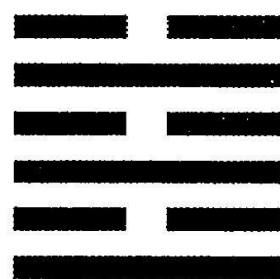


63

既濟



(jì jì) After the Crossing

After the crossing. Success. In what is minor, persistence pays. In the beginning, good fortune. In the end, disorder.

- Nine in the first place: Dragging your ribbon, wetting your tail. No blame.
- Six in the second place: The woman loses her hair ornament. Do not pursue it, for in seven days you will obtain one.
- Nine in the third place: The lofty Ancestors attacked the demon country, and conquered it in three years. Do not deal with petty people.
- Six in the fourth place: The jacket is padded with silk wadding. All day, take warning.
- Nine in the fifth place: Though your neighbor to the east slaughters an ox for his sacrifice, it is not as effective as the

offering of wild herbage by your neighbor to the west, which really provides prosperity. Good fortune.

- Six at the top: Wetting your head: danger.

Image

Water above the fire: the image of having completed a crossing. You should think about calamities and make preparations to prevent them.

This—the most fruitful of conditions, when one has completed the ferry ride across the hazardous stream—is likened to placing water over the fire, a position in which cooking may be accomplished, or flames doused, if need be. Yet even in this time of great relief at having escaped a series of obvious threats and safely reached your destination, the *Changes* reminds you that though you see no dangers now, some are inevitable in the future. For this reason, while we may enjoy our successes, it is provident to use such times to prepare for future dangers. It is never safe to rest on our laurels. Instead, we must use times of reduced stress and relative prosperity to set aside savings for unforeseen emergencies, since these are inevitable components in every person's life, no matter how apparently secure.

Having found a place where it is safe to rebuild, do so with care and caution. In escaping from great dangers, we develop skills in sensing and responding to danger, and these skills will remain useful even after dangers are past. We must analyze the possibilities of our current conditions and learn from previous mistakes. A certain level of thoughtful awareness of life's normal threats is not useless anxiety but a way of avoiding later troubles. Thus, we balance our relief and joy with care in preventing future ills.

Shaughnessy, 80–81, 298.

Lynn, 538–544.

Wilhelm/Baynes, 244–248.