

HEXAGRAM 14

TA YÜ GREAT POSSESSIONS¹

Component trigrams:

Below: CH' IEN, heaven, male, active, etc.

Above: LI, fire, brilliance, beauty.

TEXT He who possesses much—supreme success!

COMMENTARY ON THE TEXT Here, the yielding obtains a place of high honour and respect, for this yielding line (line 5) occupies the more important of the places central (to the component trigrams) and all the other lines accord with it.² Therefore is it called Great Possessions. Its virtues are firmness, strength and cultural achievement. Because it is responsive to heaven and performs all things at the proper time, it wins supreme success.

SYMBOL This hexagram symbolizes fire in the heavens.³ The Superior Man suppresses those who are evil and upholds the virtuous. Most gladly he accords with heaven and carries out its commands.

The Lines

9 FOR THE BOTTOM PLACE Having no contact with evil, he is blameless; therefore, even if he is involved in trouble, he remains without fault. **COMMENTARY** This line means that we shall avoid any intercourse with evil.

9 FOR THE SECOND PLACE There are large supply waggon.⁴ If there is some desired goal (or destination), setting out (to attain it) will involve no error. **COMMENTARY** This line indicates that some place where supplies have been accumulated will escape from danger.

9 FOR THE THIRD PLACE A prince may win rewards from his emperor, but this is beyond an ordinary man's power. **COMMENTARY** This passage means that the little man would only harm himself in the attempt.⁵

9 FOR THE FOURTH PLACE Pride is not involved—no error! **COMMENTARY** This passage implies the possession of very great discriminatory powers.⁶

6 FOR THE FIFTH PLACE His sense of confidence enables him to be sociable and well respected. A dignified bearing is an asset (literally, good fortune). **COMMENTARY** His good fortune in winning the respect of others enables him to make changes without prior preparation.⁷

9 FOR THE TOP PLACE Those under heaven's protection enjoy good fortune and success in everything.⁸ **COMMENTARY** The great good fortune pressaged by this line is that of being specially protected by heaven.

NOTES (1) Ta Yü could also be translated 'The Great Possessor', meaning 'he who has much'. (2) As so often, the fifth line is the ruling line of this hexagram. Though a yielding line, it is very firmly supported by four firm lines and capped by yet another. (3) When the trigram for heaven is above, whatever is below may be separated from it; when it is below, it indicates fusion or intermixture with what is above. The significance here is that the splendour of a very great man lights up the heavens. (4) Apparently we need not fear failure through lack of resources. (5) This omen suggests that a great goal can be won only by someone very powerful or distinguished; others would be well advised not to attempt it. (6) Such as the power to recognize how very little of our success is really due to our own merits. (7) This means that we shall be trusted even if we act unexpectedly. (8) The top line of a very favourable hexagram is sometimes taken to symbolize heaven. Whoever receives a nine for this place may expect the utmost success.