

43

䷋ 決

JUÉ

# FLIGHT

Flight.

Captives' cries of distress

Rise over the king's palace.

A command to halt comes from the capital.

It is not favorable to take up arms against it.

It is favorable to take flight.

A warning of danger comes just in time to permit flight. If the Zhou continue their bold advance, the still-powerful Shang will destroy them. The cries of those already captured and the direct command to halt serve as warnings.<sup>1</sup>

## Lines

first line/9 — He is wounded in the foot  
on his first forward step.  
Advancing brings no victory, but harm.

This is the lowest line in the hexagram, therefore it refers to the foot. It is the first line and an active line (—), therefore it refers to beginning something. His advance is unsuccessful because this lowest line represents someone small and weak.

line two/9 — Sentries call the watch.  
Even if there is fighting during the night,  
There is no need to fear.

Though danger threatens, a warning will come in time to permit escape.

line three/9 — He is wounded on the cheekbone.  
 Misfortune strikes.  
 The lord runs away alone.  
 He encounters rain and gets wet,  
 Feels resentment but suffers no harm.

He does not flee until some misfortune has already struck, but the misfortune is not a terrible one.

line four/9 — No flesh on his thighs,  
 He staggers as he walks.  
 He leads forth a sheep and surrenders.  
 His regrets will pass.  
 He heard the warnings but did not believe.

He did not think of fleeing until he no longer had the strength to get away. To go forth half-clothed to the enemy leading a sheep was a ceremony of surrender. Line four, coming just after the midpoint of the hexagram, sometimes has to do with being late. See line four of GUÌ MÈI (54) A MAIDEN MARRIES.

line five/9 — Like a mountain goat,  
 he bounds away down the road.  
 And escapes harm.

Not only does he get away, but his flight carries him farther along the road that he wants to travel. The five strong lines beneath this one give his flight great power. The weak line above presents an open path ahead.

top line/6 — — There is no cry of warning.  
 Misfortune in the end.

He is not warned in time and cannot get away. In many hexagrams, this top line involves conflict with a greater power.

STRUCTURE    ☱    兌    Duì      Stand Straight (break free)  
                   ☰    乾    Qián      Strong Action

Someone strong and active (lower trigram ☰ ) breaks free (upper trigram ☱ ) and runs away.

SEQUENCE    The protagonist of the last hexagram YÌ (42) INCREASE was a subject who accomplished great deeds in his ruler's service. Now he carries this increase too far and must flee his ruler's wrath.

*Note*

1. FLIGHT — The word 決 *jué* means “run quickly.” Texts a few centuries later than the *Changes* use it in reference to running water and to startled deer. The related word 訣 *jué* means “to bid farewell.”