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## **Hexagram One: Ch'ien / Creative Activity**

Heaven above  
and Heaven below:  
Heaven in constant motion.  
With the strength  
of the dragon,  
the Superior Person  
steels himself  
for ceaseless activity.

Productive activity.  
Potent Influence.  
Sublime success  
if you keep to your course.

### **Hexagram One/Line One**

The dragon remains  
beneath the surface.  
Do not act.

### **Hexagram One/Line Two**

The dragon climbs  
to the surface.  
Seek advice  
from an authority  
you respect.

### **Hexagram One/Line Three**

The Superior Person  
builds by day  
and remains vigilant  
through the night.  
Danger,  
but he will persevere.

### **Hexagram One, Line Four**

The flying dragon  
hovers over the chasm  
from which he was born.

### **Hexagram One/Line Five**

The dragon rises high  
for all to see.  
He has become

the mentor  
he always longed to find.

**Hexagram One/Line Six**  
Even a dragon  
may fly too high.

## **Hexagram Two: K'un / Receptive Force**

Earth above  
and Earth below:  
The Earth  
contains and sustains.  
In this situation,  
The Superior Person  
should not take  
the initiative;  
he should follow  
the initiative of another.  
He should seek  
receptive allies  
in the southwest;  
he should break ties  
with immovable allies  
in the northeast.

Responsive devotion.  
Receptive influence.  
Sublime success  
if you keep to your course.

### **Hexagram Two/Line One**

When frost  
crunches underfoot  
can winter ice  
be far behind?

### **Hexagram Two/Line Two**

Straight, square, and true.  
By being  
instead of doing,  
nothing is left undone.

### **Hexagram Two/Line Three**

Hide your brilliance.  
Feeling no threat,  
they won't resist  
the completion  
of your goal.  
All you lose is credit  
for the accomplishment.

**Hexagram Two/Line Four**

Be a tied-up sack,  
letting your inner contents  
remain unseen.

There will be no praise,  
but also no blame.

**Hexagram Two/Line Five**

A yellow robe.  
Supreme good fortune.

**Hexagram Two/Line Six**

The battling dragons  
are too evenly matched.  
Each spills  
black and yellow blood  
to the soil below.

## **Hexagram Three: Chun / Difficulty at the Beginning**

**Thunder from the Deep:  
The Superior Person  
carefully weaves order  
out of confusion.**

**Supreme success  
if you keep to your course.  
Carefully consider  
the first move.  
Seek help.**

### **Hexagram Three/Line One**

**You have run up  
against an obstacle  
at the very head  
of the trail.  
Keep to your course.  
Seek mutual aid.**

### **Hexagram Three/Line Two**

**Her horses  
rear in fright;  
but the highwayman  
means no harm.  
He seeks only  
the hand of the maiden.  
She must refuse him,  
for she fears  
a very long journey  
lies ahead  
before she can marry.**

### **Hexagram Three\Line Three**

**A hunter  
who pursues his prey  
without a guide  
will lose his way  
in the deeps  
of the forest.  
The Superior Person  
knows his limitations  
and gives up the chase.  
To advance  
brings regret.**

### **Hexagram Three\Line Four**

**Her horses break away.**

Turning back,  
she must learn to trust,  
and accept  
the escort of  
her spurned highwayman.  
What seemed at first  
misfortune  
will lead to marriage.

**Hexagram Three\Line Five**

He could rescue them,  
if only  
they would trust.  
For now,  
he must provide  
protection  
and small comfort  
from the shadows.

**Hexagram Three/Line Six**

The horses break free.  
If the need for aid  
goes unrecognized,  
tears and blood  
will flow.



## Hexagram Four: Meng / Inexperience

A fresh Spring  
at the foot of the Mountain:  
The Superior Person  
refines his character  
by being thorough  
in every activity.  
The sage  
does not recruit students;  
the students seek him.  
He asks nothing  
but a sincere desire  
to learn.  
If the student doubts or challenges his authority,  
the sage regretfully  
cuts his losses.

Success  
if you are sincerely firm.

### Hexagram Four/Line One

A little discipline  
will make the fool  
sit up and take notice.  
Afterwards, the matter should be dropped,  
or some will question which is the master  
and which the fool.

### Hexagram Four/Line Two

The man is gentle with the misguided  
and understands the hearts of women.  
Such a one can be trusted  
with the kingdom.

### Hexagram Four/Line Three

No one respects  
a lovestruck woman  
who throws herself  
at the object of her desire.  
Do not idolize.

### Hexagram Four/Line Four

You are so terrified  
of being wrong,  
you leave no room  
for learning what is right.

**Hexagram Four/Line Five**

Like a wide-eyed child,  
you wholly and naively trust  
the goodness of others.  
Such honor brings out their best.

**Hexagram Four/Line Six**

The best way to prove a fool wrong  
is to let him have his way.  
To severely restrict his folly  
will invite him to always believe  
that his way would have been right.

## **Hexagram Five: Hsu / Calculated Waiting**

**Deep Waters in the Heavens:  
Thunderclouds approaching from the west,  
but no rain yet.  
The Superior Person  
nourishes himself  
and remains of good cheer  
to condition himself  
for the moment of truth.**

**Great success  
if you sincerely  
keep to your course.  
You may cross  
to the far shore.**

### **Hexagram Five/Line One**

**No trouble in sight,  
but vague anxieties  
about what lies  
beyond the horizon.  
Whether real or not,  
the threat  
has already won  
your peace of mind.**

### **Hexagram Five/Line Two**

**Taking your post  
in the sand,  
ceaselessly watching  
the far shore  
for enemy movements,  
you must endure  
the taunts and contempt  
of your comrades.  
Good fortune  
in the end.**

### **Hexagram Five/Line Three**

**Anxiety prods you  
to premature action.  
Wading into the river,  
you become mired  
in the bed of mud.  
Not only does the enemy  
realize you detect them,  
but they see  
your vulnerability**

as an opportunity  
to strike.

**Hexagram Five/Line Four**

The enemy is upon you.  
You wait in blood,  
preparing yourself  
for their blows;  
but your own ability  
can see you through,  
if you stand your ground  
and maintain balance.

**Hexagram Five/Line Five**

You smile  
and join in the banquet,  
relaxing and  
gaining perspective,  
yet vigilant  
and prepared  
for the next onslaught.  
Such genuine grace  
under pressure  
ensures victory  
and good fortune.

**Hexagram Five/Line Six**

The showdown comes,  
with the opponents  
too evenly matched.  
Just as all hopes  
of survival are dashed,  
three strangers appear.  
They will tip the scales  
in favor of the contender  
who recognizes them  
for what they are.

## Hexagram Six: Sung / Conflict

The high Heavens  
over a yawning  
Deep chasm:  
an expansive void  
where nothing can dwell.  
Even though  
he sincerely knows  
he is right,  
the Superior Person  
anticipates opposition  
and carefully prepares  
for any incident.

Good fortune  
if your conflict  
results in compromise.  
Misfortune  
if your conflict  
escalates to confrontation.  
Seek advice.  
Postpone your crossing  
to the far shore.

### Hexagram Six/Line One

No quarrel will blossom,  
unless you let your pride  
fertilize this budding conflict.  
Let the one who insults you  
expose himself for what he is.  
Don't fight this battle  
until you've already won it.

### Hexagram Six/Line Two

Knowing  
his comrades would be annihilated  
against their much stronger foe,  
he orders a full retreat,  
retires into seclusion,  
and is condemned by the very neighbors  
he saved from ruin.

### Hexagram Six/Line Three

He stands on his integrity,  
no matter what ill winds  
may blast him.  
Stand or fall,  
in the end he will remain  
exactly who he is.

### Hexagram Six/Line Four

Realizing the very root of conflict  
lies within his own heart,  
he lays down his arms  
and resolves to accept  
the things he cannot change.

**Hexagram Six/Line Five**

Bring the conflict  
before a just authority.  
If you are truly in the right,  
justice will bring good fortune.

**Hexagram Six/Line Six**

You can certainly win  
this conflict.  
Such a victory, though,  
will bring a lifetime  
of defending your prize  
against thieves and challengers.

## **Hexagram Seven: Shih / Recruiting Allies**

**Deep Water**  
beneath the Earth's surface:  
Untapped resources  
are available.  
The Superior Person  
nourishes and  
instructs the people,  
building a loyal,  
disciplined following.

Good fortune.  
No mistakes  
if you follow a course  
led by experience.

**Hexagram Seven/Line One**  
Knowing neither purpose  
nor direction,  
the soldiers march blindly onward.

**Hexagram Seven/Line Two**  
The general marches  
with his soldiers,  
sharing their fate,  
good or bad,  
facing the consequences  
of his own decisions.  
For this he is loved and trusted  
by all.

**Hexagram Seven/Line Three**  
A wagonload of corpses  
this way comes.

**Hexagram Seven/Line Four**  
It is never a mistake  
to retreat to a stronger position.

**Hexagram Seven/Line Five**  
The seasoned veteran  
is elevated to command,  
and none too soon.  
For the game is in the field,  
and it would be wise to catch it.

**Hexagram Seven/Line Six**  
The victor divides the spoils  
among the loyal,

**leaving the jackals with  
neither reward nor obligation.**



## **Hexagram Eight: Pi / Bonding**

Deep waters  
on the face of the Earth:  
Surface Waters flow together.  
The Superior Person  
recognizes the situation  
calls for joining together.  
Thus he cultivates  
friendly relations with all.

Good fortune is possible.  
Cast the coins again  
to discover if you have  
the qualities needed  
to lead such a group.  
Then there will be no error.  
Those uncertain  
will gradually join.  
Those who join too late  
will meet with misfortune.

### **Hexagram Eight/Line One**

Confidently and sincerely seeking union.  
His devotion to you and to truth  
makes this alliance correct.

Unexpected good fortune.

### **Hexagram Eight/Line Two**

Devotion comes from deep inside you.  
Good fortune  
if you keep to your course.

### **Hexagram Eight/Line Three**

You are seeking union  
with unworthy people.

### **Hexagram Eight/Line Four**

You express your devotion  
humbly and openly.  
Good fortune  
if you keep to this course.

### **Hexagram Eight/Line Five**

The hunter surrounds the game  
on only three sides,  
allowing an avenue of escape.  
In seeking allegiance with others,

leave room for them to say "no";  
this way, those choosing to join you  
will be sincere.

**Hexagram Eight/Line Six**

Without a head,  
the union  
cannot hold together.  
Misfortune.

## **Hexagram Nine: Hsiao Ch'u / Gentle Restraint**

Winds of change  
high in the Heavens:  
Air currents  
carry the weather.  
Dense clouds  
blow in from the west,  
but still no rain.  
The Superior Person  
fine tunes the image  
he presents to the world.

Small successes.

### **Hexagram Nine/Line One**

He turns back  
to his proper course.  
No harm done.  
In fact, good fortune  
comes of this return.

### **Hexagram Nine/Line Two**

He lets himself  
be drawn back.  
Good fortune.

### **Hexagram Nine/Line Three**

The spokes burst out of a wagon wheel,  
stopping the couple's journey.  
The man and wife waste time and energy  
blaming each other,  
causing major damage to their love  
instead of fixing the minor damage to the wagon.

