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SUÍ

## THE HUNT

The hunt.

The hunt will be supremely blessed.

It is favorable to continue. No harm.

He goes out after what he wants and gets it. The line texts tell the story of a subject who earns great merit by taking captives for his ruler. The word 隨 *suí* “hunt” refers to chasing down game.

### *Lines*

first line/9 ——— He loses his position.  
It is auspicious for him to persevere.  
All who go out the gate  
will do deeds of merit.

Although he suffers a loss of status, he can win it back and more if he goes out and tries. This active first line (——) is the beginning of the hunt.

line two/6 — — He catches a child  
And loses a man.

His first catch is a small one. He should continue the hunt.

line three/6 — — He catches a man  
And loses a child.  
He gets what he was after.  
He should stay where he is.

He has done as well on the hunt as he can expect. If he tried to take

more prisoners, he would lose those he has. Line three is at the top of the lower trigram. It is better to remain here than to try to advance into the upper trigram.

line four/9 — His hunt reaps its harvest.  
It is inauspicious to keep on.  
By faithful allegiance on this road,  
He wins glory. What harm?

Line four is the place of the officer, who wins glory by taking prisoners for his king. What harm could there be for him in stopping now? If he went any farther, he might seem to be trying to usurp the position of the king.<sup>1</sup>

line five/9 — Faithfulness is rewarded.  
Good fortune.

His devotion to his ruler brings him good fortune. Line five is the place of the ruler.

top line/6 — — He caught and bound them  
And now he himself is tied.  
The king makes offering  
on the Western Mountain.

He took prisoners for the king and now the king recognizes his contribution by inviting him to take part in the sacrificial feasts held in the temple of the royal ancestors. This ties him closely to the dynasty. The Zhou clan's ancestral shrine was on the slopes of Mount Qi (岐山 *Qíshān*) in western China. This top line, because it is at the highest point of the hexagram, sometimes refers to Heaven or the spirits.

STRUCTURE ䷳ 兌 Duì Stand Straight (break free)  
䷲ 震 Zhèn Thunderbolt (rush forward)

Someone in a low position rushes forward (lower trigram ䷲) and stands up into a higher position (upper trigram ䷳). The active first line (—) chases the two passive lines above it (==) and captures them against the two solid lines above that (==). These represent an officer (line four) and his king (line five). Compare to CUI (45) GATHERING AROUND.

SEQUENCE The subject who was mired in CONTENTMENT in the previous hexagram now loses the position that made him content and goes out to earn merit by taking captives for his king.

*Note*

1. "By faithful allegiance on this road, he wins glory." (line four)  
— The word 孚 *fú* "faithful allegiance" originally meant "captive" or "prisoner of war," but came to refer to the allegiance of a feudal subordinate and then simply to trust or belief. The passage quoted can also be translated: "By taking captives on the road, he wins glory."