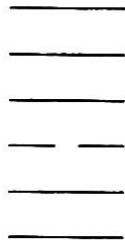


lǚ/stepping 10



Stepping on a tiger's tail, one does not get bitten.  
*Offering.*

Base (9): Stepping out in silken shoes.

*In travel:* NO MISFORTUNE.

(9) 2: Stepping along a smooth flat road.

*Augury for a prisoner:* AUSPICIOUS.

(6) 3: Sight returns for eyes that fail,  
 and stepping out for feet that ail.

*Stepping on a tiger's tail, one gets bitten.*  
 DISASTROUS.

*A warrior serves a great prince.*

(9) 4: Stepping on a tiger's tail.

*Petrified with fear.*  
 Ultimately AUSPICIOUS.

(9) 5: Stepping out in shoes of bast.

Augury: DANGEROUS.

Top (9): Looking before stepping.

*Discerning the omens.*  
 MOST AUSPICIOUS.

**(10) stepping**

Two of the line statements recur in Hexagram 54.

(Hexagram statement) The tag occurs as the first word of the hexagram statement, in a sentence that is almost the same as the indication in Line 3, though the verb there is positive. Perhaps the hexagram statement contains a mistake in copying, whereby the third oracle has accidentally been repeated and placed here, with a negative particle inserted later; or there were originally two oracles, one positive and the other negative, and the one with the negative verb has got misplaced (W10).

(Base) The adjective modifying 'shoes' means simple and unadorned, but Wen Yiduo gives reasons for thinking that the meaning here is shoes of white silk, perhaps raw silk, in contrast to the rougher footwear of line 5. (W585)

(2) The omen for a prisoner also occurs in 54:2.

(3) The rhyming oracle couplet appears again in Hexagram 54, divided between the Base Line and Line 2.

(5) The character here translated as 'bast' is *jue* (\**kwiat*), usually taken as a short form for the similar character with the water radical, meaning 'to cut' or a homonym meaning 'split'. Wen Yiduo says it stands for a near homonym *ge* (\**kat*), meaning a creeping plant from which bast was made for plaiting or twining shoes for the poorer people. *Gelü*, the phrase used here, is a stock phrase for bast shoes. See also note on the Base Line above (W10). In Ode 101.2 bast shoes are part of a wedding trousseau taken by a bride going off from Qi to Lu:

Bast shoes, five pairs;  
cap pendants, one pair . . .

Paired objects had obvious relevance to a couple being married.

In Ode 107 the bast shoes are an accessory to courtship and associated with hoarfrost, as they are in Hexagram 2:base (see note at 2:base):

Finely plaited shoes of bast,  
fit for walking on hoar frost . . .