



Undergraduate assignment feedback form
(to be completed by marker)

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<i>Module Code:</i> SICH6017 <i>Module title:</i> The Canon of Change	<i>Student number:</i> 2006724
<i>For completion by marker:</i> <i>Comments:</i>	
<i>Marker's signature:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
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AI Acknowledgement

☐ I have not used AI in my assignment

I confirm that I have not used any AI tools in the research and creation of this assignment. I confirm that I have not presented any AI agenerated materials as my own work. I confirm I have copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used, which I may be asked to provide in evidence.

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I acknowledge the use of ChatGPT and DeepSeek to support my work using the prompt(s):

1. Please check the following text for readability, grammar, and syntax.
2. 請用批判性思維給予這篇文章改進建議。(Please provide suggestions for improving this article using critical thinking.)

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Comparing Hexagrams of Adversity in the *Book of Changes*: Zhun, Xu, Jian, Kan, and Kun



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Date: 7 Oct. 2025

Content



01 Types of Difficulty

02 Ways to Respond

03 Conclusion



1

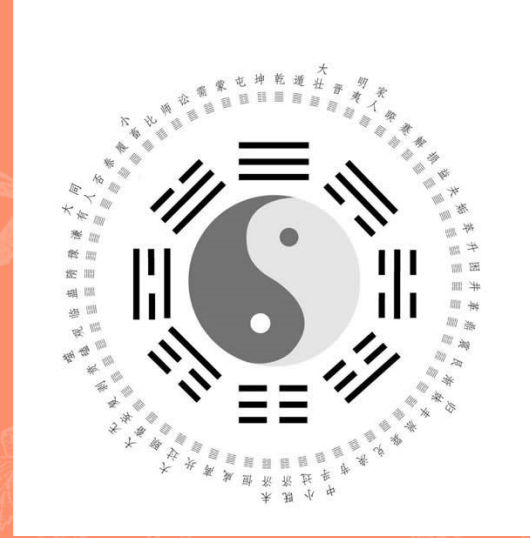
Types of Difficulty



Types of Difficulty



The Book of Changes



**Sixty-four
hexagrams**

Hardships

Zhun(屯)

Difficulties



Uncertainty

Success



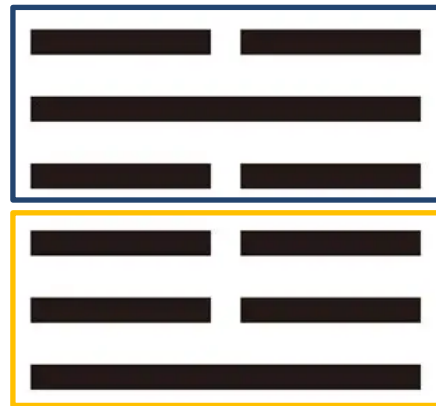
the hexagram Zhun (屯)

——the difficulty of the beginning stage



Oracle-bone script

A sprouting plant
breaking through the soil.



Zhun, difficulty; it depicts grass and trees at the moment of first growth, rising with effort and difficulty.

Shuowen Jiezi 說文解字

‘Whenever thunder and rain are about to come, and dark clouds and the sound of thunder fill the sky, it resembles the state of nature when all things are being created in their infancy and obscurity.’ (*Zhouyi yizhu* 周易譯註, 2016, 48)

Hardships

Zhun(屯)

Difficulties

Xu(需)
Uncertainty

Success



the hexagram Xu (需)

——the uncertain risk



The Tuan commentary:
'Xu means waiting; there is danger ahead. Yet being strong and not falling into it.'

'The hexagram Xu illustrates that during the early stage of creation, when the situation is still unstable and full of crises, the environment remains unclear and one may face danger; therefore, one must wait for the right time.'

(Cai 2008, 169)



Kan
danger



Qian
Strong

Hardships

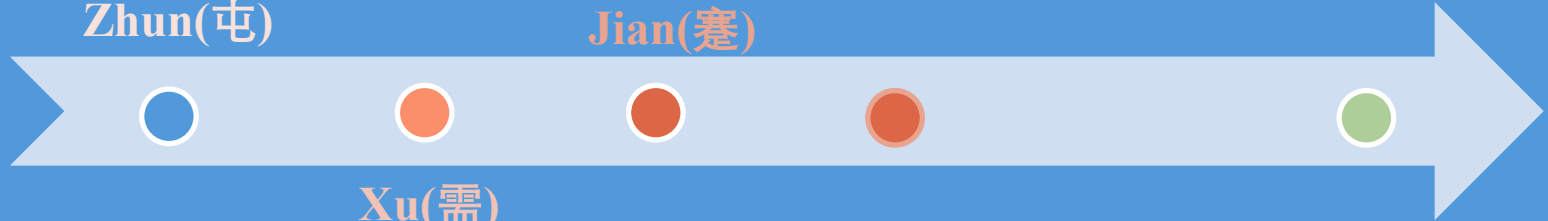
Zhun(屯)

