

HEXAGRAM 42

I (pronounced YEE) GAIN

*Component trigrams:**Below: CHÊN, thunder, movement, to sprout or quicken.**Above: SUN, wind, wood, bland, mild.*

TEXT Gain. It is favourable to have in view some goal (or destination) and to cross the great river (or sea).¹

COMMENTARY ON THE TEXT In this hexagram, loss is above and gain below.² The people's joy is boundless. When those above exhibit no pride to the ones below them, their virtue is brightly illumined. It is favourable to have an objective, for the route, being central and straight, leads to great blessings.³ What is said about crossing the great river means that (when you find) a wooden⁴ (causeway or boat) you may cross. Gain now proceeds actively and smoothly; each day unhindered progress can be made. Heaven bestows its gifts and earth brings forth its fruits; increase is occurring everywhere. However, each gainful activity must be undertaken at the proper time.

SYMBOL This hexagram symbolizes wind and thunder.⁵ The Superior Man, seeing what is good, imitates it; seeing what is bad, he corrects it.

The Lines

9 FOR THE BOTTOM PLACE The time is favourable for undertaking great works—sublime good fortune and no error! **COMMENTARY** What is said about sublime good fortune and freedom from error means that those below do not complain of having too much to do.⁶

6 FOR THE SECOND PLACE There was one who enriched him to the extent of ten PÊNG or tortoise shells (2,100 of them) and who would accept no refusal⁷—unwavering persistence in a righteous course brings good fortune! The King sacrificed to the Supreme Lord (of Heaven)⁸—good fortune! **COMMENTARY** The one who enriched him came from elsewhere.

6 FOR THE THIRD PLACE He used an unfortunate means to gain something; but, as he acted in all sincerity, he was not to blame. Walking up the centre (of the hall) to report to the Prince,⁹ he carried his jade tablet of office.¹⁰ **COMMENTARY** His gaining something by an unfortunate means (may lead to the supposition that such means are) a matter of course.

6 FOR THE FOURTH PLACE He walked up the centre (of the hall)⁹ and informed the Prince of his fealty.¹¹ It is favourable to be entrusted with the task of removing the capital.¹² **COMMENTARY** He reported his fealty so as to be of use in carrying out the Prince's will.¹³

9 FOR THE FIFTH PLACE Be confident (or sincere) and kind, but refrain from asking questions and you will enjoy sublime good fortune. Faithfulness (or sincerity) and confidence are virtues proper to us.
COMMENTARY The whole of this passage presages the fulfilment of what is willed.

9 FOR THE TOP PLACE He did not (attempt to) benefit them and someone struck him for his inconstancy of heart—misfortune!
COMMENTARY His not benefiting them indicates prejudice: his being struck presages (that we incur the wrath of) people outside our own circle.

NOTES (1) To travel far. (2) A reference to the component trigrams, perhaps implying that those above willingly deprive themselves in order that those below may benefit. (3) 'Blessings' indicates unexpected good fortune. (4) The text clearly indicates something wooden, but it is not clear what it is. (5) Another reference to the component trigrams. (6) This suggests that others will now work for us gladly. (7) See Note 4 to the previous hexagram. (8) From the point of view of divination, this can be taken to mean that we are about to benefit either from our earlier devotions or from some sacrifice either to moral principles or to the public good. (9) This passage is suggested by the fact that line three is one of the two central lines, not of the component trigrams, but of the hexagram as a whole. The same applies to line four. (10) The additional Chinese commentaries declared that the jade tablet is a symbol of our being able to give an assurance of our faithfulness. (11) This implies convincing our superiors that we can be trusted. (12) To be entrusted with a task that would never be given to men of mean ability or lacking in virtue. (13) This implies that we should persuade our superiors of our fitness for some difficult task.