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(dùn) Retreat

Retreat. In minor matters, persistence is effective.

- Six in the first place: At the tail of a retreat, danger. You do not have a place to go.
- Six in the second place: If you apply a yellow leather bridle, none will succeed in breaking away.
- Nine in the third place: Attached to a retreat: there is illness and danger. If you support helpers and intimates: good fortune.
- Nine in the fourth place: Enjoying retreat: for a selfless person, good fortune; for the petty, disaster.
- Nine in the fifth place: Honorable retreat: with persistence, good fortune.
- Nine at the top: Flying retreat: it all works. [lit., there is nothing without benefit]

## Image

Beneath the sky, there is a mountain: the image of retreat. You should keep shallow people at a distance, not with hatred but with reserve.

Mountains are great, towering over surrounding lands, even though they cannot reach the sky. Similarly, even the greatest and best people cannot expect a life of continuous progress. For each of us, there are times when we must retreat in the face of stronger forces and distance ourselves from shallow souls.

Recognizing when it is time for a strategic retreat is part of every successful life, for no one pleases everyone, nor should we try to placate shallow minds or uncaring hearts. On the other hand, we must not let our need for distance deteriorate into hatred or expressions of distaste. Such active emotions, though understandable at a time of setback, entangle us further in unproductive wrangling. This is not the time to resist evil or misunderstanding actively, but to subtly withdraw to a safer position.

Times of retreat can be confusing, as they are often occasioned by unexpected defeats or threats of destruction. However, an orderly retreat is not a defeat, but a means of extricating ourselves from real dangers; our primary goal must be self-preservation. In the midst of shock and threats, we may also learn a great deal about others and about ourselves, especially how we appear to others. Although a new direction is as yet unknown, by saving ourselves from an impending disaster, we have given ourselves the time and space to recover, analyze, improve our situation, and seek more favorable circumstances in which to progress.

Shaughnessy, 42–43, 289.

Lynn, 340–345.

Wilhelm/Baynes, 129–132.