

47



(kùn) Exhaustion

Exhaustion. Good fortune with persistence. For a great one, good fortune without calamities, even though when you speak, others do not believe you.

- Six in the first place: Buttocks exhausted, at the roots of a tree. As you enter a shadowy valley, for three years you see no one.
- Nine in the second place: Exhausted with food and drink. When the ceremonial red garment arrives, it is effective to wear it when offering the ritual sacrifice. To start a campaign leads to misfortune but no blame.
- Six in the third place: Exhausted amid rocks, you grasp a thorny branch. When you enter your home, you do not see your wife. Misfortune.
- Nine in the fourth place: It comes slowly, slowly, exhausted by a metal chariot. Humiliation that ends.

- **Nine in the fifth place:** [You have received the harsh punishment of having your] nose or leg cut off. Oppressed while wearing a red ceremonial garment. Then slowly there is joy. Making the sacrifice is effective.
- **Six at the top:** Held back by [entangling] vines and grass. Anxious and perplexed. Think of moving with regret. Though you will have regrets, persisting will bring good fortune.

Image

A marsh with its water beneath it, the image of exhaustion. You may need to sacrifice your life if only this will achieve your goals.

When a marsh or lake loses its water, it loses its vitality, and many of the living things depending on it die. The drying hole stinks of decaying fish and plants. If the dryness continues, the lake eventually loses its identity as a lake, distinct from the land. There are times when we must face complete exhaustion, a lack of the most basic necessities of life. Achieving a cherished goal may be costly, even to the extent that we sacrifice our health and our lives. Going on beyond what is sustainable should only be done for the noblest of goals, since it may preclude all that continued life may promise. Still, there are times and goals deserving of such sacrifices. Remember that exhaustion, like the other stages of change, does not last forever.

Shaughnessy, 126–127, 310–311.

Lynn, 428–437.

Wilhelm/Baynes, 181–184.