

#22 Bi GRACE

Progression:

First Yang shows the aesthetic value of walking under one's own power. It takes a leap of thought here, so I have to respect the man who crafted this nugget of thought. It is a statement against the status competition for beautiful carriages, which symbolizes the social competitiveness and resource hunger of the ruling class. As we know, the Western Zhou was plagued by warfare due to jostling for power among ruling clans. This hexagram shows belief in an alternate value system: This is a statement of use-value out of one's own humble resources---first of all one's own body. If one relies on carriages, one loses the use-value of having a sturdy pair of legs under you, and a good pair of lungs that enjoy the air. [Here I am borrowing the idea of 'use value' as interpreted by Ivan Illyich in *Towards a History of Needs*.] Though expressed in a few short phrases---"grace from the tips of the feet; leave the carriage and go on foot"---this line bears the stamp of great associative thinking. In a simple image it brings together social critique, economics, and aesthetics. (Every line in this hexagram could be expanded at similar length.) Second Yin shows that rich experience is a kind of adornment. Third is elegance that radiates and attracts, with a touch of inspiration from a winged totem-figure. Fourth Yin holds back from consummate adornment because it involves a power relation she does not want. Five finds aesthetic value in creating abundance in one's surroundings, not concentrating it on one's person. Top Yang returns to the elegance of undyed cloth.

Xingqing:

Under an established social structure in the natural order (*gen* trigram), beautiful patterns created by people renew their cohesion in a community.

Centrality:

Second Yin shows the elegance that grows with experience (cheek whiskers) and, presumably, it can draw on One's absorption in simple pleasures. Perhaps it can also temper Three's tendency toward flights of inspiration and radiant epiphanies. Fifth Yin tends the resources of a broad area, and this could be supportive both to Fourth Yin and Top Yang.