### **Hexagram Nine/Line Four**

By gaining confidence,  
the man keeps control of the conflict,  
avoiding the blood that could be spilled  
by fear.  
No mistakes.

### **Hexagram Nine/Line Five**

His sincerity is the cord that binds  
the hearts of others to his.  
He holds wealth  
who holds the hearts of others.

**Hexagram Nine/Line Six**

The needed rain finally pours down,  
bringing a well-earned time of rest.

It is Nature's time to enrich the crops,  
so leave it to her.

To work the fields in the rain and mud  
would only undo all good effort.

Do not seek more;  
the gibbous moon seeks to be full,  
but once full can do nothing but wane.

## Hexagram Ten: Lu / Worrying the Tiger

Heaven shines down  
on the Marsh  
which reflects it back imperfectly:  
Though the Superior Man carefully discriminates  
between high and low,  
and acts in accord  
with the flow of the Tao,  
there are still situations  
where a risk must be taken.

You tread upon  
the tail of the tiger.  
Not perceiving you as a threat,  
the startled tiger does not bite.  
Success.

### Hexagram Ten/Line One

He treads the simple path  
of least resistance,  
making swift and blameless  
progress.

### Hexagram Ten/Line Two

A man of modest independence  
treads a smooth and level path.  
Good fortune  
if you stay on course.

### Hexagram Ten\Line Three

A one-eyed man may still see,  
a lame man may still walk,  
but it takes every resource  
to circumvent the tiger.  
When this tiger is stepped on  
he bites.  
Only a warrior supremely loyal to his cause  
would enter a battle he knows  
he hasn't the resources to survive.

### Hexagram Ten/Line Four

He shows humble hesitation  
and breathless caution,  
yet still resolutely takes a necessary step  
on the tail of the tiger.  
His modest manner saves him  
from the bite.

**Hexagram Ten/Line Five**

Though fully aware of the danger  
that lies on the narrow path ahead,  
the man is fully committed to move forward.  
The future is uncertain.

**Hexagram Ten/Line Six**

At your journey's end,  
look back and examine  
the path you chose.  
If you find no causes for shame,  
only good works that make you shine,  
you may take this as an omen  
of the certainty of great reward.

## Hexagram Eleven: T'ai / Peace

Heaven and Earth embrace,  
giving birth to Peace.  
The Superior Person  
serves as midwife,  
presenting the newborn gift  
to the people.

The small depart;  
the great approach.  
Success.  
Good fortune.

### Hexagram Eleven/Line One

When the grass is pulled up  
the earth in which it is firmly rooted  
comes up with it.  
You share your new wealth  
with loved ones,  
creating a conduit  
for even greater fortune.

### Hexagram Eleven/Line Two

Despite his success,  
he is gentle to those who impose,  
he fords the icy stream between him and another,  
he does not forget his duties to those distant,  
he does not abandon his companions;  
he truly walks the Golden Mean.

### Hexagram Eleven/Line Three

Every plain leads to a slope.  
All going leads to a return.  
He who keeps his inner faith  
in the midst of oppression  
will persevere.  
Do not rail against what must be;  
savor fully what remains.

### Hexagram Eleven/Line Four

Instead of stretching to grasp  
the wealth that may rise out of reach,  
he stoops to help his companions  
climb to his level.  
They expect his resentment  
but receive only his faith and love;  
they no longer fear his power.

**Hexagram Eleven/Line Five**

The emperor gives his blessing  
to his daughter's marriage to a commoner.  
All ranks of life benefit from this.

**Hexagram Eleven/Line Six**

The wall crumbles into the moat.  
Such overfortification and defensiveness  
will cause you more loss  
than if you had remained totally exposed  
and had opened your arms to fate.



## Hexagram Twelve: P'i / Stagnation

Heaven and Earth  
move away from each other.  
In the ensuing void,  
the small invade  
where the great  
have departed.  
There is no  
common meeting ground,  
so the Superior Person  
must fall back  
on his inner worth  
and decline  
the rewards offered  
by the inferior invaders.

Difficult trials  
as you hold to your course.

### Hexagram Twelve/Line One

When grass is pulled up  
the earth in which it is firmly rooted  
comes up with it.  
He remains loyal  
to those who helped him,  
and carries them  
out of harm's way.

### Hexagram Twelve/Line Two

He knows better than the sycophants  
how to manipulate the petty rulers;  
but instead he keeps his integrity  
and remains among the oppressed.

### Hexagram Twelve/Line Three

A vague inward feeling of shame  
remains unrecognized  
but still succeeds in haunting.

### Hexagram Twelve/Line Four

He answers a Higher calling.  
Whether he survives or whether he falls,  
he will serve as the inspiration  
to those who will overthrow  
the oppressive regime.

### Hexagram Twelve/Line Five

He turns the tide of oppression,

but never allows himself to rest on his laurels.  
With every advance, he asks himself,  
"What if it should fail? What if it should fail?"  
He ties his strategy to the lesson of mulberry shoots.

**Hexagram Twelve/Line Six**

The oppressive stagnation  
rots to the inevitable end  
that all such corruption must meet.  
Its compost nourishes the seeds  
of great joy and fortune.

## **Hexagram Thirteen: T'ung Yen / Social Mechanism**

Heaven reflects  
the Flame of clarity:  
The Superior Person  
analyzes the various levels  
and working parts  
of the social structure,  
and uses them to advantage.

Success  
if you keep to your course.  
You may cross to the far shore.

**Hexagram Thirteen/Line One**  
Sincere affection in the open.  
Why should anything  
so deep and genuine  
cause embarrassment or shame?

**Hexagram Thirteen/Line Two**  
The clan holds tightly,  
armed against outsiders.  
This inbreeds fear and cruelty,  
which can only give birth  
to strife and extinction.

**Hexagram Thirteen/Line Three**  
You hold with unworthy allies.

**Hexagram Thirteen/Line Four**  
He greets them cordially,  
but from a high vantage point  
with secreted weapons close at hand.  
His mistrust will slowly dissipate  
and good fortune will return.

**Hexagram Thirteen/Line Five**  
He is drawn to another.  
He fights the attraction fiercely,  
but his later surrender brings joy.

**Hexagram Thirteen/Line Six**  
He meets with others  
in the meadow.  
There all are in the open,  
none may remain hidden.  
No remorse.

## **Hexagram Fourteen: Ta Yu / Great Treasures**

The Fire of clarity  
illuminates the Heavens  
to those below:  
The Superior Person possesses great inner treasures --  
compassion, economy,  
and modesty.  
These treasures allow  
the benevolent will of Heaven  
to flow through him outward  
to curb evil and further good.

Supreme success.

### **Hexagram Fourteen/Line One**

No mistakes  
if you stay out of harm's way.  
Remain conscious of  
dangers and difficulties,  
and you will have no regrets.

### **Hexagram Fourteen/Line Two**

A large wagon for loading.  
You have found the perfect means  
for distributing and increasing  
your treasures.

### **Hexagram Fourteen/Line Three**

A Prince gives his treasures freely  
to those who can better use them.  
A lesser man could not do this.

### **Hexagram Fourteen/Line Four**

He can make the distinction  
between his true treasures within  
and the material possessions  
others covet.

### **Hexagram Fourteen/Line Five**

His sincerity attracts and inspires  
others whom gold could not.

### **Hexagram Fourteen/Line Six**

Heaven blesses you  
with good fortune.

**Improvement in all facets.**

## **Hexagram Fifteen: Ch'ien / Modesty**

The Mountain  
does not overshadow  
the Plain surrounding it:  
Such modest consideration  
in a Superior Person  
creates a channel  
through which excess  
flows to the needy.

Success  
if you carry things through.

### **Hexagram Fifteen/Line One:**

The Superior Person  
is modest about his modesty,  
and thus may cross to the far shore.  
Good fortune.

### **Hexagram Fifteen/Line Two:**

Modesty that radiates  
This course brings good fortune.

### **Hexagram Fifteen/Line Three:**

The Superior Person modestly  
brings things to completion.  
Great success.

### **Hexagram Fifteen/Line Four:**

Progressive modesty  
continues to gain.

### **Hexagram Fifteen/Line Five:**

Modest yet firm resistance  
against an oppressor  
will end the aggression  
and win concessions.

### **Hexagram Fifteen/Line Six:**

Modesty is the best face  
when correcting the errors  
of your own allies.

## **Hexagram Sixteen: Yu / Enthusiasm**

Thunder comes resounding  
out of the Earth:  
Similar thunder roars up  
from the masses  
when the Superior Person strikes a chord  
in their hearts.

Whip up enthusiasm,  
rally your forces,  
and move boldly forward.

**Hexagram Sixteen/Line One:**  
Pride comes before a fall.

**Hexagram Sixteen/Line Two:**  
Firm as a rock,  
but only when necessary  
and appropriate.  
This course  
brings good fortune.

**Hexagram Sixteen/Line Three:**  
You wait for a compelling signal,  
yet ignore the knock at the gate.  
Missed opportunity breeds regret.

**Hexagram Sixteen/Line Four:**  
His music strikes a chord  
and wins hearts.  
His trust makes them true,  
and brings great success.

**Hexagram Sixteen/Line Five:**  
Thorough self-diagnosis  
of his own affliction  
keeps him safely from the brink  
of fatal error.

**Hexagram Sixteen/Line Six:**  
Compulsive enthusiasm  
can be set right  
if it learns from its mistakes.

## **Hexagram Seventeen: Sui / Following**

Thunder beneath  
the Lake's surface.  
The Superior Person  
allows himself  
plenty of sheltered rest  
and recuperation  
while awaiting  
a clear sign to follow.

Supreme success.  
No mistakes  
if you keep to your course.

**Hexagram Seventeen/Line One:**  
An ending opens a new beginning.  
Stepping out of your sanctuary  
into new company  
will bring achievement.

**Hexagram Seventeen/Line Two:**  
Indulging the child,  
you lose the adult.

**Hexagram Seventeen/Line Three:**  
To find what you seek,  
you must leave the child  
and follow the adult.

**Hexagram Seventeen/Line Four:**  
Following for dishonorable reasons.  
Pause for clarity  
and a return to integrity.  
Once actions are sincere,  
you may move forward blamelessly.

**Hexagram Seventeen/Line Five:**  
The path ahead  
is strewn with blessings.

**Hexagram Seventeen/Line Six:**  
By virtue of your wise heart,  
you are followed by a leader.  
Come down from your mountain,  
and you will be rewarded with another.



## **Hexagram Eighteen: Ku / Repairing the Damage**

Winds sweep through the Mountain valley:  
The Superior Person  
sweeps away  
corruption and stagnation  
by stirring up the people  
and strengthening their spirit.

Supreme success.  
Before crossing  
to the far shore,  
consider the move  
for three days.  
After crossing,  
devote three days  
of hard labor  
to damage control.

**Hexagram Eighteen/Line One:**  
Correcting his father's error,  
a son treads dangerously close to dishonor.  
Yet sparing his father from blame  
brings good fortune in the end.

