

25



无望

WÚ WÀNG

NO EXPECTATIONS

No expectations.

To have no expectations is supremely blessed.

It is favorable to remain as one is.

Improper conduct brings misfortune.

It is not favorable to advance.

Unexpected good fortune will come to someone who stays as he is, without expectations or ambition.¹

Lines

first line/9 — He advances without expectations.
Auspicious.

He goes forward but without any idea of gain. Although the hexagram as a whole cautions against advancing, this first line is low enough that an advance will not carry him too far.

line two/6 — — He reaps a harvest
without having cultivated the land.
The fields lie ready
without having been ploughed.
It is favorable to advance.

His path ahead is prepared for him. Once this has been done, the hexagram's injunction against advancing is removed. Line two is the place of the subject, whose ruler smooths his path.

line three/6 — — Unexpected disaster.
 Though the ox was tethered,
 it becomes the traveler's gain
 and the villager's loss.

The man who tries to secure the future will lose it. The man who just accepts what comes will gain.

line four/9 — He may continue.
 He will come to no harm.

Line four is the place of the officer. He may accept a place as high as this because he did not strive to get it.

line five/9 — Unexpected illness
 Is cured without drugs.

An affliction that he makes no attempt to get rid of will vanish on its own. Since line five is the place of the ruler, the affliction referred to may be a weak or unsympathetic ruler. See also YÜ (16) CONTENTMENT, line five.

top line/9 — He travels without expectations.
 Disaster. No longer favorable.

This line is too high to permit an advance of any kind, even one without expectations or desire for gain. Because the top line is above the line of the ruler, it implies the possibility of conflict with one's ruler.

STRUCTURE ☰ 乾 Qián Strong Action (solid, strong)
 ☳ 震 Zhèn Thunderbolt (rush forward)

To rush forward (lower trigram ☳) would bring one up against a solid obstacle (upper trigram ☰). It is therefore better to stay as one is, without expectations. Good fortune will strike like a thunderbolt (☳), bearing one swiftly forward to a position of strength (☰).

SEQUENCE Having retreated from an advance in FÜ (24) RETURN, the protagonist now waits where he is for advancement to come to him.

Note

1. NO EXPECTATIONS — The expression 无望 *wú wàng* means both “unexpected” and “without expectations.” The word 无 *wú* means “not” and the word 望 *wàng* means “look toward,” “expect,” “hope.”