

35



JÌN

ADVANCEMENT

Advancement.

The Marquis of Kang was given many horses
And was received by the king
three times in a single day.

The Marquis of Kang was a younger brother of the first Zhou king of China, King Wu, who awarded him an important fief after the conquest. This hexagram says that it is better to wait patiently for advancement to be given than to attempt to advance on one's own.¹

Lines

first line/6 — — He advances
and is rebuffed.
It is auspicious for him to stay as he is.
To slacken his advance
and be faithful to his ruler
will avert harm.

If he tries to advance, he will get nowhere and may come to harm. It is better for him to remain passive (— —) in a low position (lowest line) and to bear true allegiance to his ruler.

line two/6 — — He advances
to sorrow.
If he stays where he is,
he will have good fortune.
He will receive this great boon
from his royal mother.

He cannot advance successfully on his own, but advancement will be granted to him if he waits for it where he is. Line two is the place of the subject, who receives something (passive line — —) from his ruler. The Marquis of Kang's mother was a Shang princess.²

line three/6 — — Everyone trusts him.
Regrets pass away.

By remaining passive, he gains people's confidence and is granted advancement. His previous lack of advancement is no longer something to regret.

line four/9 ——— He advances like a big rat.
It is dangerous to continue.

He advances too boldly (active line ———), entering high position (the upper trigram). Line four is the place of the officer. The "big rat" may suggest a rapacious official.

line five/6 — — Regrets pass away.
What was lacking is gained.
Do not fear—
Going forward brings good fortune,
it is not unfavorable.

Patience is rewarded. A passive subject (— —) is accepted (— —) into high position (upper trigram) by his ruler (line five).

top line/9 ——— He advances horns first.
Auspicious for attacking cities,
Danger but no harm.
Keeping on leads to trouble.

At this point in the hexagram, it is impossible to advance in a friendly way. Top lines are associated with conflict, especially conflict with a superior. Advancing "horns first" will lead to trouble. It is auspicious only for attacking cities, something that would involve trouble in any case. Once the attack has been made, a new policy must be adopted.

STRUCTURE ☲ 離 Luó Shining Light (shone upon,
shining)

☷ 坤 Kūn Acquiescent (passive, a crowd)

Someone who is passive in a low position (lower trigram ☷) is shone upon by his ruler (upper trigram ☲) and advances to high

position, where he shines himself (upper trigram ☰) and is obeyed by a crowd of followers (lower trigram ☷).

SEQUENCE The protagonist of the last hexagram DÀ QIÁNG (34) BIG USES FORCE became strong enough to break out of confinement. If he keeps charging forward, however, he will alienate his ruler. He therefore reverts to passivity, gains his ruler's trust, and is rewarded with ADVANCEMENT.

Notes

1. "The Marquis of Kang" (opening text) — The words 康侯 *kāng hóu* literally mean "strong marquis" and this is how traditional commentators interpret them. "Kang," however, is also an ancient place name and in the 1920s the Chinese scholar Gù Jiégāng 顧頡剛 realized that *Kānghóu* was King Wu's younger brother Feng, who was Marquis of Kang. All surviving ancient histories refer to Feng not as Marquis of Kang but either as Uncle Kang (康叔 *Kāngshú*) because he was the king's brother or as Marquis of Wei (衛侯 *Wèihóu*) after his second and more important fief. The histories say that he was first enfeoffed at Kang, but that following the rebellion of three Zhou princes and the Shang heir several years after Zhou came to power, he was given a new fief at Wei and the new title Marquis of Wei. But inscriptions on a group of ancient bronzes, including a ritual caldron, knife, and axe, contain the name Feng, Marquis of Kang (康侯丰 *Kānghóu Fēng*). This name was apparently lost for over two thousand years until Gu rediscovered it. This suggests that either the *Changes* as a whole or at least the opening text of the hexagram was written within a few years of the conquest, since they use a title that was abandoned then and has been unknown for many centuries.

2. "from his royal mother" (line two) — The Marquis of Kang's father was King Wen of Zhou and his mother was a Shang princess. See the fifth lines of TÀI (11) FLOWING and of GUǐ MÈI (54) A MAIDEN MARRIES. After Zhou's final victory over the rebels, Kang was given a new fief at Wei, where he ruled over some of the remnants of the Shang. He can be said to have received this boon "from his royal mother" in two ways: First, he was favored by King Wu because they were children of the same consort of King Wen. Second, their mother was a Shang princess, which might have given Kang some legitimacy in the eyes of his Shang subjects.