or dangerous situation. Instead, consolidate your position. However, if some persons are hostile or aggressive, it is morally justified to protect yourself and your fellow men.

***SECOND (dominant):***

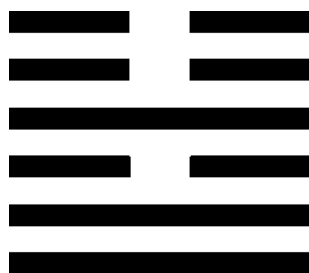
The original text states: "When you find shelter and food, they are not meant only for you". It means that you are safe now, surrounded by wealth, and that you can share it with others to everyone's benefit. Your self-confidence is growing.

***FIRST:***

Whatever it is that you want, you are now at the beginning of the process of realization; you feel isolated, insecure, and full of fears and doubts. Do not pay attention to criticism coming from your environment, for it will not last long. If you attempted to proceed now, you would meet with certain failure. Turn to yourself and try to lay down sound foundations for later progress.



## *Hexagram 54*



### **THE MARRYING MAIDEN (SUBORDINATE POSITION)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Thunder              below: Lake  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Water                below: Fire

Upper primary trigram (Thunder) stands for the eldest son, while lower (Lake) represents the youngest daughter, as well as joy and pleasure. An intimate union of a very young maiden and an older man, based on sensual desires, is a violation of the ethical code and is in discord with the cosmic laws of harmony. Moreover, the maiden does not act properly – in a feminine and passive manner – but aggressively, striving to obtain a higher status in society or pleasures through this relationship.

Your present position brings your self-respect into question, and involves many difficulties and problems. You can easily make serious mistakes. You do not control any of the elements of the situation, so that each attempt you make to come to the fore, become conspicuous and take the initiative is doomed to complete failure.

What is there left for you to do? There is a form of conduct that can minimize the danger: accept the subordinate position willingly, fulfill your duties as much as necessary, keep your desire to stand out or accomplish attractive goals under strict control and wait, wait, wait...for a propitious moment.

At the same time, you must not make compromises with your moral principles to attain privileges, higher status or material rewards. This would be spiritual prostitution, which would put you in the inferior position of a 'mistress', whereas what you want is the worthy status of a lawful wife. That is why you have to wait.

In short, now you are in a position where the appropriate partner or status is unattainable. If you want to behave adequately, you have two options: give up the plan or the person you have set your mind on and wait for a more propitious moment, or accept stoically the SUBORDINATE POSITION without grumbling or making even the slightest attempt to display your strong points, and wait until the circumstances change.

***WISH:***

It will seem promising at the beginning, but the outcome will be disappointing.

***LOVE:***

This relationship is passionate, but the partners are not well suited for each other. If you are a man, your prospects are very bad – you will have many troubles with your wife, or, more likely, with your mistress. If you are a woman, do not bond emotionally, because this relationship is based on sexual attraction and the man wants you only as a mistress.

***MARRIAGE:***

You are probably intimate already, but it is highly unlikely that the marriage will take place. If it does, it will not be happy.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Uncertainty. If a girl is born, everything will go well. If it is a boy, there will be complications for both the mother and the child.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Diseases you suffered from before will probably reappear, such as ailments of the liver and the chest and venereal disease. Recovery is possible, but acting in disregard of the doctor's advice will bring about serious worsening.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

The person whose support you count on will not keep his/her promise. Some unpredictable misfortune may also happen. If there is any chance of a compromise, you should grab it.

***TRAVEL:***

Accidents will happen during the course of the journey. If you travel with a person of the opposite sex, the situation may become extremely unpleasant, so it is best to cancel it.

***EXAMINATION:***

Poor score.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

The moment is not propitious. Postpone your plans until a better opportunity arises.

***WEATHER:***

Rain and thunder, later gradually clearing

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

Seen from the outside, your conduct seems correct, but deep down inside you crave luxury and pleasure or desire to get revenge on others. Your endeavors are useless;

tricks will not help you either. Focus on rooting out the inferior elements of your personality.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

In this situation, you are frustrated, for your value remains unrecognized. You should adjust to the situation and limit your expectations. In concrete terms, it means subordination to others. Through willing subordination, you will bring about good fortune.

***FOURTH:***

If your desired partner or position puts your dignity in question, you must wait for another opportunity. Give up action. Some day the situation will clear up and you will attain both happiness and self-respect.

***THIRD:***

There are no shortcuts on the Path of Correctness, nor can you experience happiness before you deserve it. If you insist on realizing your wishes now, you will be forced to sacrifice your self-respect and dignity. Whose fault will it be then? Therefore, be wise and wait!

***SECOND:***

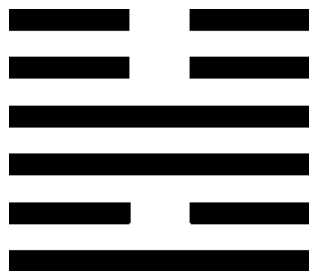
You cannot achieve anything significant in this situation. Be realistic, modest, and loyal to your higher ideals. Such an attitude and conduct in accordance with it, will in time lead to a turn for the better.

***FIRST:***

You are in an inferior position, as though you were lame or half-blind. Accept this subordinate position willingly. It will bring you safety. In the long term, you will obtain the favor of an eminent person, and will be able to influence him/her without becoming conspicuous.



## Hexagram 55



### ABUNDANCE (TIME OF PROSPERITY)

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Thunder              below: Fire  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Lake                      below: Wind

Periods in life of prosperity or decline may last long, but times when the extremes are reached never do. The sun shines most intensely when in its zenith, and not in any other spot in the sky. So in life too, there are short periods during which man can attain prosperity and plenty, have deep insights and experience enlightenment. This is such a period.

Thunder stands for sudden movement, prestige, courage and being the focus of attention, while Fire symbolizes splendor, light, clear insights and understanding, wisdom and enlightenment. Together they signify a magnificent period of ultimate success, understanding, abundance and affirmation. In divining, the hexagram suggests that you are either in the midst of an exceptionally favorable period, or just ahead of it.

However, the time of zenith does not last forever – the sun must eventually begin to descend, just as the ebb follows after the highest point of the tide has been reached. Do not attempt to maintain this period of abundance, emotional prosperity and smooth success by force. Keep in mind that it will not last forever, but do not let this realization make you unhappy. The wisdom of *The I Ching* teaches us to use it as best we can, which means laying a firm foundation for future development.

You will experience the ultimate self-affirmation in your social interactions if you rely on your reasoning, as it is now based on truly worthy insights. This is not the time to ask others for advice, because they, being out of your psychological field, do not possess the clarity of your vision.

In this period, let your creativity manifest itself fully. Do not be overly cautious in that respect. Be daring; show initiative and spontaneity.

On the other hand, do not look down on others! Avoid being negligent or vain, or you will end this period prematurely. Also, do not let your emotional reaction drag you into depression, since a feeling of shallowness and a belief in the uselessness of everything you strive for may develop inside of you due to the depressive realization that success and happiness are transient. You will certainly have enough opportunities to be miserable later on in life. So for the moment, concentrate on experiencing this period of prosperity fully. That is life's wisdom.

***WISH:***

It will be realized without a problem.

***LOVE:***

Success is possible. Do not think that everything is permitted in this relationship; take the desires of your partner into consideration.

***MARRIAGE:***

Heavenly happiness and compatibility at first. Decline may begin later. Use this initial period to lay the foundation for a permanent understanding.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

It will pass without problems, but mother will need good care later on.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Diseases afflicting the abdominal region and the nerves. Diabetes is another possibility. It is serious. If it seems harmless at first, be careful, for it may develop into something dangerous.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

The outcome depends on your decisiveness. Do not hesitate, make a decision quickly and carry it out. In this way, you will secure success.

***TRAVEL:***

Propitious, but do not be hasty.

***EXAMINATION:***

Excellent score.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Proceed with realization of your plans. Success.

***WEATHER:***

Very nice at first, worsening later.



## CHANGING LINES

### **SIXTH:**

You need to realize that true wealth can be obtained and maintained only through unselfish interactions with others. Aspiring for success for its own sake will lead you into gloomy isolation. Such a loss is greater than any other, no matter what titles decorate your name, or how wealthy you are.

