

10 履

(lǚ) Stepping

Stepping on the tail of a tiger. It does not bite you. Success.

- Nine in the first place: Simple walking. In going, no blame.
- Nine in the second place: Walking the road with sincerity. The person in darkness persists; good fortune.
- Six in the third place: The half-blind can see; the half-lame can walk. When you step on the tail of a tiger, it bites the person. Misfortune: the warrior acts like a great lord.
- Nine in the fourth place: Stepping on the tail of a tiger, fearfully, fearfully. But in the end, good fortune.
- Nine in the fifth place: Resolute walking: persistence, danger.
- Nine at the top: Looking at the step, examining the luck, she completes the circle. Great good fortune.

Image

The sky above, a lake below: the image of taking a step. You should differentiate carefully between high and low, and define the people's goals.

While the image speaks of a lake lying below the sky, and of the importance of differentiating between things and people which are high or low, the dominant image of the original hexagram is more vivid: stepping on the tail of a tiger. Such a terrifying misstep could easily cause death. You may have antagonized a powerful person and made a dangerous enemy. Even if you feel terrified, avoid panic. Take time to see the situation clearly in all its levels, and to remember the needs of all those you serve before taking further actions.

This hexagram reminds us that even terrifying beasts like offended tigers are not always destructive. Here, the tiger bites in only one of the six possible phases (lines). And even in that line we are reminded that the half-blind can see and that the lame can walk. Most frightening situations are not total catastrophes.

There are times when you may arouse immense hostility and yet escape unscathed. Remaining alert is essential, as is an avoidance of panic. We may be able to cope with this situation and walk away unharmed, just as people sometimes walk away from sudden encounters with other ferocious beasts. Now that you have aroused the tiger, watch him carefully, whether he be beast, human, or an urge within you. Tread softly but do not run away. Try to see yourself and the other clearly and proceed cautiously.

Once the situation has passed (nine at the top), review the steps that brought you into and out of this position, and the results on multiple levels. By remaining as aloof as the sky above is from a deep lake below, you may cultivate the stillness which makes seeing clearly possible in either air or water.

Shaughnessy, 44, 45, 289–290.

Lynn, 200–205.

Wilhelm/Baynes, 44–47.