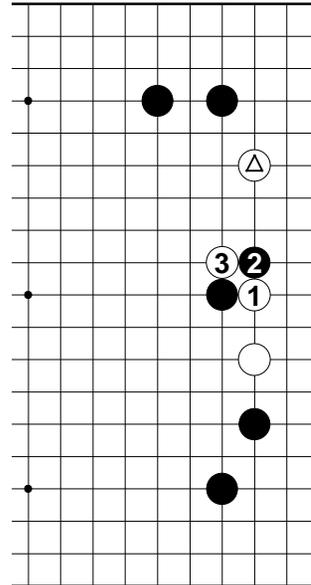


Basic Position Twenty-one



**WHEN WHITE ATTACHES AND CUTS WITH 1 AND 3,
WHAT IS BLACK'S BEST RESPONSE?**

The ladder is a weapon

This position comes up frequently in games with handicaps of 6 stones or more. Since the triangled White stone is present, Black should not expect to reap a big profit, but there is a variation that leads to a good position.

Proper Black Attitude

If the ladder is favorable, it should be used as a weapon. Of course, the simplest approach is the best.

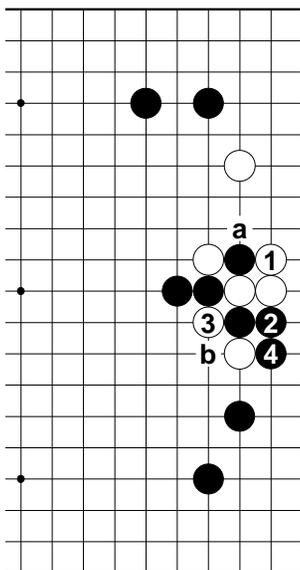


Diagram 4 (Bad aji for White)

By giving *atari* underneath at 1, White is straining to get an advantage, but this clearly leaves bad *aji*.

Black calmly comes down with 2. White can cut with 3, but Black simply bends around with 4.

Now Black is threatening to come out with *a*, so White will doubtless capture there and Black will cut at *b*. This result is not much different from the result in Diagram 3.

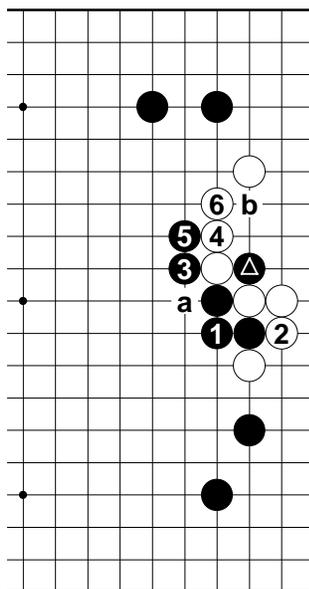


Diagram 5 (Wrong path 1)

Connecting at 1 instead of extending to *a* is not good for Black. Of course White will cross under with 2, and now simply sacrificing the triangled stone with 3 and 5 is a bit sad.

At very least it would be better for Black to attach at 6 instead of playing 5. Then if White responds with *b*, Black gives *atari* with 5 and compresses White's position a little.

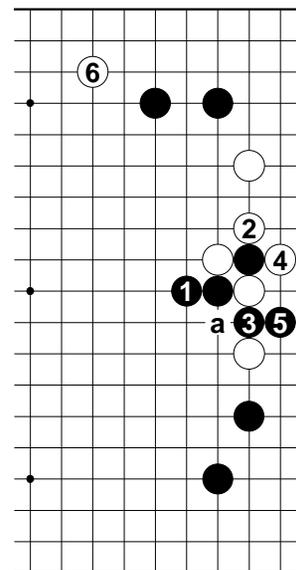


Diagram 6 (Wrong path 2)

Immediately pulling back with 1 is also not good. White will give *atari* with 2, Black gives *atari* with 3 and White makes a ponnuki with 4.

Black now has no choice except to continue with 5, but this lets White turn to the attack with 6. What's more, White still has the possibility of cutting at *a*. Compare this result carefully with Diagram 3.

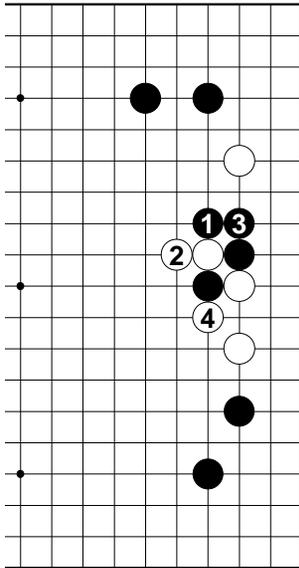


Diagram 7 (Almost as good)

If the ladder in Diagram 1 is not good for Black, then giving *atari* and connecting with 1 and 3 is a straightforward line of play that is almost as good as the correct solution. If White plays 4...

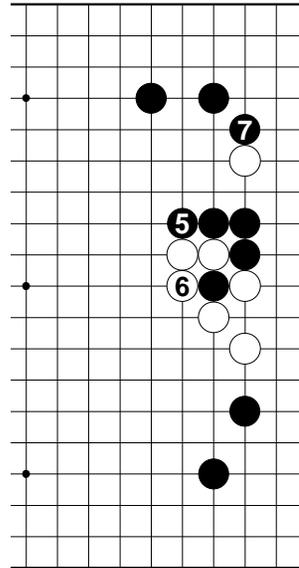


Diagram 8 (Simple for Black)

Black forces with 5 and then attaches with 7. This is an easy line to play for Black.

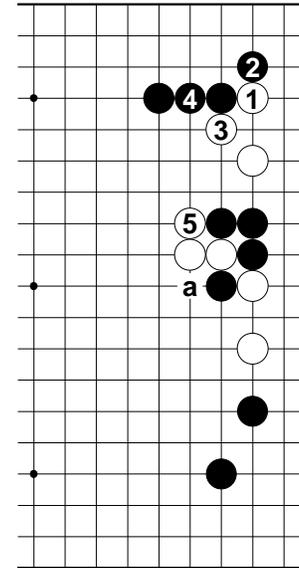


Diagram 9 (Possible complications)

However, instead of 4 in Diagram 7, White can look for complications by attaching in the corner with 1 and 3 in the current diagram. After Black 4, White starts a complicated fight with 5. It follows, therefore, that instead of 2 Black should resist with *a*. At any rate, this is a less attractive alternative than Diagram 1