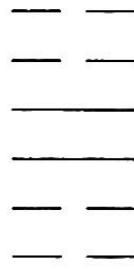


xiaoguo/passing:minor 62



Offering.

Favourable augury.

Right for small matters, not right for large matters.

A flying bird leaves a sound.

Not appropriate to go up; appropriate to go down.

VERY AUSPICIOUS.

Base (6): Flying bird.

Therefore: DISASTER.

(6) 2: Passing a forefather,
coming to a foremother;

*Not reaching the prince,
meeting the minister.*
NO MISFORTUNE.

(9) 3: Not passing.

*Beware one passing on the track,
Lest he stab you in the back.*
DISASTER.

(9) 4:

NO MISFORTUNE.

Not passing, meeting.

*Going is dangerous.
Need to keep alert.
Not for use in long-term augury.*

(6) 5: Thick clouds, no rain,
from our western suburbs.

*The duke harpoons a bird,
retrieving it from a cave.*

Top (6): Not meeting, passing.

A flying bird is netted.
DISASTER.
This means catastrophic calamity.

(62) passing minor

(Tag) Compare Hexagram 28. Both are named from the character *guo*, 'passing (by)'; here the hexagram statement favours minor matters.

(Hexagram statement) See 61:top, 62:5 and 62:top about the bird.

Gao Heng (G341) reads the section about the bird as an omen: 'Flying bird gives a message; "High (when the bird is hard to see and hear) is not appropriate; low (when the bird is easy to see and hear) is appropriate."'.

(Base) The translation follows the text unamended. Gao (G341) believes a word meaning 'arrow' has dropped out and that the oracle means 'Bird flying with an arrow in it'.

(2) The ancestors will have been represented by young impersonators of the dead during ancestral rites, or by wooden 'spirit tablets'.

The sacrificer appears to make an ominous mistake.

(3) The rhyming jingle may be translated literally as 'Not passing; prevent him. Following, may injure him.'

(5) Compare Hexagram Statement 9.

For the hunted bird, see the Hexagram Statement and the Top Line. The bird is shot with a harpoon, an arrow with a cord attached to it for retrieval of the prey. The same missile is implied in 48:2 and mentioned for shooting duck in Ode 82, where a girl at dawn tells her lover to get up:

'You must get out and about
to shoot waterfowl with your harpoon.'

See also *Analects* 7.27 (7.26 in Legge and Waley), where Raymond Dawson (*The Analects* 1993) translates 'corded arrow'. This occurs in a statement that Confucius angled for fish, but did not use a net, and shot birds with corded arrows, but not when they were perching as sitting targets.

(Top) The theme of the hunted bird is continued from the Hexagram Statement and Line 5.