

Consider the following points as you read the example change cycle:

- 1) The primary hexagram responds to the question, the change cycle tells the order of events and the actors or actions.
- 2) Primary and static hexagrams are also change cycle hexagrams. When read in a change cycle, they are no different or more important than the other hexagrams.
- 3) Read in order the active line text and the change cycle hexagrams. Write in your diary any key words or phrases that stand out and any link in your mind between *I Ching* counsel and real events. Transform key phrases from active line counsel into a change cycle story about your question. Observe how that happens.

### CHANGE CYCLE: HEXAGRAM ONE

The first change cycle hexagram of 51c Difficult Beginnings 3t states the obvious: *Although this hexagram suggests nothing less than complete chaos, it ultimately presages a time of order and efficiency.*

The death of a spouse tops any chaos list, but coupled with chaos is the reassurance that her challenges will pass. Hexagram text affirms internal feelings: *Confusion and disorder reign in personal relationships and there is little you can do about it. Remain calm during this new phase in your emotional life.* The connection between the death of her spouse and the outset of chaos is clear. She may assume that the hexagram of Difficult Beginnings is directly linked to her husband's death.

The next step is to read the active first line text for Difficult Beginnings: *It seems that you have come across a confusing obstacle at the very beginning of your path. The best way to attract the helpers you will need is to maintain a devoted and humble attitude. Do not attempt to boldly push ahead unaided. However, do keep your goal in sight.*

The confusion created by a spousal death is tremendous. The line text also offers that a devoted and humble attitude was the antidote. Her caution was to avoid boldness or rash action, and if she felt pressure then she was forewarned to recognize the conflict and to ask for help.

Given the important challenges ahead such as the estate, she needed to find and work with helpers. These could be her children, trusted friends, or other activities compatible with her core values such as people (bridge club), ideas (civic programs), meditation and prayer (church organizations), or physical activities (walking). In the end, the text reminds her to keep her goal in sight.



CHANGE CYCLE: HEXAGRAM TWO

Difficult Beginnings leads to the hexagram of 58c Return 24t where she is to focus on her core values. In the context of her change cycle, Return's first and fifth active lines are the same as discussed before. The line text would be become part of the change cycle story rather than as direct counsel to the question.

As she makes decisions to move ahead, she must come to trust her intuition on what would be or is contrary to her beliefs. She would need self-discipline, but tempered by the need to allow new opinions and perceptions to help shape her life. In addition, she can find strength and courage because her challenges will be overcome. Her development was to let go of the past and look forward.

CHANGE CYCLE: HEXAGRAM THREE

The third step in her change cycle is the static hexagram of 62c Holding Together 8t. Read the static hexagram text for Holding Together (Unity): *Receiving UNITY in its static form suggest that without strong social connections you may indeed become an island isolated in the sea of your own illusions. Make an attempt to embrace the opinions and perceptions of others, if only for a moment. Cross the sea and explore new frontiers of ideas.*

This text reads nicely with the Return active line text in that it reminds her to find and solicit helpers, but it also includes an admonishment about isolation.

As she seeks to identify what her interests are through family, social, church, or employment connections, she needs to embrace and hold new ideas in order to move forward. Change was "in the air" and she has to *make the effort* to reach out rather than rejecting activities.

If she was feeling in limbo, she was to step out of her narrow constraints by trying something new. Her challenge was to overcome fear to explore the new, which was a fundamental challenge to her core personality. Confronting something new is not always something bad.

At the time of the reading, or chronologically speaking, we placed the client in Holding Together. As her question reveals her danger was from feeling helpless and isolated, but she could find purpose and meaning by consciously building her foundation through new social connections. These connections meant family, church, friends, or new acquaintances and it was their opinions and perceptions that would offer important spurs to her purpose and direction.



### CHANGE CYCLE: HEXAGRAM FOUR

The last hexagram in her change cycle is 64c Receptive 2t: *At this time you are dealing with realities rather than potentials. It continues, Because you are not connected with the forces at work in this situation, you need friends and helpers to accomplish your aims. If you can accept this you will find guidance. Once you respond naturally and allow yourself to be led, even the greatest goals can be attained.*

The earlier theme of seeking helpers repeats itself as Holding Together moves to the Receptive. A receptive attitude for developing social connections was important. She was told to accept her need for help in order to attract helpers who can successfully guide her through the change. This hexagram closes the Change Cycle and it sets the stage for her new beginnings. To do this, she should avoid isolating herself from her family and friends and be willing to try new ideas not contrary to her core beliefs.

