

HEXAGRAM 57

SUN WILLING SUBMISSION, GENTLENESS,
PENETRATION¹



Component trigrams:

Below: SUN, wind, wood, bland, mild.

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TEXT Willing Submission—success in small matters. It is advantageous to have in view a goal (or destination) and to visit a great man.

COMMENTARY ON THE TEXT In carrying out the will of heaven, the utmost submissiveness is required. The firm penetrates the middle (of both trigrams) and is correctly placed; this augurs the fulfilment of what is willed. Success in small matters and the rest of what is said in the Text are derived from the fact that the yielding lines all accord with the firm.

SYMBOL This hexagram symbolizes a favourable wind.² The Superior Man performs his allotted tasks in consonance with heaven's (or the sovereign's) will.

The Lines

6 FOR THE BOTTOM PLACE Advancing and retreating; the righteous persistence of the warriors brings advantage. **COMMENTARY** The first three words imply that we have doubts about our own intentions. The rest of the passage suggests a will firmly under control.³

9 FOR THE SECOND PLACE Crawling below the bed.⁴ He employs the services of a disorderly rabble of diviners and wizards—good fortune and no error!⁵ **COMMENTARY** Good fortune, despite the disorderly crowding is indicated by the position of this line, which is central (to the lower trigram).

9 FOR THE THIRD PLACE Repeated submission—shame! **COMMENTARY** Shame resulting from the exhaustion of our will-power.

6 FOR THE FOURTH PLACE Regret vanishes! Three kinds (of game) are caught in the field. **COMMENTARY** The second sentence augurs concrete results.

9 FOR THE FIFTH PLACE Persistence in a righteous course brings reward; regret vanishes, and everything is favourable! A poor beginning, but a good end!⁵ The three days before and the three days after a change (now due to occur) are especially propitious.⁶ **COMMENTARY** That we shall enjoy good fortune is indicated by the correct position of this line in the centre (of the upper trigram).

9 FOR THE TOP PLACE Crawling below the bed.⁴ He loses what is required for his travelling expenses—persistence brings misfortune! **COMMENTARY** Crawling below the bed—this top line indicates exhaustion (of all possibilities). Losing his travelling expenses presages certain misfortune!

NOTES (1) This is a reasonably auspicious hexagram; it augurs a certain amount of success for those who submit to circumstances—unless a moving line indicating the contrary is received. This is not a time for resistance but for submission. (2) The component trigrams combine the concepts of wind and blandness—hence a favourable wind. (3) Probably the implication is that we are now too hesitant and that we should benefit from acquiring the strong determination exhibited by soldiers in combat. (4) This symbolizes exaggerated submission, servile humility, etc. Apparently, we have been guilty of this fault. (5) This could be taken to refer to the lines of the hexagram up to this point, for this one is much more favourable than those preceding it. Or it may be taken to mean that affairs which begin by going ill with us will later take a change greatly for the better. (6) It would be well to identify the important change presaged here, so that we can make good use of the six auspicious days to prosecute our plans.