Hexagram 1-Creative-Sky over Sky—the image associated with these lines is a dragon ascending from the depths to the skies

Line 6 – The Dragon Flies Too High. There is an abundance of energy here, possibly delusions of grandeur, so be watchful. You will regret stepping over the line here. Prepare to return to a simpler, humbler state of being.

Line 5 – The Dragon Flies in the Sky. Energy fills the air, and the successful achievement of some ambition is now possible. Surround yourself with good advisors to help you in this.

Line 4 – The Dragon Leaps into a Deep Pool. You can feel the energy awakening, yet still, you hesitate, because it means moving into unknown territory. So long as your intentions are straightforward, you will make no mistake.

Line 3 – Active all Day, Worried all Night. From morning until evening, you’re active and alert, in transition from one thing to another, carefully pondering the steps needed to achieve your goal. It’s an anxious time. This ceaseless activity is needed to bring things to a satisfactory conclusion.

Line 2 – The Dragon Appears in the Field. Energy reveals itself, and a wide variety of beneficial influences come into view. Come out into the open, be available to people, learn and gain information. Then make your plans and proceed.

Line 1 – The Dragon Swims Underwater. Energy is hidden. Now is not the time to take action. Bide your time, until the time to take action presents itself. You may have to go into seclusion in order to prepare.

Hexagram 2-Receptive-Earth over Earth.

Line 6 – Dragons fighting in the Wild. Things have gone as far as they can go. To push it any further would cause damage very difficult to recover from. An imbalance must now be corrected, the pendulum must swing the other way.

Line 5 – A Yellow Undershirt, or Embroidered Yellow Dress. Great success in the form of, you are second-in-command to someone who has imbued you with authority to act in their behalf. Be modest, obedient and loyal. You will prosper, so long as you don’t try to take it all.

Line 4 – A Sack Tied Up. Remain silent. Make yourself scarce. Don’t take on any new responsibilities and mind your words and actions; you’re being watched. By carefully sidestepping the situation, you can avoid problems. Cash in on available profits and get while the getting is good.
**Line 3 – Hidden brilliance.** You hide your potential like a smoldering fire which will eventually ignite. This is smart thinking on your part; now isn’t your time to shine. Just keep working in the background and you may eventually land a high position.

**Line 2 – A Perfect, Big Square.** The road to your goal lies open. You are in the right place at the right time. Act straightforwardly and single-mindedly; you will be correct, and won’t go wrong.

**Line 1 – Frost Now, Ice Later!** The ice is thin now, but it’s an indicator of things to come. Let nature take its course, and you can cross the ice when it grows thicker. In the meantime, make plans for the future. Nip a bad situation in the bud, before it grows.

**Hexagram 3-Initial Difficulty-Water Over Thunder.** The imagery of this hexagram is about moving—or not.

**Line 6 – On a Horse at a Standstill, Tears of Blood Flow.** How much longer will this situation continue, now that everything has gone wrong? You are in the middle of a situation you did not prepare for ahead of time, but a willingness to see it through will eventually get you through the difficulty.

**Line 5 – Difficulty Distributing Expected Gifts.** Difficulties or delays in receiving rewards or benefits, and even then, you may have to content yourself with small returns. Only minor problems can be resolved successfully now. Larger problems need to be broken down into smaller chunks.

**Line 4 – Horse and Chariot Waiting to Move.** You’re ready to move. Now the trick is to find the people you wish to join, and wait for them to invite you in.

**Line 3 – Hunting Without a Guide, Now Lost in the Forest.** You want to proceed and succeed, but without the right guidance, it’s just not going to happen. The smart hunter gives up at this point. Continuing will lead to a painful defeat.

**Line 2 – After Ten Years, She Agrees to Marry.** An initial overture was rejected, and the suitor was despondent. Ten years later, he asks again, she says yes, and then its happy marriage and children. Everything will turn out for the best, even if the initial offer was rejected. Don’t feel pressured into a relationship you aren’t ready for.

**Line 1 – Delays; Stay Where You Are.** Approaching the other person isn’t possible right now, so don’t force it. Be unobtrusive, and look for a mediator. A strong person in an uncertain position; know what you want, then you can find what you need.

**Hexagram 4-Youthful Innocence-Mountain Over Water.** The image is of a young sprout growing out of the earth.
**Line 6 – Don’t be a Robber; also, Prevent Robberies.** If you punish an ignorant person, it doesn’t help anything. It will you do good to protect him from harm. A good teacher produces an open-minded person. A bad teacher merely instills prejudices and a violent mind.

**Line 5 – A Fortunate Young Sprout.** You have beginner’s luck, and no doubts about your abilities. A devoted, gentle, warm-hearted and honest student, you are able to accept advice.

**Line 4 – Entangled in Folly.** Out of touch with reality, in your ignorance, you took on too much, and got entangled. If you won’t take advice, life will teach you a hard lesson. There may be a past shame here.

**Line 3 – Throwing Yourself Away for Money.** A person who cannot resist a rich man brings ill-fortune on themselves. In your innocent enthusiasm, you may accept the first offer which comes along. Remember the old adage, ‘marry in haste, repent at leisure’ and resist temptation.

**Line 2 – Set Up House and Start a Family.** Be patient and tolerant of those taking on new responsibilities right now. You do have something to offer at this stage, and it is enough to start.

**Line 1 – The New Plant Breaks Through the Earth.** A state of total ignorance. At this stage, only corrective measures and instruction should be enacted, as punishment is useless. Clarify what isn’t understood as soon as it occurs.

**Hexogram 5-Waiting-Water Over Sky.** The image is of crossing a river in inclement weather.

**Line 6 – Welcoming Three Uninvited Guests.** Welcome an unexpected influence into your life with happiness and respect. You may not know it, but you needed a change and this is it. This ‘visit’ will enable you to determine your next moves in life.

**Line 5 – Waited on with Food and Wine.** You made it across the river, now you can rest up and even celebrate a little. The danger may not be entirely over, but you’ve done what you can to ensure a successful outcome. Therefore, celebrate.

**Line 4 – Bloodied, Forced From Your Hole.** You leave the cave in which you were holed-up with an enemy, only to find that by coming out and facing the conflict, you end it. You come to no harm, and even enjoy yourself. You may have to end a waiting period and make a decision.

**Line 3 – Stuck in the Mud.** By failing to respect your environment and exercise caution, you moved when you shouldn’t have and you got stuck in the mud. Predators look for prey at these places, waiting for moments like this. You’re in danger, bunky.
**Line 2 – Drenched on the Riverbank.** You are close to danger, but not in danger. There may be a large wave, or negative gossip about you, but these will pass. A positive outcome is still possible.

**Line 1 – Out in the Rain.** The danger is still far away, and you are working in a distant field, thinking of daily matters. Keep on working and be patient; the time has not yet come for you to move. For now, bide your time.

**Hexagram 6-Conflict-Sky Over Water.** The image is of someone coming to a duke’s court with a complaint, and not being in a powerful-enough position to necessarily have the outcome go one’s way.

**Line 6 – Awarded a Leather Sash, it is Recalled Twice that Day.** The leather belt is given as a token to restrain yourself. By demanding satisfaction or pushing for an advantage unfairly, you may win, but your victory will dissolve when you realize all respect for your arguments is gone.

**Line 5 – Disputes Settled, Supreme Good Fortune.** Perseverance brings great success. Your grievance is valid, and you now have the opportunity to settle the dispute in a just and fair manner, so genuine friendship can develop.

**Line 4 – Complaint dismissed.** The discussion is suspended, because your grievance and your case was too weak to win. Accept that you lost, and get on with life. Realize that not everything will go your way.

**Line 3 – Living Off Your Inheritance.** Maintain your independence by living within your means. Rely on strategies that have worked for you before. What is rightfully yours can’t be taken from you. You may be feeling insecure and relying on past accomplishments to maintain your self-esteem.

**Line 2 – Unequal fight.** Withdraw and go home, or to any place you feel safe, for you are no match for this opponent. You have taken on a stronger opponent. Back out while you still can.

**Line 1 – Don’t Press Your Demands.** You’re not in a strong-enough position to present your case, or make demands. A misunderstanding can be avoided by backing-off. You may be criticized for this, but in the end, it will turn out well.

**Hexagram 7-The Army-Earth Over Water.** The image is of an army at war.

**Line 6 – Establish Settlements.** Mission accomplished, you’ve won. Reward the high-performers and employ only the most competent people, so that what you’ve gained in battle isn’t lost.
**Line 5 – Bagging the Game.** You can now take decisive action. Assign each person the job most-suited to their talents, always know what’s going on, keep an eye out for those who could go rogue and undermine your cause, and stop when you reach a reasonable goal.

**Line 4 – Camp Far From the Enemy.** This is not the time to advance. Indeed, an adjustment or detour may need to be taken in order to preserve the overall plan. A strategic retreat may be needed on order to stay away from trouble. Or the retreat may be needed, because the objective is accomplished.

**Line 3 – Incompetent Leadership.** The campaign was led by several incompetent, disputatious captains who didn’t know how to delegate or share authority. The result was confusion, failure, a massacre. The campaign needs one competent leader. Are you the one, or are you bailing out?

**Line 2 – A Triple-Promotion.** Being rewarded for your dedication and service; three wishes granted. When a genuine leader mingles with his soldiers, sharing their fear and exhaustion with them, they reward him by going into battle wholeheartedly.

**Line 1 – Army Setting-Out in Proper Order.** At the beginning of an endeavor, plan your work and work your plan. Stick to the plan with all the self-discipline you can muster. Then defeat will not threaten you.

**Hexagram 8-Union-Water Over Earth.** The image relates to Chou-dynasty China. Five families would live in a cooperative settlement, sharing duties and offering mutual assistance. Late-comers and the hesitant were not completely trusted or welcome.

**Line 6 – No Mind for Cooperation.** Union is desired, but you don’t take the first step. Or, an incompetent person is in charge, and no one trusts their leadership. When the endeavor starts out this badly, it’s hard to establish trust. Those who join late will lose out.

**Line 5 – Perfect Union.** Nobody has to force himself, for everybody spontaneously knows their role in the whole setting. If you want to have friends, let them be with you, or not, of their own free will. No bribery or coercion is necessary.

**Line 4 – Friends on the Outside.** Turn your attention to newcomers and strangers, those beyond your immediate circle; both they and you will benefit. Or, commit to a worthy cause that is larger than you; both the cause and you will benefit.

**Line 3 – Close to the Wrong People.** You want to join a movement with a dubious purpose, or to hang out with unscrupulous people. This is asking for trouble. Beware of who you commit your energies to; your judgement may have been warped by flattery.
**Line 2 – Friendship from the Inside.** You feel a strong inner drive which makes you seek union with others. Such a sound feeling never results in failure. Or, you may already be one of the ‘in-crowd.’

**Line 1 – A Plain Cup, Overflowing with Sincerity.** When meeting others for the first time, one can feel fearful, insecure and lonely. Seeking union with others with a simple, pure-hearted sincerity will bring you the companionship you seek.