**Hexagram Eighteen/Line Two:**  
Correcting his mother's error,  
a son must not be too strident.

**Hexagram Eighteen/Line Three:**  
Restoring what his father damaged.  
Some regrets, but no great mistakes.

**Hexagram Eighteen/Line Four:**  
Tolerating the malpractices of the father  
will lead the son to ruin.

**Hexagram Eighteen/Line Five:**  
Setting right the father's ruins,  
The son receives honors.

**Hexagram Eighteen/Line Six:**  
Refusing to serve  
the conquerors of nations,  
he sets out to conquer hearts.

## **Hexagram Nineteen: Lin / Noble Calling**

The rich, loamy Earth  
on the banks of the Marsh  
provides fertile soil  
for exceptional progress.  
The Superior Person is  
inexhaustible  
in his willingness to teach,  
and without limit  
in his tolerance  
and support of others.

Supreme success  
if you keep to your course.  
But be aware that  
your time is limited;  
Your power will wane,  
as Summer changes to Fall.

**Hexagram Nineteen/Line One:**  
Sharing the authority  
ensures cooperation.  
This course brings good fortune.

**Hexagram Nineteen/Line Two:**  
If you approach this matter together,  
good fortune is certain.

**Hexagram Nineteen/Line Three:**  
Aggressive action  
meets inflexible resistance.  
If regret leads to a softer approach,  
there will be no irreparable damage.

**Hexagram Nineteen/Line Four:**  
Successful or not,  
a sincere approach  
is the only course.

**Hexagram Nineteen/Line Five:**  
Your wise approach  
is worthy of a prince.  
Great fortune will result.

**Hexagram Nineteen/Line Six:**  
You approach with  
humble honesty and generosity.

**This is a superior act.**

## **Hexagram Twenty: Kuan / Contemplation**

The gentle Wind  
roams the Earth:  
The Superior Person  
expands his sphere of influence  
as he expands his awareness.  
Deeply devoted  
to his pursuit  
of clarity and wisdom,  
he is unconscious of the inspiring, positive example  
he is setting  
for others to emulate.

You have cleansed yourself;  
now stand ready  
to make your humble,  
devout offering.

**Hexagram Twenty/Line One:**  
You look at things like a child.  
This is pardonable in a lesser man,  
but a fatal flaw in one of your calibre.

**Hexagram Twenty/Line Two:**  
Peeking from behind a screen  
may ensure your privacy,  
but it offers you only a partial view.

**Hexagram Twenty/Line Three:**  
By looking back  
over the course of your life,  
you will know if this is a time  
for advance or retreat.

**Hexagram Twenty/Line Four:**  
Observe the leader firsthand  
to decide the worthiness  
of the cause.

**Hexagram Twenty/Line Five:**  
His future is shaped  
by the quality of his influence  
on others in the past.  
Be blameless.

**Hexagram Twenty/Line Six:**  
He contemplates his own integrity

**without regard to the good or bad consequences  
his actions may have wrought.  
Stand or fall, he must be true to himself.**

## **Hexagram Twenty-One: Shih Ho / Biting Through**

The merciless, searing judgement of Lightning  
fulfills the warning prophecies  
of distant Thunder.  
Sage rulers  
preserved justice  
by clearly defining  
the laws,  
and by delivering  
the penalties decreed.

Though unpleasant,  
it is best  
to let justice have its due.

**Hexagram Twenty-One/Line One:**  
His feet are encased in stocks  
that hide his toes.  
Mild punishment, no blame.

**Hexagram Twenty-One/Line Two:**  
A bite so deep into the meat  
that his nose disappears.  
Harsh, but no mistake.

**Hexagram Twenty-One/Line Three:**  
Biting into dried meat  
And striking something spoiled.  
Uncomfortable, but no harm.

**Hexagram Twenty-One/Line Four:**  
Biting into dried meat  
and striking a piece of metal.  
If you recognize the dangers,  
you may follow this course to good fortune.

**Hexagram Twenty-One/Line Five:**  
Biting into dried meat  
and striking the golden arrowhead.  
Keeping to this perilous course  
will result in unexpected reward.

**Hexagram Twenty-One/Line Six:**  
The wooden stocks cover his ears,  
making him deaf  
to the warnings to repent.

**Misfortune will deepen.**

## **Hexagram Twenty-Two: Pi / Grace**

Fire illuminates  
the base of the Mountain:  
The Superior Person  
realizes he has not  
the wisdom to move  
the course of the world,  
except by attending  
to each day's affairs  
as they come.

Success in small matters.  
This is a good time  
to begin something.

**Hexagram Twenty-Two/Line One:**  
Honoring his feet,  
he leaves his carriage to walk.

**Hexagram Twenty-Two/Line Two:**  
Adorning the beard  
to the detriment of the chin.

**Hexagram Twenty-Two/Line Three:**  
Graceful as the mist.  
Holding to this course brings blessing.

**Hexagram Twenty-Two/Line Four:**  
Artifice or simplicity?  
Two riders on winged white horses:  
one a bandit, the other an ardent suitor.

**Hexagram Twenty-Two/Line Five:**  
Your small roll of silk  
seems a shameful offering  
among the splendor of his gardens,  
yet it is your sincerity and perseverance  
that are truly prized.

**Hexagram Twenty-Two/Line Six:**  
Faultless grace is simple and pure.



## **Hexagram Twenty-Three: Po / Splitting Apart**

The weight of the Mountain  
presses down upon a weak foundation of Earth:  
The Superior Person  
will use this time of oppression  
to attend to the needs  
of those less fortunate.

Any action  
would be ill-timed.  
Stand fast.

### **Hexagram Twenty-Three/Line One:**

The legs of the throne are hacked away.  
The loyal are cut down.

### **Hexagram Twenty-Three/Line Two:**

The arms of the throne are split to kindling.  
Those closest to the leader  
are slashed away.

### **Hexagram Twenty-Three/Line Three:**

He moves among those  
who would overturn the throne.  
Discretion and a true heart  
are the key to survival.

### **Hexagram Twenty-Three/Line Four:**

The seat of the throne is ripped apart;  
the leader is falling.  
Outrageous fortune.

### **Hexagram Twenty-Three/Line Five:**

Others follow you  
like fish on a line.  
The tide turns  
as you bring order from the chaos.

### **Hexagram Twenty-Three/Line Six:**

Refusing fruit offered by the serpent,  
he gains a carriage  
when the snake swallows its own tail  
and the light is restored.

## **Hexagram Twenty-Four: Fu / Return**

Thunder regenerates  
deep within Earth's womb:  
Sage rulers recognized  
that the end of Earth's  
seasonal cycle  
was also the starting point  
of a new year  
and a time for dormancy.  
They closed the passes  
at the Solstice  
to enforce a rest  
from commerce and activity.  
The ruler himself did not travel.

You have passed this way before  
but you are not regressing.  
This is progress,  
for the cycle now repeats itself,  
and this time you are aware  
that it truly is a cycle.  
The return of old familiars  
is welcome.  
You can be as sure of this cycle  
as you are that seven days  
bring the start of a new week.  
Use this dormancy phase to plan  
which direction you will grow.

**Hexagram Twenty-Four/Line One:**  
Return after straying off-trail.  
Good fortune and no blame.

**Hexagram Twenty-Four/Line Two:**  
Your return is welcome.  
Great fortune.

**Hexagram Twenty-Four/Line Three:**  
Return after return after return.  
Risky, but never a mistake.

**Hexagram Twenty-Four/Line Four:**  
As the masses move on,  
you see a better path  
and return alone.

**Hexagram Twenty-Four/Line Five:**  
Openly admitting your mistake,

you humbly and nobly return.  
No blame.

**Hexagram Twenty-Four/Line Six:**  
You have missed the opportunity  
for a triumphant return.  
You must now wait years  
before such an opportunity  
cycles your way again.  
Grave misfortune.

## **Hexagram Twenty-Five: Wu Wang / Remaining Blameless**

Thunder rolls  
beneath Heaven,  
as is its nature and place:  
Sage rulers aligned themselves  
with the changing seasons,  
nurturing and guiding  
their subjects to do the same.

Exceptional progress  
if you are mindful  
to keep out of the way  
of the natural Flow.  
It would be a fatal error  
to try to alter its course.  
This is a time of Being,  
not Doing.

**Hexagram Twenty-Five/Line One:**  
A guileless nature  
reaps good fortune.

**Hexagram Twenty-Five/Line Two:**  
Plow your field  
for a field well-plowed,  
not for possible harvests.  
Clear the wasteland  
for land well-cleared,  
not for potential rich fields.  
Such guileless enterprise  
can't help but succeed.

**Hexagram Twenty-Five/Line Three:**  
An innocent man  
is unjustly accused  
of the theft of an ox  
taken by a drifter.  
His very simplicity  
will acquit him.

**Hexagram Twenty-Five/Line Four:**  
No mistakes  
if your aim  
remains true.

**Hexagram Twenty-Five/Line Five:**  
No medicine

will treat this malady.  
Its cause was internal,  
as will be its cure.

**Hexagram Twenty-Five/Line Six:**

Any action,  
however innocent,  
will bring misfortune.  
Stand fast.

## **Hexagram Twenty-Six: Ta Ch'u / Recharging Power**

Heaven's motherlode  
waits within the Mountain:  
The Superior Person  
mines deep into history's  
wealth of wisdom and deeds,  
charging his character with  
timeless strength.

Persevere.  
Drawing sustenance  
from these sources  
creates good fortune.  
Then you may cross  
to the far shore.

**Hexagram Twenty-Six/Line One:**  
One more step brings disaster.  
A halt now proves strategic.

**Hexagram Twenty-Six/Line Two:**  
The axles have been removed  
from your cart.  
Good reason to remain in place  
for the moment.

**Hexagram Twenty-Six/Line Three:**  
A good stallion with speed.  
Discipline daily,  
study your goal,  
and advance is assured.

**Hexagram Twenty-Six/Line Four:**  
Attaching a plank of wood  
to the brow of this young bull  
will stunt the growth of his horns.  
Such foresight brings great fortune.

**Hexagram Twenty-Six/Line Five:**  
The tusks of a gelded boar.  
Ominous-looking,  
but without purpose.

**Hexagram Twenty-Six/Line Six:**  
In harmony with the will of Heaven,  
your strength is irresistible.

## **Hexagram Twenty-Seven: I / Providing Nourishment**

Beneath the immobile Mountain  
the arousing Thunder stirs:  
The Superior Person  
preserves his freedom  
under oppressive conditions  
by watching what comes  
out of his mouth,  
as well as what goes in.

Endure  
and good fortune will come.  
Nurture others in need,  
as if you were feeding yourself.  
Take care  
not to provide sustenance  
for those who feed off others.  
Stay as high as possible  
on the food chain.

### **Hexagram Twenty-Seven/Line One:**

You ignore your own succulent dinner  
to crave the dish set before another.  
Misfortune.

### **Hexagram Twenty-Seven/Line Two:**

Climbing steadily toward nourishment.  
you stray from the hill path  
to gather wild fruit.  
You wander toward disaster.

