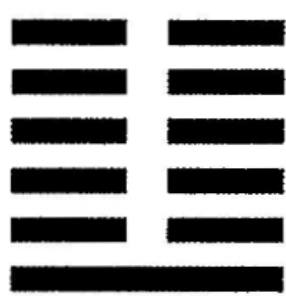


24

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(fù) Returning

Success. Going out and coming in without sickness. Burial comes without blame. If you return to the right road: in seven days you come and return. It is good to have a place to go.

- Nine in the first place: Before going too far, return without much regret. Great good fortune.
- Six in the second place: A restful return. Good fortune.
- Six in the third place: A sequence of returns. Danger but no blame.
- Six in the fourth place: Walking in the middle of the road. Returning alone.
- Six in the fifth place: Returning at another's urging, with no regrets.

- Six at the top: A lost return. Misfortune. There is a disaster. Putting an army to marching ends in a great defeat involving the leader of the state. Misfortune. For ten years they cannot attack.

Image

Thunder within the earth: the image of returning. Early rulers closed the passes at the winter solstice. Merchants and wanderers did not travel. The queen did not inspect her domain.

An earthquake (thunder within the earth) is used here as an image of returning, a term originally derived from a pictogram of a cooking vessel. Earthquakes displace the stability of the earth, damaging or destroying our homes, threatening all we have. They shake our comfortable assumptions and force us to confront our most basic needs without our customary shelters. Here earthquakes are associated with the perils of traveling at the time of the winter solstice, when China's earliest rulers closed the mountain passes so that merchants and other travelers were forced to stay at home. The queen also refrained from inspecting her domains at such times.

When our lives are shaken to their foundation, we must return to what gives us sustenance. A time of turning is not the right time for aggressive actions, which would only lead to crushing defeats. To others, we may seem to have stopped making progress, and this may be true in a visible, material sense. However, this is the season for the turning based on remorse and a thoughtful resolution to find a better way. By returning to our roots, nurturing ourselves on what brings us health, we can recover from the past. Thus

returning is not an end but a necessary stage, a timely recovery period which enables us to choose a more productive direction for our lives. When spring comes, the passes through the mountains will be safe again, and, like the merchants and the queen, we will do the traveling we are called to do.

Shaughnessy, 114–115, 306–307.

Lynn, 285–292.

Wilhelm/Baynes, 97–100.