**Hexagram 9-Small Restraint-Tree Over Sky.** The imagery is of an approaching storm; not here yet, but coming.

**Line 6 – The Rain Comes, the Rain Goes.** The rain has come and gone, now both you and your environment are completely soaked. Do not try to progress at this point, you’ll only get stuck in the mud and be unable to move. Wait and rest up.

**Line 5 – Sharing Wealth with Neighbors.** Relationships should be beneficial to all, and mutual trust forms the basis of all binding obligations. It shouldn’t just be you, others should contribute to the whole as well. Neither be a user, nor permit yourself to be used.

**Line 4 – Sincere Speech Avoids Bloodshed.** A calm demeanor and sincere communication both dispel anxiety and the threat of violence. A forceful approach is not needed in this situation.

**Line 3 – Wheels Fall off the Cart, Spouses Argue.** Something broke down, now both partners in the marriage lapse into mutual abuse and recriminations. There is no effort to understand each other. Stop this, and focus on a solution, not on what went wrong and who is at fault.

**Line 2 – Persuaded to Take the Right Path.** Being set straight. Persuading yourself or another to return to the right way. Joint action can then take place.

**Line 1 – Returning to One’s Own Course.** Turn your back on unhealthy company and return to earlier and better ways of living. In your heart, you know this is the right thing to do.

**Hexagram 10-Treading Carefully-Sky Over Lake.** The imagery is of a small leopard cat taking on the much-larger tiger, then successfully getting away from the raging tiger.

**Line 6 – Watch Your Step.** If you’re feeling at all bad or insecure about your journey, take a look back at the road you’ve traveled to get here. If it all looks good, proceed on your way with confidence.

**Line 5 – Sensitive Feet.** Tread carefully. Delicate feet in the wrong kind of footwear are unsuitable for long hikes. Proceed with resolution and perseverance, but be ready for trouble, for there are risks here.
Line 4 – Stepping on the Tiger’s Tail. You take a scary risk and get away with it; all’s well that ends well. But your behavior is very careful afterward. Stepping on the tiger’s tail isn’t something you want to do with any regularity.

Line 3 – Step on the Tiger’s Tail, Get Eaten Alive. There is danger here; do not take unnecessary risks and don’t push your luck. You may feel more capable than you actually are, or there could be an imposter who presents himself as being capable, but isn’t, and he ends up setting the tiger loose.

Line 2 – Walking a Level, Easy Road. You stick with the right path, so good luck is yours. Be undisturbed with thoughts of loss or gain. A calm person in not easily-given to disorderly behavior, so be that person now.

Line 1 – Wearing Plain Shoes. Keep to the simple, and travel the familiar routes. Live within your means. That is the safest course right now. You may be able to start to transform a long-cherished desire into action.

Hexagram 11-Peace-Earth Over Sky. The imagery is Mount Tai, a sacred mountain in eastern China.

Line 6 – Castle Ramparts Crumble into the Moat. Eventually, defensive measures deteriorate under the onslaught of nature, unless leadership maintains them. Restoration in your inner or outer environment may be called-for here. Otherwise, this is not the right time for action. This may signal the end of an era.

Line 5 – The Father Gives his Daughter in Marriage. If the question is about marriage or a partnership of some kind, it will be a happy and fortunate alliance. Otherwise, prepare to give and receive generously.

Line 4 – Not Boasting of Wealth to Your Neighbor. A conspicuous display of wealth is not wise. You may need the assistance, support and backing of neighbors someday, and you want them to assist you with sincere and willing hearts.

Line 3 – No Plain Without a Hill, No Going Without Coming. Nothing lasts forever. The pendulum swings both ways. Downhill follows uphill. Enjoy the moment. You have the strength to adjust to the changes while maintaining your peace of mind, anyway.

Line 2 – Hang on to a Hollow Gourd, You will not be Swept Away. Find some sort of ‘life jacket’ you can rely on during a difficult life transition, something or someone to rely on. Strive to steer a middle course; remain on good terms with both the coarse and the refined.

Line 1 – Connected at the Roots. Your focus is outside of yourself right now. Through discussion, hidden thoughts are uprooted and their connections to others are seen. You may be able to get others of like-mind to join you. Good luck.
Hexagram 12-Stagnation-Sky over Earth. The imagery is of an organization where only small-minded and untrustworthy people are in charge. In this situation, there is little you can do, and only small wins are possible.

Line 6 – Stagnation Overcome. The obstruction has now come to an end. Happy days are here again. You kept the faith during the hard times, now you will prosper when things are going your way again.

Line 5 – At One with Your Fate. The obstruction is soon coming to an end. The situation is still dangerous, and destruction may still happen, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. Fortune favors the great man.

Line 4 – Given Authority, and Blessed Friends. Though you still feel nervous in an uncertain situation, things are getting easier, and you see potential. Still, you realize it is not yet time to act. But friends will appear and be helpful at this time.

Line 3 – An Offering Wrapped in Palm Leaves. Someone, perceiving themselves at a disadvantage in the situation, is hiding their true gifts, or pretending to be someone they’re not. Subterfuge is uncalled-for in this situation. Confront the situation sincerely and honestly.

Line 2 – Lowly People Must Make Humble Offerings. In adverse times, the situation sometimes demands that we flatter the unworthy in order to get what we want, or just get by unmolested. Strive to avoid the unworthy whenever and wherever you can.

Line 1 – Pulling Weeds Up by the Root. At the beginning, you have the opportunity to thwart an obstruction, problem, or bad period before it takes root. Ask for help from friends if you have to, in order to get this done. If you can’t accomplish this, and the adversity takes root and flourishes, distance yourself from it as much as possible.

Hexagram 13-Unanimous Purpose-Sky Over Fire. The imagery here is of like-minded people sharing things and accomplishing the same purpose.

Line 6 – Fellowship in the Meadow. Something is ending and something else in beginning. You are in a new place with new people. Be open and friendly; remember, first impressions are lasting. A potential new good leader may appear at the periphery of a group.

Line 5 – Tears, Then Laughter. The trouble you feared will probably happen, eliciting crying and complaining from the group, but after the trouble passes, you’ll laugh, and all will be friends again.

Line 4 – Climbing the Wall and Not Attacking. Seize the high ground, and take your stand from a secure position. By doing this, you may not have to use force, or take aggressive measures.
**Line 3 – Seeking Friends with Concealed Weapons.** Some people seek friends while keeping their aggressive intentions hidden. Don’t do this. Seek friends by bringing an open and honest heart with you.

**Line 2 – Trouble with Friends in the Temple.** If you’re social circle consist of only family, anyone nearby, or people who flatter you, you need to be more choosy about your circle of friends. You need to seek out congenial spirits who will help you achieve your goals. It is not good to be so narrow in your associates.

**Line 1 – Meeting Friends over the Gate.** If you seek friends, get out there and meet them in informal surroundings. Open your doors and your heart and treat all people equally. Resolve to see only the best in people when you first meet them, without reservation or prejudice.

**Hexagram 14–Abundance–Fire over Sky.** Prosperity, Abundance, Having it All. The yin line in the fifth position controls the other five.

**Line 6 – Heaven Favors You.** Because Heaven favors you, success and good fortune are yours, whatever your pursuit is.

**Line 5 – Sincere Exchange of Views.** Your sincerity encourages others to come forward and give their views on the matter. A good leader elicits the best efforts from others.

**Line 4 – Not Boasting Avoids Harm.** You may be gifted with great talents, great insight, or great fortune, but there is no benefit in boasting about such things, thus eliciting resentment from others. The wise person so gifted behaves with restraint.

**Line 3 – A Great Person Offers.** A truly-great person is capable of sharing their gifts with others, making sacrifices, and awaiting the will of Heaven. An inferior person is incapable of this.

**Line 2 – Traveling in Safety.** Your large vehicle is filled to capacity. You can still move safely and effectively, but don’t take on any more burden than you can carry, or there will be trouble.

**Line 1 – Doing no Harm Keeps it From You.** Give no one cause to resent your good fortune. Be kind, be quiet, stay out of trouble, and be on the lookout for potential trouble.

**Hexagram 15–Humility.** Modesty, gentleness. The imagery here relates to the behavior of a modest person.

**Line 6 – Field the Army, Conquer Cities.** Even if you’re naturally the modest, retiring type, there are times when decisive action is needed, and that time is now. Your reputation as a selfless leader will attract others to your cause, so arm yourself and prepare for battle.

**Line 5 – Misfortune Threatens, Vulnerable to Attack.** You must take action at this time, just to protect yourself from misfortune. If your cause is just and you’re known as a humble person, you will succeed.
Line 4 – Favorable to Take Action. Work to gain experience, and as you do so, remember to bring humility along with you. Your actions are usually advantageous, but still be cautious.

Line 3 – Modest Despite Achievements. The truly superior and humble person quietly and competently does their job and carries it out to a successful end. Success does not go to their head.

Line 2 – The Very Picture of Humility. Your quiet, unassuming competence and modesty is so much a part of you, you are known for this quality. Perseverance in this way eventually brings you good fortune.

Line 1 – Humbly Crossing the Great Stream. In your unassumingly self-confident way, you simply do what needs to be done, no matter how difficult, leading to success. The smart person grows in humility as they grow in experience and wisdom.

Hexagram 16-Balance Motion-Thunder over Earth. The thunder is moving, the earth is not. It is the earth’s very stillness which prods the thunder to action.

Line 6 – Misguided Enthusiasm, Change Your Ways. You are caught up in something so pleasurable, you can’t see your way out of it. You have deluded yourself. Wake up, see that this endeavor will get you nowhere, and free yourself from it.

Line 5 – The Hypochondriac. One with a chronic complaint, but they don’t die. So long as your alive, don’t let others do what you should be doing yourself; this gives them too much power over you. Past events may not have been digested yet.

Line 4 – An Inspiration to Others. You inspire others. You harbor no suspicions toward them, so they are willing to support you in your endeavors, leading to great fortune.

Line 3 – Looking Elsewhere for Encouragement. There is no one else you can push this task onto, and appealing to Heaven for a favor won’t work. If you want to change something, you’re going to have to do it yourself. No one will do it for you.

Line 2 – Firm as a Rock. You notice something desirable you really don’t need, but you remain firm as a rock and do your duty faithfully. Because you do this, good fortune comes to you.

Line 1 – Public Boasting Brings Misfortune. You not only engage in sin and pleasurable pursuits, you publically boast about it. There may be some feelings of insecurity here. Straighten-up and fly right!

Hexagram 17-Pursuit-Lake over Thunder. Go for it, the hunt will be successful. The imagery of these lines is of a soldier earning merit by capturing enemy soldiers for his king.

Line 6 – Bound with Rope, or Loyalty to an Ideal. If one is sincere and believes in the cause, no rope is necessary, for they are bound by righteousness. All others must be bound with more material means.
**Line 5 – Loyalty is Rewarded.** A good ruler sincerely promotes all that is good, resulting in good fortune all-around. Someone who has loyally-served is promoted to ruling.