### **Hexagram Twenty-Seven/Line Three:**

You gorge yourself on tempting sweets,  
devoid of nutritional value.  
Such heedless compulsiveness  
carries longlasting consequences.

### **Hexagram Twenty-Seven/Line Four:**

Climbing to the summit  
to obtain nourishment for others,  
you are as alert as a tiger  
ready to spring.  
This is the correct path.

### **Hexagram Twenty-Seven/Line Five:**

Unspeakable delights  
tempt maddeningly from the far bank.  
You must not cross this stream.

**Hexagram Twenty-Seven/Line Six:**

**Others depend on you for sustenance.**

**If you are aware of the great responsibility  
such a position carries,**

**all will share good fortune.**

**You may cross to the far shore.**



## **Hexagram Twenty-Eight: Ta Kuo / Critical Mass**

The Flood rises  
above the tallest Tree:  
Amidst a rising tide  
of human folly,  
the Superior Person  
retires to higher ground,  
renouncing his world  
without looking back.

Any direction is better  
than where you now stand.

### **Hexagram Twenty-Eight/Line One:**

He cushions the objects  
with mats of white palm  
before setting them on the soft grass.  
Such overcaution is no mistake.

### **Hexagram Twenty-Eight/Line Two:**

The old willow sprouts new shoots.  
An older man takes a young wife.  
Good fortune abounds.

### **Hexagram Twenty-Eight/Line Three:**

The supporting beam  
is bending to its breaking point.  
Disaster looms.

### **Hexagram Twenty-Eight/Line Four:**

You come to the rescue  
and reinforce the supporting structure.  
Order and good fortune is restored.  
But does your help carry a price?

### **Hexagram Twenty-Eight/Line Five:**

The withered willow blossoms.  
An older woman takes a young husband.  
No blame, no praise.

### **Hexagram Twenty-Eight/Line Six:**

Fording the flooded stream,  
he disappears beneath the rushing waters  
and never resurfaces.  
Misfortune through no fault of his own.

## **Hexagram Twenty-Nine: K'an / Dangerously Deep**

Water follows Water,  
spilling over any cliff,  
flowing past all obstacles,  
no matter  
the depth or distance,  
to the sea.

The Superior Person  
learns flexibility  
from the mistakes  
he has made,  
and grows strong  
from the obstacles  
he has overcome,  
pressing on  
to show others the Way.

**Hexagram Twenty-Nine/Line One:**  
Deep beneath the earth,  
he falls into an even deeper chasm.  
Perilous.

**Hexagram Twenty-Nine/Line Two:**  
This dark pit you find yourself in  
is rife with traps and pitfalls.  
Don't scramble toward freedom,  
but concentrate on one small toehold  
at a time.

**Hexagram Twenty-Nine/Line Three:**  
Deep, dangerous pitfalls on every side.  
Stand fast.

**Hexagram Twenty-Nine/Line Four:**  
A simple meal of rice and wine,  
eaten from earthen bowls.  
This is correct.

**Hexagram Twenty-Nine/Line Five:**  
The dark waters of this pit will rise no higher.  
Your greatest danger now lies in panic.  
Keep your wits and you will escape.

**Hexagram Twenty-Nine/Line Six:**

**Bound with ropes,  
thrown into a thorn-filled chasm.  
For three years he is lost in this wasteland.  
Misfortune.**

## **Hexagram Thirty: Li / Igniting**

Fire sparks  
more Flames:  
The Superior Person  
holds an inner Fire  
that ignites passion  
in every heart it touches,  
until all the world  
is enlightened and aflame.

With so searing a flame,  
success will not be denied you.  
Take care to be  
as peaceful and nurturing  
as the cow in the meadow;  
you are strong enough  
to be gentle.

**Hexagram Thirty/Line One:**  
Meek and uncertain,  
he nevertheless approaches the radiance.  
No mistake.

**Hexagram Thirty/Line Two:**  
Glowing yellow warmth  
as if from the sun.  
Supreme good fortune.

**Hexagram Thirty/Line Three:**  
Old men read the lesson in the setting sun.  
Beat the cymbal and sing in this life,  
or wail away the hours fearing death.  
Their choice is their fortune.

**Hexagram Thirty/Line Four:**  
He bursts into flame,  
dazzles with his brilliance,  
spends his fuel,  
dies out quickly  
and is forgotten.

**Hexagram Thirty/Line Five:**  
Tears of repentance flood.  
Enlightenment turns the tide  
for the better.

**Hexagram Thirty/Line Six:**

**Sent as an instrument of justice,  
he transcends his station,  
delivering swift punishment to the perpetrators,  
but mercy to the misled.  
Faultless.**

## **Hexagram Thirty-One: Hsien / Attraction**

The joyous Lake is cradled  
by the tranquil Mountain:  
The Superior Person  
takes great satisfaction  
in encouraging others  
along their journey.  
He draws them to him  
with his welcoming nature  
and genuine interest.

Supreme success.  
This course leads to marriage.

**Hexagram Thirty-One/Line One:**  
He skillfully hides his excitement,  
but is betrayed by the twitching  
of his big toe.

**Hexagram Thirty-One/Line Two:**  
Nervously shaking his leg  
shows his irresistible urge to advance.  
Misfortune if he does.  
Good fortune if he doesn't.

**Hexagram Thirty-One/Line Three:**  
Restless thighs signify  
impatience and a lack of restraint.  
He has lost his center  
and is obsessed with another.  
Humiliation.

**Hexagram Thirty-One/Line Four:**  
Trembling all over.  
Only those who truly know him  
would understand.  
Favorable if he stays on course.

**Hexagram Thirty-One/Line Five:**  
Chills down the spine  
but no startled movements.  
No regrets.

**Hexagram Thirty-One/Line Six:**  
A wagging tongue and working jaws.

**All sound and fury  
signifying nothing.**

## **Hexagram Thirty-Two: Heng / Durability**

Arousing Thunder  
and penetrating Wind,  
close companions  
in any storm:  
The Superior Person  
possesses a resiliency  
and durability  
that lets him remain  
firmly and faithfully  
on course.

Such constancy  
deserves success.

**Hexagram Thirty-Two/Line One:**  
He pledges his love too hastily,  
and awaits her promise in return.  
This stunts the natural growth of affection.

**Hexagram Thirty-Two/Line Two:**  
These bad feelings will pass.

**Hexagram Thirty-Two/Line Three:**  
He must remain constant,  
or the only permanence  
will reside in disgrace.

**Hexagram Thirty-Two/Line Four:**  
No game in the field.

**Hexagram Thirty-Two/Line Five:**  
To submit to insult  
is to invite injury.

**Hexagram Thirty-Two/Line Six:**  
Constant only in his inconstancy,  
even fortune is eventually exhausted.



## **Hexagram Thirty-Three: Tun / Retreat**

The tranquil Mountain  
towers overhead,  
yet remains this side  
of Heaven:  
The Superior Person  
avoids the petty and superficial  
by keeping shallow men  
at a distance,  
not in anger  
but with dignity.

Such a retreat  
sweeps the path clear  
to Success.  
Occupy yourself  
with minute detail.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Three/Line One:**

You have reached  
the outlands of your retreat.  
To hold your advantage,  
fall back no further.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Three/Line Two:**

He lashes himself to his cause  
with thongs of yellow oxhide.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Three/Line Three:**

Though it imperils his retreat,  
he must provide for  
the safety of those  
who have served him loyally.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Three/Line Four:**

The Superior Person sees retreat  
as an opportunity to  
strengthen his position,  
and makes it so.  
The inferior person sees retreat  
as a defeat,  
and makes it so.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Three/Line Five:**

He makes a dignified retreat  
and retains control of the situation.

**Hexagram Thirty-Three/Line Six:**

**He retires nobly,  
seeing that it is  
for the good of all.**

## **Hexagram Thirty-Four: Ta Chuang / Awesome Power**

Thunder fills the Heavens  
with its awful roar,  
not out of pride,  
but with integrity;  
if it did less,  
it would not be Thunder:  
Because of his Great Power,  
the Superior Person takes pains  
not to overstep his position,  
so that he will not seem  
intimidating or threatening  
to the Established Order.

Opportunity will arise  
along this course.

**Hexagram Thirty-Four/Line One:**  
He uses all his remaining strength  
to stamp his hoof  
and paw the ground.  
If his bluff is called,  
it will bring misfortune.

**Hexagram Thirty-Four/Line Two:**  
Good fortune ahead  
if you stay on course.

**Hexagram Thirty-Four/Line Three:**  
The inferior person  
throws all his energy  
toward his goal.  
The Superior Person  
makes conserving energy  
his goal.  
The ram butts into a hedge,  
entangling his horns.

**Hexagram Thirty-Four/Line Four:**  
Entanglements loosen,  
and a way opens  
through the wall  
that has blocked you.  
The opening is narrow  
and must be navigated  
with the greatest caution,  
or you will be stopped  
dead in your tracks again.

**Hexagram Thirty-Four/Line Five:**

There are no threats

left before you.

You may set your ram free

without regret.

**Hexagram Thirty-Four/Line Six:**

If the ram butts into the hedge,

the entangling thorns will prevent

both advance and retreat.

It is best

to recognize this danger

and avoid it.

## **Hexagram Thirty-Five: Chin / Aspiration**

The Sun shines down  
upon the Earth:  
Constantly honing  
and refining his brilliance,  
the Superior Person  
is a Godsend to his people.  
They repay his benevolence  
with a herd of horses,  
and he is granted audience  
three times in a single day.

Promotion.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Five/Line One:**

Meet their distrust  
with tolerance  
and benevolence;  
such graciousness  
will wear away  
any heart of stone.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Five/Line Two:**

You advance in sorrow,  
but this path  
leads to good fortune.  
Accept the boon  
of a wise woman.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Five/Line Three:**

He is chosen unanimously  
to carry out  
the will of the people.  
All self-doubt vanishes.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Five/Line Four:**

Scurrying like a mouse.  
Such blind panic  
increases the danger.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Five/Line Five:**

Advancing along this path  
will prove rewarding  
if you don't lose your focus  
with visions of success  
or failure.

**Hexagram Thirty-Five/Line Six:**

Though politically perilous,  
it is wiser to put infidels  
within your own city walls  
to the sword,  
rather than lead a Crusade  
to convert faraway lands.

## **Hexagram Thirty-Six: Ming I / Eclipsing the Light**

Warmth and Light  
are swallowed by  
deep Darkness:  
The Superior Person  
shows his brilliance  
by keeping it veiled  
among the masses.

Stay true to your course,  
despite the visible obstacles  
ahead.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Six/Line One:**

The pheasant's wings  
falter and droop  
from exhaustion.  
The man wanders  
three days without eating.  
He goes where he must,  
though scorn awaits him.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Six/Line Two:**

The grieving pheasant  
has a wounded left wing.  
The agent of darkness  
wounds the man  
in his left thigh.  
Still the man  
helps others to safety  
with the strength of a horse.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Six/Line Three:**

The wounded pheasant hesitates  
outside the grain-filled cage.  
The man chases  
the agent of darkness  
back into the night,  
risking his own safety  
in the shadowy domain.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Six/Line Four:**

The pheasant senses danger  
and flees the jaws of the trap.  
Descending  
into the belly of the beast,  
the man beholds  
the true face of evil.  
In revulsion and despair,

he flees what he knows  
he can never defeat.

