



## 2021-02-12 New Year's Day Year of the Iron Ox

### Query: Nature of the Year Ahead

Each year I do a throw, generally asking about what the year has in store. This one felt like it was more about the world in general given how much unfolded the past year, especially the past few months with the second wave of the purported pandemic and the highly questionable US election.

The author has never taken sides in the adversarial, or partisan, politics in any country he has lived in. Most of the time, it seems that no matter which side is elected, the same overall regime still rules. And if one side gets in and actually does make significant changes, they nearly always make things worse. In terms of US politics, it did seem like when Obama was elected there might be some sort of positive shift into something more humane and uplifted, a JFK-like feeling perhaps, but by the time he had chosen most of his Cabinet even before the Inauguration, it was clear that no such thing was in the offing and indeed he proved worse, not better, than most, albeit the lapdog press did a good job of making everything seem smooth and friendly whilst effectively demonizing any critics.

Trump was a strange phenomenon and it is still too early to evaluate what he may have achieved on the policy front as President, but the extremely unfair way he was treated from Election Day onwards has revealed the extent to which the United States is a functioning oligarchy or autarchy masquerading as a free 'we the people' Republic. It is not yet clear whether the country – and perhaps the entire world order in which it is a key player – is headed for a Utopian or a Dystopian Brave New World, although it seems fairly certain that the Old World will never return. Far from 'Making America Great Again,' it looks like the opposite has transpired, namely that a Republic with consent of the governed has fallen and whatever will soon emerge as having taking its place will doubtless be far less 'great' and far more petty. But it's early days yet, and this will probably take a few years to play out. And, truth be told, the previous and highly corrupt Old Order fell far short of the idealism with which it was portrayed and viewed. Given the above context, the throw is fairly straightforward, though unpleasant.

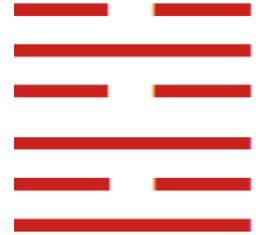
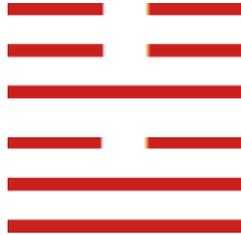


## HEXAGRAMS

Derived

Primaries 54

Nuclears 63



### IMAGE:

*Lightning flashes reflected on a lake's surface.*

### JUDGMENT:

*Usurpers mete out revolutionary changes cloaked in deception. What is visible without serves to conceal what is hidden within; outer movement and initiative is disconnected from inner aspiration and passivity; male and female move further apart. No genuine progress. Misfortune.*

### SUMMARY:

*Parasitic usurpers (54) rule the world, especially in the United States of America after an election in which all procedures for transparently resolving voting challenges were blocked in all congressional, executive and judiciary spheres. Generally speaking, no leading countries in the developed West seem to enjoy governments more beholden to serving their own people rather than opaque elites. This is now a 'done deal (63),' so it is unlikely to be reversed or repaired, though doubtless attempts in that direction will be made; and whether 'done deal' refers only to the American election results or overall 'regime change' throughout the West remains to be seen, though given #63 and the worldwide nature of the pandemic and its effect, probably it's the latter.*

*Such an unfortunate situation augurs ill for the coming year. At the same time, given there are no changing lines, perhaps not much will unfold that is new or shocking this year, rather the powers that be will be working to establish a 'new normal' reducing liberties, due process, opportunity and so forth in an overall atmosphere of calm stasis facilitating further tightening of control over thought, speech and social behaviour.*



## Trigrams Etc.

### Below: Inner Above: Outer

<b>Below:</b>	<b>Lake:</b>	Joy, ease, feminine, surface reflection, passion
<b>Above:</b>	<b>Thunder:</b>	Movement, initiative, masculine, spring, revolution
<b>Below Nuclear:</b>	<b>Fire:</b>	Sun, light, visibility, clarity, dependence
<b>Baoti:</b>	<b>Thunder:</b>	Impatience, wanting revolution without regard for consequences
<b>Above Nuclear:</b>	<b>Water:</b>	Moon, Dark, hidden, feelings, depth, danger, thieves
<b>Baoti:</b>	<b>Lake:</b>	Deluded view impeding progress, deflecting criticism

**Notes:** No changing lines. Straightforward reading. Baotis echo Primary = simplicity, clarity of situation. HEM also echoes Primary in Heaven & Earth.