**Line 4 – The Hunt is Over.** You’ve gained a sufficiency; to continue would be greedy and excite envy. The wise take a break now. You may’ve be attracting followers, so maintain loyalty to your superior, and show sincerity.

**Line 3 – Catch the Big Fish, let the Little Fish go.** You cling to the more experienced person, and let the younger one go. By sacrificing something of lesser value in pursuit of what you seek, you will gain it.

**Line 2 – Holding onto the Little Fish, Letting the Big Fish go.** You cling to the younger person, and let the more experienced one go. You held onto the thing of lesser value, thus losing the possibility of gaining the greater. Are you an idiot, or what?

**Line 1 – Persevering Despite Loss, Circulate!** You suffer a misfortune and recover. A setback may spur you to new activity, gaining you new supporters and eventual success. Ultimately, this set-back works in your favor.

**Hexagram 18-Arresting Decay-Mountain over the Tree.** This hexagram is about taking responsibility and repairing that which needs fixing. The imagery is of a young man leaving his own family to mind his father’s store until his father recovers.

**Line 6 – Serve a Higher Purpose, not any Human Agency.** By being clear about one’s purpose and steadfastly pursuing that purpose, even in defiance of authorities, you may become a model to others.

**Line 5 – Praised for Helping the Father.** Someone needs help and you are praised for giving it. It’s possible though the someone you’re helping may have caused the trouble, someone else may have induced it, so you may need to tread carefully. Nonetheless, this is worthy work, even if you have regrets.

**Line 4 – Failing to Help the Father.** You disregarded something until it became a full-blown crisis. Resist over-correcting; it may make matters worse. Also, don’t solve it the old way, it led to this problem in the first place. Wait until you find the right way to proceed.

**Line 3 – Having to Help the Father.** Though you feel impatient and regretful at putting your own life on hold to help another, it will work out for the best in the long run.

**Line 2 – Son Helps the Mother, Inappropriate.** You may be carrying out a function that is really not your responsibility. This will not end well. Therefore, seek a solution, even if only partial. (In China, traditionally daughters look after their mother, and sons their father).

**Line 1 – Son Helps the Father, Appropriate.** A perilous position, but if the son (you) is an able person and a quick-study, all will turn out well in the end, and the ‘father’s’ reputation will be intact.
Hexagram 19 - Approach - Earth over Lake. Something is coming into existence. A fork in the road, things coming to a head. Something wonderful is about to happen. The imagery of the lines relates to leadership.

Line 6 – Sincere and Impeccable Encounter. Sincere, honest, generous and noble at heart, from this perspective you may at last feel free to express your feelings of what is right and true. You may have peaked in your current position, and be ready to move on.

Line 5 – Wise Leadership. Wise, compassionate and knowing how to take action, you have the ability to make the correct decision in an important matter.

Line 4 – Perfect Handling. A crisis, but you handle it in a calm, quiet, and unobtrusive manner. People are impressed by your integrity and competence in this matter.

Line 3 – Reckless Move, a Bad Idea. A complacent, careless attitude, or instinctive behavior in a crisis leads to trouble. If you recognize your error and conscientiously strive to fix it, you can rescue the situation.

Line 2 – Setting an Example. You move out of an old situation into a new (possibly higher) one. Opposition may be resolved by taking a joint, cooperative approach. You are a positive influence on others.

Line 1 – Friends Go Together. A group of you advance to a higher position. With a firm set of principles and correct behavior, further good fortune is possible. You already inspire others.

Hexagram 20 - Contemplation - Fire over Sky. Perspective, observation, thinking things through first, washing your hands before making an offering.

Line 6 – Observing Oneself; Flawless. You have sufficient objectivity to look at your own character and actions and ask if you are a truly superior person. Your effect on others is a good guide.

Line 5 – Observing Others; Flawless. You are intelligent-enough and well-placed enough to evaluate the condition of others on the road of life, and gain valuable insights thereby.

Line 4 – Guest Observes the Kingdom. Seeking to be the guest of a higher-up. You may’ve been invited to take part in a venture. Evaluate this by the nature of your surroundings, and how you’re being treated by the people in it.

Line 3 – Contemplating the Road of Life. Contemplating the course your life has taken, you ask yourself if you should journey on, or retrace your steps. In the end, you will realize it is better to journey on, while learning from the past.

Line 2 – Peering Through the Door. This caution is acceptable if you are unfamiliar with the situation, but if you are involved, such reticence is not admirable. Get out there and act with courage!
**Line 1 – A Child’s-Eye View.** A simplistic view of the situation is understandable and acceptable if you are a child, or someone lower on the totem pole, but it is lamentable if you’re an adult, or old enough to know better. In adults, a child’s-eye view can manifest itself as prejudice, narrow-mindedness and ignorance.

**Hexagram 21-Biting Through Fire over Thunder.** Effort, determination, making it go right. The imagery of these lines is of a person biting through and chewing a tough obstruction.

**Line 6 – Your Head Pilloried, You Have not Two Ears.** A prisoner of your own arrogant, heedless ignorance, you are deaf to the advice of others, and though you hear the thunder, you disregard the approaching danger.

**Line 5 – Biting Through Dried Meat, You Find Gold.** Your persistence in a tough situation has brought you reward. It’s a dangerous situation, but you possess the necessary qualifications for the task. Carry on with caution, and good luck!

**Line 4 – Gnawing Dried Meat on a Bone.** It’s a difficult task, but by showing determination and perseverance in tackling the problem, while at the same time not breaking any teeth, you will eventually be rewarded with justice and possessions.

**Line 3 – Gnawing Dried Meat Gone Bad.** Confronting bitter past experiences is not fun, and there may be some prior behavior which causes you shame. Don’t gnaw on such memories, learn from them. Try to put things right, if possible, and go forward, resolved not to do it again.

**Line 2 – Bite Too Deeply, Nearly Lose Nose.** Going too greedily after the tender meat, you nearly bit your own nose. When something goes too easily, greed is a natural response. You may be too impatient, obsessive and biased to see a situation clearly.

**Line 1 – Feet Shackled, Error Prevented.** You’re prevented from making a wrong move. The right word of caution was like shackles on your feet. No matter how much you didn’t want to listen to wisdom, you couldn’t dismiss it.

**Hexagram 22-Adornment-Moutain over Fire.** The ornamental and beautiful has a place in society, and in the world, but it is secondary to that which is substantial. The imagery of the lines is that of a groom going to meet his prospective bride. Lighten up is another possible message of this hexagram.

**Line 6 – Dressed in White.** Sometimes the best display plain and simple. The subject is so beautiful, adornment is unnecessary, and would only obscure the true beauty anyway.

**Line 5 – A Small Silk, but Decorated with Garden Scenes.** Your gifts may not be the grandest, most-spectacular or expensive, but they are beautiful and offered with the best of intentions, so you will experience good fortune and success for your efforts anyway.

**Line 4 – On a White Horse, He Comes not to Rob, but Marry.** If you feel awkward in new circumstances, declare plainly your peaceful intentions, and you will be accepted and trusted.
Line 3 – Adornments Glisten with Dew. When you look and feel your best, you attract favorable attention from others. Be willing to get involved and face challenges if you wish to change things.

Line 2 – Groom Your Beard. Looking good helps you feel good. Improve yourself by adopting the superior behavior of others. Fit in by adapting to other’s behavior. Avoid vanity.

Line 1 – With Adorned Feet, Leave the Carriage and Walk. Make yourself look as good as you can, but if necessary, be ready and willing to give up every luxury and indulgence and stand on your own two feet. Own your opinions. Simple people prefer to walk.

Hexagram 23-Falling Apart-Mountain over Earth. Falling down, splitting apart, disintegration, separation. A formerly-stable situation is coming undone. The imagery here is of a bed being cut in half from the bottom up, first the bed, then the person occupying it, is being cut in two; not a pretty picture.

Line 6 – A Big Fruit Remains, Uneaten. A previously stable situation has come to an end, but something of the old remains. Seeds from a fruit which escaped the destruction lie waiting to be planted in the new. Not a total loss.

Line 5 – Fish on a Line, Awaiting One More Powerful. You led a group of rebels and you lost. Recognize this, admit it, be a gracious loser, and in the end you may actually benefit. At the very least, you won’t suffer as badly as you might have.

Line 4 – The Bed is Destroyed. You have cut through the bed, and are now proceeding to cut the skin of the bed’s occupant. The summit of destruction has been reached. Calamity is imminent. You’re in a highly unstable position, and are not immune to disaster, which is very close. Move with great care.

Line 3 – The Virtuous Destroyer. You’re one of those cutting the bed in two, but this isn’t wrong. You’ve got a reason to destroy the bed! It contains painful memories and bad company. It’s time to be judicious in the company with whom you spend your days.

Line 2 – The Bed Frame is Split. The framework of your life is deteriorating. The situation needs attention and handling, but the people you could normally rely on in such matters don’t see the danger and are being negligent in their obligations. A fragile situation.

Line 1 – The Foot of the Bed is Being Destroyed. The situation is starting to come undone, and what you rely on is eroding. A lack of human decency may not be helping matters much. It may be possible to fix the situation, if you act quickly.

Hexagram 24-Returning-Earth over Thunder. Renewal, rebirth, coming back to life. The winter solstice. First signs of spring. A silent awakening. The imagery of these lines is of a person coming home after a long journey, or getting back on the right track after making a detour.
Line 6 – Missed the Right Exit. You have taken a detour. You have missed the correct turn you were supposed to take in life, and have thereby done yourself harm. It may take a considerable period of time before you are able to get yourself back on the correct path.

Line 5 – A Sincere Return. By examining your motives and admitting your mistakes, you are able to return to the right path, and because of this, a second return will not be necessary. The plan has not yet come to a full conclusion.

Line 4 – Starting Out with Others, Continuing on Alone. You want to travel with others, but find their itinerary doesn’t match yours. If pursuing the proper path for you means traveling alone, so be it!

Line 3 – Repeated Returns. Pacing back and forth, you try to justify your thinking, but the reality is, you will face this lesson again and again until you get it right. There is a certain amount of peril here, but no danger—yet.

Line 2 – A Good Return. You experience success and good fortune, because you corrected a small mistake before it became a larger mistake, and you proceeded with good preparation beforehand. Admirable!

Line 1 – Returning From a Small Error. You made an error and quickly corrected it. You hadn’t gone very far in the wrong direction before you realized it, and made the correct course-change. Good for you! No regrets, and possible great good fortune further down the line.

Hexagram 25-Correctness-Sky over Thunder. Act naturally. Expect nothing, and be authentically who you are. Wholehearted sincerity, and acting without seeking reward. In so doing you act in accord with the Universe. The imagery of the lines, again borrows heavily from travel.

Line 6 – Proceeding at this Time Invites Misfortune. Now is not the right time to take action, the case is closed for the present. Taking action now would only result in misfortune. What is called for at this time is contemplation, then, if need be, formulating a plan.

