

31



Gǎn

MOVEMENT

Movement.

Movement will be blessed.

It is favorable to continue.

Taking a wife will bring good fortune.

He begins to move again, after having been stopped for a while. "Taking a wife" may symbolize either joining a ruler or taking on a subordinate.¹

Lines

first line/6 — — He moves his toes.

This slight movement is the first sign of activity. He must not move too much at first.²

line two/6 — — He moves his calves.

Inauspicious.

It is auspicious for him to stay where he is.

To move this much is dangerous. Line two is the place of the subject, who must not advance without a command from his ruler.²

line three/9 ——— He moves his legs,

But someone grabs his heel.

Advancing will lead to trouble.

He is stopped as soon as he takes a step. The stopping power of this solid top line of the trigram Gēn ䷳ Keep Still is reinforced by the two solid lines that are above it in the hexagram.^{2, 3}

line four/9 — Keeping on brings good fortune.
 Regrets will pass.
 “Coming and going all around you,
 Your friends follow your plans.”

Now is the time for action. Line four is the place of the officer and of movement after a delay. The friends (or friend) who follow(s) him could be either a group of subordinates or his ruler.

line five/9 — He moves his back.
 No regrets.

He bends his back in obeisance to his ruler. Line five is the place of the ruler.²

top line/6 — — He moves his cheeks and his tongue.

He speaks. Since the top line of a hexagram often involves conflict between subject and ruler, he may be saying something to offend his ruler. He should not.²

STRUCTURE ☱ 兌 Duì Stand Straight
 ☶ 艮 Gēn Keep Still (stopped)

Having been stopped for some time in a low position (lower trigram ☶), he takes action (lines three, four, five ☱), standing up into a higher position ☱).

SEQUENCE In order to escape difficulties, the protagonist of KǎN (29) PITS subordinated himself to someone stronger. The next hexagram LUÓ (30) SHINING LIGHT showed him passively accepting the rise and fall of his ruler's favor. Now, in MOVEMENT, he begins to move again himself.

Notes

1. MOVEMENT — The word 感 *gǎn* “movement” refers to actively moving something, as well as to exerting influence. It is the word translated “influence” in LÍN (19) LEADERSHIP, lines one and two.

2. “toes,” “calves,” etc. (line texts) — Compare the line texts' references to moving various parts of the body to similar references in GĒN (52) KEEP STILL to keeping various parts of the body still.

3. “legs” (line three) — The word 股 *gǔ* “legs” actually refers to the buttocks. Here one is probably meant to envisage the muscles of the upper leg and thighs that are used in running.