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(xián) Reciprocity, Respect

Mutual respect: success. Persistence is effective.
To take this woman brings good fortune.

- Six in the first place: Respecting your big toe.
- Six in the second place: Respecting the calf of your leg: misfortune. But staying is fortunate.
- Nine in the third place: Respecting your thigh. Compelled to follow along. Going brings distress.
- Nine in the fourth place: Persistence is fortunate. Remorse disappears. You go back and forth. A friend follows your thoughts.
- Nine in the fifth place: Respecting your spine: no remorse.
- Six at the top: Respect in your cheeks, tongue, and jowls.

Image

Above the mountain, a lake: the image of reciprocity/respect. You should receive others with emptiness. [That is, truly hear them.]

Lakes rarely lie high in the mountains, much less above them. Yet when we find pure water at high elevations, we welcome it and are refreshed. Rain or a spring has found a hollow in which to collect. In order to be truly receptive to others, we need to empty ourselves of expectations and our own ways of seeing, lest they prevent our accurate hearing.

The inner stillness necessary for true receptivity is as hard to reach as the summit of a mountain. The hexagram's progression through the parts of the body suggests that it refers to yoga-like physical exercises designed to bring stillness to the mind through stillness in the body.

Respect and reciprocity are essentially synonyms here. Think on that while stilling your own body, bit by bit, and trying to bring as much stillness to your mind as a clear mountain lake, sheltered by surrounding rocks.

Shaughnessy, 124–125, 309–310.

Lynn, 329–334.

Wilhelm/Baynes, 122–125.