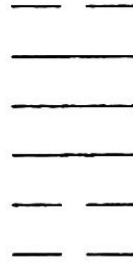


31 xian/chopping



Offering.

Favourable augury for taking a wife.
AUSPICIOUS.

Base (6): Chopping off a big toe.

(6) 2: Chopping off a shin.

DISASTROUS.

Auspicious for a dwelling.

(9) 3: Chopping off a thigh.

Taking the marrow.

Distress in travel.

(9) 4:

Augury AUSPICIOUS.

Troubles disappear.

Hither and thither you move, distraught;
your friends all follow your every thought.

(9) 5: Chopping out the loins.

No trouble.

Top (6): Chopping out cheeks, jaws and tongue.

(31) **chopping**

(Tag) Waley (A123) took *xian* 'all' as a short form of *gan* meaning 'feeling' as in 'feeling in my bones'. He translated line 4 as 'If you fidget and can't keep still, it means a friend is following your thoughts.' He was perhaps over-enthusiastic about finding proverbs in *Zhouyi*. Kunst takes *xian* as a loan character for *kan* meaning 'chopping' (see Diagram 13). The two words were near homonyms in Old Chinese. Gao Heng (G249) gives a another explanation, but he also gives a sacrificial sense. The reference must be to sacrificial victims, presumably human. See Translation Note 52:tag.

The rising pattern of the theme resembles that of Hexagram 52, except for different placing of the non-thematic oracle (Notes 31:4 and 52:top).

(3) The character read *sui* 'marrow', at Gao Heng's suggestion, appears in the received text as *sui* 'to follow'. Compare 52:2.