

 <p>Kou / Return of the Dark Force</p>	<p>changes to</p>	 <p>T'ui / Joyous, The Lake</p>
<p>This hexagram can tell a story in a single glance: Five solid lines resting on a broken line; something sturdy that is being stealthily undermined.</p> <p>An old problem has resurfaced - something you've previously dealt with and considered completely resolved. Don't be tempted to take short cuts in dealing with it again, and beware of any offers of help that seem too good to be true.</p> <p>Remain committed to your principles. Do not be tempted into argument or to take the "easy" way out. You might be dragged into conflict, regardless - probably by a false ally - but as long as you keep to the moral high ground and act ethically, you will win out in the end.</p>		<p>This hexagram represents the joy that comes from within. Specifically, it's about the joy that can come from joining with like-minded friends. You could be sharing an opportunity to learn about something of mutual interest, or discussing some important issues that have weighed on your mind. A fresh point of view on a situation could be extremely helpful.</p> <p>Two lakes join together to avoid drying up. Similarly, people should draw together and share resources.</p> <p>Don't confuse <i>joy</i> with <i>enjoyment</i>. External pleasures are nice enough, but they contribute very little to lasting self-improvement. Taken to excess, hedonism will cause emotional and physical harm.</p> <p>As Spider Robinson put it: shared joy is increased. This is the time to do just that.</p>

Interpretation

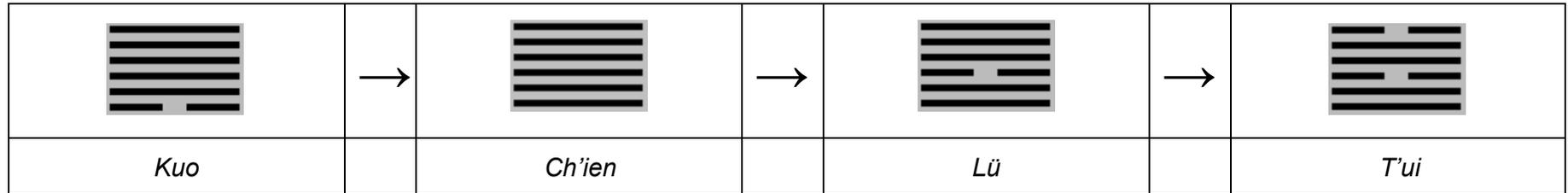
It's time for you to decide who your real friends are. True friends aren't just fun to hang out with, but they will help you develop as a person. They're willing to give advice, to brainstorm and give support when times are rough. False friends only want to be there for the good times, or can give "advice" that is of more benefit to themselves than to you.

This isn't a time to be alone. You've got a lot going on and it might be more than you can handle by yourself. Gather your true friends around you - physically, online, however you prefer to do it - share with them and be willing to *listen* to what they say to you. Stifle your ego and any urge to go on the defensive if what you hear is sometimes challenging. Be engaged and open in your interactions and your circumstances can only improve as a result.

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The Path From *Kou* to *T'ui*

A journey isn't just a beginning and an end. There's a pathway connecting the two. In the case of this reading, there were three changing lines, which means there were two intermediary hexagrams between *Kou* and *Tui*.



When facing a crumbling situation, fall back and regroup. Return to your core. Take the time to center and ground yourself. A period of rest and contemplation will energize you and restore your strength.

As you move forward from that point, remember the saying “*When treading on a tiger’s tail, use a light step*”. A certain amount of risk is unavoidable, but if you are careful - discreet and clever - the “tiger” will overlook the transgression.

Cooperate with those who are more powerful than you and in a position to help you out. This is not a position of weakness, but an acknowledgment of one’s own limits - and a willingness to make use of available resources.

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The Inner Hexagrams

A deeper interpretation of the I Ching requires an examination of the core (or “nuclear”) hexagrams.

<p>At the core of</p>  <p>Kou / Return of the Dark Force</p>	<p>is</p>	 <p>Ch'ien / The Creative</p>
<p>At the core of</p>  <p>T'ui / Joyous</p>	<p>is</p>	 <p>Chia Jên / The Family</p>
<p>Interestingly enough, <i>Ch'ien</i> also comes up in the journey described by this reading. This is because <i>Kuo</i> refers to a newly manifested instability which is affecting a previously-stable situation. <i>Ch'ien</i>, while full of yang energy, also represents a state of grace - described in the texts as <i>heaven</i>. A Christian could interpret <i>Kuo</i> as the moment the snake crept into the Garden of Eden. Have you seen any “snakes” lately? Keep a sharp eye out!</p>		<p><i>Chia Jên</i> refers to the strength of a united family - a family that leads by good examples and tempers authority with compassion.</p> <p>While we're growing up, our first friends are our siblings, cousins and parents. If we're lucky, those friendships last into adulthood. In this context, <i>Chia Jên</i> points out the fact that it is very difficult for a person to find harmony and strength if their family isn't also strong and supportive.</p> <p>In the case of this particular reading, though, I believe it is pointing out the fact that if your family <i>isn't</i> a source of support for you - or is perhaps acting hypocritically - then you must not hesitate to call on other support.</p>