

Success without blame. Persistence is effective. It is appropriate to have a place to go.

- Six in the first place: Deepening duration. Persistence brings misfortune. Nothing done now would be effective.
- Nine in the second place: Remorse disappears.
- Nine in the third place: Without duration in your moral strength, you will suffer humiliation. Persistence brings troubles.
- Nine in the fourth place: In the fields, neither birds nor beasts.
- Six in the fifth place: Enduring in your moral strength. Persistence. For a wife, good fortune. For a husband, misfortune.
- Six at the top: Shaking constancy; misfortune.

Image

Thunder above the wind: duration. You should take a stand and not change direction.

When thunder rides the wind, it can be heard for many miles. Similarly, when people manage to persist in doing what is right, their influence can be far-reaching. It is not endurance nor longevity alone that is valued here, but persistence in following the truth, in doing what we know is right, in fulfilling our best selves, that moral strength for which "virtue" is a poor translation. It might better be termed what is strongest and most life giving within us, the type of kindness that attracts others with its quiet and radiant receptivity.

Seeking duration alone is not encouraged here, even though persistence is often praised in the *Changes*. There is a contrast between persisting in virtue and all other kinds of duration which are contraindicated. There are also two lines that lack labels about whether they bring good fortune or bad. In one, remorse disappears, which is sometimes the result of a long-lasting commitment. In another, the fields, normally host to birds and animals, are barren of fauna. For a farmer this might be a good situation. But certainly it is odd. There are times when long periods in the same position result in a deadening of the most sprightly aspects of life. While a vegetal existence continues, the full range of life is missing. This is neither the worst situation nor the best.

Shaughnessy, 100–101, 304. Lynn, 335–340. Wilhelm/Baynes, 126–129.