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(jìn) Advancing

Advancing. The Marquis of Kang was rewarded with many horses and met with the ruler three times in one day.

- Six in the first place: Sometimes advancing, sometimes cut off. With persistence, good fortune. Without sincerity. Yet if lenient, no blame.
- Six in the second place: Now advancing, now in gloom. With persistence, good fortune. Receiving great blessings and prosperity from your Royal Mother.
- Six in the third place: The multitude trusts. Remorse disappears.
- Nine in the fourth place: Advancing like a big rat. With persistence, danger.

- **Six in the fifth place:** Remorse disappears. The arrow is gained without bloodshed. Going is fortunate. Nothing is unprofitable.
- **Nine at the top:** Advance your horns only to attack the city. Danger, good fortune without blame. But persisting brings difficulties.

Image

Light emerges above the earth: the image of advancing. You should enlighten yourself, brightening your moral strengths.

This hexagram describes a time when you are rewarded richly and consulted frequently by those in power. Such a time is likened to dawn, when light seems to emerge from the dark earth and rise above it. In such propitious times, we do well to continue our efforts at self-improvement, and to act with care. While several lines refer to the disappearance of regret, others remind us that increasing danger accompanies a rise in influence and wealth. As Confucius noted, wealth and power gained by immoral means are as sturdy as clouds. While many may trust you now, such a situation rarely lasts long.

Others lines refer to the intermittent nature of influence: sometimes advance, sometimes nearly drowning by reverses. Yielding to greed can be disastrous, however easy it may seem at a time when one is in favor. An early Zhou song cries: "Big rat, big rat, don't eat up my grain!" Avoid using all your available perquisites, and remember that your position is due to the assistance and blessings of others, not your own worth alone. Enjoy the rise, the

dawn of recognition, but remember that the light may not be sufficient to see all the pitfalls around you. Be cautious, and continue the self-improvement you began when you had no other means of growth, despite the noise and rewards around you.

Shaughnessy, 138–139, 313–314.

Lynn, 351–357.

Wilhelm/Baynes, 136–139.