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(méng) New Grass

Success. It is not I who seek the youth green as grass. The young one seeks me. At first, I explain it. A third [request] is a blasphemy. If you blaspheme, I do not tell. Yet persistence pays.

- Six in the first place: The unfolding of the new grass. Applying punishments can benefit another. With restraints removed, you move ahead with difficulty.
- Nine in the second place: Surrounding. The young grass: good fortune. Finding a mate for your child: good fortune, as your child sets up a family home.
- Six in the third place: Do not grab a woman, but seek out someone able to husband wealth. If you do not possess yourself, nothing you do is effective.
- Six in the fourth place: Trapped by the young grass [your ignorance or immaturity]: trouble.

- Six in the fifth place: A child is immature as young grass. Good fortune.
- Nine at the top: Training the young through punishments. Becoming a robber does not pay; defending against robbers does pay.

Image

At the foot of the mountain, a spring gushes forth: the image of being as young as new grass. You should grow through accepting instruction about moral strengths.

New grass rises from the earth as inexorably as a spring continues to pulse water up at the base of a mountain. Though it brings life-giving water, the mountain dwarfs the spring, just as the tender shoots of new grass are mere fuzz on the plains. The new grass has immense potential for productive life, but at this stage it is still fragile and in need of nurturing, just as a young child needs instruction in order to lay the foundations for a good life. Such instruction may feel as restraining as handcuffs or leg shackles at times, but it is essential.

For example, children need to learn to share and to become aware of the needs and rights of others as well as themselves. Only by being alive to others' needs, fears, and hopes can we find effective ways to satisfy our own needs. Babies are loveable, but cannot recognize that it is not always convenient for their mothers to nurse them. We all need to grow beyond the stage of instinctive reactions to an ability to act with moral strength, restraining our own needs until they harmonize with others.