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 Initial Discussion

Your issue arises from a work situation; you feel that you have been misled by someone in authority over you, that they have led you on, built up your expectations and then let you down at the last moment. Over recent years you have become responsible for many of the day-to-day aspects of running the business. There has never been any formal recognition of your role, and this had caused you to wonder about your actual status in the past. Many others in the enterprise recognize your actual position.

This person had a bit of a breakdown (of which, you bore the initial brunt) and, in their absence, you took on the primary responsible for keeping everything going, helped out by others. As the situation progressed, discussions with your boss lead you to believe that you would be promoted to take over the daily running of the enterprise in a partnership with him, who would take a less active role.

Then, suddenly, he back-pedalled and withdrew from the deal. They are now back in full control of the enterprise and you have resumed your previous role, still taking many of the day-to-day responsibilities and still formally unacknowledged. This has left you feeling hurt and resentful. Feelings which sometimes make it difficult for you to do what is asked of you.

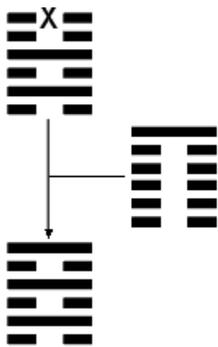
You acknowledge that you have concerns over your ability to fill their shoes, and that you were worried that some of the other senior people in the organization might be unhappy over your projected role.

You respect and admire this person and what they have achieved, and these feelings have not been diminished by recent events. You remain close.

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 The Reading

After a brief meditation, you chose to express your concern with the question “still laden with the wreck of my expectations, how can I best move my own path forward?”



You threw 8, 7, 8, 7, 8, 6 giving the resulting hexagrams. The primary hexagram is *Loosening/Releasing* (40) with a changing line in the top place, resulting in a related hexagram of *Before Completion* (64). The energy operator that is active is *Splitting* (23).

The main image of *Loosening* is that of untying knots and working through difficulties. You related to this in terms of analysing your feelings in the current situation to see what is still causing you difficulty, what is “catching” you and making you feel resentful. The main text of the hexagram is:

*Releasing! There is advantage in nurturing, helping the fruits to ripeness.*

*If you have nothing left to do and nowhere left to go, then returning to the starting point is appropriate.*

*If you still have a purpose to complete, then work until dawn to see it through.*

So, the text clearly suggests that such an effort on your part to unravel your feelings would be fruitful. It also suggests that nurturing the existing situation is the way forward. Further, it offers two alternatives: if you have nothing left to do, then simply wait for the new cycle of events to begin; if you have things still to do, then work until dawn to see it completed. You felt that you still had things to do in this situation, so the council is to work hard now to get them done.

The image text struck you as particularly appropriate:

*If the wise man encounters excess, he lets it go without reprimand and is lenient with offenders.*

This identified, for you, that you blame your boss for his behaviour. However, when you reflected on the actual events it was clear to you that his actions were not deliberately intended to hurt you. Rather, they were thoughtless and, wrapped up in his own problems, he was unable to attend to the effect of his actions on those around him.

The text for the changing line, the six at the top, is:

*The prince shoots at a hawk on the high ramparts. Hitting it, he cannot fail.*

You identified yourself as the prince, your position within the company. This is most directly related to your actual question, how to forward your own needs: the advice here is to aim high. Identify what it is that you most want to achieve and go for it.

The relating figure, the result of the changing line, is *Before Completion*. The main image for this hexagram is of a situation that is not yet complete. Everything is in place and nicely balanced, but the final stage has not yet unfolded. The text says:

*Incomplete; perseverance leads to success.*

*A small fox crossing a muddy ford. If it gets its tail wet, this is not a good state of affairs.*

*Be adaptable, do not impose your plans on the situation, only respond to what you encounter.*

Although the situation is not yet complete, you must persevere. You initially felt that this echoed the text of the changing line, reinforcing your need to push forward with your own goals. However, there is a caution: you are small, in a potentially difficult position, like a small fox crossing a muddy ford. Although getting your tail wet is not a disaster, it does not help to advance your goals. You should therefore be a careful bringing your plans to fruition as that fox crossing the ford. For the moment, the advice is to be adaptable and respond to the immediate situation. You felt a little frustrated by this, wanting to move forward now. You also felt there was a contradiction here with the changing line text. However, you must choose your moment for action carefully; you are still in the closing moments of the old situation; it is not yet complete and, although you can see the path ahead, you should not be hasty. When the time is right, when you have identified exactly what you most want to achieve, then things will unfold naturally for you.

The image text says:

*The wise man will carefully distinguish where everyone sits, understanding the relationships between them.*

This relates to your position within the company, suggesting that at this point you need to understand your position in relation to those around you. Although you despise the politics that goes with any organization, you cannot pretend that it does not affect you. Study and understand the relationship that exist between people, for it is these relationships that determine how power manifests.

The final thing to consider is the energy operator. This is *Splitting*. Whilst the primary figure provides the main answer to your question, showing you how to move forward, and the relating figure shows you underlying trends and offers some cautions, the energy hexagram indicates the energy that is active in the change that you are going through. The main image of *Splitting* is the ending of a cycle, clearing out the detritus. In this case, this serves to emphasise that you are still in the end moments of the current situation, and not yet moving through into the new. You also connected the idea of clearing out the detritus, with the image of unravelling knots from *Releasing*.

The main text for the hexagram says:

*There is no profit when things split apart. There is no point in having a goal now.*

The first part of this image reminded you that you had thought, in part, to profit from the situation, taking on the role of your boss, as it looked like his tenure had ended. Whilst this might have had advantages for you, you were also mindful of the others who would lose out from not having his experience and guidance as the company moved forward. The second part of the image emphasised that you need to be clear of the old situation before you can start to advance your own plans for your future.

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## Summary

The primary hexagram, *Releasing*, tells you that you must unravel the emotional knots that the situation has tied you in. This is a key to moving forward successfully. There are things left for you to complete in your current position. You must act quickly to finish these tasks before you will be ready to move forward. Also, you must forgive the actions of others that you feel have created this problem for you. In advancing your own goals and plans you should aim high. Identify what you most want to achieve and go for it.

The related hexagram, *Before Completion* and the energy hexagram, *Splitting*, both indicate that you are still in the closing moments of the old situation, rather than moving through into the new. *Before Completion* indicates that you must be cautious as you move forward and you should be prepared to compromise to accommodate the changing situations that you encounter. Finally, you should not hold yourself too aloof from the political relationships that form amongst people. These relationships are a key part of the organization.

If you wish to discuss any aspects of this reading, then please do not hesitate to contact me: [andreas@yijing.co.uk](mailto:andreas@yijing.co.uk).