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(zhèn) Thunder

Thunder comes, “xi, xi” shouts. Laughing words: “ya, ya!” The thunder sets all a-tremble for seventeen* miles, without a spill from ladle or cup [used at the sacrifice].

- Nine in the first place: Thunder comes, with renewal, “hu, hu.” After it, laughing words, “ya, ya!” Good fortune.
- Six in the second place: Thunder comes with danger. “Yi!” you lose your money [lit., cowry shells]. Ascend the nine peaks [to sacrifice], and do not pursue it. After seven days, you will get it.
- Six in the third place: Thunder threatens, “Su, su.” Thunder acts without disasters.
- Nine in the fourth place: After the thunder, mud.
- Six in the fifth place: Thunder comes and goes: danger. “Yi!” no loss, but service [to give].

- **Six at the top:** Thunder sounds: “suo, suo.” Fear and trembling, then looking all about. If you start a campaign now, misfortune. Lightning does not strike your own body, but it reaches your neighbor. No blame. In marriage, there are words.

Image

Thunder and lightning doubled: the image of thunder. You should use your fears and anxieties to examine and cultivate yourself.

Thunder and lightning are terrifying. The loud noises travel huge distances quickly; the lightning is a real danger. You may be in the middle of a very serious and delicate undertaking, such as one of the great political-religious rituals of ancient China, when the shocking occurrence happens. But even in times as terrifying as this, it is important to keep steady hands and heart.

Times of terror and tumult terrify most of us, awing us with the uncontrollable powers of nature, which are far beyond our ability to predict or control them. But we can control our reactions to them, and steady ourselves physically and psychically, using times of terror to see others and ourselves more clearly, and rectifying the weaknesses they lay bare. We cannot stop the thunder or the fear it inspires, but we can learn to steady our hands during the storms, to complete our tasks, and to steady our hearts by learning to laugh and share words with others. Storms pass, they may come again. But we can learn how to improve our thoughts and feelings by observing and improving our behaviors in crisis.

* 100 *li*, one *li* being 890 feet. Approximate.

Shaughnessy, 86–87, 300.

Lynn, 460–466

Wilhelm/Baynes, 197–200.