

1



(qián) The Creative

The creative. Success flows. Persistence is effective.

- Nine in the first place: The hidden dragon. Don't do it!
Even if you were perfect, this would be the wrong time to take the action you are considering.
- Nine in the second place: Meeting a dragon in a field. Seek the advice of someone wiser than you are.
- Nine in the third place: One worthy of power is active all day, yet still anxious at night. Danger but no blame.
- Nine in the fourth place: Back and forth at the edge of an abyss. No blame.
Indecision when faced with a great and dangerous choice is normal. Do not blame yourself if you must pause before the leap.
- Nine in the fifth place: The dragon flies in the sky. Seek the advice of someone greater than yourself.

- **Nine at the top:** An arrogant dragon will have regrets.
Even the best person can overdo it. Stay humble and seek and heed others' advice. You will regret it if you don't.
- **All nines:** You meet a group of dragons without a head. Good fortune.

Image

Sky upon sky: the image of the creative. You should be like this, continually strengthening yourself.

The motions within the sky are inexorable and untiring. By understanding the kinds of regular changes in the sky, both the apparently immutable sun, moon, and stars and the constantly changing weather, we may come to have a better understanding of the kinds of changes which occur among human beings. Some phenomena seem endless and unchanging, but in fact even the daily reappearance of the sun varies from day to day as the seasons follow one another. We may not be particularly aware of such slow changes, but eventually we feel their impact. In a similar but opposite way, the vagaries of wind and rain may sometimes seem utterly unpredictable, but in fact these too occur within relatively predictable parameters. Few decades go by without at least one year of drought. In low-lying terrain, floods are always possible. Just as we need an emergency fund for the inevitable emergencies of home, health, and car, we need to be prepared for a full range of changes within our lives. As we observe and live through them, we discover more and less fruitful times for action, persistence, or retreat.

This first hexagram has been associated with extremely auspicious times and people, with creativity and leadership. Yet not all of the lines counsel action, and several remind us that the greatest leaders have heeded the advice of others.

Shaughnessy, 38, 39, 287–288.

Lynn, 129–142.

Wilhelm/Baynes, 3–10.