



DÀ GUÒ

## BIG GETS BY

Big gets by.  
 The roofbeam sags.  
 It is favorable to go forward.  
 Blessed.

Someone big is overburdened. If he stays as he is, he will fall. The only way he can solve his problem is by advancing, not by standing still.<sup>1</sup>

*Lines*

first line/6 — — He lays an offering on white grasses.  
 He will come to no harm.

He makes careful preparations for his advance. This lowest line represents both an early stage in his journey and low social position. Because they did not have bronze ritual vessels, ordinary people sometimes laid their offerings to the spirits on beds of bushy white grasses.<sup>2</sup>

line two/9 — — An old willow sprouts shoots.  
 An old man gets a young wife.  
 Favorable.

The old man can still produce something if he has a young wife. Symbolically, this refers to a subject's renewing himself by joining a strong ruler. The subject/old man approaches the ruler/young wife. Line two is the place of the subject.<sup>3</sup>

line three/9 ——— The roofbeam sags.  
Misfortune.

The person this line applies to is not strong enough for the burden he bears. This uppermost line of the lower trigram is almost always inauspicious.

line four/9 ——— The roofbeam is massive.  
Auspicious.  
There would be difficulties if it were not.

He is strong enough for the weight he bears. Line four often shows the resolution of a problem encountered in line three. It shows a successful crossing of the gap between the lower and upper trigrams.

line five/9 ——— An old willow flowers.  
An old wife gets a young husband.  
No harm — no praise.

A burst of useless glory. Showy flowers are a poor substitute for line two's productive shoots. An old woman's fertility cannot be brought back, even by a young husband. A ruler in decline cannot save himself by enlisting the help of a vigorous subject. Line five is the place of the ruler.<sup>3</sup>

top line/6 — — He wades in over his head.  
Inauspicious. No harm.

He goes too far, but comes to no harm.

STRUCTURE ䷊ 兌 Duì Stand Straight (break free)  
䷋ 巽 Xùn Kneel in Submission

He kneels (lower trigram ䷋) under a heavy weight (the four solid lines in the middle of the hexagram ䷊), then stands up and breaks free (upper trigram ䷊). The hexagram is like a building viewed from above: The four solid lines are a heavy roof and the two weak lines are the ends of a weak ridgepole.

SEQUENCE The protagonist of the previous hexagram YÌ (27) BULGING CHEEKS, which was the reverse of this one, went too far but could save himself by stopping where he was. The protagonist of BIG GETS BY has gone too far and can save himself only by going farther.

*Notes*

1. GETS BY — The word 過 *guò* means “pass.” What is passed is the dangerous gap between the lower and the upper trigram. In BIG GETS BY, four solid lines straddle the gap. In XIǎO GUÒ (62) SMALL GETS BY, only two solid lines do (==).

2. “lays an offering” (first line) — See MÉNG (4) THE YOUNG SHOOT, note 4.

3. “wife” (line two, line five) — For woman symbolizing ruler, see XIǎO XÙ (9) SMALL IS TAMED, note 4.