

## HEXAGRAM 61

CHUNG FU INWARD CONFIDENCE AND  
SINCERITY

*Component trigrams:*

*Below: TUI, a body of water, pool, marsh, joy.*

*Above: SUN, wind, wood, bland, mild.*

**TEXT** Inward Confidence and Sincerity. Dolphins—good fortune! It is advantageous to cross the great river (or sea). Persistence in a right course brings reward.

**COMMENTARY ON THE TEXT** The yielding lines are inside the hexagram and there are firm lines central (to each of the component trigrams). Joyfulness and gentleness are conjoined and there is sufficient confidence to ensure the smooth development of the realm. The good fortune symbolized by dolphins is that of winning the confidence of every creature. That it is advantageous to cross the great river (or sea) implies making use of an unloaded boat (or ship). Persistence is always advantageous when it is accompanied by confidence, for then it accords with heaven ('s decrees).

**SYMBOL** This hexagram symbolizes wind blowing over a marshy lake.<sup>1</sup> The Superior Man devotes careful thought to his judgements and is tardy in sentencing people to death.

### *The Lines*

**9 FOR THE BOTTOM PLACE** The officer in charge of hunting and fishing<sup>2</sup>—good fortune! The presence of others would give rise to anxiety.<sup>3</sup> **COMMENTARY** The good fortune presaged by this line implies that our purpose remains unaltered.

**9 FOR THE SECOND PLACE** A crane sings in the shade; its young

ones follow suit.<sup>4</sup> I have a fine goblet and will share it with you.<sup>5</sup>

COMMENTARY 'Its young ones follow suit' indicates heartfelt desire.

6 FOR THE THIRD PLACE He makes an enemy. Beating a drum by fits and starts, he weeps and sings in turn.<sup>6</sup> COMMENTARY His beating the drum by fits and starts is indicated by the unsuitable position of this line.

6 FOR THE FOURTH PLACE A team of horses strays just before the full moon—no error! COMMENTARY The straying of the horses signifies rising above those of our own kind.

9 FOR THE FIFTH PLACE He seems to be pulled forward by his confidence (in what he is doing)—no error! COMMENTARY This is indicated by the correct position of this ruling line.

9 FOR THE TOP PLACE The noise of cocks crowing rises to the sky—to persist now would bring misfortune.<sup>7</sup> COMMENTARY For how could this continue for long?

NOTES (1) A reference to the component trigrams. (2) The whole of this phrase translates a single Chinese word. The additional commentaries in my possession differ widely in their interpretation of this character (which has several other meanings) and of the passage as a whole. None of them gives what seems to me a satisfactory explanation and I must confess myself unable to interpret the meaning. (3) In the light of the commentary on the line which follows, this could also be taken to mean: 'Any other way (than the way we are following) would make us lose our peace of mind.' (4) This symbolizes a longing in which others share. (5) We should allow others to benefit from something or some circumstance which is valuable to us. (6) We are conscious of having made an enemy, but we cannot make up our minds what to do about it. The implication is that we should have more courage. (7) This suggests that we are overconfident and inclined to crow about our good fortune; but we should remember that triumph seldom lasts long and avoid seeking even greater triumphs at this time.