### **FIFTH (dominant):**

Although you perceive the situation relatively clearly, it will do you good to ask clever persons for advice. This will enable you to gather competent persons around you and achieve prosperity beneficial for all. Congratulations and rewards follow.

### **FOURTH:**

The darkness is withdrawing gradually, but you must work persistently to improve situation. Make a decision, support it with your energy, and persevere in your efforts to accomplish the goal. Then the persons that may help you will appear.

### **THIRD:**

The eclipse has begun! Attempting to explain your actions or persuade others will prove useless. No one is listening to you; everyone is rejecting you. Since you cannot achieve anything, stop trying. Just wait patiently for the time of eclipse to pass.

### **SECOND:**

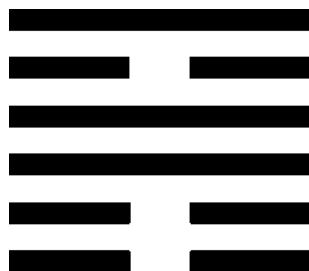
It is of no use to explain in great detail your motives and deeds to others. They will reject you and become suspicious and intolerant. Furthermore, it will not enable you to remove the obstacles that stand in the way of realizing your goal. The only chance is acting through personal example, with complete sincerity and perseverance in dealing with troubles.

### **FIRST:**

Unite forces with a person with whom you share a goal. Together you make a good team. You can be successful on the condition that you are not overly aggressive.



## Hexagram 56



### THE WANDERER (JOURNEY)

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Fire                      below: Mountain  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Lake                      below: Wind

Fire burning in a Mountain is the image suggested by this hexagram. Fire is unstable and changeable, moving continually from one place in the Mountain to another. Therefore, this hexagram stands for a traveler, WANDERER, journey and shifting.

Most people strive to achieve stability in life, to have a pillar of strength and relationships they can count on. However, life is a series of changes and each one of us is a WANDERER, whether we like it or not. This hexagram emphasizes it even more: We are in a period of life when moving and instability are particularly emphasized. Consequently, it is extremely difficult to achieve significant success in any area; you can be successful only in small matters.

Man is a traveler both in the outer and inner world. As *The I Ching*, together with all other worthwhile spiritual systems, teaches us, our inner world is a world of causes, while the outer world is a battlefield of consequences. The Path of Correctness is a Path of Integration of these two worlds. If we interact only with the outer world, the higher spiritual principles become sadly neglected. If we focus only on our inner world, we are not able to manifest what is inside of us, so we remain isolated. The only way to achieve a harmonious personality is through integration of our spiritual principles in everyday life. We must not view ourselves as angels, yet be thieves in reality, nor is it of any use to love the whole world in our thoughts, and at once hate someone who stepped on our foot in a bus.

In divination, this hexagram signifies constant change. You will be overwhelmed by feelings of restlessness, loneliness and alienation, as if you were in an unfamiliar city for the first time. Things will not go according to your expectations. Self-control and prudence are of the utmost significance. Restrain excessive optimism and drop aggressive conduct. Changes in relation to your job, place of residence or circle of friends are highly likely; they will be accompanied by worries and problems typical of such changes. Moreover, you may be separated from a loved one, no matter how much you dislike the idea.

***WISH:***

Modest wishes can be realized, but not ambitious ones.

***LOVE:***

The other party hesitates as a consequence of being interested in several persons. This will result in the failure of your love relationship.

***MARRIAGE:***

This is a poor match. The marriage will probably take place, although the partners are not compatible. There will be many vicissitudes while it lasts; chances are it will be short.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

There may be problems during the pregnancy. It will probably be a girl.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Diseases of the respiratory and digestive organs. The condition will be unstable. Prudence is called for, because the sickness may seem to be cured, even though it is not. It is serious; your life is in danger.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Best to withdraw.

***TRAVEL:***

Circumstances will force you to go. The outcome depends on your destination. A journey to your homeland is not recommended. On the other hand, traveling abroad is propitious.

***EXAMINATION:***

Bad score.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

If you have ambitious plans, you will be disappointed. If you are looking for a job, do it without a mediator and act modestly. You stand the best chance of getting a job in remote areas, but even that will not last long.

***WEATHER:***

Changeable and bad.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

Unreasonable conduct, lack of consideration for others, disregard for well-established values, laughing at others and looking down on them will cause misfortune. You will laugh at the beginning, but cry in the end. This is the fate of everyone who departs from the Path of Correctness.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

If you make an effort to establish social contacts and do others favors while maintaining a humble attitude, you will win the support of influential persons, even if you are on an entirely new territory.

***FOURTH:***

You may find peace (a 'shelter'), but it is temporary. You will be forced to defend it from intruders. This will make you nervous and anxious.

***THIRD:***

If you are aggressive or impulsive, you will ruin the sound basis you have previously created. Do not interfere in matters or relationships that are not your concern, because it will make persons who once supported you to desert you.

***SECOND:***

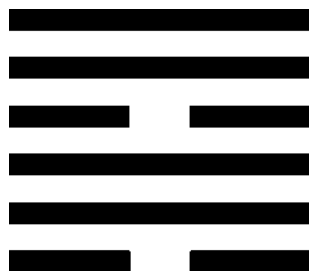
You are in the position of a traveler – WANDERER - during this period. In order to travel properly, you need to satisfy two conditions: find a safe shelter and well-intentioned persons who will help you. You can manage both if you maintain a self-confident attitude. Someone is willing to help you.

***FIRST:***

You will have a tendency to become involved in a series of trivial disputes and gossip. It is a waste of your energy. Do not make demands, or you will suffer humiliation. If you want others to take you seriously, you must behave in a dignified, serious and reserved manner.



## *Hexagram 57*



### INVISIBLE INFLUENCE

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Wind                      below: Wind  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Fire                      below: Lake

Traits of Wind – softness, permanence and invisibility of action, ability to permeate everything and cause a gradual effect – are doubly emphasized in this hexagram, because both primary trigrams are Wind.

The hexagram depicts your present situation and the manner in which you can achieve your goals. The key characteristics of the situation are changeability, moving to-and-fro, and vicissitudes in your fortunes.

How can you reach your objective? You must be like the Wind – soft, yielding, all-permeating, and above all, persistent in your invisible action. Wind is invisible, but its effect is not – it moves the clouds, bends trees and grass, churns up the surface of the water and erodes the rocks.

This is a greatly auspicious hexagram for those situations where a soft and permanent influence is made, that is, for persons who teach and counsel others. In every other situation, you cannot take the initiative as a leader, organizer, or principal mover. Therefore, the only way to accomplish your goal under these circumstances is to accept the subordinate position, to “play second fiddle” and follow a morally correct leader. If you choose to act on your own, you will not be capable of accomplishing significant tasks, because you need the support of others. You have clear insight into the situation and practical wisdom about life, but you lack strength.

Whether you will succeed or fail in this situation depends exclusively on your conduct, so let us repeat the following: each attempt to influence the environment directly, to be strong, convincing, to take the initiative and be the active factor of positive change will lead to results opposite of the desired ones. Determine whether there is a strong and moral leader and then join him, accepting his absolute superiority, remaining at all times focused on far-reaching goals. Let him decide, for you are now not capable of making proper decisions yourself. In this way, through invisible and permanent influence, like the Wind, you can erode and

shape the rocks, whereas you would only bleed to death if you attempted to do it with clenched fists.

***WISH:***

Only a modest wish can be realized, completely or partially.

***LOVE:***

Oscillations and complications ahead of you.

***MARRIAGE:***

Your partner does not have only you on his/her mind, but is torn between two persons. The same can probably be said about you. You stand less than an even chance of success.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

There is an equal chance of girl and boy. If the fifth line is a changing line, delivery will be difficult.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

The condition of your health will be unstable, with alternating periods of improvement and deterioration. There is no serious danger, unless the patient is very old.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Be yielding and adaptable. Entrust it to a good lawyer or make a compromise.

***TRAVEL:***

Journey with a partner is propitious. You will stay longer than expected.

***EXAMINATION:***

Average score.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Difficulties at the beginning and frequent alternating of good and bad news. You must not attempt to force the outcome.

***WEATHER:***

Clear and windy.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

You need to assess the situation in detail before you take action, but continuous hesitation means a lack of real action. You must not be weak or indecisive now, for you will miss a good opportunity. Proceed!



