

24. Fu

The Turning Point.

Upper Trigram: K'un; Passive Principle, Earth.
Lower Trigram: Chen; Thunderclap, Movement.

Governing Rulers: Bottom nine.

The Image:

Thunder in the midst of the earth: the image of Fu.

The ancient kings, in accordance with this, on the day of the winter solstice, shut the gates of the passes, so that the travelling merchants could not then pursue their journeys, nor the princes go on with the inspection of their states.

Miscellaneous Signs:

(23)

In Po we see its subject worn away,
In Fu recovering from decay.

The Judgement:

Fu indicates that there will be free course and progress in what it denotes. Its subject finds no one to distress him in his exits and entrances; friends come to him, and no error is committed. He will return and repeat his proper course. In seven days comes his return. There will be advantage in whatever direction movement is made.

Appended Judgement:

Fu shows us the root of virtue.

It is small at first, but with a discrimination in it of the qualities of things; hence it induces self-knowledge.

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

Commentary:

'Fu indicates that there will be free course and progress in what it denotes': it is the coming back of what is intended by the strong line.

Its subject's actions show movement directed by accordance with natural

order. Hence 'he finds no one to distress him in his exits and entrances', and 'friends come to him, and no error is committed'.

'He will return and repeat his proper course. In seven days comes his return': such is the movement of the heavenly revolution.

'There will be advantage in whatever direction movement is made': there will be strong lines growing and increasing.

Do we not see in Fu the mind of Heaven and earth?

The Lines:

Nine in the bottom place:

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Showing its subject returning from an error of no great extent, which would not proceed to anything requiring repentance.

There will be great good fortune.

See also Ta Chuan, section II, chapter V, §12.

Six in the second place:

Admirable return of its subject.

There will be good fortune.

Six in the third place:

Showing one who has made repeated returns. The position is perilous, but there will be no error.

Six in the fourth place:

Showing its subject moving amid those represented by the other weak lines, and yet returning alone.

Six in the fifth place:

Showing the noble return of its subject.

There will be no ground for repentance.

Top-most six:

The top-most line shows its subject all astray on the subject of returning!

There will be evil. There will be calamities and errors. If with his view he put the armies in motion, the end will be a great defeat, whose issues will extend to the ruler of the state.

Even in ten years he will not be able to repair the consequences of the disaster.

Commentaries:

Nine in the bottom place:

'Returning from an error of no great extent', is the prelude to the cultivation of character.

Six in the second place:

The 'good fortune attendant on the subject's admirable return', is due to his condescension to the virtuous subject of the line below.

Six in the third place:

Notwithstanding the 'perilous position of him who has made many returns', there will be no error through his aiming after righteousness.

Six in the fourth place:

'He is moving amid those represented by the other weak lines, and yet returns alone': his object is to pursue the proper path.

Six in the fifth place:

The 'noble return giving no ground for repentance', is due to the subject's striving to perfect himself in accordance with his central position.

Top-most six:

The 'evil consequent on being all astray on the subject of returning', arises from the course pursued being contrary to the proper course for a ruler.
