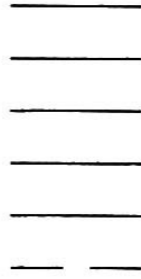


gou/locking 44



*Though she be healthy, do not take her to wife.*

Base (6): Impeded by a metal wheel-brake.

*Augury AUSPICIOUS.*

*If there is somewhere to go: augury DISASTROUS.*

*Scrawny pig for sacrifice  
jibs and will not budge.*

(9) 2: Having fish in the cookhouse.

NO MISFORTUNE.

*Unfavourable with guests.*

(9) 3: No plumpness on the haunches.

*The gait is limping.*

DANGEROUS.

NO GREAT MISFORTUNE.

(9) 4: No fish in the cookhouse.

*Disastrous for starting to act.*

(9) 5: Bitter gourd bound with willow withies.

*Jade baton sustain.*

*Something will drop from the sky.*

Top (9): Locking their horns.

*Distress.*

NO MISFORTUNE.

(44) **locking**

(Tag) In the received text, the tag character *gou* (\**ku*) 'to meet', occurs only in the top line, where it stands for a homonym meaning interlocking of horns by two animals fighting one another. (W 38). This may be an omen from the behaviour of sacrificial animals. Gao Heng (G287) suggests the character refers to a horn-board. (See 26:4.)

(Base) The translation of the oracle follows Wen Yiduo's gloss (W15) and Yu Haoliang's comment in *Wenwu* (1984.3) on the variant reading in the Mawangdui manuscript. (See also D439.) Gao prefers 'Tied to a bronze spindle.' For other vehicle omens in *Zhouyi* see Note 34:4.

The behaviour of the scrawny pig is presumably an omen at a sacrifice. In the indication, the received-text character *jian* 'to see' is taken as a miscopying of *zhen* 'augury'.

(2) *Bao* or *pao* could have several meanings, including 'slaughter-house' and 'bag' as well as 'cookhouse'.

(3) Compare the oracle with 43:4. The limping is another omen from sacrificial victim behaviour.

The prognostic is a modified version of the frequently used *wujiu* 'no misfortune' (see page xx).

(5) The gourd is bound near the stalk while it is growing, in order to ensure that, when it is dried for use as a flask, it will have a good shape with two bulbous parts, or at least a narrow neck. Compare the reference to drying a gourd in Analects 17.7: 'Am I a bitter gourd, fit only for hanging up (to dry and use as a bottle) not for eating?'. (W6).

The last two characters about using a *zhang* 'baton' are the same as an oracle in Hexagram 2 and resemble 42:3. See Note 2:3. Gao Heng (G287) reads *zhang* not as 'sceptre', but as 'Shang' (See note 2:3.) He therefore understands the indication as 'Destruction of Shang, toppled by Heaven.' This would be a further use of 'heaven' in a religious sense. See Note 14:top.