***FIFTH (dominant):***

If you plan to take action to change the present circumstances, inform those concerned. You will have problems in the beginning, but the outcome will be success. However, keep in mind that the same problems may reappear.

***FOURTH:***

When you know what you want and are focused on your goal, you can accomplish something modest. However, your action must be energetic.

***THIRD:***

You trust neither yourself nor others. You are lost in fantasies and deliberations of possible outcomes. In this way, you are evading the real action. This will make you miss the opportunity and suffer failure and humiliation.

***SECOND:***

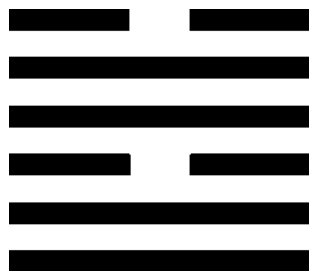
You must eliminate the inferior elements from your mind, which are your true enemies now. They must be faced and dispensed with. Then the situation in the outside world will be cleared up on its own accord, for it is but the consequence of internal struggle.

***FIRST:***

A tendency to be hesitant, indecisive and to change your goals frequently will develop inside of you. Compose yourself, make a decision, and persevere in its realization.



## *Hexagram 58*



### JOY

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Lake                      below: Lake  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Wind                      below: Fire

Men seek happiness throughout their lives, although their idea of happiness is rather vague. As a consequence, they become disappointed once they obtain the thing happiness depends on, according to their obscure vision. Happiness cannot be obtained through possession of material things, because the charm of novelty is short-lived. Neither can it be realized by relying on others, because people change, or by pretending we are someone else, for spiritual shallowness can remain covered up only for a short while.

True happiness emanates from deep inside, as a consequence of inner harmony, which is reflected in the outer world as harmony in our environment. Hexagram JOY speaks of two ways of seeking happiness and joy: the correct and the wrong one. You can be sure that there is a **POSSIBILITY** of experiencing a happy period, filled with delight and pleasure. Lake stands for joy. This idea is emphasized here, as both primary trigrams are Lake.

Moreover, nuclear trigrams intensify the basic meaning: sunshine and breeze in combination with Lake depict an image of exceptional beauty. Nevertheless, a warning is present as well! In both primary trigrams, the Yin line is above two strong Yang lines, creating a picture of a person who is susceptible and pleasant, yet at the same time holds fast to his/her inner principles. That is exactly what you should be like!

The only road leading to happiness is the Path of Correctness. When we consider following the path of least resistance – of unrestrained emotions or fake optimism, a conflict arises inside of us, because we depart from the Path of the Truth. This hexagram teaches us about the road that leads to true joy, and about the possibility of going astray.

In divining, it means that you are about to enter a fortunate period, when you will be able to realize your wishes in a rather easy manner, but that you must be cautious and prudent. Uncontrolled words may ruin everything; moral conduct

and keeping to your principles is of great importance, since you will be tempted to “go astray”.

***WISH:***

Do not pretend to be someone you are not and you will easily realize it.

***LOVE:***

Quarrels and conflicts between the lovers. Still, success is possible, if a relationship of mutual respect is established.

***MARRIAGE:***

A person who is about to remarry has good prospects. If this is your first marriage, the prospects are not so good, unless both parties are in the entertainment business. Your chances of a happy marriage are not good if you are a woman, because someone else has her mind set on the same man.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Normal and safe. A girl will be born.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Tuberculosis, diseases afflicting the stomach and the bowels (appendicitis is a strong possibility) and health problems caused by rotten teeth. Recovery definite.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Do not resort to tricks or bluffs. In this way, you will reach a mutually useful compromise.

***TRAVEL:***

Pleasant and safe journey, but you will spend a lot of money.

***EXAMINATION:***

Good score.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Your prospects are good.

***WEATHER:***

Rainy, but for the most part pleasant.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

Just like everyone else, you attract situations that match the states of your mind. If you boast of how happy and satisfied you are in the company of others, you will attract similar persons – inferior and boastful. If, however, you do your best to remain on the Path of Correctness by controlling your vanity, you will attract true

friends. Beware, the temptation to go astray is very strong now. If you succumb to it, the result will be suffering.

***FIFTH (also dominant):***

You must remain composed, for the original text of *The I Ching* warns you: “Beware of being used.” This refers both to the inferior persons around you who are trying to exploit you using flattery, and to your own inferior ideas, such as fear, doubt and conceit.

***FOURTH:***

This is a strong, male line in the position of a weak, female line. Consequently, you will be indecisive and will not be able to choose between the higher and inferior forms of joy. Fortunately, you have the necessary strength to rise above transient pleasures. Once you decide to continue on the Path of Correctness, pure, genuine joy, as well as the blessing of the higher forces will inevitably follow.

***THIRD:***

The source of real joy is a truthful manifestation of our nature. If you compromise the principle of truthfulness so as to surround yourself with persons and things that will make you feel good temporarily, disappointment and misfortune will follow.

***SECOND (dominant):***

You should seek friendship through sincerity. It is wrong to believe that you must satisfy others if you want them to favor you. With such conduct, you will only attract inferior persons. On the other hand, by keeping to the Path of Correctness, you will win support and friendship from ethically superior persons.

***FIRST:***

This line stands for independence from the environment, brought about by your inner harmony. When you are in such a state, your words and actions spring from your true nature.



## *Hexagram 59*



### **DISPERSAL**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Wind                      below: Water  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Mountain              below: Thunder

When spring arrives after a long, cold winter, life is set in motion in all of nature. This beautiful image awakens sleepy hopes inside of us and energizes us. Such is the picture that surfaces in the mind of a person used to evaluating hexagrams based on a relationship between their trigrams: warm wind blows above the surface of the frozen water, thawing the ice and bringing spring with it. The meaning of this hexagram is melting, scattering, dissolution, breaking and DISPERSAL.

In divining, it means that the long period of difficulties, blockage of creativity and inability to realize your aspirations and plans has ended, that obstacles are scattered like clouds when the strong wind is blowing, and that a new creative cycle, a cycle of development, advancement and realization is beginning.

On the spiritual plane, it is now important to forgive the persons who once hurt you, because this is an obvious example of DISPERSAL. Hatred, jealousy, envy and vengefulness are blocking your further growth. Halt and disperse this blockade so you can be free. Forgiving others is the most efficient way to achieve it.

Another form of eliminating obstacles and of liberation is communication. You should communicate with your environment as much as possible.

You can count on your fortune improving, but this should not make you neglectful or overly relaxed. Persons whose work involves traveling, particularly overseas, as well as working, studying and specializing in foreign countries, will be especially fortunate.

#### ***WISH:***

Plan your actions carefully and in detail. Then it will be realized.

***LOVE:***

If you are prone to changing partners, this will be a successful period for you. Aspiring for a permanent relationship, on the other hand, will cause many hardships, but if you stick to your principles, success will follow.

***MARRIAGE:***

Hardships and misunderstandings at the beginning of the relationship, harmony and understanding later. However, if a bad marriage has lasted for some time already, a divorce will bring you liberation.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

If the delivery happens in spring or summer, it will be a boy; if in autumn or winter, a girl. There will be no problems.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

The lungs and the circulatory system will be afflicted. The patient's prospects are good, recovery highly probable, yet there will be a short dangerous period during the course of the sickness.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Entrust it to a more experienced and reliable person, but seek him/her without urgency. Persistent insistence on your rights will only bring you harm.

***TRAVEL:***

It is a propitious moment for traveling. There is a chance you will stay longer than planned.

***EXAMINATION:***

Good score.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Very propitious.

***WEATHER:***

Cloudy and rainy at first, clearing later.

***CHANGING LINES***

***SIXTH:***

You must avoid danger at all costs. This may mean withdrawing from the situation. Figure out in advance where you will go. Such conduct is not cowardly, but wise.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

Now destiny requires of you ideas full of inspiration and altruism in order to harmonize relationships in the existing situation. You are capable of helping many. By giving yourself entirely and unselfishly, you can contribute to putting an end to a crisis in your environment.



***FOURTH:***

Now you have a chance to eliminate long-lasting relationships based on the wrong values and to create harmony in a chaotic situation. Devote yourself completely to serving others. You too will benefit from it. Success and good fortune.

***THIRD:***

You have created a barrier between yourself and your environment. That barrier is your negative attitude toward others. You must eliminate it now, because a great task, the accomplishment of which requires neglect of personal interests in order to achieve common good, is ahead of you.

