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(jiè) Released (Untied)

Released. The southwest works out. If you have no destination, your coming back is fortunate. If you have a destination, good fortune comes in the early morning.

- Six in the first place: No blame.
- Nine in the second place: In the fields, you catch three foxes and gain a yellow arrow. Persistence brings good fortune.
- Six in the third place: Shoulders burdened while riding on a cart. This attracts thieves. Persistence brings distress.
You need to notice your true circumstances, which are better than you think, and stop clutching everything you have so tightly.
- Nine in the fourth place: Release your thumbs; your friends return.
- Six in the fifth place: Only one worthy of power is released. Good fortune. Return when others are petty.

- **Six at the top:** The duke shoots hawks down from the high wall surrounding the city. Nothing is ineffectual.

Image

Thunder and rain in action: the image of release. You should forgive mistakes and pardon crimes.

This hexagram is about the releasing that must be done by people in high places, those who have more than others. A high position should bring a broader vision and an increased detachment, a lessened need to clutch every advantage you have as a leader, since you have so many. Be more open-handed and honest: you can afford this! The short-run disadvantages may be all too obvious. However, the people you need the most, those with practical experience, will remember that most new systems have bugs, and that no one is perfect. If you can release yourself from your fears of embarrassment, show that you welcome criticism and reward those who point out your mistakes, you will encourage the participation of the most honest and conscientious people in the group and proceed toward workable methods of effective interaction. You should also be tolerant of others' mistakes even when they do something that is clearly wrong.

The natural image for this kind of release from on high is the fecundating (and startling) activities of thunder and rain. Neither is particularly pleasant for anyone caught outside in the down-pour, deafened by thunder, and in fear of lightning. However, the land cannot give life to crops and those who use them without plentiful rain, which is usually accompanied by these temporary annoyances. Thunder may feel almost unbearably terrifying, but it is very short-lived, whereas the work of the rain that it brings is quiet, very slow, but absolutely essential to life. So let the criticism

come, and let some of your powers remain unused. You won't hear as much flattery, and in the long run this is healthier. Besides, if you have the flexibility to take off your backpack when you have the use of a cart, you will adapt more easily when you lose the cart and must return to walking in the dust of others' carts and shouldering your own burdens. You may well find that your harshest critics become your sincerest friends when you lose the clout that attracted the toadies. And you may be surprised to find your own life far more enjoyable at what others think of as a lower level.

Shaughnessy, 96–97, 303.

Lynn, 380–386.

Wilhelm/Baynes, 154–157.