Line 5 – Don’t Use Medicine to Fix This. An unexpected misfortune has come upon you, but will pass of its own accord. Doing anything to hasten its end will only aggravate the situation. Relax, rest, and you will experience a joyous recovery.

Line 4 – Carry on, There is no Harm in Sight. You’re in a time of transition and feel vulnerable, but everything will be fine, so long as you trust your own judgement and act accordingly.

Line 3 – A Traveler Takes the Ox; His Gain, the Farmer’s Loss. One person’s gain is another person’s loss. Unexpected good or bad luck. Something valuable may’ve been left unguarded, an outsider found it and took it, now locals stand accused of the theft. Take responsibility for your carelessness. Shit happens.
**Line 2 – Reaping Without Sowing.** Plunge wholeheartedly into the action at hand, and don’t think at all about what you’re getting out of this. Let the results take care of themselves.

**Line 1 – Go Forth Without Expectation.** Act without the expectation or hope of reward, be pure of heart, and you will get what you desire.

**Hexagram 26-Harnessing Great Power-Mountain over Sky.** Control, taking the reins, taking the bull by the horns. You are involved with powerful energies, so stay in control and tend to business.

**Line 6 – Walking the Sky Road.** You command heavenly energies, the road lies open, and you may proceed unhampered. There is progress to be made, so onward!

**Line 5 – The Boar is Castrated.** A dangerous situation has been denuded of its greatest danger, so you can relax and not feel like you’re sitting on a powder keg. Success of some kind is now possible.

**Line 4 – Cover the Horns of a Young Bull.** It’s easier to manipulate a powerful force in its early-phases. See potential danger and take steps to ensure it never happens. Extraordinary precautions now can mean great good fortune later.

**Line 3 – Practice Chariot-Riding and Self-Defense Daily.** Aware of the difficulties of the path you propose to take, you train both yourself and the energies under your command. This will bring you prosperity and success in whatever direction you choose to head. The **lucky** person is the **prepared** person.

**Line 2 – A Missing Car-Part.** Unbeknownst to you, a car-part was removed, which led to a break-down further down the road. This isn’t your fault, just stop and get it fixed. Then you can continue on your journey.

**Line 1 – Danger is Here; Cease and Desist!** You are in a dangerous position, and any further forward motion will only result in calamity. Back off, and conserve your energy. Do not advance!

**Hexagram 27-Nourishment-Mountain over Thunder.** Fulfillment, nourishment, feedback. What is it you seek to nourish? You are what you eat—you are also the company you keep. The imagery of this hexagram largely centers around food and eating.

**Line 6 – You Are the Source of Nourishment.** This is a dangerous position. You are either the source of wisdom or the sacrificial lamb. Act with care, and you may be able to get out of this situation intact.

**Line 5 – Forsaking Established Ways.** You, the person in charge, may see a need to do things in an unorthodox way, but if your reasoning is sound, and you don’t make any dramatic moves, good fortune should be yours.
Line 4 – the Stare of the Hungry Tiger. You passionately wish to satisfy your needs and wants, and now it is valid to satisfy it, for you seek the right nourishment, while sidestepping the dangers of greed and desire.

Line 3 – Bad Eating Habits. Junk food fails to satisfy, so you to soon eat again. You’re a junk-food junkie. Break the greed habit. What will bring you lasting satisfaction?

Line 2 – Above and Below, You’re Looking for Food. You’re being greedy and causing yourself harm. This is shop-till-you-drop mentality. Realize when enough is enough.

Line 1 – Neglecting the Tortoise’s Feeding. You’re looking so much higher than where you are, your jaw is hanging open. Feeding small things, you remain small. The tiger needs something more. There may be ambition here. Appropriate or not is another question.

Hexagram 28-Excess-Lake over Tree. The water-logged tree. The roof-beam sags. I’ve had all I can take. Pressure, tension, transcendence. Picture a home with so much in it’s interior, the supporting columns and beams sag under the weight. Something fundamental has to change, then you can start fresh.

Line 6 – In Over Your Head. You waded boldly into the stream until you realized the deepest part was over your head. Recognize this, and retreat. Your good intentions led you to take on more than you can handle.

Line 5 – Old Wife Gets Young Man. This situation is like an old willow tree managing to produce some blossoms. You may be taking on something past its prime and a cosmetic fix will not suffice. Cause for neither praise nor blame, but how long will it last?

Line 4 – the Roof-beam Warps Upward. Success and good fortune for the moment, but don’t add to the weight the roof is supporting. But nothing will improve if you don’t seek help for a more long-lasting fix.

Line 3 – the Roof-beam Sags. The roof-beam has reached its breaking point. Nothing supports it. This is a position of great danger. Seek assistance as soon as you can!

Line 2 – Old Man Gets a Young Wife. An unusual but productive union of extremes. This is like the willow tree with green shoots at its base; there is still a hope for children (development). A new lease on life, a balancing act.

Line 1 – Placing Fine Mats Under Breakable Objects. You know you’re in a weak position here. In dealing with more powerful forces than yourself, be exceedingly deferential, pliant and careful. Carefully prepare a soft place for receiving a heavy load.

Hexagram 29 – The Abyss-Water over Water. The Chinese word for this hexagram is a pit, a booby trap, a hole. Double water is great trouble. This is toiling alone in dangerous circumstances. By maintaining an unshakable and abiding trust in what is right, you will come through this dangerous period and succeed. The imagery of the lines centers around the pit.
Line 6 – **Imprisoned in the Thorns of Your Bad Choices.** In trying to get out of trouble, you made the wrong choices and only got in deeper trouble. There is no escape now, but you will survive.

Line 5 – **Stopping Before the Pit Fills in.** Your troubles end just before the pit completely fills in and either drowns you, or buries you alive. You will eventually get out of this predicament, but it was close.

Line 4 – **Drinks and Rice Lowered by Rope.** You can’t avert the danger threatening you or others, but a sincere request for help in this situation will be answered favorably.

Line 3 – **Fallen Into the Pit, Doing Nothing.** You are in a dangerous situation, but can do nothing about it, so for the moment, don’t try. You may have been living with danger so long, it feels normal.

Line 2 – **Surrounded by Pits, Small Gains, if any.** You are safe for the moment, but surrounded by potential pitfalls. Make your way cautiously through this dangerous terrain, and know you won’t get all you’re looking for.

Line 1 – **Falling Into the Pit; Misfortune.** You have fallen into a dangerous place. Unfamiliar with the terrain, you may’ve overestimated your ability, made a serious of errors which landed you where you are now.

Hexagram 30-**Shining-Fire over Fire.** Nurturance, reliance, mutual support. In order to shine brightly, fire must cling to its nourishment. Encourage the docility of a cow.

Line 6 – **Hired for a Punitive Expedition.** You now have the chance to root out destructive influences once and for all. When you isolate the source of the problem, you don’t have to punish everybody; just the ring-leaders. Everybody else, you can let go free.

Line 5 – **Sometimes, It’s Good to Cry.** Crying over regrets or sorrows from the past, or groaning about worries, is not bad. It releases stress, and it shows you take the situation seriously. There will be eventual success.

Line 4 – **a Flame Flares up Suddenly, Then Dies Away.** You came on too strong, were a little too overenthusiastic, and others found you unbearable as a result. You may just be a flash in the pan.

Line 3 – **the Setting Sun.** Everything comes to an end sometime. You can either be grateful for what you had, and enjoy the sunset, or you can groan like an old man over the impending darkness. Which attitude is more admirable? The old way may no longer work. Make new plans!

Line 2 – **Radiant in Yellow.** You’re in a position of great good fortune. Your environment is supportive and favorable. You see things with clarity, perspective and balance.
**Line 1 – First Hesitant Steps in New Shoes.** Entering into a new situation can be an awkward, unsure and hesitant experience, but be sensitive and willing to adapt. You may have a meaningful encounter with a remarkable person.

**Hexagram 31-Influence-Lake over Mountain.** Incisive, sensitivity, give and take. It’s good to marry. Affecting others, and being willing to be influenced by them in return. Use penetrating and decisive action to make your influence felt and your message received. The imagery for these lines is of body-parts.

**Line 6 – A Gift for Talk.** You have a talent for communication. Will you use it for the good of all, or will you use it for flattery of the right people, and cruelty to others? Be on the lookout for the vicious-mouthed.

**Line 5 – The Back of the Neck.** An attitude of indifference will gain you nothing. Be willing to stand firm on your principles and beliefs, even if you run the risk of alienating someone. Keep your eyes on the prize.

**Line 4 – Remain a Calm Center.** In the midst of activity and confusion, remain focused-on, and sensitive to, the main issue. Your feelings for others will inspire them to come to your aid.

**Line 3 – Thighs Clasped.** You desire to move forward, but don’t know exactly what you want. Also, your circumstance may hold you back. First things first; learn to walk before you can run.

**Line 2 – Restless Calves.** The calf follows the foot, which is not yet moving. Resist the impulse to rush forward. You may move when the ‘feet’ invite you to do so.

**Line 1 – Wiggling the Toes.** Wiggling toes betrays an impatience to move, and an attention which lies elsewhere. Don’t be too hasty at this stage; this may be just the beginning of big plans.

**Hexagram 32-Perseverence-Thunder over Tree.** Purposeful, constant, seeing it through. Continuing is blessed, keep to your course.

**Line 6 – Continually Impatient.** If you are continually agitated and impatient to move, you may overlook details which leave you vulnerable to misfortune farther down the line. Relax, calm down, and be cognizant of the details!

**Line 5 – Loyal Obedience Makes Good Followers, Bad Leaders.** If you’re in charge, be aggressive, dominant, and adaptable. If you’re a follower, obey those who lead. But first determine which of these you are.

**Line 4 – A Field Empty of Game.** You are on your way, but you don’t know the whereabouts of the object for which you’re searching. You’re going about it all wrong. First, know what you’re looking for and learn how to find it.
**Line 3 – Overstepping Your Bounds.** Consistently fulfilling your current obligations will cause others to trust you. If you try to take on additional obligations, but don’t fulfill them consistently, you’ll weaken your reputation.

**Line 2 – No More Regrets.** Your regrets about a past failure are dissipating. Also, you will not let yourself be carried away by matters which are beyond your control. You are free to focus on the future and start fresh.

**Line 1 – Impatiently Persistent.** You are determined to fight it out on this line, even if it takes all summer. Wake up and take a good look at this situation; does this demand your dedication? A long continuance of the fight may work against you in the long run. Look elsewhere.

**Hexagram 33-Retreat-Sky over Mountain.** Withdrawal, sanctuary. There is safety in seclusion, and it is appropriate right now. The imagery of these lines is of a piglet, either penned-up and being fattened for the feast, or running for its life.

**Line 6 – Little Pig, Fat and Happy.** Having done your best and succeeded, you leave a situation behind, without regrets and in high spirits. A noble and well-deserved departure.

