

37

䷤ 家人

JIĀ RÉN

THE HOUSEHOLD

The household

It is favorable to continue like a woman.

The members of a household should be passive and submissive, as a woman is toward her husband. If they are, then the head of the household will take care of them.¹

Lines

first line/9 ——— Kept at home with the door barred.
Regrets will pass.

The head of the household keeps his dependents locked up inside the house. They are held in the low position represented by the lowest line of the hexagram. But the resentment they feel is outweighed by the benefits of being part of the household.

line two/6 — — She does not go outside,
She stays inside serving meals.
It is auspicious for her to continue.

Rather than seeking advancement in the outside world, the members of the household stay inside and serve their lord. Line two is associated with subordinates and with women. It has to do with being inside because it is inside the inner trigram and in this case is also the passive line in the middle of the trigram Luó ䷛ Shining Light (within).

line three/9 ——— The household complains of harsh treatment.
Regretting it will turn danger to good fortune.

If the women and children
just laugh and have fun,
There will be trouble.

The head of the household keeps its members under strict control. If his control is too strict, it can be relaxed. If it is too lax, it cannot easily be made stricter. Line three almost always depicts some dangerous or inauspicious permutation of the situation described in the hexagram.

line four/6 — — A prosperous house.
Great good fortune.

The head of the household is strong and the members of the household are submissive. This brings prosperity. Line four often shows the solution of a problem encountered in line three. In this case, the solution involves passivity and submission. The line is passive (— —) and is the bottom line of the trigram Xùn ䷋ Kneel in Submission.

line five/9 ——— The king calls down blessings on his house.
Do not fear. Auspicious.

The great king is an awesome figure, but those who are members of his household need not fear him; he is their benefactor, calling down the blessings of powerful ancestral spirits. Line five is the place of the ruler.

top line/9 ——— Awed into allegiance.
Good fortune in the end.

The household's trembling allegiance to its head brings good fortune. Because the top line is above the line of the ruler, it involves potential conflict between a subject and his ruler. This conflict is averted by the subject's strong and frightened allegiance.

STRUCTURE	䷋	巽	Xùn	Kneel in Submission
	䷌	離	Luó	Shining Light (shone upon, within)

The subject is shone upon (lower trigram ䷌) by his ruler, to whom he kneels in submission (upper trigram ䷋). The idea of being within a household is emphasized by the two interlocked Luó ䷌ Shining Light (within) trigrams formed by lines one through five (䷋). The members of the household are within their lord's

radiance, firmly held there by the two solid lines (=) at the top of the hexagram.

SEQUENCE The last two hexagrams JÌN (35) **ADVANCEMENT** and MÍNG ZHÌ (36) **THE BRIGHT PHEASANT** showed the advancement of one noble under a glorious ruler and the fruitless remonstrations of another under a dark ruler. **THE HOUSEHOLD** shows its protagonist in the household of a powerful king. He resents the restraint his ruler lays on him, but appreciates the benefits his ruler bestows. In the next hexagram KUÍ (38) **ESTRANGEMENT**, the resentment begins to dominate.

Note

1. JIĀ RÉN — The words 家人 *jiā rén* literally mean “house people” and refer to the women, children, and servants who made up a lord’s household. In divination, the hexagram could have been applied to anyone whose relationship to someone else was analogous to that of a member of a household to its head, such as that of a subject to his ruler.