

HEXAGRAM 35

CHIN PROGRESS



Component trigrams:

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

Above: LI, fire, brilliance, beauty.

TEXT Progress. The richly endowed prince receives royal favours in the form of numerous steeds and is granted audience three times in a single day!¹

COMMENTARY ON THE TEXT The character CHIN is identical with (a more commonly used character meaning) progress. The earth is radiant with beauty, for glad acceptance conjoined with beauty² sheds a brilliant light. The yielding advances and ascends (to the fifth and ruling place of the hexagram). Hence the imagery of a splendid prince, royal steeds and frequent audiences.

SYMBOL This hexagram symbolizes fire blazing from the earth.³ The Superior Man reflects in his person the glory of (heaven's) virtue.

The Lines

6 FOR THE BOTTOM PLACE Where progress seems likely to be cut short, righteous persistence brings good fortune. To respond to lack of confidence with liberality entails no error. **COMMENTARY** Progress likely to be cut short refers to a single-handed attempt to do what is right. Such liberality entails no blame where commands (from the ruler) have not yet been received.³

6 FOR THE SECOND PLACE Where progress is being made sorrowfully, righteous persistence brings good fortune. A little happiness is received, thanks to the Queen Mother.⁴ **COMMENTARY** What is said regarding happiness is implied by the position of this line which is central (to the lower trigram).

6 FOR THE THIRD PLACE All are in accord—regret vanishes! **COMMENTARY** This implies unanimous determination to press upwards.

9 FOR THE FOURTH PLACE Squirrel-like progress⁵—persistence would have serious consequences. **COMMENTARY** Because the position of this line is unsuitable.

6 FOR THE FIFTH PLACE Regret vanishes. Care not for loss or gain. To seek some goal (or destination) now would bring good fortune; everything is favourable. **COMMENTARY** If, without regard for loss or gain, we just press forward, our actions will be blessed.

9 FOR THE TOP PLACE He advances as with lowered horns, intent solely upon subduing the cities (of his enemies). Whether his affairs go awry or prosper, he is not in error, but for him to persist thus would involve him in ignominy. **COMMENTARY** Solely to subdue the cities? The way is not yet clear!⁶

NOTES (1) This passage indicates great merit richly rewarded. (2) A reference to the component trigrams. (3) In a literal sense, this means that there is no harm in an official being liberal, even to those who have withheld their confidence from him, until he has received specific orders as to what he must do. For purposes of divination, it can be taken to mean that we can safely be generous even to people inclined to mistrust us, until those whom we obey have given us a clear ruling in the matter. (4) Queen Mother is one of the names given, in this case, to the fifth or ruling line of the hexagram which, as the central line of the upper hexagram and a Yin line, nicely balances this central line of the lower hexagram, also a Yin line. In divination, we must take it that a little happiness will

come to us regardless of our endeavours or merits, as though by chance; or else that we shall receive some small assistance from a person in authority, probably a woman. (5) This implies trying to rise too high and advance too quickly, thus exposing ourselves to unnecessary risk. (6) A king may sometimes be compelled to chastise rebellious subjects, but to be concerned with their punishment to the exclusion of all else is not a sign of enlightenment. The implication is that, if we are compelled to use forceful measures, we should not be too intent upon another's downfall, but exert pressure only for as long as is absolutely necessary.