**Line 5 – Little Pig is Rewarded for Seeing It Through.** You were assigned a task, and you completed it. Congratulations! Now get while the getting is good. Knowing when to leave the party is a good talent to have.

**Line 4 – Only a Great Person can Offer a Little Pig.** Leaving behind everyone and everything you love in order to pursue a specific goal is not easy. Only a truly superior person can do this successfully.

**Line 3 – Little Pig is Tied Up.** You may need to retire from a situation, although you *really* don’t want to, because a formerly-safe situation may no longer be so, or you’re feeling doubt and exhaustion at what’s to come. Saying goodbye hurts, but see this as another transition on your life path.

**Line 2 – Bound With Yellow Ox-Hide.** You hold to your ideal, or to your faith in a great person, with calm and steadfast determination; nothing can shake your trust. Ideally, this bond should comfort and not confine you.

**Line 1 – A Retiring Tail.** Leave a perilous situation as soon as you become aware it is dangerous. You are not in a position to cope effectively with it. Try to make a clean retreat; leave nothing for others to attack.

**Hexagram 34-Great Power-Thunder over Sky.** Big and strong; opportunity; breaking free. Going over the wall. Great strength which is correctly applied. The imagery of the lines is of a ram breaking out of its enclosure.

**Line 6 – Ram Butts the Fence Ceaseless.** Using brute force is unpopular and you’ll only get stuck and be unable to move. Relax, and wait for the situation to improve on its own.
Line 5 – Letting the Ram Go Free. If someone wants to go free, or have their own way, let them. No need to make the ram use violence. You can more easily adjust your own nature than they can.

Line 4 – Ram Butts the Fence and Breaks Free. By firmly, steadfastly and consistently working, you have weakened the fence and make your window of opportunity appear.

Line 3 – Ram Butts the Fence and Gets its Horns Stuck. Giving in to violence will harm yourself the most. A weak person must use all his strength in order to achieve any measure of success. You do have the option to refuse using force to get your way.

Line 2 – the Well-Behaved Ram. Continue to be loyal and persevering, even if you are at a disadvantage, and you may eventually be able to break free of restricting circumstances. This line is power balanced with self-mastery.

Line 1 – Fidgety Feet. The toes are active, and impatient to move, but the rest of the body is not strong enough to make that break for freedom. You’re unprepared to start the venture. If you escape now, you’ll soon wear out. For now, bide your time.

Hexagram 35-Progres-Fire over Earth. Success, winning, popularity. Everybody loves a winner. You’re the favorite right now. Make the most of it—nothing lasts forever.

Line 6 – Advancing with Horns on His Head. It may be necessary to take aggressive action in some matter, but this may be because you didn’t address the matter earlier. For this reason, there will be feelings of regret on your part, even though you will succeed in quelling the rebellion.

Line 5 – Don’t Worry About the Outcome. Go ahead and do what you feel needs to be done, and don’t worry about either loss or gain. You will succeed. Something you lost may be restored to you.

Line 4 – Advancing Like a Hamster; Danger. You’re moving furtively and cautiously. You may be tempted to use underhanded methods to obtain something that is not rightly yours. Either be open and above-board, or don’t advance at all.

Line 3 – Everybody Trusts You. You have the support of everyone around you and they trust your decisions. You may advance with no doubts or hesitation.

Line 2 – Great Blessing from your Grandmother. You make progress, but with sadness. Perhaps others resent you and make progress difficult. Don’t worry, just keep doing what you’re doing and your talents will be noticed and rewarded.

Line 1 – Your Proposals are Rejected. You’re not strong-enough to get everything you want right now. Wins and losses are mixed. Don’t let it bother you. Just keep working steadily and patiently; your time will come.
Hexagram 36-Dimming Light-Earth over Fire. Damage, rejection, invalidation. The image is of fire being smothered by earth. A light in the darkness. Continuing through adversity. You may feel alone in your viewpoint, or under attack and unable to speak out. You may come to doubt yourself. Hold onto your integrity in your darkest hours—it may be all you have.

Line 6 – Light Swallowed by Obscurity. The throne was taken by less-than-honorable means, your position became untenable, in part because of your own shortcomings, then you fell back to earth. Welcome back to reality. Now, take a more modest route to success.

Line 5 – A Light in the Darkness. You may be surrounded by unethical people, but do not join them. Do your best to be fair and abide by the rules, while not being obviously ‘virtuous’ and ‘good.’ Keep your light hidden for now.

Line 4 – Penetrating the Darkness. You’re aware you’re in a bad situation, because you’re in the heart of it. Use your head, keep your mouth shut, and your thoughts to yourself. The situation is dangerous, but not hopeless. Maintain your integrity and you just may escape this.

Line 3 – You Take Down the Big Guy. Great luck! You have the power to defeat the forces of wrong, and set things right. The reign of darkness is ending, but don’t try to enact all your reforms at once. You fixed the major thing; the smaller things will take some time.

Line 2 – Wounded in the Left Leg, Escapes on a Fast Horse. Your insight is good, but you can’t use it right now. You’ve sustained damage, but you’re able to successfully withdraw.

Line 1 – Injured While Fleeing, Fasts for Three Days. You see the danger signs and know right now isn’t the time for your input, or the time to stay. You decide to withdraw, but the less sensible and less-aware hold you in contempt for leaving. Ignore ‘em.

Hexagram 37-Family-Wind over Fire. Home, family, belonging. Family ties. The members of a household do not work for pay, or just for themselves; they contribute to the welfare of the larger group. Where do you belong in this group?

Line 6 – Sincere and Arrayed in Majestic Attire. You may be alone, or at the pinnacle of achievement. Earn the respect of others by being down-to-earth and setting an example for them to follow. Great good fortune in the end.

Line 5 – King in the Castle. When the household functions efficiently and family relations are harmonious, there is nothing to hide and nothing to fear. All is well. But if you stay in those four harmonious walls, and don’t expose yourself to the outside world, you’ll learn little.

Line 4 – She Enriches the family. Even if this person isn’t the head of the household, her qualities and contribution to the group increase the happiness of the family and even enable the family’s fortunes to grow greater.
Line 3 – He’s the Captain Bligh of His Ship. The head of the household is running things with an iron fist, and the family is unhappy. He needs to relax his grip and find a happy medium, both for his own and the family’s happiness.

Line 2 – Restricts Herself to Meal Prep. Stay in your lane. This isn’t the time to strike out on your own, or expand your job responsibilities. Your obligations may outweigh your personal wishes at this time.

Line 1 – Run a Tighter Ship. Decide who is family and who is not. Set rules and assign duties, and make sure they’re followed. This make for a more effective and safer household.

Hexagram 38-Disunion-Fire over Lake. Duality, Estrangement, Alienation, Hearing a different drummer, Solitary. When in uncongenial company, your eyes wander because you feel you don’t belong. When in an estranged position, you can only do small things, make small improvements.

Line 6 – Alone Amidst Alienation. Solitude has made you wary. You see what at first, looks like a threat, then you realize no harm was meant, and you lower your weapon. Further on, you meet with gentle rain and good fortune.

Line 5 – Join in the Fun. Overcome your feelings of alienation and take part in the feast of life. Accept the invitation. No harm will come from this.

Line 4 – Alone, but You’d be a Good Friend. Overcome your isolation and loneliness by seeking out people with similar interests, and communicate honestly and sincerely. Slowly but surely, you’ll become good friends.

Line 3 – Ox and Cart Retrieved, Physical Chastisement Administered. Things certainly got off to a bad start, but oddly enough, they will come to a good end. Try to follow the advice of the fifth line.

Line 2 – Meeting the Boss in an Alleyway. Your official relationship with a superior may be difficult or strained. If you chance to meet them in unusual, non-work situations, take advantage of that to establish a stronger bond.

Line 1 – The Horse will Return when it’s Good and Ready! You have suffered a misfortune which wasn’t your fault, and doubts and worries nag you, but you know the horse will eventually return. Your problems will run their course, what is lost will be restored, and you’ll be on your way again.

Hexagram 39-Roadblock-Water over Mountain. Barrier, obstacle, an impasse. Something in the way. Further progress isn’t possible right now; it’s smarter to visit the wise one.

Line 6 – Going Forward only Increases Difficulties. Paradoxically, only staying put is productive right now. This would be a good time to visit someone with more wisdom, experience and status than you.
Line 5 – Friends Come to Help You. You’re wrestling with an unsurmountable series of difficulties, but you are fortunate to have friends who come forward to help you.

Line 4 – Persevering in Increasing Difficulties. You keep going in the face of ever-increasing difficulties. Stop, reconnect with supporters and friends, and recoup your strength. You can’t deal with these challenges right now.

Line 3 – Blocked; Return to Friends. You keep going in the face of ever-increasing difficulties and are finally blocked. Return to your friends, return to tenable ground. Further progress just isn’t happening right now.

Line 2 – You Strive on Behalf of Your King. You keep struggling with one difficulty after another, but you’re not doing this for yourself, you’re doing it for another. So know that you won’t be blamed.

Line 1 – Progress is Blocked, Returning is Praised. Going forward will only result in further difficulties. The smartest course is to stop and wait; you’ll be admired for having the good sense to do this.

Hexagram 40-Removing Obstacles-Thunder over Water. Relief, escape, freedom. The blockage has been removed and you are now free to roam. Coming out of danger. Do what you have to, then return home.

Line 6 – Nailing the Hawk on a High Wall. The trouble-shooter eliminates the trouble-maker. Someone not personally involved may impartially accomplish this. Aim high and shoot with confidence, to remove the last barrier to your freedom.

Line 5 – Doing One’s Duty, Exciting Admiration. The person in charge competently removes one injurious obstacle after another, because that’s his job. This elicits the admiration of even the most small-minded people.

Line 4 – Back Away. You may have just got started in something you should back away from, the sooner the better. Do this, and true friends will appear.

Line 3 – The Porter Rides in the Carriage. If you pretend to be what you’re not, and appear to have something of more value than you actually do, you’ll be attacked for it. Get out and walk! Get where you’re going by a humbler route.

Line 2 – Bag Three Foxes, Win the Golden Arrow. The three foxes are greed, hatred and ignorance. Eliminate these three and you’ll be richly-rewarded. Swift, precise and single-minded action may be rewarded with greater responsibility.

Line 1 – The Road Downhill Lies Open. Whatever you’re doing now, you can make no error. Everything just flows now, so if there’s something you need to get done, now is the time to do it.
Hexagram 41-Decrease-Mountain over Lake. Relaxation, letting-go, returning to the simple, getting down to basics. Two bowls of rice are enough. Less is more.

Line 6 – He Gives Without Sacrifice. By giving to others without taking away from yourself anything you need, you lighten your own load and elicit gratitude and admiration. This is a win-win situation.

Line 5 – The Gift of Many Valuable Tortoiseshells. In simplifying your life and paring-down to the essentials, you made room for a great opportunity or gift. Accept this gift. This is gaining without seeking gain.

Line 4 – Lighten Your Load. Ease up on the stress you’ve been operating under, and take steps to do something about unhealthy conditions and bad habits. This will elicit help from others.

