

Bagua: The Eight Trigram Spirits

Numinous Spirit is mysteriously active in all things.
Through this spirit change and transformation can occur
And the fates of all things come to their perfection.



Look, there is a spirit within your person.
Now it goes, now it comes.
No one can imagine it.
But if you reverently clean its abode
It will come of itself.
You will recover your own true nature,
It will be fixed in you once for all.



Spirit manifests in quake and thunder
Zhen: Groundbreaker



Zhen/Groundbreaker is thunder from below, an earthquake, disturbing and fertilising; he is the shock of sexual energy; he wakes things, stirs them up, begins things; he is the return of life and love in spring; he arouses, inspires, sets things moving; he shocks, frightens, awes and alarms, brings fear and trembling; he excites, he breaks through the shell, the force that through the green fuse drives the flower. The old character shows rain falling from heaven and the sign for shock, the “waking of the insects” in early spring: thunder makes people start working the fields and beings come out of their shells.



ZHÈN shows rain (1) and a sign for shock or cutting through, perhaps a sickle.

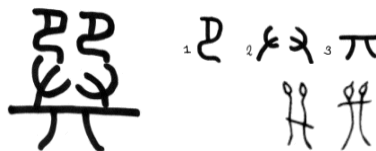


Spirit works in those who lay out the offerings.

Sun: Lady of Fates



***Sun/Lady of Fates* lays out the food offerings.** She penetrates to the core, supple, flexible and subtle; she lets herself be shaped; she enters, supports and nourishes from beneath; she infiltrates and permeates, mild, subtle, docile; she is the foundation; she is wind, weather, wood and trees, pollinating, matching and coupling; she approaches the Earth Altar, the Lady of Fates who lays out the offerings and penetrates to hidden influences. The old character shows wrapped offerings laid out on an altar.



SUN represents an altar stand (3), with wrapped meat offerings or seals on it (1), and a pair of hands presenting the offering (2).



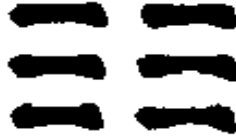
Spirit reveals itself in the Bright Omens
Li: Radiance



Li/Radiance is light, warmth, awareness; she joins things together, she adheres to things, she sees clearly; she is the bright omens, light, illuminating and discriminating; she orders things with grace and beauty; she is awareness, brightness, fire and warmth; she steps outside the norms; she separates; she is strange encounters; she is two together, belonging to each other, depending on each other. The old character shows a sign for the bright bird and a net through which one reflects and captures this brightness, a pattern of words and symbols.



Lí shows a bird (2) or (3) being caught in a net (1).



Spirit is offered service at the Earth Altar
Kun: Field/**Dark Animal Goddess**



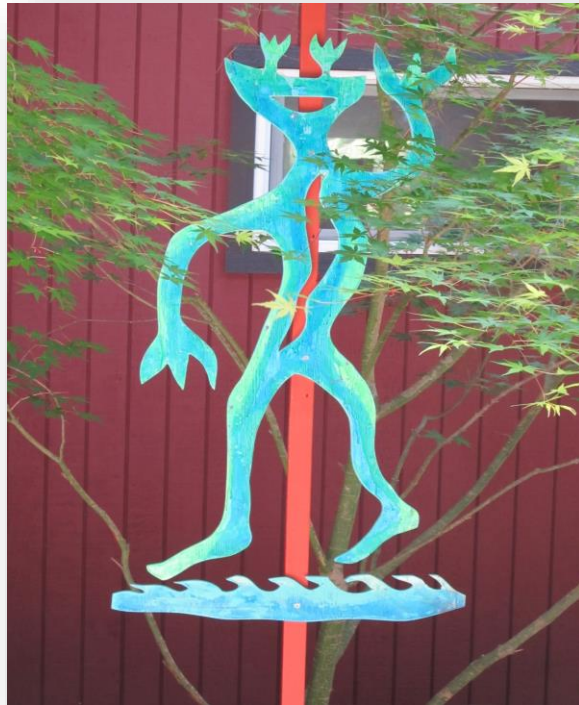
Kun/Field is the Earth Altar, autumn festivals of war and marriage, harvest, yielding, nourishing, providing for; she gives all things a form; she is gentle, receptive, welcoming; she is the earth, the world, moon, mother, the belly, wife, servants, ministers; she is the mare; she is supple, adaptable, receptive; she welcomes and consents to all; she responds and follows; she gives birth, bears fruit, provides for, serves and works. The old character shows the tree at the earth altar and two hands making sacrifice to the Ghost River. In its oldest version it is a double spiral, symbol of the primordial waters and rhythm of birth and death.



