

## HEXAGRAM 13

T'UNG JÊN LOVERS, BELOVED, FRIENDS,  
LIKE-MINDED PERSONS, UNIVERSAL  
BROTHERHOOD

*Component trigrams:*

*Below: LI, fire, brilliance, beauty.*

*Above: CH' IEN, heaven, male, active, etc.*

**TEXT** Lovers (friends) in the open—success! It is advantageous to cross the great river (or sea).<sup>1</sup> The Superior Man will benefit if he does not slacken his righteous persistence.

**COMMENTARY ON THE TEXT** This hexagram indicates that someone weak comes to power, occupies the centre of the stage and responds to the creative force.<sup>2</sup> Such a one is called the beloved. What is described in the above text is the work of the creative principle, which has a strong refining influence. The central line (in the upper trigram), to which all the others respond, symbolizes the Superior Man; he alone can carry out the will of all the people of the earth.<sup>3</sup>

**SYMBOL** This hexagram symbolizes heaven (the sun) and fire representing a pair of lovers. The Superior Man treats everything in a manner proper to his kind.<sup>4</sup>

### *The Lines*

**9 FOR THE BOTTOM PLACE** The beloved is at the gate—no harm!  
**COMMENTARY** Who would find it blameworthy to receive the beloved at the gate?<sup>5</sup>

**6 FOR THE SECOND PLACE** His beloved (betrothed) is of the same clan as himself—trouble!  
**COMMENTARY** Choosing a beloved from a man's own clan is a sure way to unhappiness.<sup>6</sup>

**9 FOR THE THIRD PLACE** Concealing his weapons in the bushes, he climbs his high hill. For three years he enjoys no happiness.<sup>7</sup> **COMMENTARY** He conceals his weapons because the enemy is strong—but three years without joy! Who would follow such a course?

**9 FOR THE FOURTH PLACE** He climbs his battlemented wall, for he is unable to attack—good fortune!<sup>8</sup> **COMMENTARY** Being unable to worst the enemy, he settles down on a fortified wall. His good fortune consists in being able to retain his sense of what is right even when encountering difficulty.

**9 FOR THE FIFTH PLACE** The lovers begin by weeping and wailing, but they finish by laughing, for the crowd succeeds in bringing them together. **COMMENTARY** This strong line which is central (to the upper trigram) indicates that they began by weeping.<sup>9</sup> Fortunately a crowd of people encountered them and, somehow, the right thing was said (to bring them together again).

**9 FOR THE TOP PLACE** Her beloved is in a distant frontier region—no regret!<sup>10</sup> **COMMENTARY** This is not what was desired.

**NOTES** (1) To make any kind of journey. (2) If the weak one implies a woman, the passage may be taken to mean that the ascendancy a woman gains over a man in love with her is a necessary part of the process of creation. If it refers to a ruler, it may mean that, though young or otherwise weak, he is well-meaning and responds to the will of heaven. (3) In either of the cases mentioned in note two, a strong and gifted person must sooner or later take the helm and guide that weaker person, wife or ruler. (4) An analogy (based on the component trigrams) between the sun and fire, which to some extent are of a kind. (5) Meeting the beloved so publicly cannot give rise to scandal. This implies that there is no need for secrecy. (6) This Chinese belief was so strongly held that, until recently, even unrelated people of the same surname could not marry. (7) His cowardice was so great that he dared not seek home, wife or children for three years. The implication is that boldness at all costs is required. (8) At first sight this case looks rather like that indicated by the third line, but here cowardice and concealment are replaced by courage modified by common sense and a desire to do his duty as best he can. (9) A strong central line is usually auspicious, but not in this case where we are dealing with something so soft and tender as love. (10) In Chinese history, it often happened that a man was drafted and sent far away to a frontier region from which he could not be expected to return for many years. In this case, his beloved (betrothed or wife) has enough wisdom to give up repining, since the case is a hopeless one. The implication is that we should not repine.