***SECOND:***

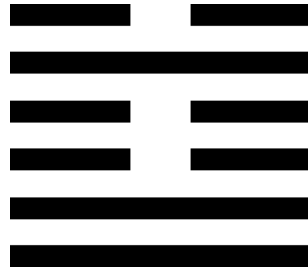
The starting point of all your activities must be inside of you. In order to obtain self-confidence and good fortune, you must be true to yourself. Only then will you be able to create better relationships with others and avoid suffering.

***FIRST:***

You are on the verge of danger. Although the situation is not serious yet, you must act quickly, before it is too late. In the spiritual sense, the danger comes from doubting the Path of the Truth and departing from it.



## *Hexagram 60*



### **LIMITATION (SELF-CONTROL)**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Water                      below: Lake  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Mountain                below: Thunder

Look at the primary trigrams of this hexagram! Water is above and Lake below. If too much Water flows into the Lake, it will overflow and flood its environment. On the other hand, if there is not enough Water flowing in, the water level will decrease, the Lake will dry up, and all its life forms will die out. Such a relationship between trigrams suggests the idea of regulation, restraint and self-control.

You need self-control during this period. A man who knows himself is aware of his limitations and the limitations of time, space and the material world. When he knows his actual potential, he is capable of setting goals for himself that are realistic and truly worthy. By accepting normal limitations willingly, he can be free within those limitations and act appropriately in each situation.

In this connection, you are in a period when adequate conduct and self-control are necessary. In fact, they are the means of spiritual growth. Persons who lack the necessary degree of self-control, inevitably become slaves of the circumstances and authority.

However, self-control and self-limitation must not lead to retreat from life. You should remain in contact with the world and your fellow men. At the same time, you must avoid any form of extreme conduct. Do not become involved in great investments, whether emotional investments in social interactions – great expectations, promises, emotional outbursts – or financial investments in new projects, for you will probably have financial problems. Stop whenever the things are not going well. In these circumstances, that is not a hesitation, but prudence.

In divination, this means that you must avoid extremes through self-restraint, fulfill your duties properly, give up new plans and maintain the present position. Avoid taking on new obligations, investments and engagements. Each impulsive action and loss of self-restraint (temptations will be many) will bring about nervousness, financial problems, disappointment and suffering. Willing self-

control and awareness of your own limitations are your weapons during the times which hexagram 60 depicts.

***WISH:***

No hope for the time being. Wait for a more propitious moment.

***LOVE:***

You have strong impulses to clear up an obscure situation. It would be a mistake. Wait patiently for a favorable turn of events, for it will happen eventually.

***MARRIAGE:***

If you are capable of controlling your impatience and rashness, the marriage will take place. In fact, there is no need to force the course of the relationship. You and your partner are well matched, so if the relationship develops in a normal, gradual manner, you will have a good marriage.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Pregnancy will go well; delivery will be safe. However, there is a chance that the delivery will take place a little later than expected. Regarding the child's sex, chances are even.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

You may suffer from stomach and bowel diseases, as well as from disorders caused by immoderation in food, drink, and sex.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Your prospects are bad, although justice is on your side. Try to compromise, but do it on your own, without a mediator.

***TRAVEL:***

Troubles en route. Best to cancel it if you can.

***EXAMINATION:***

Score above average.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Restrain your impatience and wait for the situation to change completely.

***WEATHER:***

Cloudy with occasional rain.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

You cannot achieve good results while excessive limitations are imposed on you or others. Excessive control, overly strict discipline and abnormal self-restraint will

lead to trouble: dissatisfaction and rebellious feelings will arise, while spontaneous creativity and initiative will be quelled.

***FIFTH (dominant):***

The original text calls this line a “sweet limitation”. Here is why: a sense of justice is arising inside of you, pointing to a simple truth – if you want to set limitations on the conduct of others – limitations that are in your opinion logical and justified, you must first give a personal example through self-restraint.

***FOURTH:***

Accept existing limitations, regulations and conventions without protest. In this manner, you will not be their slave, but their master, for freedom is the acknowledgment of necessity.

***THIRD:***

If you do not take into consideration your limitations in this particular situation and do not demonstrate the necessary self-control, you will suffer humiliation. If you are already in such a situation, do not blame others – focus on yourself and avoid similar mistakes in the future.

***SECOND:***

This line has a meaning opposite to the meaning of the previous line: in this situation, you will experience hardship if you do not act when you have a chance. The emphasis here is on readiness for action once the process of releasing energy in the outside world has begun.

***FIRST:***

Circumstances do not permit you to proceed, which irritates you. Restrain yourself, or you will plunge into trouble. Give up action and you will be safe.



## *Hexagram 61*



### **INNER TRUTH**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Wind                      below: Lake  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Mountain              below: Thunder

Hexagram 61 depicts a moment when the most important thing is complete sincerity in one's actions and reliance on moral principles, which are based on INNER TRUTH that emanates from the very center of one's being toward the outside world.

The hexagram has two soft and yielding lines in its middle, each surrounded by two firm Yang lines. This image represents a sincere, vast and noble heart inside, and firm moral principles, based on virtue, outside; they are the kernel of our interactions with our environment. It is a symbol of a good leader, who influences his environment with true integrity in a natural, efficient, and moral manner. Persons who feel love and tolerance for others and, simultaneously, aspire to reach their goals while holding fast to moral principles, are true leaders harmonized with the laws of the cosmos.

The upper trigram is Wind, the lower Lake. When the Wind blows across the surface of Lake, it influences it in a natural and harmonious manner. The relationship between subordinates and a superior is harmonious as everybody performs his/her duties with joy, benefiting all.

In divining, the hexagram teaches that in order to achieve your desired goal, you must be entirely sincere and frank when interacting with your environment, and give up pretense, lies and "strategies" that man uses in everyday life. Do not attempt to use others to achieve your personal goals, because you will experience "the boomerang-effect" and be used yourself.

To the contrary, if you behave in a moral, sincere and frank manner, a host of unexpected possibilities will open up for you, and good fortune will follow you like a shadow. Cooperation with others during this period will be exceptionally rewarding, enabling you to travel frequently, and causing your social interactions to flourish.

There is also a chance you will now have to face evil in others. *The I Ching* usually speaks of the positive tendencies inside of us that need to be developed, or of the inferior elements of our personalities, which must be overcome and neutralized. However, in the spiritual sense, this hexagram teaches us how to neutralize evil in others through the strength of INNER TRUTH, because destiny has put us in a position of a leader, who must confront not only the good, but also the evil in himself as well as in others.

***WISH:***

Your desire to present yourself as a better person than you really are will bring about failure. If you proceed with the realization absolutely sincerely and honestly, success is a certainty.

***LOVE:***

You are in the midst of a passionate love affair. To make it a permanent relationship, be frank, tolerant and honest.

***MARRIAGE:***

Partners are compatible, so chances for a permanent and harmonious relationship are very good. The woman may be a little hesitant, but if the man is tolerant, the marriage will go through. Do not drag it out, for you will miss your chance for happiness.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

There will be no problem. It will likely be a girl.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Ailments of the liver, kidneys and abdomen. If you do not contact the doctor on time, what seems to be a harmless disease may develop into something serious.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Do not be stubborn and do not postpone what needs to be done. It will prove time-consuming and the result will be below your expectations.

***TRAVEL:***

Safe and pleasant journey.

***EXAMINATION:***

Very good score.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Your chances are good unless you attempt to force the outcome.

***WEATHER:***

Clear and windy.



## CHANGING LINES

### **SIXTH:**

The original text states here: “Cock is flying too high. Boastful conduct will attract attention. Rectify it!” The cock can find worms on the ground easily, but since he has excessive ambitions, he is striving to fly all the way to the sky. This line describes an inferior person who exerts himself to achieve aims that are above his capabilities. Such ambitions invite misfortune and grief. Wise up!

### **FIFTH (dominant):**

The fifth line stands for a leader who bases his actions on moral principles. Such a person emanates his beneficial influence on everyone around him. People gather around such a leader and follow him willingly. If you possess such qualities, you will be successful in everything you undertake.

### **FOURTH:**

You are in a situation where you must choose between the higher and the lower goals. Choose your ideals and serve them unselfishly, sacrificing personal goals, which are temporary and less worthy. Then good fortune will follow.

