

HEXAGRAM 45

TS'UI GATHERING TOGETHER,
ASSEMBLING

Component trigrams:

Below: K'UN, earth, female, passive, etc.

Above: TUI, a body of water, pool, marsh, joy.

TEXT Gathering Together—success! The King approaches the temple. It is advisable to see a great man, which will ensure success. Persistence in a righteous course brings reward. Great sacrifices are offered¹—good fortune! It is favourable to have in view a goal (or destination).

COMMENTARY ON THE TEXT This hexagram implies assembling. Willing acceptance is conjoined with joy.² A firm line (the fifth) occupies the central position (in the upper trigram) and wins response from the other lines—hence the implication of assembling. The King approached the temple in order to fulfil his filial duties and devote himself to (public) prosperity.³ That it is advisable to see a great man and that persistence will be rewarded both imply assembling together for the purpose of putting things right. The last two sentences of the Text imply that (our actions will) accord with the will of heaven.⁴ By observing what each gathers to itself, it is possible to understand the inner nature of all things in heaven and earth.

SYMBOL This hexagram symbolizes a marshy lake rising above the earth.⁵ The Superior Man gathers together his weapons in order to provide against the unforeseen.⁶

The Lines

6 FOR THE BOTTOM PLACE When sincerity (or confidence) does not remain until the last, dispersal and assembling will alternate. There was a cry, but one (reassuring) clasp of the hand made him ready to

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laugh⁷—no cause for anxiety. Advancing now will entail no error. COMMENTARY Alternating dispersal and assembly betoken indecision.

6 FOR THE SECOND PLACE Being drawn into something brings good fortune and no error is involved. Be confident and win advantage from making a sacrifice. COMMENTARY The first sentence is indicated by the constant nature of this line, which is central (to the lower trigram).

6 FOR THE THIRD PLACE A mournful gathering it would seem. There is no objective which would be favourable; yet to advance would involve no error, only slight regret.⁸ COMMENTARY Advancing entails no error for what lies beyond (literally, 'above') is gentle.

9 FOR THE FOURTH PLACE Great good fortune and no error! COMMENTARY Because the line, though a firm one, is not in the ruling position.

9 FOR THE FIFTH PLACE On account of his high position, he gathers people together—no error! Yet he cannot secure the confidence of the people; therefore, he should exalt his virtue and prolong his persistence, so that he need no longer feel regret.⁹ COMMENTARY It is only on account of his high position that he is able to assemble the people; his will is not strong enough (to achieve remarkable results from this).

6 FOR THE TOP PLACE Sighs and lamentations, but no error.¹⁰ COMMENTARY For this top line presages distress.

NOTES (1) These were religious sacrifices, but they may be taken to mean that the time has come for us to make important sacrifices of another sort. (2) A reference to the component trigrams. (3) This suggests propitious circumstances for us. (4) So we need not hesitate to advance. (5) Another reference to the component trigrams. (6) This is a time when foresight is required of us, too. (7) Perhaps we shall experience an unnecessary fright. (8) Obviously we had better not advance now, unless our reasons for doing so are so important that we are willing to suffer a certain amount of regret. (9) All this is said of a minister; applied to ourselves, it suggests that we need people's confidence now and should strive hard to deserve it. (10) We shall be afflicted by distress, but through no fault of our own.