

The petty depart; the great arrive. Good fortune; success.

- Nine in the first place: When you uproot rushes, they come up in a bundle. Move forward: success.
- Nine in the second place: Embrace the flow, ford the stream.
 Do not forget what is far away. Although friends may be lost, you attain rewards by taking the middle way.
- Nine in the third place: Nothing level without some rising; no leaving without a return. If in difficulties you persist, no regrets. Without anxiety, sincerity [returning]. In eating, good fortune.
- Six in the fourth place: Fluttering wings. Do not enrich yourself by using your neighbors. Don't admonish [them but] use sincerity. [Or If you do not admonish the neighbors, they are more likely be sincere.]

- Six in the fifth place: The Lord Yi helped his younger sister marry and attain blessings. Good fortune flows.
- Six at the top: When the walls of your city collapse into the moat [eliminating all your defenses], don't muster your troops. Issue commands only in your own city. Persistence brings trouble.

Image

Sky and earth interact: peace. Thus the queen guides the natural forces of both sky and earth, assisting them into harmony by [gathering] the people to her right and left.

As earth and sky interact with one another, all things are created. This kind of peace is the reverse of immobility. Instead it is a time when those above are receptive to those beneath them, so that creativity rises up in abundance. When mother, teacher, manager, or leader hears and heeds her children, students, or co-workers, she acts as a life-giving refuge which provides protection to new lives when they are as vulnerable as fledglings or new kings. Only the greatest leaders are capable of the self-restraint and generosity required for true receptivity to those beneath them. But such leaders gain a realistic, nuanced picture of the realities they face and elicit sincere and creative loyalty. Authoritarian rulers, listening only to sycophants, quash creativity and real loyalty, bringing destruction to their people. Because Mao refused to listen to those who brought unwelcome news of bad harvests during the Great Leap Forward, millions perished.

Peace here is not static, not everyone stuck in their "proper places," but out of their usual places and therefore moving towards one another. Here earth, the receptive, lies above the creative, usually associated with the sky above. It is because leaders are willing to be humble and their subordinates dare to create that a fecund peace can be attained.

Xunzi wrote that people must guide natural forces into creative relationships. First, an educated person recognizes her limits, what she can and cannot control, and applies her analysis to the great forces in a positive way. Thus people have learned not to ask for winter not to come but to raise, preserve, and store food in preparation for scarce times. Great rulers expected and prepared for floodwaters and long droughts, building cities on high ground, leaving water meadows for overflows and building dikes to guide the floodwaters. They built storehouses and filled them with grain in years of plenty in order to prepare for the inevitable, eventual arrival of years of scarcity. Confident that they would be fed, the people could be more productive and avoid the need for theft.

Shaughnessy, 104-105, 304-305. Lynn, 205-211. Wilhelm/Baynes, 48-52.