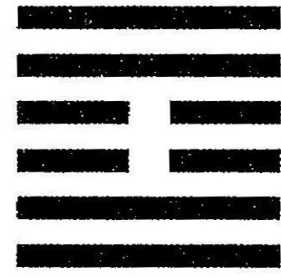


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中孚



(zhōng fú) Sincere to the Core

With sincerity at your core. [Even small offerings of] piglets and fish bring good fortune. Crossing the great river will work out. Persistence is effective.

- Nine in the first place: Calm good fortune. There are others who are not at peace.
- Nine in the second place: Cranes sing out from the southern bank of the river. Their young respond. I have a good wine container. I will share it with you.
- Six in the third place: Having acquired an enemy, sometimes advancing, sometimes resting; sometimes weeping, sometimes singing.
- Six in the fourth place: The moon is nearly full. The horse is missing. No blame.
- Nine in the fifth place: There is sincerity that unites. No blame.

- **Nine at the top:** The sound of the sacrificial bird rises to the sky. To persist will bring misfortune.

### Image

On the lake, a wind—the image of sincerity at the core. You should evaluate crimes to mitigate the harshest punishments.

When wind blows across a lake, it disturbs the surface but not the depths. Similarly, the best judges, aware of truths deep in others hearts, take great care in assessing even criminal wrongs—the surface action must have a restraining response lest the community be threatened again. But unmitigated punishments cannot touch and change hearts. Fear of punishment reduces sincerity, while the goal should be an increase in this foundation of effective community.

Sincerity, or truth-telling, is of central importance in Confucianism. Without honesty, no system works well. In addition, by cultivating the ability to see and speak the truth, we make effective alliances with others possible.

Shaughnessy, 158–159, 320.

Lynn, 523–529.

Wilhelm/Baynes, 235–239.