

Everyday Contrast

Free sample · three readings

Each reading puts a perspective beside its boundary and a fictional example. Classical text and editorial interpretation can be compared, but are not interchangeable. Browse in any order; no questions or personal disclosures are required. This book provides cultural reading, not predictions or medical, legal, or investment advice.

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Reading index

- 1 · Start without rushing
- 3 · A difficult start is still a start
- 4 · Ask to understand

Start without rushing

A perspective

Initiative can be a small, repeatable beginning.

Its boundary

Energy does not make every moment suitable for a public launch.

A fictional example

A writer shares one draft with a reader before announcing a whole book.

Compare the Judgment

Khien (represents) what is great and originating, penetrating, advantageous, correct and firm.

Hexagram 1 · James Legge, The Yi King (1882).

A difficult start is still a start

A perspective

Early confusion may reveal what needs a structure.

Its boundary

Do not call every warning a normal growing pain; identify what actually failed.

A fictional example

A new group replaces a crowded chat with one shared task list.

Compare the Judgment

Kun (indicates that in the case which it presupposes) there will be great progress and success, and the advantage will come from being correct and firm. (But) any movement in advance should not be (lightly) undertaken. There will be advantage in appointing feudal princes.

Hexagram 3 · James Legge, The Yi King (1882).

Ask to understand

A perspective

Learning begins when a question becomes specific.

Its boundary

Asking the same question repeatedly is different from checking new evidence.

A fictional example

Instead of asking whether a draft is good, a learner asks which paragraph is unclear.

Compare the Judgment

Mǎng (indicates that in the case which it presupposes) there will be progress and success. I do not (go and) seek the youthful and inexperienced, but he comes and seeks me. When he shows (the sincerity that marks) the first recourse to divination, I instruct him. If he apply a second and third time, that is troublesome; and I do not instruct the troublesome. There will be advantage in being firm and correct.

Hexagram 4 · James Legge, The Yi King (1882).

Glossary and editions

卦 / Hexagram

A figure of six solid or divided lines.

卦辞 / Judgment

A classical statement associated with a whole figure.

爻辞 / Line text

Text associated with a position within the figure.

大象传 / Image

A commentary using the trigrams' natural imagery to discuss conduct.

现代阐释 / Editorial reading

An original editorial perspective, rather than a literal translation or universal rule.

Chinese quotations use the received Zhouyi. English quotations use James Legge' s public-domain 1882 translation, retaining historical spelling. Modern readings and examples are original editorial work. Audio is computer-generated narration. Personal-use edition; no resale license is granted.