

23



PŌ

# DESTRUCTION

Destruction.  
Do not advance.

One who goes too far will be cut down. The hexagram shows someone falling from a height when his support is cut out from under him. The principal image is that of a couch collapsing when its legs are cut away. The word 剝 *pō* refers to felling a tree.

## *Lines*

first line/6 — — The feet of the couch are cut away.  
It is inauspicious to keep on  
in the face of destruction.

One who raises himself will only have farther to fall. It is better to remain in a low position.

line two/6 — — The couch's platform is cut away.  
It is inauspicious to keep on  
in the face of destruction.

This line's meaning is similar to that of the first line. The only difference is that one has risen a level higher — from the couch's feet to its platform.

line three/6 — — Cut down.  
No harm.

It is better to fall now than after rising higher. Misfortune is normal in line three.

line four/6 — — The flesh on the couch is destroyed.  
Misfortune.

Disaster strikes. The person on the couch is destroyed because he sets himself too high, entering the upper trigram.

line five/6 — — A fish on a string  
but cherished like a palace lady.  
Not unfavorable.

Though his ambitions collapse and he is taken prisoner, he is treated well, gaining by apparent misfortune. Line five is the place of the ruler. The five passive lines (䷚) up to and including this one are like fishes strung to be dried.

top line/9 — The biggest fruit is not eaten.  
The lord gains chariots,  
The little man has his hut destroyed.

The “lord” is someone who is big enough to escape destruction. He is the strong line (—) above five weak ones. The word 果 *guǒ* refers both to fruit and to nuts.

STRUCTURE ䷚ 艮 Gēn Keep Still (stop, stopped)  
䷚ 坤 Kūn Acquiescent (passive, weak)

One is stopped (upper trigram ䷚) by one’s own weakness (lower trigram ䷚). The lines form the image of a couch: a solid platform (—) supported by tall legs (䷚). The five weak lines that make up the legs are a weak support.

SEQUENCE If the advance begun in SHÍ HÈ (21) BITING THROUGH and continued more slowly in BÌ (22) ADORNED is not stopped, it will end in DESTRUCTION.