**Hexagram Thirty-Six/Line Five:**

The wounded pheasant  
is captured.  
Despite its fright,  
this is a turn for the better.

**Hexagram Thirty-Six/Line Six:**

Its broken wing mended,  
the pheasant is released  
to its fate.  
Realizing that darkness co-exists  
with the light in his own heart,  
the man transcends the bonds  
of good and evil,  
and freely roams  
the heights of Heaven  
and the bowels of Hell.



## **Hexagram Thirty-Seven: Chia Jen / Family Duties**

Warming Air Currents  
rise and spread  
from the Hearthfire:  
The Superior Person  
weighs his words carefully  
and is consistent  
in his behavior.

Be as faithful  
as a good wife.

**Hexagram Thirty-Seven/Line One:**  
The father firmly enforces the rules  
that protect his family.  
No fault.

**Hexagram Thirty-Seven/Line Two:**  
The neglected wife  
resists temptation  
and returns  
to her family duties.  
For her,  
things will improve.

**Hexagram Thirty-Seven/Line Three:**  
Tempers are unleashed  
within the family.  
The father carries  
a heavy burden of guilt.  
If his wife or children  
taunt him,  
this will only  
perpetuate the cycle.

**Hexagram Thirty-Seven/Line Four:**  
She is the jewel of the home,  
the family's greatest blessing.

**Hexagram Thirty-Seven/Line Five:**  
A good ruler  
tempers justice with mercy.  
This is best  
for a household as well.

**Hexagram Thirty-Seven/Line Six:**  
He sincerely wants to be fair.

**This brings respect  
to the father.**

## **Hexagram Thirty-Eight: K'uei / Estrangement**

Fire distances itself  
from its nemesis,  
the Lake:  
No matter how large  
or diverse the group,  
the Superior Person  
remains uniquely himself.

Small accomplishments  
are possible.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Eight/Line One:**

Don't search after  
the horses you've lost;  
They will return in seven days.  
Acknowledge the presence  
of evil people:  
keep a close eye on them,  
but don't be baited  
into dealing with them.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Eight/Line Two:**

He meets his lord  
in a narrow alleyway.  
Though he gets in the way,  
no harm is done.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Eight/Line Three:**

Bandits stop his oxen team  
and board his wagon.  
He is scalped,  
his face is disfigured,  
and he is left to die.  
Not only will he survive --  
he will endure and triumph.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Eight/Line Four:**

Resolving to stand alone  
in his beliefs if he must,  
he is immediately joined  
by a kindred spirit.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Eight/Line Five:**

A kindred spirit cuts through  
the barriers that separate you.  
Can you cross  
the small distance remaining?

**Hexagram Thirty-Eight/Line Six:**

After long isolation  
and persecution,  
he sees even  
the one who loves him  
as a beast or demon.  
If he will lay down his arms,  
they can advance  
toward good fortune together,  
through nothing more  
than a gentle rain.

## **Hexagram Thirty-Nine: Chien / Obstacle**

Ominous roiling  
in the Crater Lake  
atop the Volcano:  
When meeting an impasse,  
the Superior Person  
turns his gaze within,  
and views the obstacle  
from a new perspective.

Offer your opponent  
nothing to resist.  
Let a sage  
guide you in this.  
Good fortune  
lies along this course.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Nine/Line One:**

Advance will meet  
with opposition;  
Remaining in place  
will meet with praise.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Nine/Line Two:**

He stoically faces  
trial after trial,  
knowing his loyal labors  
will benefit another.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Nine/Line Three:**

Advance will meet  
with breathtaking obstacles.  
Remaining will meet  
with criticism  
from family and friends.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Nine/Line Four:**

Advance alone  
against insurmountable odds,  
or remain in place,  
gathering strength and allies.

### **Hexagram Thirty-Nine/Line Five:**

On the brink of crushing defeat,  
friends come to the rescue.

**Hexagram Thirty-Nine/Line Six:**

**Advance will meet  
with disastrous difficulties.**

**What you seek  
is right at hand.**

**Ask guidance  
from someone you respect.**

## **Hexagram Forty: Hsieh / Liberation**

**A Thunderous Cloudburst  
shatters the oppressive humidity:  
The Superior Person  
knows the release  
in forgiveness,  
pardoning the faults of others  
and dealing gently with  
those who sin against him.**

**It pays to accept things  
as they are for now.  
If there is nothing else  
to be gained,  
a return brings good fortune.  
If there is something yet  
to be gained,  
act on it at once.**

### **Hexagram Forty/Line One:**

**There has been  
no mistake.  
You are not at fault.**

### **Hexagram Forty/Line Two:**

**He kills three foxes  
in the hunt  
and wins the golden arrow.  
Great fortune  
if you follow this course.**

### **Hexagram Forty/Line Three:**

**The porter carries his burden  
in a gilded carriage  
well beyond his means.  
This attracts not only  
the resentment of his peers,  
but bandits as well.  
Injury and humiliation ahead.**

### **Hexagram Forty/Line Four:**

**Free yourself from  
this useless dependence.  
A new and trustworthy  
companion will appear.**

### **Hexagram Forty/Line Five:**

**He escapes the traps**

set by inferior men,  
then treats the conspirators  
as comrades.  
By making them friends,  
he rids himself of enemies.

**Hexagram Forty/Line Six:**

He calmly lifts his bow  
and picks off a falcon  
atop a distant tower.  
Such prowess breaks  
the spirit of his challengers.  
Nothing but good fortune  
from this point.



## **Hexagram Forty-One: Sun / Decrease**

The stoic Mountain  
drains its excess waters  
to the Lake below:  
The Superior Person  
curbs his anger  
and sheds his desires.

To be frugal and content  
is to possess  
immeasurable wealth within.  
Nothing of value  
could be refused  
such a person.  
Make a portion of each meal  
a share of your offering.

### **Hexagram Forty-One/Line One:**

Once your good work  
is accomplished,  
it is noble  
to move quietly on.  
But your charges  
have grown  
attached to you,  
and will feel  
a deep loss  
if you go.

### **Hexagram Forty-One/Line Two:**

You are able to provide  
what others need  
without depriving yourself.  
Keep to this humble  
course of aid,  
but do not attempt  
a heroic rescue,  
or unforeseen calamities  
will fall.

### **Hexagram Forty-One/Line Three:**

When three travel together,  
two will bond more closely,  
slighting the third.  
If one journeys alone,  
he will meet  
a fellow seeker.

### **Hexagram Forty-One/Line Four:**

Once he recognizes  
and admits his wound,  
walls tumble down  
and others can get through  
to offer the balm  
he needs for healing.

**Hexagram Forty-One/Line Five:**

He is showered  
with precious gifts,  
and those giving  
will hear no refusals.  
Supreme good fortune.

**Hexagram Forty-One/Line Six:**

He finds gain in that  
which others see no value.  
His example generates  
widespread support.  
This course brings success.

## **Hexagram Forty-Two: I / Expansion**

**Whirlwinds and Thunder:**  
When the Superior Person  
encounters saintly behavior,  
he adopts it;  
when he encounters  
a fault within,  
he transforms it.

Progress in every endeavor.  
You may cross to the far shore.

**Hexagram Forty-Two/Line One:**  
The forces of the cosmos  
are cycling in your favor.  
This is an ideal time for  
great progress and expansion  
in every endeavor.

**Hexagram Forty-Two/Line Two:**  
Your work is reverently  
admired by another  
who makes a substantial  
contribution to your cause.  
This patron is  
deeply spiritual,  
and can benefit you  
in ways beyond  
the material world.

**Hexagram Forty-Two/Line Three:**  
You are enriched  
by another's misfortune.  
This is no basis  
for guilt or shame;  
you did nothing  
to bring on these events.

**Hexagram Forty-Two/Line Four:**  
Your balance and skill  
have not gone unnoticed  
by those in power.  
They will entrust you  
with responsibilities that  
have far-reaching influence.

**Hexagram Forty-Two/Line Five:**

Your benevolence  
has been recognized  
by those above you.  
Your plans will  
greatly benefit all,  
and the favor you seek  
is as good as granted  
before you even ask.

**Hexagram Forty-Two/Line Six:**

Your heart isn't in it,  
and others can sense this.  
Every move you make is  
watched with suspicion.  
Steel your resolve,  
or failure is certain.

## **Hexagram Forty-Three: Kuai / Breakthrough**

**A Deluge from Heaven:  
The Superior Person  
rains fortune upon  
those in need,  
then moves on  
with no thought  
of the good he does.**

**The issue must be raised  
before an impartial authority.  
Be sincere and earnest,  
despite the danger.  
Do not try to force the outcome,  
but seek support where needed.  
Set a clear goal.**

### **Hexagram Forty-Three/Line One:**

**Though you feel confident,  
you are not equal to the  
overwhelming odds you face.  
One step forward  
will set you back a mile.**

### **Hexagram Forty-Three/Line Two:**

**An anquished cry  
pierces the night.  
Fully armed, sleepless  
and ever-watchful,  
but there is no need  
for fear.**

### **Hexagram Forty-Three/Line Three:**

**Keep a tight lock  
on your mouth.  
It takes resolve to face  
the insults silently,  
but they will  
prove harmless,  
and others will  
gradually warm to  
your sense of dignity.**

### **Hexagram Forty-Three/Line Four:**

**Your legs are  
torn and bleeding  
as you push heedlessly  
through the thorns  
toward your target.**

If you would allow yourself  
to be led down  
the path of least resistance,  
you would reach your goal.

**Hexagram Forty-Three/Line Five:**

The wisest method for  
dealing with weeds  
is to remove them before  
they are firmly rooted.  
In this way,  
your garden grows strong  
without violence.

**Hexagram Forty-Three/Line Six:**

A warning sign  
goes unheeded.  
Misfortune ahead.

## **Hexagram Forty-Four: Kou / Compulsion**

A playful Zephyr dances  
and delights beneath  
indulgent Heaven:  
A Prince who shouts orders  
but will not  
walk among his people  
may as well try to command  
the four winds.

A strong, addictive temptation,  
much more dangerous  
than it seems.

### **Hexagram Forty-Four/Line One:**

Get control of yourself.  
This temptation has you  
rooting like a hog.  
Only self-discipline  
can steer you off this  
road to disaster.

### **Hexagram Forty-Four/Line Two:**

A fish in the kitchen.  
Adequate for your  
humble needs,  
but not suitable for guests.  
No mistake.

### **Hexagram Forty-Four/Line Three:**

They flay the skin from his thighs  
then toss him  
in the wasteland  
to struggle home.  
He will live to remember  
this hideous lesson,  
and will avoid  
any more painful mistakes.

### **Hexagram Forty-Four/Line Four:**

No fish for guests;  
none even for yourself.  
Misfortune.

### **Hexagram Forty-Four/Line Five:**

Keep this melon  
growing in the shade.

It is a blessing from heaven.

**Hexagram Forty-Four/Line Six:**

You lower your horns  
toward one who sincerely  
wants to become close to you.  
Your companion's  
understanding  
will spare you any regret.



