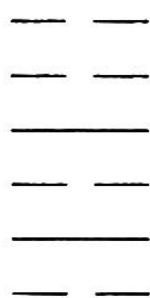


jie/unloosing 40



*Favourable west and south.
 Having nowhere to go,
 auspicious for both coming and going.
 Having somewhere to go,
 auspicious in the early morning.*

Base (6): NO MISFORTUNE.

(9) 2: In the hunting field,
 getting three foxes. Bronze arrows.

Augury AUSPICIOUS.

(6) 3: Shouldering a pack while riding in a carriage

*Attracts raiders to attack.
 Augury of distress.*

(9) 4: Unloosing the thumbs.

Friends come to the captive.

(6) 5: Unloosing a prince's tether.

AUSPICIOUS.

Sacrificing captives from among small men.

Top (6): When a duke shot a hawk from atop a city wall,
 and got it . . .

Unfavourable for nothing.

(40) **severing**

(Tag) *Jie* means loosing, dividing, or cutting (as in butchering). Different actions are implied in the two instances occurring in the line statements (4 and 5). No linking theme is detectable in the lines.

(Hexagram Statement) By analogy with Hexagram Statements 2 and 39, it is reasonable to suppose 'unfavourable east and north' has been omitted or is implicit.

(Base) There is no oracle for this line.

(2) The grammar is obscure. Literally, the oracle is 'Hunting-catching-three-fox-bronze-arrow(s)'. The bronze arrow may have been found in the hunt or used for shooting the foxes. Bronze arrows also appear in 21:4 and (probably) 4:2. Their significance in *Zhouyi* is no longer understood.

On the hunt see Note 7:5.

(4) *Er*, a grammatical particle and the second character, is read as *qi* 'his' or 'the', as in the Mawangdui manuscript. *Mu*, which can mean

thumb or big toe, is taken by Gao Heng (G275) to mean a 'net', which is opened or loosened. Waley, reviewing Hellmut Wilhelm *Change: eight lectures on the I Ching* (1906) in *The Listener* (March 1961, page 580) suggested translating this oracle as 'Relax your thumb (on the bowstring). A friend (not an enemy) is coming.' But in 1933 Waley (A126) had suggested a connection with 'the well-known practice of removing the thumbs of prisoners of war.'

(5) Gao Heng (G276) reads 'tether' as 'netting'.

(Top) Kunst (R319) says 'The duke used this oracle in shooting a hawk . . .', which presumably means 'This line was obtained when the duke shot a hawk.'