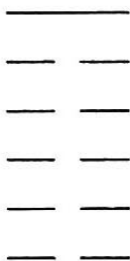


23 *bo/flaying*

*Not favourable when there is somewhere to go.*

Base (6): Flaying a ewe, beginning from the legs.

*Exorcism augury* DISASTROUS.

(6) 2: Flaying a ewe, beginning from the hocks.

*Exorcism augury* DISASTROUS.

(6) 3: Flaying it.

NO MISFORTUNE.

(6) 4: Flaying a ewe, beginning from the fleece.

DISASTROUS.

(6) 5: Strings of fish.

*Palace concubines will be favoured.*

*Unfavourable for nothing.*

Top (9): Fine fruit not eaten.

*A prince is awarded a carriage;  
a small man is stripped of his cottage.*

(23) **flaying**

A highly inauspicious hexagram.

(Tag) *Bo* 'flaying' or 'stripping'. Some translators have been deterred by this tag, because it appears to take *chuang* 'a bed' as direct object. Kunst proposes taking the tag literally and looking for a loan character in the grammatical object (see note to the base line). A reference to sacrificial procedures such as are mentioned in Ode 209:2 (see above, note to Hexagram 14.4) then becomes clear.

(Base) Kunst proposes that the character *chuang* 'bed' is a loan for *zang* 'ewe' (R284: see Diagram 13).

Gao (G227) thinks the oracles refer to a man in bed with a bad foot (Base), knee (Line 2), unnamed joint (Line 3) or shoulder joint (Line 4); and to dreams as bad omens (Base and Line 2).

(5) Dried fish are strung together one beside the other, belly to back, and heads all to one side, using straw twists to hold them; or they are pierced through the gills and threaded on a string. Gao says this symbolizes the organizing of palace women, who were called to the king in prescribed order.

Kunst emends *yi* 'employ' to *shi* 'eat' and renders as 'strung-together fish are eaten'.

(Top) *Shuoguo* 'splendid fruit' survives colloquially as meaning 'great achievements'; and as a literary reference for one outstanding man among many who are inferior. The original oracle probably means fruit left on a tree.

The word translated 'stripped' in the indication is the tag, otherwise translated as 'flaying'.