Line 3 – Three Traveling, Splitting-Up, Getting Back Together. A group traveling together through life may have to be split-up for a time, but don’t worry; they will eventually re-united.

Line 2 – Stationary Action. Maintain firmness and courtesy. Be neither tense nor relaxed, but aware. If another asks you for something, if it is within your power, give it, but ask nothing for yourself.

Line 1 – A Little Help is Fine. Suspending your own activities to go help another is admirable, but take care not to render too much help. Overextending yourself will only hurt you. How much do you think you owe this person?

Hexagram 42-Increase-Wind over Thunder. Benefit, expansion, go ahead with your plans. The more, the better. Add what is lacking. You can now do something which demands courage and daring.

Line 6 – No Self-Discipline Invites Attack. No one is contributing to your coffers, and failure to follow the rules will invite others to attack you. Being a spendthrift will deplete you. Focus your mind on your goal right now; any other thought will trigger doubt, and that, you cannot afford.

Line 5 – Virtue is its Own Reward. Because you are honestly acting for the good of the whole, and not just seeking gain for yourself, you meet with great success and the admiration of friends.

Line 4 – The Prince Follows Your Advice. Because your only objective is the greater good of all, there is confidence in your worth and judgement.

Line 3 – Gain Through Misfortune, Authority of the Jade Seal. If you have the ability to turn bad situations into fortunate ones, or can provide an effective solution to an unpleasant and difficult problem, you could benefit from this time of transition.
Line 2 – A Gift of Many Fine Tortoiseshells Cannot be Refused. You may receive a valuable gift from a highly-placed person. Graciously accept it. You are receiving this gift because you unfailingly remain helpful and courteous and serve the common good.

Line 1 – Take a Big Step Forward. Although you may be in a lowly position, now is great time for you to be daring and take a big, audacious step forward, for it will result in great success. Nothing too big, mind you, but big-enough.

Hexagram 43-Removing Corruption-Lake over Sky. Determination, revelation, breakthrough. Lines are being drawn, and sides taken. Separate from a negative situation, or handle it. It is about to rain.

Line 6 – Without Warning. Evil is suddenly removed from power. If you’re ashamed of something, put it right. There is no hiding from the light right now. Prepare yourself against unexpected disasters.

Line 5 – Deal with the Weeds. Small-minded people and negative Nancy’s are like weeds; if you leave ‘em be, they’ll proliferate, and eventually take root in your mind. Weed ruthlessly; do what needs to be done and keep your balance.

Line 4 – Leading a Sheep as a Sign of Surrender. Stubbornness now will only lead to your defeat and you’ll be forced to make changes anyway. You’re only free to follow along and submit to being led right now, like a sheep.

Line 3 – Struck on the Cheek, Wet with Rain. It may be annoying and trying to have to correct a situation, but steadfastly proceed, even if it means going it alone, soaked by rain and distained by others, as if you were contagious. In the end, all will be well.

Line 2 – Night Raid, Nothing to Fear. You may be anxious, looking for support and sympathy in the face of animosity, but this too shall pass. Forewarned is forearmed. Strength is being prepared.

Line 1 – Face Plant. You overestimated your strength. Now you don’t have the full use of your foot, you must proceed on your toes alone. You will proceed, but not succeed, and you have only yourself to blame.

Hexagram 44-Encountering-Sky over Tree. Intrusion, undermining, a bold and powerful person who comes on strong, a disturbing influence insinuates itself into the normal state of affairs. Expect the unexpected.

Line 6 – Regrettable Locking of Horns. You may need to fight back against a stubborn aggressor who’s backed you into a corner. You don’t like having to do this, but when it’s over you can go back to peace.
Line 5 – Melon wrapped in leaves. For now, keep your finest assets concealed, and let them seep out occasionally here and there. In time, this concealed fruit will ripen into rich rewards, possibly when you don’t expect it.

Line 4 – No Money in Your Wallet; this is Unfortunate. The cupboard is bare. If you remain aloof from others, they won’t have any confidence in you, and you won’t have anybody to rely on to help you get through this lean period.

Line 3 – Some Skin off Your Backside. You’ve suffered a little damage, which puts you at a disadvantage and makes you vulnerable, but at least your debility keeps you from getting in any further trouble.

Line 2 – Money in Your Wallet, but only Just Enough. You only have enough resources for yourself right now, so don’t feel obligated to share it with others. You’re in no position to entertain guests.

Line 1 – Your Car is in ‘Park’ Mode. Great success will only come if you don’t make any moves. It’s disappointing to feel so dependent, but you’re as jumpy as a lean pig right now. Any moves now could turn into a rampage.

Hexagram 45-Gathering Together-Lake over Earth. Integration, joining-in, a gathering of the clans, assemble around the shrine and make offerings, get your act together. Recover and nourish the roots of your being.

Line 6 – Sighing and Crying, but no Blame. You’re position at the top is no longer secure. You tried to keep it together and you failed. This wasn’t your fault. Mourn the ending, then carry on with life.

Line 5 – Unity Behind a Leader. Even as the person in charge, not everyone will have confidence in you until you display your competence to lead and ability to inspire others. Most will accept this, but some will still go their own way; let ‘em.

Line 4 – Great Good Fortune, no Blame. You may not have handled things with the greatest competence, but it all turned out very well, which saves you from criticism. Still, did you let flattery distort your judgement?

Line 3 – Little Progress on the Unity Front. You want to get everybody’s agreement on a direction, but are experiencing little progress. You may have made one little mistake, but keep trying, for perseverance will result in eventual success.

Line 2 – Small Offering Smooths Things Over. There is a little temporary difficulty here, but, taking inspiration from the fifth line, a small offering or gift will demonstrate your sincerity, your willingness to contribute, and to accept help. It will also paper-over your shortcomings.
Line 1 – Uncertain About Joining In. First attempts at joining a group can be awkward and confused. If you openly and honestly ask for help, there are decent people who will help you. When you’re clear about what you want, then it will happen.

Hexagram 46-Anceding-Earth over Tree. Arising, growth, moving up. You may be up for a promotion of some sort. Don’t be afraid to go see someone important and influential.

Line 6 – Ascent into Darkness. This promotion means you’re heading into unfamiliar territory. Remain aware of your surroundings and alert to hidden forces which could trip you up if you’re not careful. Remain steadfast and courteous. You can’t lose heart halfway across the tightrope.

Line 5 – Steadily Climbing the Ladder. Climb the hierarchy in the traditional, accepted way, step by step, stage by stage, and remember to appreciate the good help you’re receiving along the way.

Line 4 – Climbing the Mountain with Offerings. You’re not the guy at the top, but you’re in his circle and participating. Through patient, step-by-step progress, you’ve gotten very near the top and are involved with some powerful forces.

Line 3 – Conquering an Empty City. You easily gain something which looked like a great prize, only to find out it wasn’t so valuable after all. Next time, check out a thing’s real worth before going for it.

Line 2 – Sincere Small Offering is Blessed. At the beginning of a venture, even a small gesture or offering to celebrate the new beginning will be well-received. Just remember to bring consistent, unwavering support to the effort.

Line 1 – Receiving a Promotion. You occupied a lower position, now you’ve been moved to a higher position, because you demonstrated your competence and willingness to serve the common good. Welcome to the group. Keep up the good work!

Hexagram 47-Oppression-Lake over Water. Depleted, burnt-out, exhausted, what you say isn’t believed. Being a negative Nancy will only make things worse. A dead end, a sense of futility and isolation. Hold fast to your convictions and you’ll get through it.

Line 6 – Entangled in Vines. You’re in a trap, only of your own making. Recognize you made errors, admit it, then change your ways. That’s the only move you need to make. This will enable you to move forward to greater fortune.

Line 5 – Nose and Feet Cut Off. You’re stuck in a job, exhausted with responsibilities, and not getting what you want. If cooperation is lacking, do something to bring people together to discuss the matter; then things will improve.

Line 4 – Crawling Along in a Traffic Jam. You’re not getting the job done as quickly as would be desirable, but you’re getting there. A lack of needed support may be the reason for the delay.
**Line 3 – Between a Rock and a Hard Place.** You’re stuck in a difficult position, with no way, or not enough energy, to get out of it. Even at home, there’s no one to give you support or comfort. It sucks to be you.

**Line 2 – Overindulgence Causes Difficulties.** Always indulging our desires ends up being exhausting, uncomfortable and unsatisfying. Some serious self-examination is called for here. Not a good time to make any moves, but it won’t bring you any regret either.

**Line 1 – Enter the Dark Valley Naked.** Your desire for advancement was denied. You may be feeling hopeless and depressed over what is really only a minor setback. You may need help getting out of this dark mindset; this could be a valuable learning experience.

**Hexagram 48-The Well-Water over Tree.** Source, resources, a jointly-held benefit; you can move the town, but not the well. The imagery of the lines is of people using a well.

**Line 6 – A Full-Well Left Uncovered.** A well so filled with water, it can’t be covered is great good fortune. A full well represents sincerity. But are you taking this great asset for granted? Are you wasting this resource profligately? Think about it.

**Line 5 – Drinking Freely from a Pure Well.** You have a valuable resource available. Let it be used and appreciated. The pure water represents clear insight, free of emotions.

**Line 4 – The Well is Repaired.** A facility available for the benefit of all is fixed and improved so all may benefit from it again. Keep the lines of communication open, and in good repair. You may need refreshing, so your creative juices flow once more.

**Line 3 – Cleaned Well Stands Unused.** A resource is available, but no one’s using it. If all are to benefit from it someone’s got to take responsibility and start the water flowing again. This may call for a creative solution.

**Line 2 – Leaking Well Nourishes Lower Life-Forms.** A valuable resource is being expended on unworthy recipients, or talents are being wasted on unworthy pursuits. Abilities are being misused. Channel your efforts and strive for something worthy.

**Line 1 – No One Drinks From a Muddy Well.** A formerly-valuable resource may have come to the end of its useful life. Nothing left but the dregs, toxic waste, and unusable things. Time to dig a new well elsewhere.

**Hexagram 49-Revolution-Lake over Fire.** Reform, change, out with the old and in with the new. When your day comes, you will be believed; that’s the way revolutions work.

**Line 6 – The Leopard Changes His Spots.** The superior person is willing to make fundamental changes in order to make their revolution work; they can then consolidate their position. Inferior people change only their faces and become obedient, like dogs. The superior person may or may not be a good person but people do admire their leadership and example.
Line 5 – The Tiger Changes His Stripes. You have consulted the expert(s), you know what needs to be done, and you greatly reform the way things are done, to the admiration of all, who gladly follow you.

Line 4 – Confidently Change the Rules. You need to enact reforms, so proceed to do so, confidently and without apology. Any resistance will melt in the face of good results.

Line 3 – Only After Three Discussions is Change Believed. If you go ahead and make reforms, you will meet with resistance. Get everybody on board with your proposed changes; this may take a series of discussions. Only then may you make the changes, but watch for backsliding.

