

26



大畜

DÀ XÙ

## BIG IS TAMED

Big is tamed.

He should stay as he is.

He eats without sowing. Auspicious.

It is favorable to cross a great river.

Although he is big and strong, like a horse or an ox, he should not charge ahead on his own but should allow himself to be tamed and work under someone else's direction. Together they will be able to accomplish such difficult tasks as fording a great river. He will eat without sowing because his ruler will feed him.

### *Lines*

first line/9 — There is danger.  
It is best to halt.

He will get into difficulties if he attempts to advance beyond this low place.

line two/9 — Carriage and axle part.

A relationship is torn asunder. Line two is the place of the subject, who races ahead too quickly, destroying his relationship with his ruler.<sup>1</sup>

line three/9 — Fine horses race forward.  
It is favorable to persevere.  
A well-practiced chariot stands guard.  
It is favorable to advance.

The strong beast is under his ruler's control and may go forward without endangering their relationship. This top line of the lower trigram Qián ䷀ Strong Action is apparently near enough to the upper trigram Gēn ䷎ Keep Still to be influenced by its restraining hand. This counteracts the misfortune that is normal in line three.<sup>2</sup>

line four/6 — — A young bullock's horn board.  
Supremely auspicious.

A board was placed across the horns of a young ox to prevent it from injuring either other people or its own growing horns, while at the same time allowing it freedom of motion so it could be set to work. Line four is the place of the officer, who works for his lord.

line five/6 — — A pen for a young boar.  
Auspicious.

The boar is completely under control, penned up so it will grow fat. This line is slightly less auspicious than line four because the boar in his pen has somewhat less freedom of action than the bullock with his horn board.<sup>3</sup>

top line/9 — On Heaven's road.  
Blessed.

He advances along the path ordained by Heaven. The solid line suggests action.

STRUCTURE ䷎ 艮 Gēn Keep Still (stopped, restraint)  
䷀ 乾 Qián Strong Action

Someone in a low position who is strong and active (lower trigram ䷀ ) is brought under control by someone in a higher position (upper trigram ䷎ ). The trigram Gēn ䷎ Keep Still is like a restraining hand.

SEQUENCE Strength ( ䷀ ) came unexpectedly in the previous hexagram WÚ WÀNG (25) NO EXPECTATIONS. Now, in order to make the best use of this strength, one must let oneself be tamed.

## Notes

1. "axle" (line two) — The word 輹 *fú* actually refers to the fitting that holds the axle to the carriage, rather than to the axle itself. See also XIǎO Xù (9) SMALL IS TAMED, line three.

2. "horses" (line three) — At the time of the *Changes*, the Chinese did not ride horses but only used them to pull carriages. They did not start actually riding them until later, when they began having to defend themselves against border attacks by mounted nomads.

3. "A pen for a young boar." (line five) — The transmitted text reads literally: "The tusks of a gelded boar." For reasons of symmetry with line four, I follow the revised reading of Li (1969), but the literal reading is also acceptable. Both suggest restraint of something potentially harmful and in both cases the restraint is somewhat greater than that applied to the ox in line four.