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YÌ

# INCREASE

Increase.

It is favorable to advance.

It is favorable to cross a great river.

It is favorable to make some kind of increase. Crossing a great river is the *Changes*' typical example of a difficult or dangerous enterprise or ordeal. The texts of the lines indicate that increase is most possible when one is working as the subordinate of someone greater.

## Lines

first line/9 ——— It is favorable to do great deeds.  
Supreme good fortune. No harm.

This first line is powerfully active. Not only is it an active line (——) in itself, but it is the first line of the active trigram Zhèn ䷳ Thunderbolt (rush forward).

line two/6 — — If he is increased  
By a tortoise shell worth ten strings of cowries,  
He cannot refuse.  
It is auspicious for him to continue just as he is.  
His king makes offering to the Lord of Heaven.  
Auspicious.

Increase is irresistible. He is either increased by being given a valuable tortoise shell or else told in divination by one to make some increase. Moreover, the king secures the blessings of Heaven for him. Line two is the place of the subject, who accepts his lord's help.<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>

line three/6 — — He gains by inauspicious actions  
 And comes to no harm.  
 Because of his allegiance,  
 On the road he commands dukes  
 by authority of a jade tablet of office.

He oversteps the prerogatives of his low rank, but is protected by allegiance to a powerful ruler. As a representative of the king, he can command even those who rank above him. Usually line three describes the misfortunes that descend upon someone who acts beyond his station. In this case, there are none.<sup>4, 5</sup>

line four/6 — — On the road he commands dukes to follow.  
 It is favorable to have the Shang move their city.

Line four is the place of the officer. As an officer of the victorious Zhou, he commands the defeated Shang to move from their capital and set up a new town elsewhere.<sup>5</sup>

line five/9 — — There is faithfulness in his heart.  
 Do not ask—supreme good fortune.  
 “Faithfulness is my virtue.”

It is faithfulness to his ruler that allows him to increase. Line five is the place of the ruler.<sup>6</sup>

top line/9 — — Do not increase  
 Lest you be attacked.  
 Do not maintain an established intention.  
 Inauspicious.

This last line is the end of increase. The top line of a hexagram often holds the possibility of conflict with a superior.

STRUCTURE    ☶ 巽 Xùn      Kneel in Submission  
                   ☳ 震 Zhèn      Thunderbolt (rush forward)

The subject rushes forward (lower trigram ☳ ) while still remaining submissive to his ruler above him (upper trigram ☶ ). The single solid line at the bottom increases to two at the top.

SEQUENCE    The protagonist of the previous hexagram SŪN (41) REDUCTION reduced himself to a subordinate position. From there he can now advance and INCREASE himself.

## Notes

1. “tortoise shell” (line two) — This refers to “tortoise divination,” which is also known as “oracle bone” divination. See SŪN (41) REDUCTION, note 2.

2. “cowries” (line two) — See REDUCTION, note 3.

3. “the Lord of Heaven” (line two) — Heaven was the supreme divinity of the Zhou, who conceived of it as analogous to an omnipotent king.

4. “jade tablet” (line three) — Tall rectangular tablets of jade about 20–30 centimeters high (8–12 inches) were used as tokens of authority.

5. “commands dukes” (lines three and four) — These words can also be translated “is made a duke” and “commands the duke.”

6. “virtue” (line five) — The word 德 *dé* “virtue” can also be translated “power,” “status,” or “station.” In those cases, the idea would be that he owes his power, status, or station to his allegiance to the king.