

EPISODE 16

How does one get arrested?

Procedurally, there are several ways. Sometimes the cops wait, and watch you. They wiretap, they go through your house trash, they move slowly. That, it turns out, is what happened to me.

The arrest warrant process is not simple for the police. First the cops write an affidavit description. Then they join with the district attorney, and meet with a judge. The judge sometimes says, "You need more to justify an arrest." On short notice, there might be a 2 a.m. meeting with the judge in her kitchen in her pajamas and bathrobe. That, apparently, is what happened to me.

And that is why it all took some time for them to arrest me. They were performing their due diligence.

I could feel that things were changing. As much as I disliked the attitude of my attorney, I did hear his warnings.

Through all of this careful tip-toeing by the police, however, I figured I would wait and see. My years practicing Tai Chi, and my related study of Taoism and the I Ching, has taught me the value of wait-and-see.

The night before I was arrested, I tossed my I Ching coins, which is something I do for guidance on how to navigate choppy waters, and did a reading.

My coin toss came up with Hexagram 46, Sheng, Pushing Upward.

The hexagram's judgment read: "Pushing upward has supreme success. One must see the great man. Fear not. Departure toward the south brings good fortune."

That was good news. The readings of the individual six lines of the hexagram were also informative. They called me a superior man of devoted character, heaping up small things, and positioned to achieve something high and great.

I wasn't sure what that prognosis referred to specifically, but it was reassuring. The image was of the sun pushing up through the earth, to create a forest. Or something like that.

I liked the "good fortune" part. I found the phrase elaborated this way: "Perseverance bring good fortune. One pushes upward by steps." And elsewhere, "it furthers one to be unremittingly persevering."

That all sounded good. I felt pretty confident I could pull this off. When the D.A. indicts you for murder, you need to be focused and resilient.

The thing that was odd, though, was the second hexagram, which foretells the future, based on change lines. That hexagram was number 56, Lu, the Wanderer.

As I read it, this basically told me that I was a man without a country, and in my future I would spend my life wandering. It gave council on how a wanderer might behave. Make alliances, don't burn bridges, be friendly with all. Because when you are in an unfamiliar place, as a wanderer, you need to have the support of people--since you are alone and new.

More than once the I Ching counseled against making jokey quips to try and make quick friends, observing that people will disrespect such a person in the long run.

Moving forward, now indicted for murder, I needed to rein in my sardonic humor.