

13



同人

TÓNG RÉN

WITH OTHERS

With others.

To be with others in the wilds is blessed.

It is favorable to ford a great river.

It is favorable to keep on like a lord.

One achieves success as an active member of an active group. "In the wilds" means out where there is an open field for action, not hemmed in. "To keep on like a lord" means to take strong action. "To ford a great river" symbolizes any difficult or dangerous ordeal or enterprise.¹

Lines

first line/9 ——— With others at the gate.
He comes to no harm.

To be at the gate is safe because one is not completely enclosed. But it is not auspicious because one is not completely in the open. The first line is the hexagram's gateway and often refers to beginning something.

line two/6 — — With others in the temple.
There will be trouble.

A strong group that is inactive and hemmed in will turn its destructive energies inward on its own members. The group is seen as inside something because line two is in the middle of the inner trigram. The group is inactive because the line is inactive (— —). The temple referred to is one dedicated to a clan's ancestors.

line three/9 ——— Soldiers lie hidden in the underbrush.
 If they climb the high hill,
 They will not rise again for three years.

They should stay hidden. This is not the time to take action. Line three is associated with danger or misfortune.²

line four/9 ——— Mounting the battlements,
 They are unassailable.

It is not clear whether they mount the battlements in attack or in defense. Line four is the place in which one rises into the upper trigram.

line five/9 ——— With others, first cries and then laughter:
 A great army conquers whom it meets.

Line five is the place of the ruler and of success.

top line/9 ——— With others in the fields.
 No regrets.

Working on together in the open, the members of the group will achieve success. They may be fighting a war, since the top line of a hexagram is often a place of conflict.

STRUCTURE	☰	乾	Qián	Strong Action (active, strong)
	☲	離	Luó	Shining Light (shining, shone upon, within)

The five strong lines represent a strong group. The one weak line (— —) is a member of it who is the subject of the hexagram. The group is strong and active in the outside world (outer trigram ☰). The individual subject is within the group and is shone upon by its or its ruler's brilliance (lower or inner trigram ☲).

SEQUENCE Acting together with others is one way of overcoming the obstacle set up in Pǐ (12) BLOCKED. Rather than advancing individually, one advances with the group.

Notes

1. "the wilds" (opening text) — The "wilds" (野 yě) are the uncultivated land beyond a town's fields. The "fields" referred to in the top line (郊 jiāo) are the cultivated land closer to the town.

2. “If they climb the high hill, they will not rise again for three years.” (line three) — This can also be read: “If you climb the high hill, you will not rise again for three years.”