



6		H	H	T		3	3	2		8
5		H	T	T		3	2	2		7
4		H	H	T		3	3	2		8
3		H	H	T		3	3	2		8
2		T	T	T		2	2	2		6
1		H	H	T		3	3	2		8

HEXAGRAM 08 – Pi - Holding Together [Union]

Above K'AN THE ABYSMAL, WATER
 Below K'UN THE RECEPTIVE, EARTH

The waters on the surface of the earth **flow together** wherever they can, as for example in the ocean, where all the rivers come together.

Symbolically this connotes

- **holding together and**
- **the laws that regulate it.**

The same idea is suggested by the fact that all the lines of the hexagram **except** the fifth, the place of the ruler, are **yielding**.

The yielding lines hold together because they are influenced by

- a man of **strong will** in the leading position,
- a man who is their **center** of union.

Moreover, this strong and guiding personality in turn **holds together** with the others, finding in them the **complement** of his own nature.

THE JUDGMENT

HOLDING TOGETHER brings good fortune.
Inquire of the oracle once again
Whether you possess **sublimity, constancy, and perseverance**;
Then there is no blame.
Those who are uncertain gradually join.
Whoever comes too late
Meets with misfortune.

What is required is that **we unite with others**, in order that all may **complement and aid** one another through holding together. But such holding together calls for a **central figure** around whom other persons may unite.

To become a center of influence holding people together is a

- **grave matter** and
- fraught with **great responsibility**.

It requires

- greatness of spirit,
- consistency, and
- strength.

Therefore let him who wishes to gather others about him **ask himself** whether he is equal to the undertaking, for anyone attempting the task **without a real calling for it** only makes confusion **worse than** if no union at all had taken place.

But when there is a **real rallying point**, those who at first are hesitant or uncertain **gradually come in of their own accord**. Late-comers must suffer the **consequences**, for in holding together the question of the right time is also important.

Relationships are formed and firmly established according to definite inner laws. **Common experiences** strengthen these ties, and he who comes too late to share in these basic experiences must suffer for it if, as a straggler, he finds the door **locked**.

If a man

- has recognized the necessity for union and
 - does not feel strong enough to function as the center,
- it is his duty to become a member of some other organic fellowship.

THE IMAGE

On the earth is water: The image Of HOLDING TOGETHER.
Thus the kings of antiquity

- **Bestowed** the different states as fiefs And
- **cultivated** friendly relations With the feudal lords.

Water

- **fills** up all the empty places on the earth and
- **clings** fast to it.

The social organization of ancient China was based on this principle of the holding together of

- dependents and
- rulers.

Water flows to unite with water, because all parts of it are subject to the same laws.

So too should human society **hold together** through a community of interests that **allows** each individual to feel himself a member of a whole.

The central power of a social organization must see to it that **every member finds that his true interest lies in holding together with it,** as was the case in the paternal relationship between king and vassals in ancient China.

THE LINES

Six in the second place means:

Hold to him inwardly.

Perseverance brings good fortune.

If a person responds

- perseveringly and
- in the right way

to the **behests from above** that summon him to **action,**

- his relations with others are **intrinsic** and
- he does **not lose** himself.

But

if a man seeks association with others as if he were an **obsequious office hunter,** he throws himself **away.**

He does not follow the path of the superior man, who never loses his dignity.

MOVING HEXAGRAM

HEXAGRAM 29 - K'an - The Abysmal (Water)

Above K'AN THE ABYSMAL, WATER

Below K'AN THE ABYSMAL, WATER

This hexagram **consists of** a doubling of the trigram K'an. It is one of the eight hexagrams in which **doubling** occurs. The trigram K'an **means** a plunging in.

A yang line

- has **plunged** in between two yin lines and
- is **closed in** by them like water in a ravine.

The trigram K'an is **also** the middle son.

The Receptive

- **has obtained** the middle line of the Creative, and thus
- K'an **develops**.

As an image it **represents** water, the water that

- **comes** from above and
- **is** in motion on earth in streams and rivers, **giving** rise to all life on earth.

In man's world K'an **represents**

- the **heart**,
- the **soul** locked up within the body,
- the principle of **light** inclosed in the dark - that is, reason.

The name of the hexagram, because the trigram is doubled, has the **additional meaning**, "**repetition of danger**."

Thus the hexagram is intended to designate

- an **objective situation** to which one must become accustomed,
- not a **subjective attitude**.

For danger due to a subjective attitude means either

- **foolhardiness**

or

- **guile**.

Hence too a **ravine** is used to symbolize danger;

it is a situation in which a man is in the **same pass** as the water in a ravine, and,

like the water,

- **he can escape**

if

- **he behaves correctly**.

THE JUDGMENT

The Abysmal repeated.

If you are sincere,

- you have success in your heart,

And

- whatever you do succeeds.

Through repetition of danger

we grow accustomed to it.

Water sets the example for the right conduct under such circumstances.

- It
 - flows on and on,
 - and
 - merely fills up all the places through which it flows;
- it
 - does not shrink from any dangerous spot nor from any plunge,
 - and
 - nothing can make it lose its own essential nature.
- It
 - remains true to itself under all conditions.

Thus likewise,

- if one is sincere when confronted with difficulties,
 - the heart can penetrate the meaning of the situation.

And

- once we have gained inner mastery of a problem,
 - it will come about naturally that the action we take will succeed.

In danger all that counts is really

- carrying out all that has to be done – thoroughness –
- and
- going forward, in order not to perish through tarrying in the danger.

Properly used,

danger can have an important meaning as a protective measure.

Thus

- heaven has its perilous height protecting it
 - against every attempt at invasion, and
- earth has its mountains and bodies of water,
 - separating countries by their dangers.

Thus also

rulers make use of danger to protect themselves

- against attacks from without
- and
- against turmoil within.

THE IMAGE

Water

- flows on uninterruptedly
- and
- reaches its goal:

The image of the Abysmal repeated.

Thus the superior man

- walks in lasting virtue

And

- carries on the business of teaching.

Water reaches its goal by flowing continually.

It fills up every depression before it flows on.

The superior man follows its example;

he is concerned that goodness should be

- an established attribute of character rather than

- an accidental and isolated occurrence.

So likewise in teaching others everything depends on consistency,

for

it is only through repetition

that

the pupil makes the material his own.