

HEXAGRAM 46

SHÊNG ASCENDING, PROMOTION



Component trigrams:

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

Above: K'UN, earth, female, passive, etc.

TEXT Ascending. Supreme success! It is essential to see a great man, so as to banish anxiety. Progressing towards the south brings good fortune.

COMMENTARY ON THE TEXT At the proper time, the weak ascend.¹ Gentleness and willing acceptance are conjoined.² A firm line is central (to the lower trigram) and wins response; hence great success is foretold. What is said about the freedom from anxiety to be gained from visiting a great man indicates that in this way blessings³ will be attained. Going south brings good fortune in the sense that it will lead to the fulfilment of what is willed.

SYMBOL This hexagram symbolizes trees growing upwards from the earth.² The Superior Man most willingly accords with virtuous ways; starting from small things, he accumulates a great heap (of merit).

The Lines

6 FOR THE BOTTOM PLACE Certainty of promotion—great good fortune! **COMMENTARY** This is because the will of our superiors accords with our own.

9 FOR THE SECOND PLACE Full of faith, he performed the summer sacrifice.⁴ **COMMENTARY** The faith (or confidence) indicated by this line leads to great happiness.

9 FOR THE THIRD PLACE He was promoted (to office) in a larger

city. COMMENTARY This line indicates that we cause no doubts (to arise in the minds of others).

6 FOR THE FOURTH PLACE The King sacrificed on Mount Chi—good fortune and no error!⁴ COMMENTARY This indicates our willing compliance (with duty, tradition, circumstances, etc.)

6 FOR THE FIFTH PLACE Righteous persistence brings good fortune, but the ascent must be made step by step.⁵ COMMENTARY Acting thus will lead to the fulfilment of what we will.

6 FOR THE TOP PLACE A night ascent—advantage lies in unremitting persistence. COMMENTARY But the night ascent will lead to loss, not to wealth.⁶

NOTES (1) Though our present position may be far from strong, attention to timing will assure us of success. (2) A reference to the component lines. (3) Unexpected or apparently unearned good fortune. (4) This suggests that faith in spiritual matters or ancient traditions will serve us well. (5) This is no time for rushing forward, but for patient plodding. (6) Taking the text and commentary of this line together, we may assume that righteous persistence will win some advantage for us as a result of rather blind progress, even though we are bound to suffer materially.