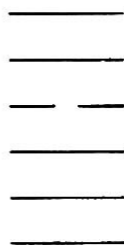


9 xiaochu / farming: minor



Offering.

Thick clouds, no rain, from our western suburbs.

Base (9): Back from the road.

How can this be misfortune?
AUSPICIOUS.

(9) 2: Led back by a cord.

AUSPICIOUS.

(9) 3: Carriage loses wheel-spokes.

Man and wife look at each other.

(6) 4:

Sacrificing captives.

Blood of castration.

Though leaving sadly:
NO MISFORTUNE.

(9) 5:

Sacrificing captives bound together.

Rich, because of the neighbour.

Top (9): It rains; it stops.

Planting can still be finished.
Augury for a wife: DANGEROUS.
At full moon, for a prince to travel: DANGEROUS.

(9) farming: minor

(Tag) Compare Hexagram 26, the other 'Farming' hexagram. The tag character, traditionally read as *chu*, and usually taken to mean 'domestic animals', does not appear in the line sentences. It is also read as *xu* 'to raise livestock'. Several points favour interpreting it as a reference to animals: 'Led by a halter' in Line 2; and the castration of horses in Line 4. Hexagram 26 mentions several domesticated animals; and the two hexagrams contain similar references to horse-

drawn carriages (9:3 and 26:2). Wen Yiduo, however, says *chu*, whose earliest form contains the graph for a cultivated field, meant 'raising', and included crops as well as animals (see the top line and W21). Li Jingchi *Zhouyi tanyuan* (1978) thought the meaning was 'agriculture' (see R34). This would also account for the interest in rain shown in this hexagram.

(Hexagram statement) The same rain oracle appears in 62:5 (in another 'minor' tag hexagram). Gao (G185) says clouds in the west precede rain. Rain recurs in the top line.

For *jiao* see also 5:base and 13:top, though here and in 62:5 the altar seems less significant than the westerly direction.

(2) See note on the tag above.

(3) See 26:2, in the other 'Farming' hexagram. Gao (G185) argues that the two oracles are the same, the final character appearing in two different forms, and that the split in the chariot-chassis parallels a rift in a marriage mentioned in the indication. For other wheel and axle omens see 26:2, 34:4 and 44:top.

Fanmu, the action of a man and his wife, can be understood as turning their eyes either towards or away from one another. The implication seems to be that relations are difficult, whether glaring or turning the back.

(4) For the castration theme see 59:top, which has similar construction and vocabulary. (R357, G186).

(5) For prisoners of war see page 220. The same oracle appears in 61:5.

'Not rich, because of the neighbour' occurs in 11:4 and 15:5. Possibly the positive form of the same oracle found here is a mistake and the negative particle has been lost. The neighbours intended here are probably unfriendly neighbouring states (see 63:5).

(Top) 'Planting can still be finished' reads *de* as 'achieve' rather than 'power' or 'virtue' and *zai* as 'to plant' rather than 'to convey'.

'At (or About) full moon' is the same phrase as in 61:4, though it is there translated in rhyme.