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YÙ

# CONTENTMENT

Contentment.

It is favorable to appoint officers  
and field an army.

Although his situation is not as good as it should be, the person to whom the hexagram applies remains content. His contentment will not last, however. He should be using this happy time to gather strength for an advance and should not just remain sunken in false contentment.

## *Lines*

first line/6 — — His contentment is well known.  
Inauspicious.

Since people know that he has no desire to improve himself, he is not taken seriously and remains in a low position.

line two/6 — — He is solid as a rock.  
His time will come before the day is out.  
Staying as one is brings good fortune.

Like a rock, he remains solidly fixed where he is. The time for him to take action will come, but it has not come yet. Line two is the place of the subject or subordinate. He remains a loyal subordinate, making no move yet to gain advancement.

line three/6 — — Blind contentment.  
Regret may come slowly,  
But it will come.

His contentment blinds him to the need for change.

line four/9 ——— From contentment  
                                come great gains.  
                                Have no doubt—  
                                Friends will rush to join you.

The person addressed rouses himself to action in this active line (——). The fact that he remained content for so long inspires others' confidence in him when he finally does decide to take action. The three passive lines (☶) of the lower trigram represent a crowd of followers that rushes to join him when he makes his move.

line five/6 — — He stays as he is.  
                                The illness continues,  
                                But he does not die.

He remains sunken in false contentment. The "illness" is either this contentment or the weak ruler with whom he is content. Line five is the place of the ruler and it is weak (— —).

top line/6 — — Contentment goes dark.  
                                His accomplishments suffer loss.  
                                No harm.

His contentment comes to an end. The misfortune in this is mitigated by the fact that he is finally forced to start moving.

STRUCTURE	☶	震	Zhèn	Thunderbolt (rush forward, a burst of motion)
	☶	☷	Kūn	Acquiescent (passive, inert, a crowd)

At first he is passive (lower trigram ☶) and content, then he bursts forward (upper trigram ☶). The lower trigram also represents the crowd of followers that joins him when he does burst forward.

SEQUENCE Both this hexagram and its inverse, the previous hexagram QIÀN (15) MODESTY, describe people who are capable of advancing but do not. The protagonist of MODESTY modestly and correctly refrained from action. That of CONTENTMENT is falsely happy as he is.