

33



TÚN

THE PIGLET

The piglet.
The piglet is blessed.
Small should stay as he is.

The piglet stays in his pen, eating and growing fat: Someone small stays where he is and grows stronger. This is auspicious, even if he is held there against his will.¹

Lines

first line/6 — — The piglet's tail.
Danger.
Do not advance.

This weak line (— —) at the bottom of the hexagram represents someone too small and weak to advance.

line two/6 — — He is held with brown oxhide
that no one can loose.

He is firmly held captive, but in a place where he can grow. Line two is the place of the subject, who is tied to his ruler.²

line three/9 ——— The piglet is bound.
Affliction. Danger.
Auspicious for taking slaves.

The piglet is bound tightly for slaughter. Although the hexagram as a whole recommends that one accept restriction, in this line restriction is dangerous. Line three often describes a potential danger in

acting as the hexagram suggests. In this case, the line is auspicious only for taking slaves. The two passive lines below it (— —) are like two slaves whom the solid line restrains.³

line four/9 ——— A fine piglet.
Auspicious for a lord,
But a little man remains blocked.

The piglet grows to a fine size. If the person whom the piglet symbolizes is a lord, he may cast off the restrictions that allowed him to grow and may begin to use his newfound strength. If he is a “little man,” a commoner, he must stay as he is.

line five/9 ——— The piglet is rewarded.
Staying as one is brings good fortune.

Accepting his confinement, the “piglet” grows into a fine big pig and attracts his ruler’s favor. Line five, the place of the ruler, is often the place in which a hexagram reaches the height of the good fortune possible to it.

top line/9 ——— Fat piglet.
Favorable.

The “piglet” has grown so large that he is capable of occupying even this high place. This top line often implies conflict between subject and ruler.

STRUCTURE ☰ 乾 Qián Strong Action (solid, strong)
 ☷ 艮 Gēn Keep Still (restraint, stopped)

The four solid lines (☰) are the piglet’s body, the two broken lines (☷) are its tail. The piglet keeps still (lower trigram ☷) and grows strong (upper trigram ☰). The restraint of the lower trigram is strengthened by the three solid lines of the upper trigram.

SEQUENCE The protagonist of the last hexagram HÉNG (32) CONSTANCY stayed as he was. In THE PIGLET, this enables him to grow. By the next hexagram DÀ QIÁNG (34) BIG USES FORCE, he will be strong enough to break free of his restrictions and rush forward like a charging ram.

Notes

1. PIGLET — The transmitted text has 遯 *dùn* “retreat.” I follow Gao (1947) in reading this as 豚 *tún* “piglet.” The piglet is contrasted

with the ram in the next and inverse hexagram **BIG USES FORCE**.

2. “brown” (line two) — The Chinese think of yellow and brown as shades of the same color. In the *Changes*, this color is associated with loyalty, perhaps because a glorious ruler is like a shining yellow sun. Compare this line with the first line of GÉ (49) **REVOLUTION**.

3. “slaves” (line three) — The *Changes* refers to male slaves (臣 *chén*), female slaves (妾 *qiè*), the two together (臣妾 *chénqiè*), male slaves without families (臣无家 *chén wújiā*), and personal servants (童僕 *tóngpú*). In this line, the reference is to male and female slaves together and probably indicates a slave couple.