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大畜 ䷙

(dà chù) Great Nurturing

Great nurturing. Persistence is effective. Eating away from home is fortunate. Crossing the great river is effective.

- Nine in the first place: There is danger. It is effective to stop.
- Nine in the second place: The cart loses the fitting which holds it to the axle.
- Nine in the third place: Good horses follow. In difficulties, it is effective to persist. With daily training of your chariot team, a defense. It is effective to have somewhere to go.
- Six in the fourth place: Wood on the horns of the calf. Good fortune from the beginning.
- Six in the fifth place: Remove the boar's tusks. Good fortune.
- Nine at the top: What is the highway of the sky? Success.

Image

Sky within mountain: the image of great abundance. You should learn much from the sayings and deeds of those who preceded you, to nurture your own moral strengths.

What could be more abundant than the skies that lie among mountain peaks? When we have climbed high, we are far more likely to look down at the landscape we came from, even though now it is far away. It is easy to overlook what is most abundantly around us, whether it is the sky at the height of a mountain or good food during a fine harvest. While the overall meaning of this hexagram is very positive, encouraging persistence, moving ahead with a major change, and even eating away from home, many of the lines discuss dangers and ways to avert them.

The moral charge of the image directs your attention to one of the most important methods of self-improvement, learning from what others have said and done. Such examples are as abundant as breezes on a mountaintop, but we often ignore them, especially when we prosper. This hexagram reminds us that we continue to need to learn from the past when we are doing well. Instead of becoming smug, we should pay particular attention to the patterns of others' lives and words, using the abundance of historical examples as both encouragement to do better and as warnings to avoid mistakes. It is only by extending our own experience in this way that we can fully cultivate our own moral strengths at a time when we are doing well.

All lines relate to a need to blunt the effectiveness of a danger. Calves can be trained, so their horns are left intact and simply covered with wood. Boars cannot be trained, however, so their tusks must be removed. Chariots have moving parts that require maintenance and repair. If the pieces which keep the chariot at-

tached to its axle fall off, the cart can no longer be controlled, and it may dump its occupants at any time, even in the midst of battle or a flight from one's enemy. Similarly, horses and charioteers all need constant practice to achieve deftness in their difficult tasks of cooperation, so that they can learn and relearn how to move effectively as one unit.

The broad avenue of the Sky [Heaven] is mentioned much less frequently than the way or road. The pervasive nature of Nature, the naturalness of disparate elements coming together in order to nurture life; that is, to succeed is so obvious that this abundance is usually unnoticed.

Shaughnessy, 56–57, 292.

Lynn, 299–304.

Wilhelm/Baynes, 103–107.