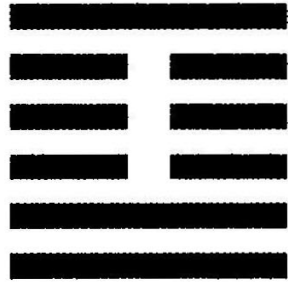


41

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(sǔn) Decrease

Decrease. With sincerity, supreme good fortune with no blame. You can persist. It is effective to have a destination. Why use two bowls? You can use fragrant grass. (*modest offerings are enough*)

- Nine in the first place: Stop the service; quickly depart. No blame. You decrease your use of wine toasts.
- Nine in the second place: It is effective to persist. To start a campaign brings misfortune. Do not decrease, but increase it.
- Six in the third place: If three people walk together, they lose one. If you walk alone, you will gain your friends.
- Six in the fourth place: Decreasing your anxiety/illness. If you attend to the endings, there will be happiness. No blame.
- Six in the fifth place: Some decrease you by ten strings of turtle shells. You cannot deflect this. Supreme good fortune.

- **Nine at the top:** Not a decrease but an increase, without blame. Persistence brings good fortune. It is effective to have a destination. You attain a helper, but not a home.

Image

Below the mountain, a lake: the image of decrease. You should restrain anger and smother desires.

It is beautiful to see a mountain reflected in a lake at its foot, yet here this is an image of decrease. A lake lying beneath a mountain does not try to climb its heights. This would be absurd. Similarly, in a time of decrease, we need to restrain our anger and desires for things beyond our means, whether these are material objects or prominent acquaintances to which we have become accustomed. Such restraint may not come easily, but try to do it as gracefully as you can. You need to move on now, and you will find that even very modest gifts are sufficient. This decrease is a positive development, the beginning of a time of good fortune.

Shaughnessy, 60–61, 293–294.

Lynn, 387–396.

Wilhelm/Baynes, 158–161.