### **THIRD:**

Your mood depends on the environment, so it changes inevitably according to your circumstances – it goes up and down, from delirium to depression. Return to your essence, because the only path to inner strength is the Path of the Truth, as it does not depend on others. If it is their path as well, so much the better.

### **SECOND:**

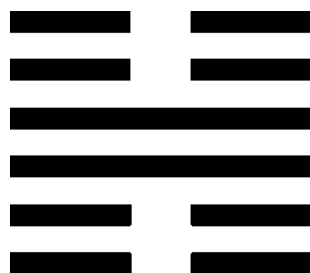
Others sense our strengths and weaknesses in an extrasensory manner. Thus, in the long run, they cannot remain hidden. The truth speaks for itself, so there is no need to advocate it. If your actions spring from INNER TRUTH, your thoughts, words and actions will echo in others and you will be successful and fortunate.

### **FIRST:**

Now is the moment to rely on yourself, that is, on your good qualities. They should be the source of your actions. If you count on the help of others, not only will you be left with nothing, but you will get into trouble as well.



## Hexagram 62



### PREPONDERANCE OF THE SMALL (EXCESS)

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Thunder              below: Mountain  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Lake                      below: Wind

The classical source states: “Excess will invite hardships. Bird cannot be safe if it flies too high. In the same way, man should not aspire to accomplish significant tasks now. “

A bird that is attempting to fly too high, straight into the storm, is a symbol of you at this moment. There is no doubt that you have a strong tendency to act excessively and on impulse. In this manner, you will put yourself in danger. Look at the primary trigrams: Thunder is above Mountain, which means that there is a storm raging over the Mountain. It is therefore wise to lay low, just above the ground, because if the bird flies up, it will be killed in the storm.

The image of a bird flying high is also indicative of your hidden thoughts and plans. You can see such a bird in the distance and hear its song, but you cannot touch or catch it. It means that now is not the time for significant accomplishments. In divining, the immediate meaning of the hexagram is that you must avoid at all cost being seduced into action by your weaknesses. You must also give up ambitious plans. Things will not go smoothly; there will be discord and frictions everywhere you turn. Your casual, careless remarks may invite the animosity of others. Avoid disputes, quarrels and conflicts. Remain humble in the situation that is causing you to become anxious. Above all, avoid the tendency to interfere in others' lives. Furthermore, you may be separated from those dear to you, from your family or home. You may also have a conflict at work or commit a blunder, which will prove disastrous to your reputation.

Inferior elements of your personality, such as envy, rage, immoderate wishes, revengefulness and the need to impose your will on others, will become activated. They are dangerous precisely because they will keep pushing you to act.

A wise man, who listens to the advice of *The I Ching*, will bow his head and remain humble during this period, thus avoiding the storm. A lesser man, gov-

erned by his Ego, will be inclined toward excessive conduct. He will be carried away by immoderate ambitions and get into trouble. Choose for yourself!

***WISH:***

Small chance of success. Each attempt to realize significant wishes will bring about trouble.

***LOVE:***

For the time being, you do not stand a good chance of establishing a worthy relationship. The problem lies in the fact that you must not be impatient and force the course of the relationship; on the other hand, you must not delay it for too long either, as your loved one may have a change of heart.

***MARRIAGE:***

This is not a good match. You will have many disagreements over trifles and trivia, endless disputes and mutual misunderstandings. The marriage will eventually break up.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Delivery may take place later than expected, while the child may be weak immediately afterwards. A boy will be born.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Possibility of diabetes and afflictions of the chest area. The health condition will tend to worsen. In order to recover, exceptional care and rest are necessary.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Your prospects are very bad. Do your best to reach a compromise. To achieve it, give in to the demands of the other party as much as required.

***TRAVEL:***

Stay home. There is a chance that you will become ill or be robbed during the course of the journey. If you must go, avoid traveling by plane.

***EXAMINATION:***

Bad score.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

Bad prospects. Wait for a more favorable opportunity.

***WEATHER:***

Unstable – clear around noon, but cloudy or rainy in the morning and evening.

## CHANGING LINES

**SIXTH:**

Danger! The bird is flying too high – your ambitions are too big. If you act dominantly and aggressively when attempting to achieve your unrealistic goals, you will create strong opposition and invite misfortune.

**FIFTH (also dominant):**

This is not a good position for initiating new projects or significant undertakings. Become aware of your limitations! Do not attempt to be a genius. Simply do your job. You will be successful in little things.

**FOURTH:**

This line, like the previous one, stands for a warning. Drop your plans for the time being. Do not move, just accumulate energy for later. If you are capable of bowing your head to the person who is a leader in this situation, you will have no problem.

**THIRD:**

Being too self-confident, you neglect to take protective measures, and by doing so, invite trouble. This is a warning! Take every precaution right away.

**SECOND (dominant):**

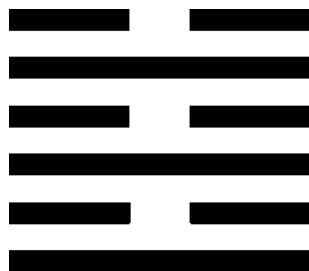
Do not bother your superiors for assistance, but rather perform your duties humbly. Due to your limitations, you can only help others, not yourself.

**FIRST:**

Now your influence and abilities are limited by the situation. You can only carry out very modest plans. Greater ambitions exceed your resources. They will put you in a dangerous, even hopeless situation.



## *Hexagram 63*



### **AFTER COMPLETION**

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Water                      below: Fire  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Fire                              below: Water

Perfect harmony emanates from this hexagram. Efforts and interactions are brought to fulfillment. Balance is achieved, the cycle is closed and completed, the aim accomplished. Hence the name of the hexagram – AFTER COMPLETION.

However, no matter how much your Ego wants this condition to last forever, it is impossible. Movement in the cosmos and human life is circular and the state of COMPLETION is just one phase of the cycle. After realization, a phase of decrease inevitably follows. Nothing is eternal – neither fortune nor misfortune. *The I Ching* teaches us the eternal truth: when something has been accomplished, or when things have reached their peak, a wise man should be aware that a decline must inevitably begin and prepare for it.

When man achieves success, he has a natural tendency towards self-satisfaction. He begins to believe that problems are solved forever and that there is no more danger. The ending of many fairy tales testifies to such a childish desire for paradise: “ ... They lived happily ever after.” Surrendering to such a belief means lack of wisdom. Only change is eternal. Fortunes must diminish eventually; signs of chaos arise in the established order and the balance of power is disturbed.

What should you do? As long as you are aware that all conditions and events in life and the cosmos are transient, you will be able to act adequately. You can do many things to prevent the decay if you pay attention to weak spots, consolidate, and stabilize what you have accomplished. When the house you have been building is finished, it is time to devote your attention to details and MAINTENANCE. In this way, you will postpone the decay for as long as possible.

However, when the powers of disintegration can no longer be stopped, it is wise to withdraw to a safer and less exposed place. Sooner or later, a new cycle of arrangement and accomplishment will begin and once again the state of accord will be established. And so it goes on forever. That is life and its laws.

In divination, the hexagram means that now is the time for success and glory, but not for resting on your laurels, as the perfect harmony will not last long. Therefore, do not be negligent, self-satisfied or boastful. Prudent and well-balanced conduct is necessary to maintain the favorable circumstances for as long as possible. Do not begin anything new, but maintain what you have in order and harmony.

***WISH:***

It may be realized if you are not negligent, but there will be obstacles and delays.

***LOVE:***

You can establish a love relationship, unless you postpone taking decisive action for too long.

***MARRIAGE:***

It is a good match, so the marriage will take place. Disagreements and friction will come later, but the marriage will last.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

A boy will be born. Mother will take pregnancy well and delivery will go smoothly.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

The abdomen and heart will be afflicted. The patient may also suffer from the diseases related to old age. Recovery is possible, but the sickness may return later on.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Your prospects will seem great at the beginning, but the situation will worsen later. Best to drop it now to avoid disappointment.

***TRAVEL:***

You will be safe if you are careful. Problems related to sex can arise.

***EXAMINATION:***

Good score.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

It will appear promising at first, but you will be disappointed later. Better give up the plan.

***WEATHER:***

No matter what the weather is like at the beginning, it will change.