Difficulties

Jian(蹇)

Xu(需)
Uncertainty

Success

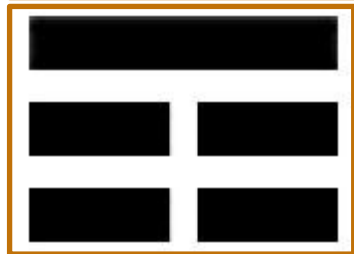


the hexagram Jian (蹇)

———Predicament



Kan
danger



Gen
Stillness

Xu: potential and unseen

Jian: already appeared and tangible



Hardships

Zhun(屯)

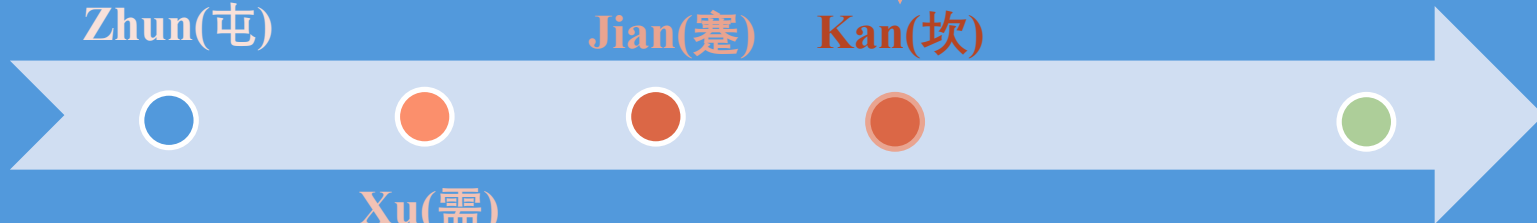
Difficulties

Jian(蹇)

Kan(坎)

Xu(需)
Uncertainty

Success

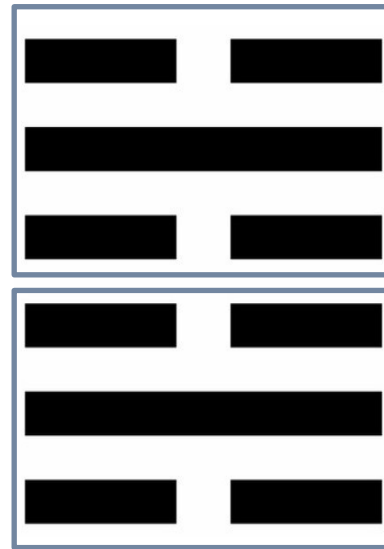


the hexagram Kan (坎)

——extremity



It symbolizes being
deeply trapped within
hardship itself,
surrounded by
difficulties on all sides.



‘repeated danger.’

Hardships

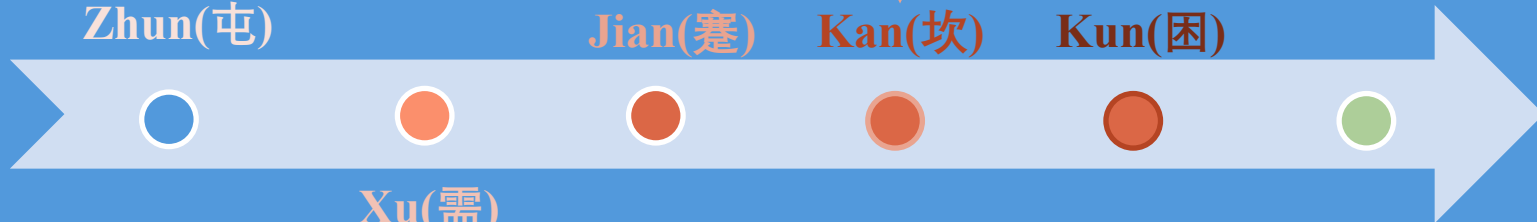
Zhun(屯)

Difficulties

Jian(蹇)

Kan(坎)

Kun(困)



Xu(需)

Uncertainty

Success



the hexagram Kun (困)

——extremity



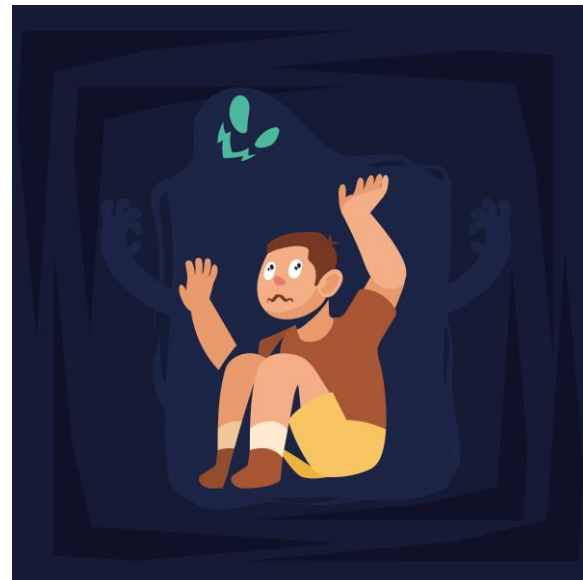
Dui marsh



Kan water

‘Kun signifies exhaustion and weariness, when one’s path is blocked and strength is spent, unable to save oneself.’