### Heaven Earth and Man

<b>Heaven</b>	Lake & Thunder:	Gratifying change
<b>Earth</b>	Thunder & Lake:	Revolution & Delusion
<b>Man</b>	Water & Fire:	Moon & Sun, light and dark struggle, planetary motion

### Hexagram by Number:

**Primary:** 54. Usurping (Hessey), The Marrying Maiden (Wilhelm): “The times are out of joint.”

**Nuclear:** 63. After Completion (Wilhelm), End of Cycle: “Done deal.”

### Comments:

As discussed in the Hessey Enlightened Society Yi below, there is a sense of usurpation in the mix which politically is echoed by the rather dubious election of Kamala Harris - who fared abysmally in the Democrat Party primary elections and dropped out early - as Vice President, especially given the high probability that she will soon assume the mantle of the Presidency. If this happens, then the description below about undeserving people being in positions of power will prove apropos. Of course this usurpation has been unfolding worldwide with so many countries having used the pandemic as a way to impose unconstitutional power over their citizens. We shall see how it all unfolds...



## Daniel Hesse: Enlightened Society Yi (Kindle only)

Heaven and Earth in passionate embrace: peace and harmony.

What follows [in the sequence] is regulated and consummated by the Dao of Heaven and Earth.

Governing in accord with Heaven and Earth

By means of ministers, military leaders and the people [taking their proper seats].

— (11) Peace

In general, understanding (54) Usurping is challenging for modern readers because it uses the example of a younger sister accompanying a bride into her new household as a concubine. This practice is not part of contemporary culture, and so is difficult to comprehend intuitively. In ancient China the term “younger sister” was court language for a concubine. A concubine did not have the same status as a wife, and yet was part of the household. In this hexagram, this image is used to describe a person whose position was attained by riding on the coattails of a relative. The implication is that advancement into the halls of power was not based on a person’s loyalty or good qualities, but rather was a result of opportunism, ambition, nepotism, political influence, and the like. Similar to the previous hexagram, the metaphor of marriage describes a person finding a position in an administration. Here, a concubine securing a position is an example of personal ambition and cronyism leading to corruption, which subtly undermines the integrity of a political or social administration. Because this advancement was not motivated by virtue and loyalty, it will inevitably have bad consequences in the future.

Gaining a position through cronyism and using that seat for personal aggrandizement leads to disaster because holding a seat in this manner obstructs the natural flow and communication between the primordial energies of Heaven and Earth in human society. Having insinuated herself into a position of power, the “flexible takes advantage of the firm,” which refers to the junior sister using her position and access to power to further her personal ends. This creates social distortion and turbulence: like a large rock in a stream, the processes of society are forced to flow around the personal agenda of this individual, and consequently the natural clarity and harmony of social processes is interrupted.

In the short run, it may seem expedient to accommodate or ignore personal territoriality and ambition so business can go on as usual. Faced with a corrupt official one might agree to pay a small bribe to obtain a needed permit. Seemingly insignificant, such actions aggregate and become a hidden poison in society, as discussed in (18) [Reforming] Corruption, and in (64) Approaching Integration:

The small fox approaches integration

[By] not deviating from equanimity.

[However, if it] wets its tail,

Nothing flow forth in a fitting way,

[And its] continuity will end.

— (64) Approaching Integration

**Note:** the above commentary about 64 should not be confused with the throw’s Nuclear 63 which although a sibling is not the same. 63 is regarded as more settled being based on a Yang line, but both are similar in that they feature regularly alternating Yang and Yin lines, and thus being balanced or complete.



## **Usurper**

*As they walk by  
The cheerful yellow-jacketed chatterers  
Go silent...  
Nary a peep.*

*Dogs howl at the moon when they think  
All are asleep and  
None listening.  
During the day, they sleep by the fire, or  
Slink warily through suspect alleys  
Keeping to the shadow lands  
Their 'new normal.'*

*Best to stay inside!  
With backup generators and  
Plenty of supplies at hand -  
Just in case.*

*Will we be alive in years to come  
telling tales of these times, laughing and joking?*

*Time will tell  
Perhaps.  
(Though certainly not the media!)*

### **Recommended reading:**

*Patrick Byrne's 'The Deep Rig: How Election Fraud cost Donald J Trump the White House.' The author worked with many government and private sector 'white hackers' both before and after the election and thus witnessed first hand many of the anomalies discovered and blunders made after the election. Whether or not you agree with his conclusions, it is an interesting, not to mention unusually frank, read by an author who is a convinced libertarian who never even remotely considered voting for Trump.*