**CHANGING LINES**

***SIXTH:***

It is typical of many to be careful at the beginning of a venture, but careless toward its end. You have this tendency now. Restrain yourself, for you are not “out of the



dangerous forest” yet – you still have not “crossed the great water”. Focus all your attention on your responsibilities. If you neglect them, you will be put in a dangerous situation.

***FIFTH:***

Do not brag about your successes and superior qualities. A simple and sincere attitude toward others, which comes from a pure heart, leads to satisfaction and true happiness. Boasting is for empty-headed and inferior people.

***FOURTH:***

This is a warning! Before sailing out to the open sea, find the cracks in your ship. You must cork them, which means that you must be careful of each step you take, especially of your weaknesses.

***THIRD:***

The time is ripe for accomplishment of great goals, but it will take time and perseverance. You must select worthy persons to help you, as the ones who are incapable and morally inferior will spoil the results of your hard work.

***SECOND (dominant):***

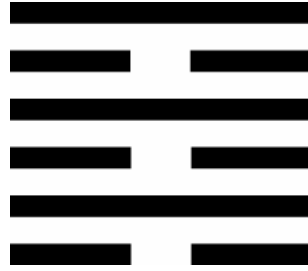
You are like a lady whose veil has suddenly fallen from her face, making it exposed to the curious looks. This was brought about by force of circumstances, or, more likely, you have caused it yourself. Do not move, do not do anything to ‘hide your face’ or explain your condition. The time of your exposure will soon be over.

***FIRST:***

Significant changes are happening around you (on a level of a nation or wider), so pressure to take action is rising inside of you. Do not do it! Withdraw to a less exposed position.



## Hexagram 64



### BEFORE COMPLETION

PRIMARY TRIGRAMS:      Above: Fire                      below: Water  
NUCLEAR TRIGRAMS:    Above: Water                    below: Fire

The primary trigrams of this hexagram are in an inverted position in comparison with the ones in hexagram 63, AFTER COMPLETION. Here Fire tends to move upwards, while Water moves downwards. It means that in this situation, there is no interaction or fruitful relationship, but the elementary powers are moving away from each other and going their separate ways. Hence, nothing has been achieved, realized or completed yet.

Water stands for danger, Fire for clarity of understanding and strength. It is obvious that you are in a situation filled with danger, so that clarity of understanding and wisdom are necessary in order to achieve your goals. The general atmosphere of this hexagram is that of disorder, even chaos, because no line is in its appropriate place: positive Yang lines are in place of Yin lines, and the other way around.

However, *The I Ching* offers advice on how you should act in such a situation and achieve the desired changes: when a young fox comes to the shore of a deep brook, if it rushes impatiently to the opposite shore, it will wet its tail. This means getting into trouble. It must therefore have a clear understanding of the situation. If it does, it will wait for the water level to decrease before crossing to the other shore. Even then, the fox must proceed very cautiously from one stone to another.

When the goal is almost achieved, you will have a tendency to relax (BEFORE COMPLETION!). It is then that you can ruin everything you have worked for. Be especially careful not to brag and by no means celebrate success BEFORE COMPLETION!

Be sure of one thing: the situation you are in is completely new, so none of your previous experiences will be of any help. In many aspects, it represents rebirth in an entirely new and unknown world.

Let us summarize. The situation you are facing is new, unsettled, even chaotic, but there is a realistic possibility of putting it in order. Well thought out tactics and caution are critical. Move forward gradually, step-by-step. Make an effort to develop good interactions with others, because joint enterprises stand a better chance of success. Above all, beware of your inferior elements, which will raise their heads immediately before you reach the objective, attempting to separate you from the Path of Correctness. If you act in this manner, the result will be harmony and fulfillment.

***WISH:***

Realization is impossible for the moment. If you persevere in seeking new approaches, after a while it will be realized.

***LOVE:***

This is not love at first sight! At first the partners do not accept each other, but the relationship will gradually develop and improve.

***MARRIAGE:***

There is a chance of a happy marriage, but it needs to be built patiently. At first things will not go smoothly, but a sound and happy relationship will gradually develop.

***PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:***

Pregnancy will be normal and delivery safe. If changing lines are in the lower tri-gram, a boy will be born. If in the upper, a girl.

***HEALTH AND SICKNESS:***

Gradual but safe recovery will follow after a long illness.

***NEGOTIATIONS, DISPUTE, LAWSUIT:***

Your prospects are not good. Seek a compromise. If you accidentally become involved in a quarrel, withdraw.

***TRAVEL:***

A short trip is propitious. A longer one will be troublesome.

***EXAMINATION:***

You will not exactly distinguish yourself.

***NEW BUSINESS, MOVING, SPECIALIZATION:***

If you weigh the pros and cons carefully and proceed carefully, step-by-step, towards realization, you will meet with success.

***WEATHER:***

Cloudy and rainy, with slow improvement.

## CHANGING LINES

### **SIXTH:**

You have almost reached the finish line and magnificent prospects of success are seducing you into losing your self-control, so you begin to brag and celebrate success BEFORE COMPLETION. Troubles arise immediately, because such conduct distracts you from the final goal. Do not relax before it is over, for your Ego is waiting for precisely such an opportunity to resurrect on the scene and pull you down from the heights to the mud. Do not cross your bridges before you come to them.

### **FIFTH (dominant):**

Perseverance in ethically correct conduct removes obstacles. A morally superior person is emanating the light of the Truth. Others can see it clearly. Such a person is capable of gathering people and unifying them so that they can achieve common, worthwhile goals together. In the spiritual sense, it means that by overcoming the temptation to depart from the Path of the Truth, we obtain deep new insights with help from the higher forces of the cosmos.

### **FOURTH:**

You should make a great effort to maintain inner balance and peace. You must not give in until the very end in this battle. Continue on the Path of Correctness alone without hesitation or reconsideration. Good luck awaits you at the end.

### **THIRD:**

The classical text states in place of this line: "This is not the right time to cross great water." Moving forward will put you in danger. You should prepare now for crossing the great water later. In short, it means that your goal cannot be realized now, but that you can prepare for later realization. Start all over again.

### **SECOND:**

You can see clearly what needs to be done, but unfortunately, the time is not ripe for action yet. You should pause, behave correctly, and use this period to develop your self-restraint and accumulate energy for later. Do not let this delay make you swerve from the road that leads to your final objective.

### **FIRST:**

Do not move! You wish to solve an unclear or chaotic situation by action, but you do not see clearly all the elements of your plan.



## THE I CHING AS AN INSTRUMENT OF SPIRITUAL EVOLUTION

Whether we accept the *I Ching* as an instrument that enables us to make the right decisions in everyday life, or as our Master on the Spiritual Path whom we consult as needed, the hexagrams we receive reveal our relationships to life's occurrences. In other words, they show us how we should behave in order to best harmonize ourselves with life's occurrences. Such harmonization usually involves breaking through our narrow attitudes and preconceptions, and accepting a more flexible attitude, free of strict landmarks and hard membranes. Such an attitude is simultaneously distant and universal, and therefore in accord with the all-existence.

The manner in which we learn while we work with the *I Ching* is not based on fixed rules, but on man's truest essence, which the *I Ching* calls the Inner Truth, that is, the Sage who responds to our inquiries with hexagrams. Since the Inner Truth is one and unchanging with all beings, a question arises – why do some practitioners receive responses that are more to the point? The reason for this is the fact that with most men, the Inner Truth is buried under many layers of personality, so that the messages it sends cannot be clearly comprehended. The thinner and more purified the layers are, the easier it is to interpret the responses. Those who are deeply enlightened, whose Inner Truth is stripped of the layers of personality, always act from their true Selves. They perceive life as it is, themselves and others as they are. What their statements - full of riddles, symbolic and allegorical expressions - unambiguously imply is that the Inner Truth of Human Being is one with the essence of all that exists; moreover, that it is its True Being, its Self. Such a person sees himself wherever he looks. By shaking hands with someone, he shakes his own hand. He is the one who loves and who is loved, the Path and the goal, the beginning and the end.

All that we, who are spiritually less mature, can do, is work with the *I Ching*. This work is time-consuming, painful, and sometimes amusing. It comes down to peeling off layers of Ego, of previous false identifications. Ego is an instrument for adjustment and survival in everyday life, and its reactions are limited by the information it possesses. In the case of a person who has walked quite a distance on the Spiritual Path, Ego is a servant who must realize spiritual insights that originate from the Inner Truth of the human being. On the other side, the *I Ching* calls a man whose Ego guides him “inferior” or “lesser man”.