(Zhouyi Zhengyi 周易正義)



Adversity

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graph TD; A[Adversity] --- B[the beginning (Zhun)]; A --- C[uncertainty (Xu)]; A --- D[obstruction (Jian)]; A --- E[predicament (Kan)]; A --- F[extremity (Kun)];
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the
beginning
(Zhun)

uncertainty
(Xu)

obstruction
(Jian)

predicament
(Kan)

extremity
(Kun)

A decorative horizontal band at the top of the slide featuring a blue background with white line-art illustrations of various plants, including leaves, berries, and flowers.

2

Ways to Respond





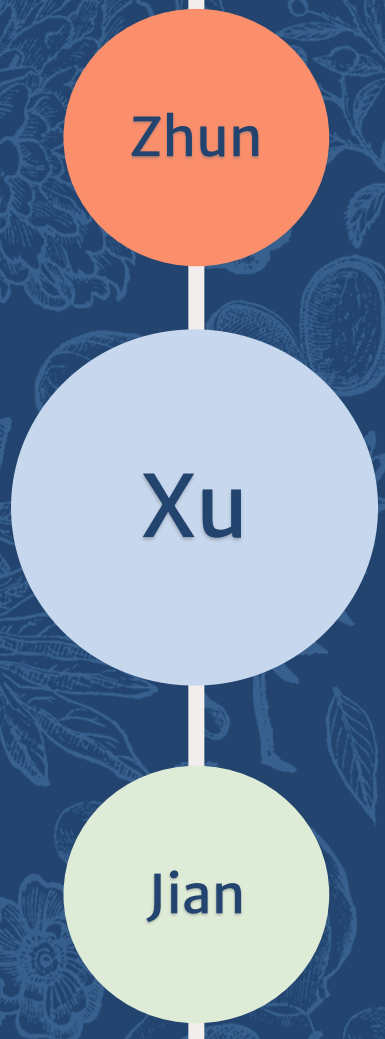
Zhun

Xu

Jian

‘Great success; advantageous to remain correct. It is not beneficial to set out; it is advantageous to establish feudal lords.’

- Uprightness
- moving with caution
- gathering broad support

A vertical diagram showing the components of the Xu hexagram. It consists of three circles connected by a vertical line. The top circle is orange and labeled 'Zhun'. The middle circle is light blue and labeled 'Xu'. The bottom circle is light green and labeled 'Jian'.

Zhun

Xu

Jian

The term Xu itself means ‘waiting’
‘sincerity’ (you fu, 有孚)
‘uprightness’ (zhen, 貞).

- Patience
- Sincerity
- Uprightness

Xu

Jian

Kan

‘Favorable in the southwest, unfavorable in the northeast; favorable to see the great man; keeping uprightness brings good fortune.’

Southwest: flat land

Northeast: mountain slopes

- Act with proper advance and retreat
- The great man: A virtuous helper
- Uprightness

A vertical diagram showing the structure of the Kan hexagram. It consists of three circles connected by a vertical line. The top circle is light green and contains the text 'Jian'. The middle circle is light orange and contains the text 'Kan'. The bottom circle is light gray and contains the text 'Kun'.

Jian

Kan

Kun

‘Sincerity — the heart finds smoothness.’

‘When one faces repeated perils, as long as one does not lose sincerity, and the heart remains open, one can overcome danger and move forward with honor.’

(Zhouyi yizhu 周易譯註, 2016, 310)

- Sincerity
- The heart remains open

A vertical diagram consisting of three circles connected by a white line. The top circle is light green and contains the text 'Jian'. The middle circle is light orange and contains the text 'Kan'. The bottom circle is light gray and contains the text 'Kun'. The background of the entire slide is a dark blue with a detailed white line-art pattern of various plants, including flowers, leaves, and fruits like pomegranates and berries.

Jian

Kan

Kun

‘Success. keeping uprightness. The great man will be auspicious, without blame. Words are not believed.’

- Uprightness
- Preserve oneself
- Refine one’s virtue



Timing



Internal virtue



External
circumstance

Any imbalance among these leads to difficulty;
conversely, the resolution of adversity always lies in
restoring harmony among them.

Conclusion

Zhun, Xu, Jian, Kan, and Kun address
differ in degree and condition:

Zhun concerns the hardship of beginning

Xu the uncertainty of what lies ahead

Jian the obstacle encountered

Kan the entrapment within danger

Kun the extremity of despair

- Recognizing the right moment
- Personal virtue
- Outer conditions

Thank you for listening

