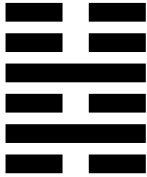




2023-5-12 Is the SMO kayfabe-kabuki? 36-6 > 22 < 40
36 Clouded Perception > 22 Cosmetics, Make-Up < 40 Relief

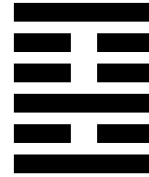
Nuclear 40



Primary 36



Derived 22



IMAGE

Sun beneath the Earth
Light hidden, blocked

JUDGMENT

Both 36 and 22 involve obscured perception, issues with light or surface appearances. So in terms of the Query, it seems that, yes, there is deception/kabuki in the mix. In any case, it would be naive to assume that things are as they seem when everyone knows that the primary norm in war is deception. No doubt there is an element of deception in the mix but the Query is about whether the SMO is kabuki/kayfabe or not and the answer, given the nature of the two hexagrams involving perception problems and the changing line being at the highest grand strategy level, suggests that at least on the highest level this is not simply a ground conflict fighting over territory, rather something serving a different, and hidden, purpose.

Water boiling turns to steam
We see it in front of our eyes
One thing turning into something
entirely different.



Initial Evaluation

Sun going down beneath the Earth means that although the light is there, it cannot be seen directly and is vanishing rapidly so soon we cannot see. This hints at things being hard to see clearly. It changes to 22 which is fire-light on the mountain, illuminating its surface with all its many features – rocks, bushes, trees, living creatures. 22 is often called adornment, sometimes make-up (cosmetics), because surface appearances are the focus of attention. In relation to the Query – is the SMO kabuki – this seems clearly to indicate: ‘yes!’ At least some elements of it are. To the men dying in combat it is anything but.

YI TEXTS

Under the conditions of Clouded Perception be aware of the difficulty of your position and maintain firm correctness.

Image: The sun enters the earth -- the image of Clouded Perception. The superior man manages his subordinates and shows his intelligence by keeping it hidden. [Legge]

All of this can be interpreted as things being confusing, unclear, or hidden.

Changing Lines - 6

Huang: *At first, ascend to Heaven. He illuminated the four quarters of the Earth. Afterward, fall to Earth. He lost the code of conduct.*

Ultimate darkness-ignorance. So that which at first seems bright and in the open is dark and hidden. Everyone knows there is a massive military operation underway in Ukraine, but maybe exactly what it is and why is entirely hidden – as per the Query. Re conduct: suggests deceit, subterfuge.

Trigram Analysis

Upper: **Unbalanced Earth** ☷ in 6th line of 36 changing to **Balanced Mountain** ☶ 22: Unbalanced Earth has to do with lack of cohesion, whether of physical elements or members of a society. Here the top line is changing, the line of the Sage, of vision of the over-arching strategy, indicating that the top level is different from the lower levels. Balanced Mountain is also Earth element but here it is stable, lofty, wise. It also involves completion or stopping, lack of movement. All the actions going on in 36 are really not actions at all. Nothing substantive is happening.

Heaven Earth Man

| | | |
|----------------|----|--|
| HEAVEN: | 23 | Splitting Apart, Peeling away, deconstruction |
| EARTH: | 21 | Chewing, Grinding, applying pressure, cutting through obstacle |
| MAN: | 40 | Relief, untangling, taking apart, loosening |

Line Analysis

Line 6 is the fruition or wisdom level of a process, in this case the Grand Strategy, which is what the Query about. Sure, the SMO is ‘real’ but is it what it seems to be, a straight conflict between Russia and the West with Ukraine as proxy? Or even more simply between Russia and Ukraine? The top line is at odds with the underlying hexagram indicating things might not be what they seem.

Summation

36 and 22 involve obscured perception. So in terms of the Query: yes, there is deception/ kabuki in the mix! To assume that things are as they seem when the nature of war is deception is naive so it goes without saying that deceptive elements are in play. But the query is about whether the whole SMO is kabuki and the answer, given that both main hexagrams involve perception issues and the changing line being at the highest grand strategy level, suggests this conflict is serving a different, and hidden, purpose. (Note: both 40 and 22 Core Nuclear is 63, After Completion indicating we are very close to the end not the beginning even though it seems otherwise.)