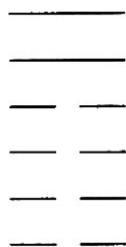


guan/observing 20



*Pouring libations and not sacrificing.
Sacrificing tall captives.*

Base (6): Observing children.

With small men: NO MISFORTUNE.

Distress for a prince.

(6) 2: Observing briefly.

Favourable for an unmarried woman.

(6) 3: Observing our victims moving back and forth.

(6) 4: Observing the country's sky is full of lights:
favourable for those the king himself invites.

(9) 5: Observing our victims.

For a prince: NO MISFORTUNE.

Top (9): Observing the victims.

For a prince: NO MISFORTUNE.

(20) observing

(Hexagram statement) The first word, *guan*, apparently means 'washing the hands', but Gao (G219) gives reasons for thinking that here it means 'libation'. Sacrificial libation is a well attested practice.

Tall prisoners would make worthy sacrifices.

(Base) Observing the behaviour of children for omens may simply mean noting their games and songs, which in East Asia were often thought to have been mysteriously inspired. Waley (A133–4) thought the reference might be to the behaviour and cries of boys during puberty rites, but he adduced no evidence from the Chinese cultural sphere to support this suggestion.

(2) Observing by peeping may be a reference to brief sighting of a

proposed spouse during the procedures of an arranged marriage – perhaps by the woman through a screen.

(4) *Guang* may be translated either ‘glory’ or ‘light’. Waley (A133) suggests that here it refers to comets, shooting stars, eclipses and the like. Gao (G220) thinks ‘light’ was a sobriquet for the presence of a ruler at an audience.

The line translated ‘Favourable for those the king himself invites’ might mean simply ‘Favourable for having audience with the king,’ but perhaps means ‘Favourable for sacrifice for the king.’ The word *bin* ‘guest’ is also the name of a sacrifice mentioned in oracle bones. See Kidder Smith ‘*Zhouyi* interpretation from accounts in the *Zuo zhuan*’ *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 49:2 (1989) page 431 n23; and Sarah Allan *The shape of the turtle* (1991) page 56.