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## (cuì) Gathered Together

Gathered together. Success. The ruler enters the temple. It is effective to meet with a great person. Success. It is effective to persist. Sacrificing a great ox brings good fortune. It is effective to have a place to go.

- Six in the first place: If there is sincerity, but not to the end, then there is sometimes chaos, sometimes gathering together. As if crying out, in one room. If there is laughter without bloodshed, then action is without blame.
- Six in the second place: With a bow, good fortune without blame. If you are sincere, then doing the spring sacrifice is effective.
- Six in the third place: Like gathering, like crying. Inaction is effective. Going is blameless, misfortunes small.
- Nine in the fourth place: Great good fortune, without blame.

- **Nine in the fifth place:** Gatherings together take place. No blame, no trust. With enduring persistence, remorse disappears.
- **Six at the top:** Weeping and crying, but no blame.

### Image

A lake above the earth, the image of massing together. You should gather your weapons together to cope with the unexpected.

As lake levels rise above the contours of the land, individual ponds and streams merge into larger and larger expanses of water. This natural occurrence is analogous to the way in which a leader gradually builds support, or a warrior prepares by assembling all weapons. Great changes are possible only when a leader has assembled masses of supporters, and when they cohere as completely as drop-lets do in making a lake.

Although water was often scarce in early China, here it is almost too plentiful. A clear statement of success describing the situation as a whole is coupled with a warning that the future is unpredictable, so that now is the time to make sure your strengths are mustered and in order, your assets available for any unforeseen difficulty.

Shaughnessy, 122–123, 308–309.

Lynn, 417–423.

Wilhelm/Baynes, 174–177.