The active line in the fifth position, *Do not display your potentials and virtues directly but allow them to permeate all of your affairs. Modesty and discretion about your inner worth yield the greatest good fortune.*

The client is an extremely modest individual and this line seemed not to fit her at all. One consideration was that a negative comment or observation made by an authority figure could stall her confidence. Another potential concern was her insecurity about inadequate training, education, and employment and how it made her look. This line is a type of warning important to monitor as she followed her path. The text could be referring to a future event, which there were several as just noted.

I leave it at that because you too will find line text that appears to make no sense. What is important is to record the text and review the text when something happens. In this way, you can sharpen your recognition of transiting events and your ability to effectively participate for a successful outcome.

How this line text applies may not be obvious today, but it could fit next week or next month. Hindsight works wonders on change cycle hexagrams. This is the value of the diary and your change cycle.

### PRIMARY AND STATIC HEXAGRAM RELATIONSHIP

The Return example change cycle is a predictive Flow model because Return and Holding Together are not at the ends of the change cycle. It is a Flow model because the first hexagram in the change cycle is a secondary hexagram 51c Difficult



Beginnings 3t and the last hexagram is a secondary 64c Receptive 2t. For Flow models, neither primary nor static hexagrams begin or end the change cycle.

It is predictive because the primary hexagram 58c Return 24t comes *before* the static hexagram 62c Holding Together 8t. This is opposite to their order in an historic Flow model when the primary hexagram comes *after* the static hexagram. Depending on whether the primary hexagram occurs before or after the static in the change cycle determines whether the change cycle is predictive or historic in nature.

Flow models indicate that the situation is underway with little likelihood that she (or you) could much influence the situation, other than to identify your position and adapt a receptive attitude.

Her question was about meaning in one's life after a tremendous loss, and her change cycle ends with the last hexagram Receptive. There is no doubt she is set to begin a new life and the attitudes and abilities she develops during this final period would aid her in as she moves to a new life and to a new change cycle.

### LOOKING FOR CHRONOLOGICAL KEYS

Most people recognize something in hexagram text. As a general reply to the question, it should trigger a connection. Active lines are the actors and action and they key events in your life, past or present, with the *I Ching*. Linking events with change cycle text is important in order to synchronize the appropriate moment to the right attitude.

In her reading, her husband's passing "fixed time" and the events immediate following her loss was Difficult Beginnings. Return indicated good fortune with the knowledge that her current circumstances were akin to Holding Together. With conscious regard she could make it through tough times by trying new ideas. Knowing that her present moment was Holding Together, we worked to understand the Receptive and its active fifth line. Success was indicated throughout the reading.

As in her situation, once you recognize an event mirrored in the *I Ching* you can follow your change cycle through the sequentially numbered hexagrams. This is the order of events.

She recognized his death was tied to Difficult Beginnings and that it was shown in the text. From that point, we read the text in change cycle order to chronologically match external events with the other change cycle hexagrams and with each active line. The goal was to determine the "today" change cycle hexagram. In her case that was Holding Together. As you examine past, current, and coming events in your question,



see when you lose "track" of events. For this client, it occurred at the Receptive with its active fifth line.

What should be learned from this example? Not always will the primary hexagram represent your present moment. The primary hexagram is the overall echo of the question, but the elements and dynamics of the question are reflected by the change cycle hexagrams and by the active lines.

Her question was a reflection of her situation and it existed in time. Months had gone by since his death, but she still felt lost. The active lines made connections between the change cycle order of events and the external unfolding of events. Her change cycle ordered real events, so she listened to the counsel and sought the helpers she needed to achieve a favorable outcome.

### CONCLUSION

Difficult Beginnings occurred with the death of her husband, but the overall movement suggests a Return to who she was. By Holding Together with inner convictions and developing strong social connections, which was her current hexagram, she could create the atmosphere for being Receptive to what the Universe has to offer. This brings us back to her question, *What advice (or) guidance do you have for a person who feels life has no purpose or meaning-the feeling of being lost.*

Through being receptive to her environment, new and exciting directions can occur. She should seek helpers who clearly are indicated throughout the reading. Help is people, thoughts, opinions, and perceptions. Support and guidance activities would create a new foundation to offset her feeling of being lost. All events, situations, and directions are always migrating towards the Receptive. In her particular case, it brought closure to a long, loving relationship with her husband.

When dealing with your change cycle, remember that the flow of time (faith that events unfold as told) and the diversity of space (devotion to one vision) will shape and change your perspective. Track active lines and the situation with a diary to understand how both evolve. Observe when active line text becomes alive and then adapt to changing times. Ultimately, be responsible for your actions.

*"According to our present view, the quantum laws, though they leave the single event undetermined, predict a quite definite statistics of events when the same situation occurs again and again."*

*Erwin Schroedinger*

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