## **Hexagram Forty-Five: Ts'ui / Gathering**

The Lake rises  
by welcoming and receiving  
Earth's waters:  
The King approaches his temple.  
It is wise to seek  
audience with him there.

Success follows this course.  
Making an offering  
will seal your good fortune.  
A goal will be realized now.

### **Hexagram Forty-Five/Line One:**

You seem to blow  
both hot and cold,  
sometimes seeking to join in,  
sometimes shrinking away.  
Admit your fears out loud,  
and a true companion  
will answer.  
Joy returns.

### **Hexagram Forty-Five/Line Two:**

It will prove good fortune  
to allow yourself  
to be drawn into this group.  
Attract an invitation  
by having something  
small but sincere to offer.

### **Hexagram Forty-Five/Line Three:**

You strive to find  
common ground  
that doesn't exist.  
Sighing in sadness  
and walking away  
would be understood,  
though you may think  
less of yourself.

### **Hexagram Forty-Five/Line Four:**

No one will begrudge you  
the good fortune ahead.

### **Hexagram Forty-Five/Line Five:**

You are in a position  
to bring people together

and lead them.  
At first there will be  
doubters and detractors,  
but your calm resolve  
will win even their hearts.

**Hexagram Forty-Five/Line Six:**  
A gathering of mourners.  
No one is to blame.

## **Hexagram Forty-Six: Sheng / Upward Mobility**

Beneath the Soil,  
the Seedling pushes upward  
toward the light:  
To preserve his integrity,  
the Superior Person  
contents himself with  
small gains that eventually lead  
to great accomplishment.

Supreme success.  
Have no doubts.  
Seek guidance from  
someone you respect.  
A constant move  
toward greater clarity  
will bring reward.

**Hexagram Forty-Six/Line One:**  
You rise to a level  
where you are made welcome  
as a peer.

**Hexagram Forty-Six/Line Two:**  
Even a small offering  
is appreciated,  
if it is sincere.

**Hexagram Forty-Six/Line Three:**  
You have risen  
to become ruler  
of an empty city.

**Hexagram Forty-Six/Line Four:**  
The king continues to  
faithfully climb Mount Chi  
and make humble offering.

**Hexagram Forty-Six/Line Five:**  
Climb these steps  
to good fortune.

**Hexagram Forty-Six/Line Six:**  
Climbing onward and upward  
through dark of night  
is perilous,  
but your tenacity

**is admirable.  
Good fortune  
if you avoid  
the slightest misstep.**

## **Hexagram Forty-Seven: K'un / Exhaustion**

A Dead Sea,  
its Waters spent eons ago,  
more deadly than  
the desert surrounding it:  
The Superior Person will stake  
his life and fortune  
on what he deeply believes.

Triumph belongs  
to those who endure.  
Trial and tribulation can  
hone exceptional character  
to a razor edge  
that slices deftly  
through every challenge.  
Action prevails  
where words will fail.

### **Hexagram Forty-Seven/Line One:**

He rests beneath a dead tree,  
trying to make sense  
of this dark, desolate valley  
he has strayed into.  
These lost wanderings  
will last three years.

### **Hexagram Forty-Seven/Line Two:**

Chained to the banquet table,  
a prisoner  
of his own rich tastes.  
He offers prayer and sacrifice  
for delivery from desire.  
When even the desire  
to be delivered  
has been cleansed,  
his prayers  
will have been answered.

### **Hexagram Forty-Seven/Line Three:**

Hemmed in by stone,  
with nothing to climb  
but thorns:  
a trap of his own making.  
Struggling home,  
he cannot find his wife.  
Misfortune.

**Hexagram Forty-Seven/Line Four:**

Captive and on display  
in a golden carriage,  
he is ashamed  
of the spectacle  
he has become.  
Such regrets  
will lead to  
good fortune.

**Hexagram Forty-Seven/Line Five:**

Though his nose and feet  
will surely be cut off,  
still he must  
confront the warlord.  
He calmly accepts his fate,  
and offers prayer and sacrifice.

**Hexagram Forty-Seven/Line Six:**

He feels tightly bound  
by no more than  
a few vines of ivy.  
If he firmly resolves  
to break free,  
he will find  
he was held back  
by only his own  
guilt and fear.

## **Hexagram Forty-Eight: Ching / The Well**

**Deep Waters Penetrated  
and drawn to the surface:  
The Superior Person  
refreshes the people  
with constant encouragement  
to help one another.**

**Encampments, settlements,  
walled cities, whole empires  
may rise and fall,  
yet the Well at the center endures,  
never drying to dust,  
never overflowing.  
It served those before  
and will serve those after.  
Again and again  
you may draw from the Well,  
but if the bucket breaks  
or the rope is too short  
there will be misfortune.**

**Hexagram Forty-Eight/Line One:  
The water in this old well  
has seeped into the mud.  
Not even the animals  
come to drink from it.**

**Hexagram Forty-Eight/Line Two:  
Shooting at fish in the well  
puts holes in the bucket.  
No one can draw  
from this well.**

**Hexagram Forty-Eight/Line Three:  
This well has been cleansed,  
but no one will drink from it.  
This is a tragic mistake,  
for it has much to offer  
prince and pauper alike.**

**Hexagram Forty-Eight/Line Four:  
The well is carefully retiled,  
and in time  
made pure again.**

**Hexagram Forty-Eight/Line Five:**

The water in this well  
comes from a cool, deep,  
inexhaustible spring.

**Hexagram Forty-Eight/Line Six:**

This well is dependable  
and available to all.  
Supreme good fortune.



## **Hexagram Forty-Nine: Ko / Revolution**

Fire ignites within the Lake,  
defying conditions that would  
deny it birth or survival:  
The Superior Person reads  
the Signs of the Times  
and makes the Season  
apparent to all.

The support you need  
will come only after  
the deed is done.  
Renewed forces, however,  
will provide fresh energy  
for exceptional progress.  
Persevere.  
All differences vanish.

**Hexagram Forty-Nine/Line One:**  
Bound with bands  
of yellow oxhide.

**Hexagram Forty-Nine/Line Two:**  
When the time is ripe,  
you will be  
the instrument of change.  
Plant the seeds  
of revolution now,  
and success is assured.

**Hexagram Forty-Nine/Line Three:**  
Premature action  
would prove disastrous.  
Let the talk of revolution  
ferment among the people.  
When the rumors have  
reached your ear three times,  
that is your signal to strike.

**Hexagram Forty-Nine/Line Four:**  
Your honor is redeemed.  
All impediments fall away  
and the path ahead is clear.

**Hexagram Forty-Nine/Line Five:**  
You transform into a tiger  
before their eyes.  
Your very being

commands an awe  
that makes consulting  
the oracle unnecessary.

**Hexagram Forty-Nine/Line Six:**

You dodge the snares  
and snatch victory  
with the lightning speed  
and agility of a panther.  
The jackals lose their nerve  
and swear allegiance to you.  
You have won your revolt.  
Don't seek to climb higher.  
Instead stabilize the new order  
for the good of all.

## **Hexagram Fifty: Ting / The Caldron**

Fire rises hot and bright  
from the Wood beneath  
the sacrificial caldron:  
The Superior Person  
positions himself correctly  
within the flow of Cosmic forces.

Supreme accomplishment.

### **Hexagram Fifty/Line One:**

Tip over the caldron  
and get rid of  
its stagnant contents  
once and for all.  
He marries a woman  
to give her children  
a home.  
Blameless.

### **Hexagram Fifty/Line Two:**

Your caldron contains  
a hearty meal  
with plenty to go around.  
Your rivals are jealous  
of your ability to provide,  
but they can't harm you.  
Good fortune.

### **Hexagram Fifty/Line Three:**

You cooked a perfect meal  
in a caldron  
you can't lift from the fire.  
The feast is wasted.  
Once the storm of resentment  
has washed over you,  
good fortune will come again.

### **Hexagram Fifty/Line Four:**

A leg of the caldron buckles,  
spilling the hot meal  
on the very person  
you wish to serve.  
Trust evaporates,  
and the void is filled  
with shame and scorn.

**Hexagram Fifty/Line Five:**

The caldron you cook in  
has yellow handles  
and golden carrying rings.  
Good fortune  
if you keep to this course.

**Hexagram Fifty/Line Six:**

Your caldron is fitted  
with jade handles.  
Great success  
in whatever you do.

## **Hexagram Fifty-One: Chen / Thunder**

Thunder echoes upon Thunder,  
commanding reverence  
for its father Heaven:  
In awe of  
Heaven's majestic power,  
the Superior Person looks within  
and sets his life in order.

Thunder mingles with  
startled screams of terror  
for a hundred miles around.  
As the people nervously laugh  
at their own fright,  
the devout presents  
the sacrificial chalice  
with nary a drop of wine spilt.  
Deliverance.

### **Hexagram Fifty-One/Line One:**

The thunderclap  
rips screams of terror  
from the hearts of all below.  
After its last echo,  
only nervous laughter  
can be heard.  
All is well.

### **Hexagram Fifty-One/Line Two:**

This thunder erupts  
from the ground  
beneath your feet,  
delivering real danger.  
Abandon your belongings  
and climb to higher ground.  
Don't grieve over  
treasures left behind.  
They will return to you  
in seven days.

### **Hexagram Fifty-One/Line Three:**

These deafening thunderclaps  
will roll on eastward.  
If they shock you  
into action, though,  
their passing will have left  
a permanent change  
for the good.

**Hexagram Fifty-One/Line Four:**

If you run in blind terror  
from this thunder,  
you will end up  
hopelessly mired in the mud.

**Hexagram Fifty-One/Line Five:**

Others run in  
confusion and terror  
from the violent thunderstorm.  
Fully aware of the danger,  
you keep to the task  
that must be done.

**Hexagram Fifty-One/Line Six:**

The lightning teeth  
of the thunder above  
and the yawning jaws  
of the earthquake below  
wreak havoc and ruin  
on neighbors around you,  
while you remain  
miraculously untouched.  
There will be  
rumors and accusations.  
Don't react,  
or their fate will become yours.

## **Hexagram Fifty-Two: Ken / The Mountain**

Above this Mountain's summit  
another more majestic rises:  
The Superior Person  
is mindful to keep his thoughts  
in the here and now.

Stilling the sensations  
of the Ego,  
he roams his courtyard  
without moving a muscle,  
unencumbered by the fears  
and desires of his fellows.  
This is no mistake.

**Hexagram Fifty-Two/Line One:**  
Not even moving a toe.  
No mistakes.  
Hold to this course.

**Hexagram Fifty-Two/Line Two:**  
Relaxing his legs.  
He sees he cannot rescue  
the one he follows.  
He resigns himself to sorrow.

**Hexagram Fifty-Two/Line Three:**  
He seeks stillness  
through rigidity  
instead of relaxation.  
He will paralyze  
his legs  
and overtax his heart.

**Hexagram Fifty-Two/Line Four:**  
He keeps his trunk still  
through flexibility.  
Faultless.

**Hexagram Fifty-Two/Line Five:**  
Keeping his jaw relaxed,  
what words he speaks  
carry order and deliberation.  
Conflict dissolves.