Line 2 – Make no Immediate Changes. Only after a period of time has passed, and when the time is correct, do you make the change, and it will be successful too. You admire Line 5’s way of doing things.

Line 1 – Wrapped in Yellow Oxhide. You need to take action, but incrementally. Build up your strength and start generating a base of support for your actions, for they might represent a radical change from the accustomed way of doing things. Time to start spreading sedition.

Hexagram 50-The Cauldron-Fire over Tree. Order, structure, security and safety. The nourishment represented by the pot on the stove. The imagery of these lines relate to the cauldron.

Line 6 – Cauldron with Jade Handles. Supreme good fortune. Everything you do is correct, and advantageous for you. You are firm, but flexible. You play with a cool hand in hot situations.

Line 5 – Cauldron with Bronze Handles. You have a firm grip on things, so you’re open to hearing the truth. Everything is working well and everyone is vested in making it work well.

Line 4 – Cauldron Legs Snap, Food Spills, a Mess! Carelessness, a lack of maintenance and support led to a disaster. Harm and waste was the result. Nothing to do but clean up the mess, repair the damage, and resolve to do better next time.

Line 3 – Cauldron’s Handles too Hot to Touch, the Food Burns. Your impatience spoiled an opportunity, now it’s too hot to touch. Let things cool down first before you try again to get a handle on the situation. Then you’ll achieve success.

Line 2 – Cauldron is Filled with Food. You have what you need, leading to independence. What you want will be achieved. Others may resent your good fortune, but they aren’t in a position to harm you.

Line 1 – An Overturned Cauldron is a Chance to Clean it out. Turn an unfavorable situation to your advantage by making a clean-sweep of things. There may’ve been bad things in the cauldron that needed eliminating, anyway. In the meantime, you may have to improvise.
Hexagram 51 - Excitement-Thunder over Thunder. Shock, surprise, the sudden onset of power. All shook up. The thunder is intimidating but no blood is shed. First terror, then laughter. It’s a fine line between terror and excitement—what’s your thrill-level?

Line 6 – Immobilized at the Approaching Thunder. In breathless dismay and trembling apprehension, you look at the surrounding terrain. You haven’t decided on your course of action yet, and afraid other will push you to act before you’re ready. This hesitance on your part is correct, but others wish you’d move already.

Line 5 – Coming and Going, Thunderbolts Everywhere. If you can keep your nerves steady, there are things you can do and gains you can make, in spite of all the drama and excitement going on all around you. It’s a dangerous situation, sure, but you will suffer no losses.

Line 4 – Thunderbolts all Around, You’re Stuck in the Mud. The shock of your situation has immobilized you. You’re frozen at the controls. You’re bogged-down in the middle of a project. You have succumbed to your fear. Pull yourself together!

Line 3 – Loud Thunder Upsets You. You’re upset about the shocking circumstances you’re in, but if it wakes you up and prods you to take action, especially action you didn’t think you had in you, then the thunder had a favorable outcome, didn’t it?

Line 2 – Dangerous Thunderbolts—Take to the Hills! Don’t be frozen with fear. When danger approaches, leave your possessions where they are and get yourself to a position of safety! You will be able to return and recover what you’ve left behind when the threat has passed.

Line 1 – Tense During Thunder, Smiling with Relief Afterwards. The thunderous period was scary, but you learned something of value, which you can pursue later. Your tension during the storm gives way to relief and happiness afterwards. Sometimes, risks must be taken.

Hexagram 52 - Stillness-Mountain over Mountain. Tranquility, stability, arrested movement. No hurry, no worry. Passersby do not see you in your courtyard.

Line 6 – Completely Committed to Stillness. There is great success and good fortune to be had by remaining at rest and perfectly still. There is nothing you need to do right now; therefore, nothing is left undone.

Line 5 – Your Mouth is Perfectly Still. Remain silent, organize your thoughts, and consider your words carefully before you speak. By doing this, you avoid bringing trouble upon yourself.

Line 4 – Remain Perfectly Still, Avoid Harm. Deal with any upsetting situations by quieting yourself and relaxing. Go into a meditative state if you have to. Do this, and you will be unaffected by the turmoil going on all around you.

Line 3 – Keeping the Loins Perfectly Still. A perilous situation; forcibly restraining your natural desires is much, it’s causing you tension and even stress. Ease-up and find a resolution; it’s not good to have the body at war with itself this way.
Line 2 – Keep Your Calves Still. But your legs want to follow the dictates of the loins. When you let the lower half of your body do your thinking and take command of your actions, trouble often ensues. You’re encouraged to restrain your impulses, here.

Line 1 – Keep Your Feet Still. Be happy with where you are now. There is nowhere you have to go and nothing you have to do, therefore you don’t make any errors. This is not the time to be swept off your feet, or make any impulsive moves.

Hexagram 53-Gradual Progress-Tree on the Mountain. Slow growth, developing situations, advance. Going by the book. Balanced and steady progress toward a goal. The stages toward marriage: courtship, engagement, wedding. The imagery of these lines relates to the yearly habits of wild geese.

Line 6 – Wild Goose Attain the Highest Heights. You have gone so far beyond ordinary success, you feel the distance between you and your friends. Others see you as an inspiration.

Line 5 – Wild Goose Finally Reaches the Summit. It may’ve taken longer than you thought, and more effort than you thought to expend, but you finally reach your goal; your projects bear fruit. Marriage and children are possible, but it may take a while.

Line 4 – Wild Goose Finds a Flat Tree Branch to Perch on. You find a safe place to stay a while, and a niche to which you can adapt, but this location isn’t permanent; your journey isn’t over yet. Still, you can work here for a time.


Line 2 – Wild Goose Lands on Some Dry Rocks. You’ve successfully finished the first leg of your journey and found a nice, temporary resting place. Share your good fortune with friends. It’s time to relax and enjoy each other’s company.

Line 1 – Wild Goose Struggles onto the Shore. The beginning of any journey has risks, and you’re open to criticism because you’re a new at this. But persevere and keep your goal in mind. Ask for help if you need it.

Hexagram 54-Impulsiveness-Thunder over Lake. Passion, fools rush in, eagerness to go to war, flawed thinking, energetic, but possibly rash and premature. The imagery of these lines relates to sisters getting married, hence another name for this hexagram, ‘The Marrying Maiden.’

Line 6 – The Empty Basket. You either have something of little or no value, or you’re doing something, but your heart isn’t in it, like a betrothed with nothing in her basket for her beloved. Empty gestures. You’re really not into this, are you?
Line 5 – Bridesmaids Look More Fabulous Than the Bride. When a big dollop of good fortune has landed in your lap, you can afford to stand back and let others shine. You don’t feel any need to show off or be the focus of everyone’s attention.

Line 4 – Delaying Marriage; All in Good Time. It may take longer to reach your goal than expected. Just keep working and wait for the appropriate time to make your move. A delay may be to your advantage.

Line 3 – Hoping for Wife-Status, She Ended Up a Concubine. Your expectations are too great to be fulfilled now; you may have to settle for something lesser. Or you may choose to wait for a better opportunity, otherwise you may feel you settled for less than you’re worth.

Line 2 – Blind in One Eye, but can Still See. When you can’t see the situation with perfect vision, the best move is to retreat and maintain all the propriety of the solitary and proper widow. And keep your one eye on things.

Line 1 – Younger Sister Becomes the Second Wife. Even if you’re in a junior position, aren’t fully qualified or are lacking in some way, you can still render valuable service to the organization. With the right connections, in time, you might even be able to advance.

Hexagram 55-Prosperity-Thunder over Fire. Plenty, harvest, abundance. Make hay while the sun shines. Be like the noonday sun. The imagery of the lines largely concerns light and appearance.

Line 6 – Impressive on the Outside, Empty on the Inside. Well, you made it, you attained success, but at the cost of maintaining good relations with your family and friends. Kinda makes success rather empty, doesn’t it? You may be living beyond your means or maintaining a façade to cover up inner troubles. Heaven isn’t fooled.

Line 5 – People of Brilliant Ability Surround You. ...Like rays of the sun. You have surrounded yourself with a great team of people. Congratulations and praise are in order. Great people around you make you look great as well.

Line 4 – Opaque Screens Block the Light. You’re in darkness, and confusion and deception abound. It’s so dark, you can’t see yourself in a mirror. When enlightenment dawns, then you’ll be able to take action.

Line 3 – Surrounded by Darkness, You Break an Arm. When you can’t see clearly, audacious moves are foolhardy. If you do suffer injury, it won’t be anything serious, long-lasting or permanent; you’ll recover.

Line 2 – In the Darkness of Opaque Screens, Wait for Light. You want information, you want to move, but any actions on your part at this time will be viewed with suspicion and anger. Just be the sincere, devoted servant right now and do your job. Enlightenment and action will come in good time.
Line 1 – Meeting Up With a Peer. You meet someone of like status and ability. If you can both work together, learn to respect each other, and not nurture an unproductive rivalry, this could be an advantageous and production union of talents.

Hexagram 56-Travelling Stranger-Fire on the Mountain. Transition, impermanence, just passing through, not a long-term situation. Auspicious for travelling. If the traveler is a good person who minds his manners, good fortune could come of this.

Line 6 – The Traveler’s Mask Slips. An initial, ox-like docility shows itself to be a lie when the traveler first ridicules someone, then yells at him. Don’t laugh at another’s misfortune—or you may soon cry over your own.

Line 5 – Traveler Fells the Pheasant with One Arrow. You demonstrate your competence and talents and win praise and perhaps even a position for it. Even though a stranger, you’re welcomed for your gift. You sacrificed an arrow, but gained more for it.

Line 4 – The Traveler in His Resting Place. You have everything you need to live on, a place where you can stay and work and an axe too, but in spite of all this, you’re feeling restless. This isn’t quite what you want. You wish you could take that axe, cut the cord, and start fresh somewhere else.

Line 3 – The Traveler Burns-Down the Inn, and His Servant Along with it. Rash, hot words spoken in the heat of the moment can burn down a lot of things, and they can’t be taken back. You’re no longer safe here. You’ve lost the good-will of others. It’s best that you leave now.

Line 2 – The Fully-Equipped Traveler. You’ve found a good place to stay, and you’ve come with everything you need, so you don’t bother anybody. This isn’t permanent, but you can stay a while.

Line 1 – The Hotel Guest From Hell. A prepared mind, and an accommodating and flexible attitude makes for a good experience and a welcome guest. The guest who is rude, angry, inconsiderate, a slob, and doesn’t respect local cultural norms is the visitor nobody wants. Which are you?

Hexagram 57-Gentle Penetration-Tree over Tree. Permeate, flexibility, bending with the prevailing winds, make your intentions known.

Line 6 – Losing Your Axe under the Bed. Your axe, representing your fine-edged, decision-making mind, is lost under the bed, and now you can only think fuzzy thoughts. You may be too exhausted to think. Don’t make important decisions in your current state of mind.

