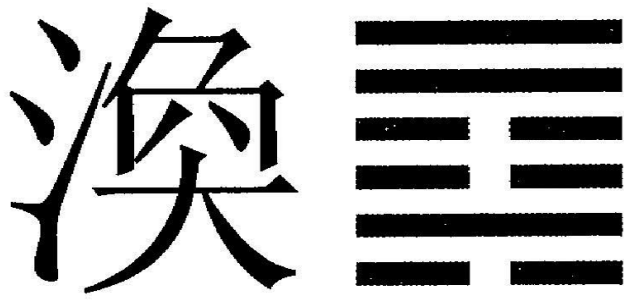


59



(huàn) Dispersion
(Spreading Waters)

Dispersion. Success. The ruler approaches the temple. Crossing the great river is effective. Persistence is effective.

- Six in the first place: For rescuing, your horse is strong. Good fortune.
- Nine in the second place: The waters reach the stairs. Regrets vanish.
- Six in the third place: The waters wash your body. No regrets.
- Six in the fourth place: The dispersion of your group. Supreme good fortune. Amid the flood there is a hill, not what your younger sister thought.
- Nine in the fifth place: Dispersion recedes at a great shout. Dispersion at the ruler's abode. No blame.

- Nine at the top: Dispersion of your blood. Departure with fear. No blame.

Image

When the wind moves over the watery abyss: this is the image of dispersion. Thus early rulers made offerings to the Lord on High and built temples.

When the wind blows over deep water, any objects on its surface are driven apart. Times when things fall away from each other can be frightening. Such an image of extreme fluidity seems an unlikely correlation with times when great rulers built temples and took the time to make sacrifices. Yet this hexagram equates dispersion with success and great religious and political ceremonies. It reminds us that when things seem to fall apart, this may benefit us by pushing us toward needed changes. By precluding a return to an earlier situation, dispersal forces us to persist in a new direction. At such a time we need to make sacrifices and to draw near to sources of spiritual and moral strength. Doing so is not a mark of weakness but of nobility. Even the greatest leaders have faced times when everything seemed to fall apart. They needed rituals at such times, to seek guidance and to gather their followers together. Then they could initiate great changes, ones worthy of persistence.

Shaughnessy, 160–161, 320–321.

Lynn, 511–517.

Wilhelm/Baynes, 227–230.