

52. Ken

Inaction.

Upper Trigram: Ken; Inaction, a Mountain.
Lower Trigram: Ken; Inaction, a Mountain.

Governing Rulers: Top-most nine.

The Image:

Mountain upon mountain: the image of Ken.
The superior man, in accordance with this, does not go with his thoughts beyond the position in which he is.

Miscellaneous Signs:

Chen starts, Ken stops.

(41, 42, 51)

The Judgement:

When his resting is situated in the back, and he loses all consciousness of self; when he walks in his courtyard, and does not see anyone in it: there will be no error.

Commentary:

Ken denotes stopping or resting; resting when it is the time to rest, and acting when it is time to act.

When one's movements and restings all take place at the proper time, his way of proceeding is brilliant and intelligent. Resting at the proper time is resting in one's proper place.

The upper and lower lines of the hexagram exactly correspond to each other, but (being improper correlates) are without any interaction; hence it is said that the subject of the hexagram has 'no consciousness of self'; that when he walks in his courtyard, he does not see any of the persons in it; and that there will be no error.

The Lines:

Six in the bottom place:

Showing its subject keeping his toes at rest. There will be no error; but it will be advantageous for him to be persistently firm and correct.

Six in the second place:

Showing its subject keeping the calves of his legs at rest. He cannot help the one whom he follows, and is dissatisfied in his mind.

Nine in the third place:

Showing its subject keeping his loins at rest, and separating his ribs from the body below. The situation is perilous, and the heart glows with suppressed excitement.

Six in the fourth place:

Showing its subject keeping his trunk at rest.
There will be no error.

Six in the fifth place:

Showing its subject keeping his jawbones at rest, so that his words are all orderly.
Occasion for repentance will disappear.

Top-most nine:

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Showing its subject devotedly maintaining his restfulness. There will be good fortune.

Commentaries:

Six in the bottom place:

'He keeps his toes at rest': he does not fail in what is correct under the influence of Ken.

Six in the second place:

'He cannot help him whom he follows': the subject of the third line will not retreat and listen to him.

Nine in the third place:

'He keeps his loins at rest': the danger produces a glowing heat in his heart.

Six in the fourth place:

'He keeps his trunk of his body at rest': he keeps himself free from agitation.

Six in the fifth place:

'He keeps his cheek bones at rest': in harmony with his central position, he

acts correctly.

Top-most nine:

'There is good fortune through his devotedly maintaining his restfulness': to the end he shows himself generous and good.
