

9 小畜 ䷈

(xiǎo chù) The Smaller Herd

The smaller herd. Success. Dense clouds but no rain from our western pastures.

- Nine in the first place: Returning from the way. How could there be blame? Good fortune.
- Nine in the second place: Led back. Good fortune.
- Nine in the third place: Cart and axle-strut part. Husband and wife have opposing views.
- Six in the fourth place: There is sincerity. Blood goes away; anxiety departs. No blame.
- Nine in the fifth place: There is linked sincerity. Prosper together with your neighbors.
- Nine at the top: Already there is rain, already in its place. Esteemed for moral strength and honored by a carriage. For a woman, persistence brings danger. The day after the full moon, one worthy of power starts a campaign: misfortune.

Image

The wind moves above the sky: the image of a small herd.
You should cultivate the moral strengths in civility.

The free movement of the winds in the highest levels of the sky is likened to the mobility of a small herd of domesticated animals, and this to the necessary mustering and cultivation of virtues. This hexagram, like another, refers to the period preceding the Zhou conquest of Shang; that is, to a time of the greatest promise, not yet fulfilled. It is nearly the turning point, but the forces of evil remain powerful and in control. There is great hope, but as yet no certainty about the outcome of the forthcoming struggle. This is, therefore, a time for caution, for making sure that all is well within one's closest relationships and most essential tools. For even the best person, the situation, though increasingly positive, is still too dangerous for decisive action to be taken, or for determined persistence to be perceptible.

While major decisions and decisive action are inappropriate at this time, there is still work to be done, and great hope for the future. Current tasks may seem mundane. But tasks like maintaining your vehicle, and making sure you and those closest to you really see eye to eye are absolutely essential. Once action begins, your safety will depend on the reliability of your transport and your alliances. Since you cannot afford to stop to repair them once rapid progress starts, do so now, even if no major trouble is yet evident. Thus you lay the foundations for unimpeded and less dangerous progress in the more propitious time ahead.

Shaughnessy, 152–153, 318–319.

Lynn, 191–199.

Wilhelm/Baynes, 40–43.