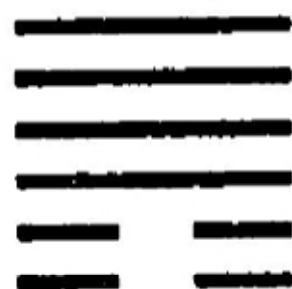


HEXAGRAM 33

TUN YIELDING, WITHDRAWAL¹

Component trigrams:

Below: KÊN, a mountain, hard, obstinate, perverse.

Above: CH'ÏEN, heaven, male, active, etc.

TEXT Yielding. Success! Persistence in small things wins advantage.

COMMENTARY ON THE TEXT The success indicated here is precisely that sort which results from yielding. The firm (fifth) line is the ruling line and wins response from the rest; its activities accord with the times. Persistence in small things brings advantage in the sense that (plants) grow well when properly watered.² The timely application of this hexagram is of vast importance.

SYMBOL This hexagram symbolizes mountains beneath the sky.³ The Superior Man, by keeping his distance from men of inferior character, avoids having to display wrath and preserves his dignity.

The Lines

6 FOR THE BOTTOM PLACE Withdrawal to the hindermost point—trouble! It is useless to seek any goal (or destination) at such a time.
COMMENTARY To withdraw to the hindermost point causes trouble, but if you refrain from moving (back so far) what misfortune can overtake you?

6 FOR THE SECOND PLACE He bound it with thongs of yellow oxhide and no one could untie it. **COMMENTARY** This symbolizes a powerful will.

9 FOR THE THIRD PLACE Yielding under constraint results in ills and trouble, but there is good fortune in store for those who are supporting servants and concubines. **COMMENTARY** The evils referred to here are those attendant on extreme fatigue. Though

supporting servants or concubines brings good fortune, it does not lead to achieving anything of consequence.⁴

9 FOR THE FOURTH PLACE Withdrawal for good reasons—for the Superior Man, good fortune; for people of mean attainments, misfortune! **COMMENTARY** For when, quite rightly, the Superior Man withdraws, lesser men are bound to suffer.

9 FOR THE FIFTH PLACE An admirably carried out withdrawal. Persistence in a righteous course brings good fortune. **COMMENTARY** This good fortune results from a withdrawal carried out as a result of rectifying our aims.⁵

9 FOR THE TOP PLACE A 'sleek' withdrawal⁶—everything is favourable! **COMMENTARY** In this case, there cannot be the smallest doubt.⁷

NOTES (1) Much of the teaching of the *Book of Change* is concerned with the wisdom of restraint or withdrawal as the best way of achieving our goal under certain circumstances; so this hexagram is not necessarily unfavourable to the wise. (2) This is not a time when we can hope to achieve much; but attention to small matters will stand us in good stead later. (3) The component trigrams, symbolizing mountain and sky, indicate withdrawal to a solitary place when circumstances are unfavourable. (4) Seemingly, Confucius, always inclined to be austere, does not altogether approve of this type of good fortune. (5) I.e. revising them in the light of unfavourable circumstances. (6) The Chinese commentators suggest that this means going to live in retirement. They add that the phrase also implies excellent health. (7) I.e. not the smallest doubt as to the wisdom of withdrawal.