This brings us to the question of terminology used in the *I Ching*. In comparison to the classical text, expressions used in this book are modernized, but a few frequently used phrases are preserved. They have more than one meaning.

Thus, the expression “inferior person” may refer to the literal sense of the word, besides denoting a person whose life is run by his Ego. The expression is most often used in the latter sense. If we observe life, we can see that an inferior person may achieve significant things, but they are unworthy from the spiritual standpoint, for they represent a disturbance of the cosmic harmony and the natural course of events. Instead of being open and susceptible to the Inner Truth, which addresses him through his intuition and conscience, such a man becomes reserved and defensive, a transgressor who violates the ultimate moral laws of the cosmos.

“Superior man” is the highest potential of the positive elements of our personality, whose main aim is spiritual growth, realization of ethically worthwhile goals, and attaining the common good.

The most moral conduct in a given situation, which, at the same time, is harmonized with the tendencies of the cosmos, is proceeding on the “Spiritual Path”. A few similar expressions refer to such conduct. The “Spiritual Path” is also the “Path of Correctness”, “Correct Path”, “Path of Justice”, “Path of the Truth”, “Path of Humility”, “Path of Simplicity”, “Path of Virtue” and so on.

Every action that is in accord with our True Self and at the same time, with the laws of Universal Life, the *I Ching* calls “success”, “fortune” or “good fortune”. It is a step forward on the Spiritual Path.

“Misfortune”, “suffering” and similar expressions refer to the consequences of a disturbance in cosmic harmony, that is, of the natural laws that rule a human being. When human actions disturb the course of cosmic Universal Life, such conduct is always contradictory to the Inner Truth, and misfortune ensues. It does not have to be a misfortune in the usual sense of the word. It may mean being disappointed in yourself or in the consequences of your actions, or it may point to depression or groundless sadness. When a man disturbs the cosmic harmony, he must experience such reactions eventually, although they may not always be immediate and obvious.

The next possibility of disturbing Universal Life’s harmony is doing the right thing at the wrong moment. When young birds become strong enough to fly, the right thing for their parents to do is to throw them out of the nest. If the parents do it prematurely, misfortune will follow. However, the outcome would also be bad if the parents do it too late. The essence of life’s wisdom, which comes down to being harmonized with the laws of life, is doing the right thing at the right moment.

The “Sage” is the *I Ching* itself, that is, the “cosmic intelligence” present in the *I Ching*, which addresses the practitioner. After they gain some experience, most people have the same impression Jung had – a very real feeling that there is an invisible Sage between the binding of *The Book of Changes*, an exceptionally mature and integrated person, who yields appropriate responses to the vital questions of a humble practitioner. The Sage ignores foolish questions and speaks only



of truly important matters, whereby it has a tendency to persevere in its message until the practitioner understands it.

In this manual, you will often meet with advice to meditate or make your problem clearer by meditation. This word may confuse you for several reasons; first, it is used in different contexts; second, that there are different methods of meditation; and finally, some people do not know how to meditate. Within this book, the word meditation has a very simple meaning: thinking something over in a deep and focused manner. It is not meditation upon a secret mantra, counting inhalations and exhalations, and the like. To labor the point, it is a concentrated reflection, whereby we circle in our thoughts around the object of the meditation, perceive it in different interactions and become aware of its connections with other things and phenomena.

Since we are close to the end of this presentation, we shall point out some other important matters. You would probably discover them yourself eventually, but a short review can save you time and offer you tried and tested directions.

As you already know, a hexagram consists of six lines or two trigrams, the upper and the lower one. According to tradition, the upper trigram is called heavenly, whereas the lower one is called earthly. In another classical classification, we can see the hexagram as a figure, the first two (bottom) lines of which represent earth, the two middle ones man, and the two upper ones heaven. Heaven refers to the cosmic forces and laws, as well as the higher states of consciousness and spirituality. Such a classification implies that man, represented by the two middle lines of the hexagram, has one line in the earthly, and one in the heavenly trigram. Since both these forces can manifest in a human being, it is up to his free will whether he will follow the Path of the Truth (Heavenly Path), or the earthly path, that is, the path of his inferior nature.

By using the *I Ching* as a philosophical machine of spiritual growth, we free the Inner Truth, which has been inside of us from the beginning, from the layers of deception and spiritual masses that constitute the Ego; we reveal it and make ourselves aware of it. The Inner Truth is not something we are yet to create or form by means of spiritual growth, as some mistakenly believe. It has always been, always is, and will remain forever inside of us. The only question is whether we are aware of its messages and to what extent. Hexagrams reflect the course of the river of life, of everything that happens, from great cosmic events to everyday occurrences, small joys and disappointments, pleasant and unpleasant words we said or heard... Moreover, they do not only reflect what already exists in the physical and social reality, but also potential events that are in the process of actualization, but have not yet manifested themselves. Therefore, when we analyze the hexagrams we receive, tendencies that have still not become reality, the present condition, as well as the tendencies of future development become clear on the screen of our philosophical machine. These insights enable us to adjust to the requirements of the time and change our “destiny”, that is, the series of experiences we would have had to go through if we had not adjusted well to the cosmic movements. Such experiences

are caused by our attitudes and conduct. For that reason, changing of our attitudes and conduct also alters our experiences and our destiny.

I shall repeat once again what has already been said: if our attitudes are harmonized with the cosmic Universal Life and its dominating tendencies at a certain moment, the outcome will be referred to as good or fortunate from the human point of view. Such an outcome comes down to the natural movement and the natural course of events. If our attitudes are opposed to the Universal Life's movement and tendencies at a certain period, we are not only in conflict with the natural laws of movement and development, but also in conflict with ourselves, for such attitudes affect us like psychic foreign bodies, causing anxiety and feelings of discord and misery.

The *I Ching*, side by side with the systems of Perennial philosophy, teaches that man exists in two worlds simultaneously – the outer and the inner world. Academic psychology would agree. However, they disagree on everything else. Perennial philosophy further teaches us, and the philosophical machine proves it in practice, that the inner, spiritual world is the world of causes, whereas the outer world (material and social) is the world of consequences. They are permanently connected in the following manner: advancement and development in the spiritual world, that is, on the Spiritual Path, is achieved through ethical conduct in the physical and social world. In other words, in order to advance on the Path of Truth, we must solve the problems in the outer world in a manner that is most ethical in a given situation. As mentioned before, we cannot develop spiritually if we think in one manner, speak in another, and act in a third. There must be harmony between the inner and the outer. The more spiritually developed the person is, the more complete this harmony. It is an unerring test. In order to achieve the desired harmony, we must, using the *I Ching* as an instrument of self-development, transform our Ego into an obedient servant, and not let it guide us. The Inner Truth is the only true leader of our personality. It addresses our mind through our higher abilities, such as conscience, intuition, and a sense of responsibility.

If we analyze the advice the *I Ching* gives practitioners, we notice that its wisdom is very simple and that the multitude of seemingly varied advices comes down to the three basic forms of conduct:

1. Active conduct – proceeding toward a goal
2. Withdrawing – moving away from a goal
3. Waiting, or non-acting

The first form of conduct, moving closer to a goal, is seldom recommended by the *I Ching*, which may appear paradoxical and inefficient to the uninitiated. Lazy persons, who are prone to postpone their duties, and those who avoid confronting the unpleasant reality when it is necessary, receive such advice more often than others do. However, even in the situations when decisive action is advised, the *I Ching* warns the practitioner not to become carried away, or to act impulsively or rashly.

We receive advice to withdraw from the social, physical or psychological field a bit more often. If we do not forget the basic truth about the exchange of the tide and ebb in all that exists, we will realize that withdrawal is sometimes the only solution, if we wish to remain in accord with the dominating tendencies. Along with such advice, the *I Ching* warns us: when others treat us badly, when they manifest inferior elements of their personalities, in short, evil, we must not forget the Inner Truth that is inside of them. It is wise to withdraw from them, but we must not “execute” them. In other words, we must not write them off as forever lost. The Inner Truth is always inside of them, but in situations where it is obscured by inferior elements of their personality, we should step back and sever our connection with them. It means that we should not ponder their shortcomings or let the desire for revenge overwhelm us. We should even give up the thought of how they will meet with just punishment one day. If they want to walk that road, let them! Sooner or later they must return to the Path of Correctness and then we can reestablish a healthy relationship with them.

