

HEXAGRAM 43 KUAI RESOLUTION



Component trigrams:

Below: CH' IEN, heaven, active, male, etc.

Above: TUI, a body of water, pool, marsh, joy.

TEXT Resolution. When a proclamation is made at the court of the King, frankness in revealing the true state of affairs is dangerous.¹ In making announcements to the people of his own city, it is not fitting

for the ruler to carry arms.² It is favourable to have in view some goal (or destination).

COMMENTARY ON THE TEXT Resolution implies determination. That is to say, the strong determine the affairs of the weak, combining strength with cheerfulness and resolution with peacefulness.³ The proclamation at the King's court is indicated by the single yielding line above five firm ones. The danger of speaking frankly is nevertheless a glorious danger. Bearing arms while making announcements to the people of his own city would forfeit their respect. Its being favourable to have an objective is indicated by the fact that the firm, after prospering exceedingly (there are five firm lines) comes to an end at the top.

SYMBOL This hexagram symbolizes a marshy lake being drawn (sucked) towards the sky.³ The Superior Man distributes his emoluments to those below; dwelling in virtue, he renounces them.

The Lines

9 FOR THE BOTTOM PLACE To set out with a great show of strength, advance, but win no success is shameful.⁴ **COMMENTARY** This illustrates the shame involved in taking on something and then failing.

9 FOR THE SECOND PLACE Though disturbed by cries in the night, he who is armed knows no fear.⁵ **COMMENTARY** Being armed and fearless is indicated by the central position of this line.

9 FOR THE THIRD PLACE Strength in the cheekbones⁶—misfortune! The Superior Man is firmly determined; but if, while walking alone in the rain, he is irked by the mud, he is not to be blamed for that.⁷ **COMMENTARY** The resolutely determined Superior Man is blameless to the end.

9 FOR THE FOURTH PLACE His haunches have been flayed and he walks falteringly, though he could put an end to this shame by allowing himself to be dragged along like a sheep.⁸ Moreover, he puts no faith in the words of others. **COMMENTARY** Walking falteringly (or hesitatingly) is indicated by the unsuitable position of this line. Having no faith in the words of others shows lack of intelligence.

9 FOR THE FIFTH PLACE With the tenacity of spinach clinging to the earth,⁹ he blamelessly steers a middle course. **COMMENTARY** Yes, blamelessly but not brilliantly!¹⁰

6 FOR THE TOP PLACE In the end, misfortune will come without warning. **COMMENTARY** This unheralded misfortune will be due to our failure to persist to the end.

NOTES (1) In vital matters, frankness may prove dangerous. (2) It is better to repose trust in our own people. (3) A reference to the component trigrams. (4) That is, we should not voluntarily and somewhat boastfully take on a difficult task, unless we are sure of success. (5) It is well to be forearmed. (6) Making a parade of our strength. (7) Nothing must deflect us, but a little grumbling at unpleasantness is in order. (8) Having recently suffered, we advance with hesitation and are unwilling to accept useful but rather humiliating assistance. (9) That is, weak but determined. (10) In this situation, we can do well enough, but not very well.