

22. Pi

Grace.

Upper Trigram: Ken; Inaction, a Mountain.
Lower Trigram: Li; Clinging Brightness, Fire.

Governing Rulers: Six in the second place.
Top-most nine.

The Image:

Fire under the mountain: the image of Pi.

The superior man, in accordance with this, throws a brilliancy around his various processes of government, but does not dare in a similar way to decide cases of criminal litigation.

Miscellaneous Signs: (17, 18, 21, 57, 58)

Shih Ho takes eating for its theme, and Pi takes what is plain, from ornament quite free.

The Judgement:

Pi indicates that there should be free course in what it denotes. There will be little advantage, however, if it be allowed to advance and take the lead.

Commentary:

Pi indicates that there should be free course in what it denotes.

We see the weak line coming and ornamenting the strong lines of the inner trigram, and hence it is said that ornament 'should have free course'. On the other hand the strong line above ornaments the weak ones of the outer trigram, and hence it is said that 'there will be little advantage if ornament be allowed to advance and take the lead'. This is illustrated in the appearances that ornament the sky.

Elegance and intelligence, denoted by the lower trigram, regulated by arrest, denoted by the upper trigram, these suggest the observances that adorn human society.

We look at the ornamental figures in the sky, and thereby ascertain the changes of the seasons. We look at the ornamental observances of society,

and understand how the processes of transformation are accomplished all under heaven.

The Lines:

Nine in the bottom place:

The first line shows one adorning his feet; he can discard a carriage and walk on foot.

Six in the second place:

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Showing one adorning his beard.

Nine in the third place:

Showing its subject with the appearance of being adorned and bedewed with rich favours. But let him ever maintain his firm correctness.

There will be good fortune.

Six in the fourth place:

Showing one looking as if adorned, but only in white. As if mounted on a white horse, and furnished with wings, he seeks union with the subject of the first line, while the third pursues, not as a robber, but intent on a matrimonial alliance.

Six in the fifth place:

Showing its subject adorned by the heights and gardens. He bears his roll of silk small and slight. He may appear stingy, but there will be good fortune in the end.

Top-most nine:

○

Showing its subject with white as his only ornament. There will be no error.

Commentaries:

Nine in the bottom place:

'He can discard a carriage and walk on foot': righteousness requires that he should not ride.

Six in the second place:

'He adorns his beard': he rouses himself to action only with the subject of the line above.

Nine in the third place:

The 'good fortune consequent on his ever maintaining firm correctness', is due to this: that to the end no one will insult him.

Six in the fourth place:

This line affords ground for doubt as to its subject; but 'as the subject of the third line pursues, not as a robber, but intent on a matrimonial alliance', he will in the end have no grudge against him.

Six in the fifth place:

The 'good fortune falling to the six in the fifth place', affords occasion for joy.

Top-most nine:

The 'freedom from error attached to the subject of the top-most line, with no ornament but the simple white', shows how he has attained his aim.