Line 5 – Bad Beginning, but a Good Ending. Long before you changed something, you told everybody you were making the change. It was rough at first, and took longer than you’d like, and many times along the way, you reconsidered it. But in the end, you succeeded.
Line 4 – Bagging Three Kinds of Game. You may fear you’ve lost something by being too flexible, but really, you’ve actually gained! Any regret at your actions disappears when you start reaping the rewards of your flexibility.

Line 3 – Repetitious Stubbornness Begets Repetitious Punishment. If you keep trying to use force to get your way, or your point across, you’ll continue being brought up short by others who’ll make you submit. This is the wrong use of perseverance!

Line 2 – Frantically Consulting Diviners and Mages. If your rational, thinking mind doesn’t seem up to the task of helping you negotiate the future, then take advantage of professional advice and suggestions. In time, your rational, thinking mind will come back on-line and you will be able to see clearly. Good fortune will be the end-result.

Line 1 – When in Doubt, Emulate the Warrior. You’re plagued with indecision; advancing, then receding, coming and going. You’re not sure what you want. Be like the warrior: determine what you want, formulate a plan, line up the resources you’ll need, then proceed with confidence in your purpose.


Line 6 – Enjoying Personal Influence over Others. You take pleasure in attracting others with the force of your authentic personality. You enjoy leading and guiding them. If others don’t follow you, that’s fine. Your nature is not for everybody.

Line 5 – Trusting a Thief. Beware of who you trust. You may’ve put faith in someone around you who betrays your trust. A dangerous situation, but you’re strong-enough and well-placed-enough to deal with the miscreant.

Line 4 – Indecisive Pleasure. You’re feeling such heightened well-being right now, you’re frantically looking around for an outlet by which to express it. This speculation is bordering on the reckless and potentially-dangerous. There’s nothing wrong with just sitting and enjoying this pure feeling of joy. Such moments in life are rare.

Line 3 – Forcing Pleasure. Are you doing something to please yourself, or another? Some are insatiable pleasure-seekers who’ll surround themselves with anything that may conceivably give them pleasure. Longer-term, this is an unhealthy way to live.

Line 2 – Pleasure from Sincerity. When you know who you are, what you want, and what you value, your honesty with yourself leads you to be honest with others, free of regret.

Line 1 – The Pleasure of Inner Harmony. When you have what you want and want what you have, when you feel satisfaction with life and nothing can disturb this inner conviction, that is pleasure, that is joy, that is good fortune.
**Hexagram 59-Dispersion-Tree over Water.** Breaking up, scattering, dissolving. The tree sheds its autumn leaves on the water. The flood can be frightening at first, but then it can also sweep you to higher ground.

**Line 6 – Bloody Wounds Bound Up and Healed.** You have survived a harmful encounter and recuperated, but you also have removed yourself from the source of danger, and kept it well-away from you. For now, do not attach yourself to anything.

**Line 5 – A Flow of Correction.** As sweat cures fevers, so can clear communication and abundant and fair distribution of resources cure rebellions. You may be offered a position of responsibility. Take it—if you can keep your nerves under control.

**Line 4 – Swept to a Hilltop, Out of Danger.** Doing the unusual, breaking from established habits and routines, can make you stronger and deliver you from danger at the same time.

**Line 3 – Swept Away by the Flood.** The flood of external events is such that your attention is taken off your own problems. Help others; it’s all you can do right now.

**Line 2 – Swept Along by the Flood.** Swept along by the flood of events, you don’t know where it’s taking you, but actively ride the wave and trust that it’s taking you somewhere good. In the meantime, remain alert for opportunities.

**Line 1 – Rescued with the Help of a Strong Horse.** A friend helps you escape a dangerous situation before it gets out of hand. A deteriorating situation might possibly be arrested if caught soon enough.

**Hexagram 60-Restraint-Water over Lake.** Discipline, guidelines, regulation, restriction.

Freedom within the form. Rules and regulations are good, but too much restraint is harmful. Ease up, if that is the case.

**Line 6 – The Check-Rein.** Either you’re being too hard on yourself, or you’re having to work under so much regulation, it’s painful. Talk to supervisor(s) and see if you can negotiate some reasonable easing of the rules.

**Line 5 – Discipline Engenders Contentment.** With order, structure, and discipline in your life, and a clear set of rules, you have stability and make progress, which leads to happiness.

**Line 4 – In the Traces, and Happy to be so.** The rules and regulations you live by aren’t onerous, and they provide you with a reliable and comforting routine. You’re accustomed to leading an orderly life, and for now, you should stick with it.

**Line 3 – Regrettable Lack of Restraint.** You didn’t follow the rules, you didn’t enforce discipline, you didn’t show self-discipline, and now the situation became a pig’s breakfast. You have no one to blame but yourself for this mess.
Line 2 – You Stay in the Courtyard. In showing too much restraint, you may fail to act when it would benefit you to do so, and thereby miss an opportunity. Don’t let your fears and doubts get in your way. If you miss it, now to worry; tomorrow is another day.

Line 1 – Stay Home, and out of Trouble. The rule of the day in the outer world is severe and difficult. Even following the rules, you get in trouble. Stay home, away from harm, and await a better opportunity. Knowing when to stay and when to go is a valuable skill in life.

Hexagram 61- Innermost Sincerity- Tree over Lake. Trusting, whole-hearted, centered. Acting with sincerity can bring great things about. ‘Chung Fu (Hexagram 61) moves even pigs and fish.’

Line 6 – Chanticleer Tries Flying to Heaven. You’re thinking too highly of yourself, over-estimating your abilities and your high-flying ego will cause you to crash. You may be taking on too much. Come back to earth and show some humility. Not to mention some common sense.

Line 5 – Wholehearted Sincerity. Your integrity, sincerity, and high ideals attract others to you and to your cause. A good character makes you a people-magnet.

Line 4 – Lone Horse Breaks from the Herd. You may have to leave the group you’re in right now, especially if they’re negative influences. It will be to your advantage to do so, especially if you have higher aspirations.

Line 3 – Beating the Drum and Stopping; Crying, then Laughing. Some activity, cause or personality has captured your attention, and your whole identity is tied up in it. If it’s a worthy diversion, you’ll prosper. If unworthy, you’ll suffer.

Line 2 – Mama Bird Calls Out from a Hidden Place; the Chicks Reply. A perfectly natural and complete interaction between parent and child. You respond to a call from the heart.

Line 1 – There’s a Reason for Developing Your Inner Serenity. That is in order to keep your inner-balance. You may be in for an unpleasant surprise; someone may betray you. Be prepared, and meet the surprise with all the calmness you are capable of.

Hexagram 62-Small Excesses-Thunder over Mountain. Details, caution, getting-by. Only small moves are possible. No major changes are possible now. Don’t push your luck; fly low, little bird.

Line 6 – Over-Stepping Brings Catastrophe. Know precisely what the situation calls for, and do just that, and only that. To do any more will bring misfortune on yourself, and you will have no one to blame but yourself. Drawing this line, you may know only how to bring yourself more and more trouble.

Line 5 – Overcast, but no Rain. The situation may look threatening, but doesn’t get any worse. You may be able to make a small gain at this time, but not a greater one. For now, content yourself with this.
**Line 4 – Guard Against a Dangerous Encounter.** Your current course in life may take you through a dangerous situation, but keep your wits about you, keep an eye out for trouble, and as far as you are able, don’t provoke anybody. The situation will clear up by itself, but in the meantime, be careful.

**Line 3 – Attacked From Behind.** Take extraordinary precautions to protect yourself from danger, don’t make yourself too visible, or someone will see an opportunity to attack and do you harm. Now is the time to anticipate danger and protect against it. Now is the time to be cautious.

**Line 2 – Missed the Boss, Meet the Second-in-Command.** Be content to meet with someone further down the ladder. You may miss a big opportunity, but you won’t miss a lesser one. Be content with a limited fulfillment of your goals.

**Line 1 – Bird Rises Up to a Dangerous Altitude.** You’re strongly-inclined to make a move before you’re ready, overestimate your ability, and fly higher than you’re used to. You’re going to meet with unavoidable, unfortunate encounter that will only be to your detriment.

**Hexagram 63-Successful Completion-Water over Fire.** Climb, culmination, achievement. A perfect day. Good at first, but chaos later. You’ve made it. You’re lucky. But nothing perfect stays that way. Successful completion doesn’t mean no more possibility of misfortune.

**Line 6 – Your Head Gets Soaked.** You’re almost at the end. Carelessness at the end of a venture can cap the whole matter with trouble. You’re in a dangerous situation; don’t ponder it, get out of there!

**Line 5 – Small Offering, Good. Big Offering, Bad.** A small offering, made with sincerity and consideration for the recipient, will have a better effect than a costly, showy offering, meant to highlight the greatness of the giver.

**Line 4 – Rags to Stop any Leaks.** Take precautions against any predictable accidents, then remain alert for signs of danger. It’s not a relaxed, comfortable situation to be in, but with proper preparation, no harm will occur.

**Line 3 – It Takes Three Years to Subdue the Badlands.** Small people must not embark on gigantic enterprises. It takes a strong and determined person to take on a difficult task and long-term project without wearing out. You may be faced with such an opportunity. Are you up to the task?

**Line 2 – Lose a Possession; Returns in a Week.** You may accidentally lose something. Don’t sweat it, and don’t go after it. In seven days, you will somehow recover it. Either you’ll come across it, or someone will return it. No effort on your part is needed.

**Line 1 – Little Fox Get His Tail Wet.** Apply the brakes early on in the project. Minor difficulties at this stage are a warning of what’s to come. Prepare for potential problems before they become a problem.
Hexagram 64-Before Completion-Fire over water. Unfinished business, it’s not over yet, second wind. Keep your tail up, little fox, you don’t want to get it wet at this stage of the game.

Line 6 – Full of Confidence and Enjoying the Party. It is alright to be confident, but not over-confident; to have a drink, but not get too-drunk. So long as you don’t get your tail wet, little fox, you won’t make any mistakes. Lose your balance and misfortune will ensue.

Line 5 – Your Goodness Shines Through. No matter how successful you become, you remain well-mannered, clear-minded, sincere and determined. If you enjoy good fortune, remember to generously share it.

Line 4 – Tame the Wild Country for Three Years. You may be faced with a long-term project which will take strength, dedication and stick-to-it-tive-ness in order to succeed. But if you are willing to put the effort into this project, great rewards will ensue.

Line 3 – When You’re Ready, Cross the Great Stream. You want to advance, but you’re not ready, even if you think you are. You need to remove obstacles in your path, possibly with help. You may need to pull back and start fresh in order to succeed, but if that’s what it takes, do it.

Line 2 – Apply the Brakes. Step on the brakes, there are surprises ahead on the road of life. Proceed slowly and cautiously and you’ll benefit. Prepare against possible accidents.

Line 1 – Fox with a Wet Tail. Halfway across the river, the ice cracked and the little fox got its tail wet. Know your limits. Avoid getting involved in something until you know you can see it through to completion, without figuratively falling through the ice.