**Hexagram Fifty-Two/Line Six:**

**His constant goal  
is an end to striving.  
Good fortune.**



## **Hexagram Fifty-Three: Chien / Gradual Progress**

The gnarled Pine grows tenaciously off the Cliff face:  
The Superior Person  
clings faithfully  
to dignity and integrity,  
thus elevating  
the Collective Spirit of Man  
in his own small way.

Development.  
The maiden is given  
in marriage.  
Good fortune  
if you stay on course.

### **Hexagram Fifty-Three/Line One:**

The wild geese  
draw near shore.  
The inexperience  
and brashness of youth  
may lead to danger,  
but a sharp warning  
will set things right.

### **Hexagram Fifty-Three/Line Two:**

The geese  
draw near the cliff.  
There will be feasting,  
peace, rest and joy.

### **Hexagram Fifty-Three/Line Three:**

The wild geese nest  
in the open prairie.  
The male leaves to forage;  
he will not return.  
The brooding female  
will not hatch her young.  
Predators close in.

### **Hexagram Fifty-Three/Line Four:**

The wild geese  
must find shelter  
in the trees.  
Only the broadest,  
flattest branches  
will harbor them.  
No mishaps.

**Hexagram Fifty-Three/Line Five:**

The wild geese  
draw near the summit.  
For three years  
the female  
has borne no young;  
now nothing  
will stop her.  
Deliverance.

**Hexagram Fifty-Three/Line Six:**

The wild geese  
fly to a home  
above the clouds.  
They no longer  
need their feathers,  
and leave them behind  
for the sacred dance.  
Peace everlasting.

**Hexagram Fifty-Four:  
Kuei Mei /  
A Loveless Marriage**

The Thunderstorm  
inseminates the swelling Lake,  
then moves on  
where the Lake cannot follow:  
The Superior Person  
views passing trials  
in the light of Eternal Truths.

Any action  
will prove unfortunate.  
Nothing furthers.

**Hexagram Fifty-Four/Line One:**  
Even becoming a concubine  
would be an advance  
in this woman's life.  
For the lame,  
any step forward  
is a good step.

**Hexagram Fifty-Four/Line Two:**  
Left alone in her marriage,  
she remains content  
in her illusions.  
Sometimes a one-eyed man  
is blessed for  
what he can't see.

**Hexagram Fifty-Four/Line Three:**  
Not fulfilled by her marriage,  
the young woman returns home  
to her former life.

**Hexagram Fifty-Four/Line Four:**  
The maiden waits  
far longer than seems wise,  
to make sure  
her marriage is right.

**Hexagram Fifty-Four/Line Five:**  
The princess bride  
dresses humbly,  
out of respect  
for her commoner groom.

Her bridesmaids  
outshine her by far.  
She is a treasure.

**Hexagram Fifty-Four/Line Six:**

The groom draws no blood  
from the sacrifice.  
The bride's basket  
remains empty.  
A barren marriage.

## **Hexagram Fifty-Five: Feng / Abundance**

Thunder and Lightning  
from the dark heart of the storm:  
The Superior Person  
judges fairly,  
so that consequences are just.

The leader reaches his peak  
and doesn't lament  
the descent before him.  
Be like the noonday sun  
at its zenith.  
This is success.

### **Hexagram Fifty-Five/Line One:**

He meets his soulmate,  
and they couple ceaselessly  
for ten days.  
No mistake.  
This union will change worlds.

### **Hexagram Fifty-Five/Line Two:**

The veil before his eyes  
casts so dark a shade,  
he sees the Big Dipper  
at noontime.  
Authorities distrust  
one with such vision.  
It is best to emphasize  
why seeing the truth  
is the safest route  
to preserving power.

### **Hexagram Fifty-Five/Line Three:**

The veil before his eyes  
casts so dark a shade,  
he can see the smallest stars  
at noontime.  
For such vision,  
he loses the use  
of his right arm.  
No mistake.

### **Hexagram Fifty-Five/Line Four:**

The veil before his eyes  
casts so dark a shade,  
he can see the polestar  
at noontime.  
It leads him

to his soulmate.  
No mistake.

**Hexagram Fifty-Five/Line Five:**

He attracts  
the brilliant and able  
to his quest.  
Good fortune.

**Hexagram Fifty-Five/Line Six:**

In his large and splendid house,  
no friends or family dwell.  
He sees no one  
pass through his gate  
for three years.  
Misfortune.

## **Hexagram Fifty-Six: Lu / The Wanderer**

Fire on the Mountain,  
catastrophic to man,  
a passing annoyance  
to the Mountain:  
The Superior Person  
waits for wisdom and clarity  
before exacting Justice,  
then lets no protest sway him.

Find satisfaction in small gains.  
To move constantly forward  
is good fortune to a Wanderer.

**Hexagram Fifty-Six/Line One:**  
A traveler with petty complaints  
and too many demands  
soon wears out his welcome.

**Hexagram Fifty-Six/Line Two:**  
The traveler lodges at an inn  
and keeps his belongings  
with him at all times.  
He gains a loyal servant.

**Hexagram Fifty-Six/Line Three:**  
The traveler causes a fire  
that burns down the inn.  
He loses the trust  
of his servant  
and traveling companions.  
Danger.

**Hexagram Fifty-Six/Line Four:**  
Taking shelter  
in an abandoned cabin,  
the traveler finds  
his stolen belongings  
beside a razor-sharp axe.  
What should be delight  
freezes to dread.

**Hexagram Fifty-Six/Line Five:**  
The traveler  
kills a pheasant  
with his first shot.  
For the price of one arrow,

he has bought himself  
praise and high office.

**Hexagram Fifty-Six/Line Six:**

The traveler  
uses a bird's nest  
as kindling.  
He chuckles at his cleverness,  
but soon weeps  
when he loses his ox.  
Misfortune.



## **Hexagram Fifty-Seven: Sun / The Penetrating Wind**

Wind follows upon wind,  
wandering the earth,  
penetrating gently  
but persistently:  
The Superior Person  
expands his influence  
by reaffirming his decisions  
and carrying out his promises.

Small, persistent, focused  
effort brings success.  
Seek advice  
from someone you respect.

### **Hexagram Fifty-Seven/Line One:**

Advance or retreat:  
the determined warrior  
will use either to advantage.

### **Hexagram Fifty-Seven/Line Two:**

A whirlwind beneath the bed.  
Fortunetellers and magicians  
are summoned,  
but none can interpret  
this omen.  
All will go well.

### **Hexagram Fifty-Seven/Line Three:**

Half-hearted attempts  
to penetrate,  
over and over again.  
Humiliation.

### **Hexagram Fifty-Seven/Line Four:**

Self-doubt vanishes  
and determination grows.  
Three forms of game  
will be taken in this hunt.

### **Hexagram Fifty-Seven/Line Five:**

Determination has settled  
into a steady course  
toward good fortune.  
That was no way to start,  
but it will lead to  
a glorious ending.

Consider any crossroad  
three days before pressing on.  
Check your bearings  
for three days following,  
to ensure you haven't strayed  
from your course.

**Hexagram Fifty-Seven/Line Six:**

The wind dies  
beneath the bed.  
All courage to persevere  
is gone.  
Resources are depleted,  
defenses are down.  
To move ahead  
with this course  
would prove disastrous.

## **Hexagram Fifty-Eight: Tui / Empowering**

The joyous Lake spans  
on and on to the horizon:  
The Superior Person  
renews and expands his Spirit  
through heart-to-heart exchanges with others.

Success  
if you stay on course.

**Hexagram Fifty-Eight/Line One:**  
Harmony and quiet words.  
Joyous contentment.  
Good fortune.

**Hexagram Fifty-Eight/Line Two:**  
Rejoice in his sincerity.  
This good fortune  
will last into the future,  
if you don't let  
the past resurface.

**Hexagram Fifty-Eight/Line Three:**  
Arguing and negotiating  
to win love and joy.  
Self-defeat.  
Misfortune.

**Hexagram Fifty-Eight/Line Four:**  
This experimentation  
with diverse pleasures,  
this fruitless chase after  
the ultimate thrill,  
will damage you.  
Joy is tranquil,  
not mad rushing,  
and will arise from peace.

**Hexagram Fifty-Eight/Line Five:**  
You place your trust  
in an unworthy ally.

**Hexagram Fifty-Eight/Line Six:**  
Don't let thrill-seeking comrades  
divert you from true joy.

## **Hexagram Fifty-Nine: Huan / Dissolution**

Wind carries the Mists aloft:  
Sage rulers dedicated their lives  
to serving a Higher Power  
and built temples  
that still endure.

The King approaches his temple.  
Success if you stay on course.  
You may cross to the far shore.

### **Hexagram Fifty-Nine/Line One:**

He gives aid  
with the strength  
and stamina of a horse.  
Good fortune.

### **Hexagram Fifty-Nine/Line Two:**

When his dreams evaporate  
to mist on the breeze,  
he returns to  
his well of strength.  
Regret is washed away.

### **Hexagram Fifty-Nine/Line Three:**

His ego dissolves  
and the void is filled  
with his Self.  
No more  
fear and frustration.

### **Hexagram Fifty-Nine/Line Four:**

He scatters his group  
far and wide.  
Those who return  
will be of firmer resolve  
and leaner, stronger fibre.  
An ingenious move.

### **Hexagram Fifty-Nine/Line Five:**

He cries in pain  
as he sweats out this fever.  
The king opens  
the royal stockpile  
to his subjects.  
No mistake.

**Hexagram Fifty-Nine/Line Six:**

**He follows the trail  
of his own blood  
to safety.**

## **Hexagram Sixty: Chieh / Limitations**

Waters difficult to keep  
within the Lake's banks:  
The Superior Person  
examines the nature of virtue  
and makes himself a standard  
that can be followed.

Self-discipline brings success;  
but restraints too binding  
bring self-defeat.

**Hexagram Sixty/Line One:**  
Roaming his own garden  
and courtyard,  
he never strays out the gate.  
No mistake.

**Hexagram Sixty/Line Two:**  
Pacing his own garden  
and courtyard,  
he refuses to pass out the gate.  
Misfortune.

**Hexagram Sixty/Line Three:**  
He without self-restraint today  
forges the shackles  
that hobble him tomorrow.

**Hexagram Sixty/Line Four:**  
He is most content  
in frugality and simplicity:  
the highest success.

**Hexagram Sixty/Line Five:**  
He travels easily  
with economy and simplicity.  
This brings merit.

**Hexagram Sixty/Line Six:**  
Self-discipline  
teetering toward  
self-destruction.  
An empty martyrdom.  
Turn back.

## **Hexagram Sixty-One: Chung Fu / Inner Truth**

The gentle Wind ripples  
the Lake's surface:  
The Superior Person  
finds common ground  
between points of contention,  
wearing away rigid perspectives  
that would lead to fatal error.

Pigs and fishes.  
You may cross to the far shore.  
Great fortune  
if you stay on course.

### **Hexagram Sixty-One/Line One:**

The wading heron  
releases all desire,  
so that a passing fish  
will reward him with lunch.

