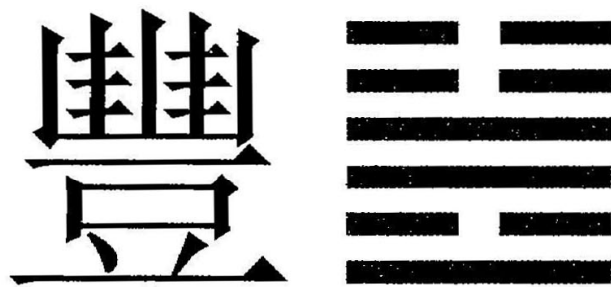


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## (fēng) Abundance

Abundance—success. The ruler approaches you. Have no fears: be like the sun at noon.

- Nine in the first place: Meeting your consort and leader, only for ten days. No blame. If you go, there are rewards.
- Six in the second place: Abundant the curtains. At noon, you see the Big Dipper. In going, gaining suspicion in haste; in returning, these vanish. Good fortune.
- Nine in the third place: Your hedge is abundant. At noon, you see small stars. You break your right arm. No blame.
- Nine in the fourth place: Your curtains are abundant. At noon, you see the Big Dipper. Meeting an alien leader. Good fortune.
- Six in the fifth place: With the coming of the light, there are celebrations and praise: good fortune.

- **Six at the top:** Abundant your rooms, screened your house. Watching the window. Vacant, without others. For three years unseen. Misfortune.

### Image

Thunder and lightning come together: the image of abundance. This is how you should decide lawsuits and apply punishments.

The two natural images associated with abundance seem very different. The older, in the hexagram itself, is of the sun at noon, filling the world with light. It is a natural symbol of abundance in its height and dominant position. Yet its usage as a symbol of abundance reminds us that such periods, though real, are transitory. The sun does not stay its course, no matter how slow it may seem in the middle of the day. This is a time to enjoy the present and the illustrious colleagues abundance brings, and to spread one's own light widely. Most of the lines are positive, though a number describe rather odd astronomical phenomena: seeing stars at noon, through the use of curtains or hedges.

The image of thunder and lightning together also emphasizes the transitory nature of abundance, as neither is a lasting part of nature as are earth, sky and mountains. At the peak of one's power, one must make difficult decisions and mete out punishments as well as rewards. How is this like thunder and lightning? Thunder and lightning are loud and shocking, heard far away. Yet they promise life-giving rain. Appropriate punishments should be similar: public, known and clear to all, with reverberations throughout the land, in order to warn others of the real danger of committing crimes. Yet, like thunder and lightning, times of

punishment must pass, leaving almost everyone unscathed. They should be followed by generosity as thorough as rain.

Shaughnessy, 98–99, 303–304.

Lynn, 487–493.

Wilhelm/Baynes, 213–216.