



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		H	H	T		3	3	2		8
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.