

60. Chien

Restraint.

Upper Trigram: K'an; the Abyss, Water, Danger.

Lower Trigram: Tui; Joy, a Lake.

Governing Rulers: Nine in the fifth place.

The Image:

Clouds above the lake: the image of Chien.

The superior man, in accordance with this, constructs his methods of numbering and measurement, and discusses points of virtue and conduct.

Miscellaneous Signs:

(31, 32, 59)

Huan scatters, but Chien its code of rules uprears.

The Judgement:

Chieh intimates that, under its conditions, there will be progress and attainment. But if the regulations which it prescribes be severe and difficult, they cannot be permanent.

Commentary:

'Chieh intimates progress and attainment': the strong and the weak lines are equally divided, and the strong ones occupy the central places.

'If the regulations which it prescribes be severe and difficult, they cannot be permanent': its course of action will in that case come to an end.

We have the feeling of joy and satisfaction directing the course amidst peril.

We have all regulations controlled by authority in its proper place (i.e. the fourth and the fifth place). We have free action proceeding from the central and correct position.

Heaven and earth observe their regular terms, and we have the four seasons complete. If rulers frame their measures according to the due regulations, the resources suffer no injury, and the people receive no hurt.

The Lines:

Six in the bottom place:

Showing its subject not quitting the courtyard outside his door. There will be no error.

See also Ta Chuan, section I, chapter VIII, §10.

Nine in the second place:

Showing its subject not quitting the courtyard inside his gate. There will be evil.

Six in the third place:

Showing its subject with no appearance of observing the proper regulations, in which case we shall also see him lamenting. But there will be no one to blame but himself.

Six in the fourth place:

Showing its subject quietly and naturally attentive to all regulations. There will be progress and success.

Nine in the fifth place:

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Showing its subject sweetly and acceptably enacting his regulations. There will be good fortune.

The onward progress with them will afford ground for admiration.

Top-most six:

Showing its subject enacting regulations severe and difficult. Even with firmness and correctness there will be evil. But though there will be cause for repentance, it will by and by disappear.

Commentaries:

Nine in the bottom place:

'He does not quit the courtyard outside his door': he knows when he has free course and when he is obstructed.

Nine in the second place:

'He does not quit the courtyard inside his gate. There will be evil': he loses the time for action to an extreme degree.

Six in the third place:

In the 'lamentation for not observing the regulations', who should there be to blame?

Six in the fourth place:

The 'progress and success of the quiet and natural attention to all

regulations', is due to the deference which accepts the ways of the ruler above.

Nine in the fifth place:

The 'good fortune arising from the regulations enacted sweetly and acceptably', is due to the line occupying the place of authority and being in the centre.

Top-most six:

'The regulations are severe and difficult. Even with firmness and correctness there will be evil': the course indicated by the hexagram is come to an end.
