

# 10. Lü

## Treading carefully.

Upper Trigram: Ch'ien; Creative Principle, Heaven.  
Lower Trigram: Tui; Joy, a Lake.

Constitutional Rulers: Six in the third place.  
Governing Rulers: Nine in the fifth place.

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### The Image:

The sky above, and below it the waters of a lake: the image of Lü.  
The superior man, in accordance with this, discriminates  
between high and low, and gives settlement to the aims of the  
people.

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Miscellaneous Signs: (9, 29, 30, 55, 56)  
Hsiao Ch'u with few 'gainst many foes contends;  
Movement in Lü, unresting, never ends.

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### The Judgement:

Lü suggests the idea of one treading on the tail of a tiger, that  
does not bite him.  
There will be progress and success.

### Appended Judgement:

Lü shows us the foundation of virtue and the perfection of  
harmony.

Lü also appears in the harmony of conduct.

See also Ta Chuan, section II, chapter VII, §§ 2-4.

### Commentary:

In Lü we see weakness (the yin-line) treading on strength. The lower  
trigram indicates pleasure and satisfaction, and responds to the upper,  
representing strength. Hence 'he treads on the tail of a tiger, that does not  
bite him; there will be progress and success'.

The fifth line is strong, in the centre, and in its correct place. Its subject

occupies the God-given position, and falls into no distress or failure; his actions will be brilliant.

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## The Lines:

Nine in the bottom place:

This line shows its subject treading his accustomed path. If he go forward, there will be no error.

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Nine in the second place:

Showing its subject treading a path that is level and easy; a quiet and solitary man, to whom, if he be firm and correct, there will be good fortune.

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Six in the third place:

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A one-eyed man who thinks he can see well; a lame man who thinks he can walk; one who treads on the tail of a tiger and is bitten. All this indicates ill fortune. We have one merely acting the part of a great ruler.

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Nine in the fourth place:

Showing its subject treading on the tail of a tiger. He becomes full of apprehensive caution; in the end there will be good fortune.

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Nine in the fifth place:

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Showing the resolute tread of its subject. But though he be firm and correct, there will be peril.

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Top-most nine:

This line suggests to look at the whole course that is trodden, and examine the signs encountered. If they be complete and without failure, there will be great good fortune.

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## Commentaries:

Nine in the bottom place:

'He treads his accustomed path and goes forward': singly and exclusively he carries out his wishes.

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Nine in the second place:

'A quiet and solitary man, to whom, being firm and correct, there will be good fortune': holding the due mean, he will not allow himself to be thrown into disorder.

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Six in the third place:

'A one-eyed man who thinks he can see': he is not fit to see clearly.

'A lame man who thinks he can walk': one cannot walk along with him.

The 'ill fortune of being bitten', arises from the place not being the proper one for him.

'One merely acting the part of a great ruler': this is owing to his aims being too violent.

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Nine in the fourth place:

'He becomes full of apprehensive caution; in the end there will be good fortune': his aim takes effect.

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Nine in the fifth place:

'He treads resolutely; but though he be firm and correct, there will be peril': he treads resolutely, due to his being in the position that is correct and appropriate to him.

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Top-most nine:

'There will be great good fortune', and that in the occupancy of the top-most line: this is great matter for congratulation.

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