

61



忠孚

ZHŌNG FÚ

WHOLEHEARTED ALLEGIANCE

Wholehearted allegiance.
Piglet and fish are auspicious.
It is favorable to cross a great river.
It is favorable to keep on.

It is better to be a faithful and lowly subject than to seek independence. The help of a strong ruler will make it possible to succeed in such great undertakings as crossing a dangerous ford. Piglets and fishes were offerings given to the spirits by people of low rank, where noblemen offered sheep or even oxen.¹

Lines

first line/9 ——— It is auspicious to be prepared.
Unexpected disquiet lies ahead.

The weak subject represented by this lowest line can prepare for danger by joining a strong ruler.

line two/9 ——— A crane calls from the shade
And its chick answers.
“I have a fine goblet.”
“I will partake with you.”

The mother crane is like a ruler and the crane chick her subject. The goblet symbolizes official rank and its benefits. Shade symbolizes

protection. Line two is the place of the subject, who responds to his ruler's offer of protection and rank.

line three/6 — — Enemy captives:
Some are vigorous and some exhausted.
Some weep and some sing.

Line three is almost always inauspicious. The least auspicious way of becoming the subject of someone strong is to be taken by him as a prisoner.

line four/6 — — The moon comes full.
A horse runs away.
No harm.

Though the horse runs away, it will return again, like the full moon.

line five/9 — — Bound by allegiance,
He comes to no harm.

The subject's loyalty to his ruler protects him from harm. Line five is the place of the ruler.

top line/9 — — A cock flies to the sky.
Keeping on will bring misfortune.

It is unnatural for a cock to fly so high. The highest line of a hexagram often shows someone who goes too high, bringing himself into conflict with someone stronger.²

STRUCTURE ☶ 巽 Xùn Kneel in Submission
 ☵ 兌 Duì Stand Straight (break free)

The word 忠 *zhōng* "wholehearted" is closely related to the word 中 *zhōng* "middle," "center." In the center of this hexagram is a pair of weak lines (==), held between pairs of strong lines (==) above and below them.

SEQUENCE In the previous hexagram JIÉ (60) RESTRAINT, a subject had to restrain himself from advancing too quickly. In WHOLEHEARTED ALLEGIANCE, he restrains himself from seeking independence and remains a loyal subject of his ruler.

Notes

1. WHOLEHEARTED — The word 忠 *zhōng* “wholehearted” is really the same word as 中 *zhōng* “middle.” In ancient times, both were written as 中.

2. “cock” (top line) — The word 翰音 *hànyīn* “cock” refers specifically to the cock used in certain sacrifices. The protected crane chick of line two has become a sacrificial cock. The evil omen of the flying cock is reminiscent of an incident during the reign of the great Shang king *Wǔdīng* 武丁. While the king was preparing to offer sacrifice, a cock-pheasant flew up and lighted on the handle of a *dīng* ritual caldron. This was interpreted as a warning from the royal ancestors that the dynasty was going to fall. (書經 *Classic of Documents*, 高宗彤日 “The Day of Wuding’s Sacrifice” section.)