KUN is composed of TU³, earth, an earth altar (1) and SHEN, spirit, power of expression (2).



Spirit speaks and spreads joy
Dui: Open/**Joyous Dancer**



***Dui/Open* is joy, communication, self-expression**, persuading and exchanging; she is the marketplace, interacting, interpenetrating; she is an open face; she is sexual pleasure, joy, delight, satisfaction, excitement; she cheers and urges, responsive and free; she is barter, trade, speech and words. The old character shows a person, an open mouth, and the joyous words that emerge. It is the root of the word “to speak” and suggests the old spirit-mediums.



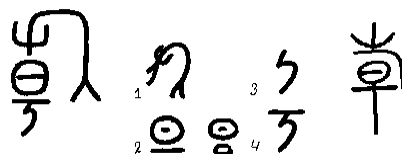
DUI shows a person (3) with an upturned face and opened mouth (1) and the words of the spirit (2) that rise from it. 4 and 5 are variants.



It awes and wars in the Heavens;
Qian: Dragon/**Inspiring Force**



***Qian*/Inspiring Force is creative energy**, the power to act and inspire; he is initiating, dynamic, enduring, the power to command, guide and rule; he is spirit, energy, action, masculine drive; he activates and animates, strong, tenacious, untiring, firm, certain; he destroys, parches and dries things up, clears away and cleans out the old. He is the rainmaker, the yang force awakening life, the abysmal waters where the sun birds bathe and the sun-tree or world tree from which they fly. He is gate to the unseen world of spirit, the dark bird who is the ancestor of dynasties, and the One, the origin, and principle of fate in all the Myriad Beings. The old character shows the graphs for sun at dawn, a three-leaved sprout and lush vegetation and energy flowing from Sky that disperses and spreads to nourish the All-Under Heaven.



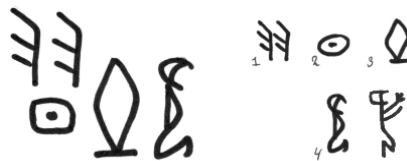
QIAN is composed of YAN³: hanging vegetation, jungle (1); DAN⁴, dawn, the sun just above the horizon (2); and YI³, vapors or breath (3, 4).



Spirit rewards those toiling in the pit
*Kan/Pit: **Ghost River, Ghost Dancer***



Kan/Repeating the Pit is danger, a hole, pit, cavity; he is a steep precipice, a snare a trap, a grave; he is streaming, rushing water, fast-flowing, dissolving and carrying things away; he is a river, the tide, in flood; he ventures, he takes risks and always comes through; he falls like water into the pit, filling it and flowing on. He is the critical time, the test, the *kairos*. He is the dark underworld waters and the ghost world. The old character shows the Earth Altar and the breath of the Ghost River beneath.



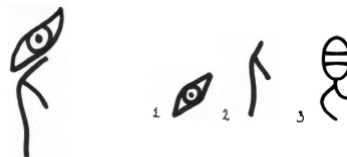
XI is composed of YU wings or flying (1) ZI a nose or RI, the sun (2). KAN is made up of TU earth (3) and QIAN (4) exhale, vapors, breath, suggesting the Ghost River beneath the Earth Altar.



Spirit words bind us to accomplish fate;
Gen/Bound/Mountain: **The Sacrificer**



Gen/Bound is stilling, stabilizing, the limit, the boundary. He is the end of a cycle, becoming an individual; he is limits and obstacles; he cuts open the sacrifice and reads the signs; he is an opponent; he is still, quiet, calm, stable, tranquil; he encloses things, marks things off, confines things, brings them to an end that is a new beginning; he reflects on the past to articulate the future; he is simple, clear, straightforward; he is the mountain as a refuge and a barrier, the temple of the Immortals; he brings things to a standstill. The old character shows the eye of the ancestor and a person turning back, focused on the past.



GÈN shows a person turned backwards and the big eye (1 and 3) of the ancestor or spirit.

Dream Animals from the Magic Mountain



Shaman in Trance



Shaman in the Ghost River