### **Hexagram Sixty-One/Line Two:**

A crane calls from the shade  
and her young  
answer with love.  
My cup of life  
is filled to the brim.  
Come share it with me.

### **Hexagram Sixty-One/Line Three:**

True companions  
share their fate.  
One beats the drum,  
one grows silent.  
One weeps,  
one sings.

### **Hexagram Sixty-One/Line Four:**

Just before the moon  
waxes full,  
One horse  
breaks from the harness,  
and its mate remains.  
It is as it should be.

### **Hexagram Sixty-One/Line Five:**

Finding himself,  
his serene inner flame

radiates warmth  
that draws others near.  
He does not Do;  
he just Is.

**Hexagram Sixty-One/Line Six:**

This cock's crow  
pierces to Heaven.  
A warning best heeded.



## **Hexagram Sixty-Two: Hsiao Kuo / Lying Low**

Thunder high on the Mountain,  
active passivity:  
The Superior Person  
is unsurpassed in his ability  
to remain small.  
In a time for humility,  
he is supremely modest.  
In a time of mourning,  
he uplifts with somber reverence.  
In a time of want,  
he is resourcefully frugal.

When a bird flies too high,  
its song is lost.  
Rather than push upward now,  
it is best to remain below.  
This will bring  
surprising good fortune,  
if you keep to your course.

### **Hexagram Sixty-Two/Line One:**

It is perilous  
for so small a bird  
to fly so high.

### **Hexagram Sixty-Two/Line Two:**

She invokes the spirit  
of her ancestor,  
but is visited  
by her ancestress.  
He heads  
straight for the Prince  
but is intercepted  
by the Minister.  
It is best.

### **Hexagram Sixty-Two/Line Three:**

Focusing so intensely  
on your target  
has given you tunnel vision.  
An ambush could reach you  
from three sides.  
Heed this warning.

### **Hexagram Sixty-Two/Line Four:**

This prize  
you have strived for

could be the end of you.  
Wake up to its danger  
and you will prevail.

**Hexagram Sixty-Two/Line Five:**

Don't take shelter  
from storms  
that have not yet blown in.  
It is too easy to shoot  
a bird in a cave.

**Hexagram Sixty-Two/Line Six:**

He flies too high,  
beyond his limit.  
The plummet to earth  
is spent lamenting.

## **Hexagram Sixty-Three: Chi Chi / Aftermath**

**Boiling Water  
over open Flame,  
one might extinguish  
the other:  
The Superior Person  
takes a 360 degree view  
of the situation and prepares  
for any contingency.**

**Success in small matters  
if you stay on course.  
Early good fortune  
can end in disorder.**

### **Hexagram Sixty-Three/Line One:**

**The man brakes his wheels,  
but the fox leaps the stream,  
wetting his tail  
just short of safety.  
No harm.**

### **Hexagram Sixty-Three/Line Two:**

**The woman has lost her screen.  
She will remain exposed  
seven days  
before it is returned.**

### **Hexagram Sixty-Three/Line Three:**

**He marches into  
the Devil's Domain,  
and conquers it  
after three grueling years.  
Lesser men  
could not do this.**

### **Hexagram Sixty-Three/Line Four:**

**The finest clothes  
can be shredded to rags.  
Keep a sharp eye  
on the discontent.**

### **Hexagram Sixty-Three/Line Five:**

**The sacrificial festival  
launched by  
his eastern neighbor  
cannot overshadow**

the western man's  
simple, sincere offering.

**Hexagram Sixty-Three/Line Six:**

His head disappears  
beneath the waves.  
Danger.

## **Hexagram Sixty-Four: Wei Chi / The End In Sight**

Fire ascends  
above the Water:  
The Superior Person  
examines the nature of things  
and keeps each  
in its proper place.

Too anxious  
the young fox  
gets his tail wet,  
just as he completes  
his crossing.  
To attain success,  
be like the man  
and not like the fox.

### **Hexagram Sixty-Four/Line One:**

Careless so near to shore,  
the fox gets his tail wet.  
Humiliation.

### **Hexagram Sixty-Four/Line Two:**

He brakes his wheels,  
but remains on the path.  
Good fortune.

### **Hexagram Sixty-Four/Line Three:**

Though the far shore is in sight,  
eagerness invites carelessness.  
Cross the river before  
stepping out of the boat.

### **Hexagram Sixty-Four/Line Four:**

Deep in the Devil's Domain,  
there is no room for despair.  
Persevere for three years,  
and victory will be yours.

### **Hexagram Sixty-Four/Line Five:**

True to himself to the end,  
inner light radiates from him  
and warms others in the glow.  
Good fortune.

**Hexagram Sixty-Four/Line Six:**

Too much wine  
at the victory feast  
can remove  
all cause for celebration.  
Be a good winner.

## Trigram Symbols

Ch'ien/Heaven

Chen/Thunder

K'an/Water

Ken/Mountain

K'un/Earth

Sun/Wind

Li/Fire

Tui/Lake

## Chien/Heaven

<b>Image:</b>	<b>Heaven</b>
<b>Qualities:</b>	<b>Creative Strong Light of Day Firmness Inspiring Power Aggression Completion</b>
<b>Direction:</b>	<b>Northwest</b>
<b>Family Member:</b>	<b>Father</b>
<b>Body Part:</b>	<b>Head</b>
<b>Season:</b>	<b>Early Winter</b>
<b>Time of Day:</b>	<b>Daytime</b>
<b>Animal:</b>	<b>Horse</b>
<b>Color:</b>	<b>Purple</b>
<b>Element:</b>	<b>Metal</b>
<b>Miscellaneous: Round</b>	<b>Prince Jade Cold Ice Tree Fruit Upper Garment Word Prehistoric Flesheater</b>



## Chen/Thunder

<b>Image:</b>	<b>Thunder</b>
<b>Qualities:</b>	<b>Arousing Activity Excitement Growth Expanding Impulsive Provocative Adventurous Experimental Vehement Influential Persuasive Seductive Decisive</b>
<b>Direction:</b>	<b>East</b>
<b>Family Member:</b>	<b>Eldest Son</b>
<b>Body Part:</b>	<b>Foot</b>
<b>Season:</b>	<b>Spring</b>
<b>Time of Day:</b>	<b>Early Morning</b>
<b>Animal:</b>	<b>Dragon</b>
<b>Color:</b>	<b>Amber</b>
<b>Element:</b>	<b>Grass</b>
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>	<b>Spreading Out Blossoming Great Road Green Bamboo Reed Rush Pod-bearing Plants</b>

## **K'an/Water**

**Image:** Water  
Clouds  
Rain  
Spring  
Pit  
Chasm

**Qualities:** Dangerous  
Difficult  
Profound  
Anxious  
Deep  
Mysterious  
Damned  
Persistent  
Persevering  
Flexible  
Melancholy  
Pervasive  
Protean  
Mobile  
Fluid  
Driving

**Direction:** North

**Family Member:** Middle Son

**Body Part:** Ear

**Season:** Midwinter

**Time of Day:** Midnight

**Animal:** Pig

**Color:** Scarlet

**Element:** Wood

**Miscellaneous:** Ditches

Ambush  
Bent and  
Bow  
Wheel  
Sick Heart  
Earache  
Blood  
Stumbling Horse  
Wrecked Chariot  
Moon  
Thieves  
Hardwood

**Straightened**

**Toil**

## Ken/Mountain

**Image:** Mountain

**Qualities:** Tranquil  
Immobile  
Still  
Perverse  
Waiting  
Patient  
Calm  
Stubborn  
Inert  
Methodical  
Eternal

**Direction:** Northeast

**Family Member:** Youngest Son

**Body Part:** Hand

**Season:** Late Winter

**Time of Day:** Dawn

**Animal:** Dog

**Color:** Emerald Green

**Element:** Stone

**Miscellaneous:Byway**  
Mountain Path  
Pebbles  
Doorway  
Opening  
Gateway  
Seed of Fruit  
Eunuch  
Watchman  
Doorkeeper  
Fingers  
Rat  
Black-billed Bird  
Gnarled Tree

## **K'un/Earth**

<b>Image:</b>	<b>Earth</b>
<b>Qualities:</b>	<b>Weak Yielding Dark Nurturing Responsive Receptive Adaptable Submissive Charitable Protective Even-tempered Frugal Fertile</b>
<b>Direction:</b>	<b>Southwest</b>
<b>Family Member:</b>	<b>Mother</b>
<b>Body Part:</b>	<b>Belly</b>
<b>Season:</b>	<b>Early Autumn</b>
<b>Time of Day:</b>	<b>Night</b>
<b>Animal:</b>	<b>Cow</b>
<b>Color:</b>	<b>Black</b>
<b>Element:</b>	<b>Soil</b>
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>	<b>Cloth Kettle Pregnancy Level Balanced Impartial Large Wagon Form Ornament Multitude Shaft Tree Trunk</b>

## Sun/Wind

<b>Image:</b>	Wind Wood
<b>Qualities:</b>	Gentle Penetrating Gradual Honest Simple Subtle Transitory Shifting Elusive Whispering Caressing Indecisive
<b>Direction:</b>	Southeast
<b>Family Member:</b>	Eldest Daughter
<b>Body Part:</b>	Thigh
<b>Season:</b>	Early Summer
<b>Time of Day:</b>	Midmorning
<b>Animal:</b>	Rooster
<b>Color:</b>	White
<b>Element:</b>	Air
<b>Miscellaneous: Guideline</b>	Work Long High Advance and Retreat Odor Gray-haired Broad Forehead White of the Eye Close to the Grain Threefold Return

## Li/Fire

**Image:** Fire  
Sun  
Lightning

**Qualities:** Clear  
Conscious  
Intelligent  
Dependent  
Clinging  
Illuminating  
Warming  
Searing

**Direction:** South

**Family Member:** Middle Daughter

**Body Part:** Eye

**Season:** Midsummer

**Time of Day:** Noon

**Animal:** Pheasant

**Color:** Yellow

**Element:** Fire

**Miscellaneous:** Clarity

Coat of Mail  
Helmet  
Armor  
Lance  
Weapons  
Big-bellied  
Dryness  
Tortoise  
Crab  
Snail  
Mussel  
Shell-bearing  
Tree Dead at the Top  
Firm Without  
Hollow Within

**Creatures**

## Tui/Lake

<b>Image:</b>	<b>Lake Marsh</b>
<b>Qualities:</b>	<b>Satisfied Fulfilled Excessive Open Pleasing Joyous Magical Elfin Mischievous</b>
<b>Direction:</b>	<b>West</b>
<b>Family Member:</b>	<b>Youngest Daughter</b>
<b>Body Part:</b>	<b>Mouth</b>
<b>Season;</b>	<b>Late Autumn</b>
<b>Time of Day:</b>	<b>Dusk</b>
<b>Animal:</b>	<b>Sheep</b>
<b>Color:</b>	<b>Blue</b>
<b>Element:</b>	<b>Flesh</b>
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>	<b>Sorceress Tongue Smashing Breaking Apart Dropping Off Bursting Open Hard, Salty Soil Concubine Ripe Fruit Goat Gypsy</b>