The *I Ching* most often advises waiting. This certainly does not mean idleness and loafing, but non-acting in the Taoist sense of the word. When the *I Ching* advises giving up action, it requires that we turn to ourselves and devote this time to eliminating the shortcomings of our personality, to strengthening self-restraint, or to accumulating energy and information necessary for the following period. It will inevitably come, and then we will receive advice to proceed toward our goal. Waiting is the only wise conduct in many situations, because our shortcomings, such as an inability to remain alone or to control chaotic thoughts and feelings, or a desire to be the center of attention, are what most often push us to act.

When we spend some time in non-acting, focused on ourselves, perceiving our shortcomings and our good traits, in most cases “the air becomes clear” and obstacles disappear. This happens because eliminating defects in our subjective world inevitably leads to the disappearance of their projections, which we call problems, obstacles and troubles, in the objective world. Therefore, non-acting is not loafing – it requires much effort and attention to the inferior components of our personality, as well as decisive and persistent endeavors and the willingness to remove those components. What should be understood is that none of these three forms of behavior is either easier or harder than the other two. Taoist non-acting, carrying out adequate decisive action, and calculated withdrawal are all equally difficult.

## THE I CHING AND THE SYSTEMS OF SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Although the way of thinking we find in the *I Ching* is close to Taoism, Buddhism and the systems of Indian Orthodox philosophy, it is by no means a separate religious or philosophical system, but a guide to living our everyday lives in the most ethical manner, to understanding our place in the world and to accomplishing the purpose of our existence. It is an instrument of spiritual evolution and a philosophical machine, which teaches us that philosophy should be lived, not just thought.

The *I Ching* cannot be identified with any official religion, for as Karl Jaspers put it in **“Philosophical Autobiography”**: “Churches did not acknowledge an independent source of thought which had nothing to do with the church. That source had to become aware of itself, despite the efforts the church made to deny it as truth.” The text of the *I Ching* and its lines showed us that, which Jaspers calls “independent source of thought”, is in fact the Inner Truth of the human being, which is identical to the Inner Truth of all that exists. Its most faithful projection in the outer world is moral conduct based on conscience. Many great thinkers pointed to this truth. As Racine wrote: “There are many religions, but only one morality.” When predicted man’s development in the distant future, Roger Bacon wrote the following words, as if he had previously consulted the *I Ching*: “Morality should become the content of the universal religion.”

It is precisely morality that is the axis around which the philosophical machine rotates. It takes time to realize this, but such a realization is inevitable at a certain point if you work with the *I Ching*. At that point, the practitioner becomes aware of the fact that spiritual growth is inseparable from moral growth; moreover, it comes down to it. The next insight the practitioner has, is that in the course of the growth, false identifications fall off one by one. When none are left, all that is there is the bare Truth. It is a long journey. In its course, sooner or later, the spiritual searcher becomes bothered with a question – how to eliminate the false identifications and other inferior elements of his personality, in order to see himself, other beings and life in their true light. This book offers you two main methods of accomplishing this. The first one is daily work with the *I Ching* as a spiritual guru, whereby the *I Ching* becomes the Path of self-cognition. The second is practicing one of the systems of spiritual growth while consulting the *I Ching* as a philosophical machine, in order to select the most ethical conduct possible in unclear situations.

There are several systems of spiritual development, and discussions about the superiority of one or the other are for the most part pointless. Men become at-

tached to the system that suits their level of development and their psychological characteristics best. Based on my long experience with transpersonal and spiritual systems, I can recommend to every mentally sane person the Gnostic Intensive, Aspectics and Sunyata, PEAT and DP-4. The Gnostic Intensive enables man to experience in just one day Gnosis or Direct Experience of the Truth about WHO he is, WHAT he is, WHAT life is, WHAT another Human Being is. Other methods of Spiritual Technology enable human being to experience himself/herself as an absolute void, removing many false identifications and becoming convinced through his/her own experiences that his worst shortcomings are in fact his allies that push him toward the Ultimate.

What are the consequences of such experiences in terms of understanding the responses of the *I Ching*? The answer is simple. It is difficult for a human being to act in the most correct manner in unclear situations, if he does not know who he is and if he is burdened by unwanted spiritual states. Every practitioner, especially the one who takes notes on the results of his work with the *I Ching*, or, for instance, with Aspectics, will realize that there is a significant difference in the accuracy of his consultations from the moment he experiences the Direct Experience of who he is, or from the moment he eliminates the unwanted state of mind. Why is that so? In the context of the *I Ching*, until man realizes who he is, he cannot act from his Self, but acts instead from one of the components of his personality – his Ego, which is necessarily inferior to his True Being.

To the contrary, a short union with the Truth, when man experiences the liberating Gnosis of WHO HE IS, makes it more difficult for him to identify with the inferior elements of his Ego.

The problem is not solved once and for all, for Ego comes back quickly to the field of consciousness, and takes on the leading role again. However, this cannot happen to the same extent as before the Direct Experience of Gnosis had occurred. Even a brief experience with Gnosis acts as a tiny sparkle of light in the darkened world, and gives us a safe orientation for the rest of our lives.

If we compare what occurs in the personality during daily work with the *I Ching* and what happens during the Gnostic Intensive, we could say that the former method resembles a slow wearing off of an eternal enemy, whereas the latter is a sudden break through its lines. We can add with confidence that using the *I Ching* in combination with one of the systems of spiritual growth gives the best results.

Let us take an example: a certain person is very charged emotionally against someone who insulted or harmed her in some way. If she makes an inquiry regarding the best possible conduct in that situation, the *I Ching* will yield her a certain response. However, if such a person practices Aspectics, which integrates or eliminates the unwanted states of mind in a short time (10 to 30 minutes.), she should apply it before consulting the *I Ching*. If she makes the inquiry after processing herself with Aspectics, the response of the *I Ching* will be different. This has been proven by the experience of many practitioners. What is the reason for it? When

he/she eliminates the emotional charge, he/she is not the same person anymore. No wonder she receives a different response! Furthermore, the same advice will not be interpreted in the same manner by a person full of bitterness and rage, as the same person who has, owing to Aspectics, calmed down completely.

Each experience of Gnosis that man has during the Intensive and each successful process of the systems of Spiritual technology, removes a certain false identification and eliminates spiritual impurities, so that man thinks, speaks and acts from his Self and increasingly becomes what he really is. His Self is less covered with the deposits of life's experiences, and the Truth becomes more transparent. At the same time, the responses of the *I Ching* become clearer, so that the advice "continue on the Path of Correctness" is ever less prone to confuse the practitioner. Also, the *I Ching* guides man and enables him to manifest the Truth, experienced during the Gnostic Intensive, as well as his more integrated personality, in everyday life.

As already mentioned, Spiritual growth and integration do not create Inner Truth. They do not add anything to the human being, but only eliminate the elements that prevent the direct awareness of the Truth. All systems of Spiritual growth point unanimously to the fact that Ego, as well as the I-feeling, disappear in a state of deep sleep without dreams. Yet we do not cease to exist. The being is then in a state of deepest Enlightenment, in absolute union with the Truth. Our efforts to experience Enlightenment come down to an attempt to attain direct awareness of the Truth in a state of being awake. Here is what Yasutani roshi, a famous Zen Master, told his disciples on this subject: "*There is nothing special about Enlightenment. You experience it every night while in a deep sleep without dreams. Meditation is only a trick to accomplish the same while you are awake.*"

It is time to say good-bye. I will leave you with the true philosophical machine in your hands, with which you can change your life, if you are ready and willing. This is indeed *The Book of Changes*, as far as it changes the practitioner himself, who is attempting to find himself in its unreachable depths. It is a constant change – what is unknown becomes close; what is close, familiar and explored becomes unknown, mysterious and miraculous. Our ancestors called it magic. We know that it is a long pilgrimage on the Path of the Truth. In our search, aspiring to perceive ourselves, life and Other Human Being is a magical force of the Truth that illuminates dark fogs and deep abysses, passions and exaltations, the monstrous and the beautiful within us, and without rest continues forward to perceive itself.

