A 23 (bō) Peeling

It is inappropriate to start a major project [lit., to have someplace to go].

- Six in the first place: Peeling the bed to the legs. Obstructed perseverance: misfortune.
- Six in the second place: Peeling the good away with disputes. Destroyed persistence: misfortune.
- Six in the third place: Peeling it. No blame.
- Six in the fourth place: Peeling the bed to the skin; misfortune.
- Six in the fifth place: A string of fish. Eating from the courtier's steamer. Nothing fails.
- Nine at the top: The fruit with a pit is not eaten. The noble obtain transport; the inferior peels a gourd.

Image

A mountain attached to the earth: the image of peeling. [When] those above treat those beneath with generosity, they make their own dwellings secure.

When good people are peeled away from a person or a project by disputes, obstructions, or lack of sharing, no project can succeed. A mountain needs to be attached to the earth; peeled from it, it must fall. Likewise, even the greatest person cannot stand alone for long. To flourish, we all need supporters and friends. For this reason, it is necessary to avoid unnecessary conflicts and disputes, and to share the best that is available. Peeled away from others, you can accomplish little.

Shaughnessy, 58–59, 293. Lynn, 280–285 Wilhelm/Baynes, 93–96.