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CUÌ

# GATHERING AROUND

Gathering around a leader.  
 Gathering around a leader is blessed.  
 A king calls down blessings on his temple.  
 It is favorable to go to see someone big.  
 Blessed.  
 It is also favorable to continue as one is.  
 Sacrificing a great ox will bring good fortune.  
 It is favorable to advance.

This hexagram shows loyal subjects flocking around a powerful ruler. It is principally addressed to those subjects, but on the other hand it says that someone who is powerful enough can be successful on his own. Only someone rich and powerful could sacrifice an ox.

## *Lines*

first line/6 — — Their faithfulness is not complete:  
 Sometimes they are unruly,  
 sometimes they gather around.  
 If they obeyed the call,  
 they would all be smiling.  
 Do not fear.  
 Go forward without harm.

Here in the first line, potential subjects of a great ruler are not yet

willing to gather around him. They should not be afraid. If they go to join him, they will rejoice.

line two/6 — — Dragged in.  
Auspicious. No harm.  
Faithful allegiance makes even a small offering effective.

A small amount of strength is useless by itself, but becomes effective when it is joined to the strength of someone greater. It is auspicious to join a leader, even if one is forced to join him. Line two is the place of the subject, who is loyal to his ruler.

line three/6 — — Gathering around a leader,  
they sigh with grief.  
Unfavorable.  
Going forward brings no harm,  
just a little trouble.

There is some adversity involved in joining a leader, but not too much. Line three is the place of adversity.

line four/9 — Great good fortune. No harm.

This is the perfect moment to join a leader. Line four is the place of the officer.

line five/9 — Gathering around the man of rank. No harm.  
Someone who has no faith in him, however,  
Will not regret continuing on his own.

Line five is the place of the ruler—the man of rank. But the person who receives this line in divination need not necessarily join the man of rank; he himself may be a potential ruler.

top line/6 — — Wailing and weeping.  
No harm.

He grieves, but his grief will pass. He weeps either because he is left outside the group or because he is in conflict with its leader. This top line is above and beyond the rest of the hexagram. It often has to do with conflict.

STRUCTURE  $\equiv$  兌 Duì Stand Straight (break free)  
 $\equiv$  𡿨 Kūn Acquiescent (a crowd)

This shows a crowd of acquiescent followers (lower trigram  $\equiv$  ) gathered behind a strong ruler (solid lines four and five  $\equiv$  ). These two lines also represent an officer and his king. The upper trigram  $\equiv$  suggests that the acquiescent followers may have a tendency to become less acquiescent and break free.

SEQUENCE The last two hexagrams JUÉ (43) FLIGHT and GÒU (44) SUBJUGATED showed a strong subject for whom it was dangerous to come into contact with an even stronger ruler. Now the situation has developed further and such contact is auspicious, though a tendency to independence remains.