

# The Four Pillars and the Landscapes of Change



Stephen Karcher Ph.D.



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# The Four Pillars and the Landscape of Change

**Stephen Karcher Ph.D.**

The Four Pillars Chart is one of the divinatory practices that have their roots in the great wisdom tradition of Change. The Four Pillars are the four corners of your world, four inner characters life gives you. These characters interact to shape your identity and define the playing field where your dialogue with destiny takes place. When we use the deep background of the Classic of Change, combined with the perspectives of archetypal psychology, image work and chaos and complexity theory to understand the Four Pillars, they open an old sacred cosmos that has acted as a place of close encounter with the spirit world for countless generations.



*31:32 Conjoining and Persevering* displays the process through which spirit enters and influences the human world, offering omens that, when given an enduring form, help the heart endure on the voyage of life.

This cosmos has the shape of the Numinous Turtle, swimming in the endless seas of the Way or Dao. Heaven is above, Earth and the Ghost River are below, the Sun Tree lies to the East, the Moon Tree is in the far West. The space between, spread to the Four Directions, is the world we live in, full of shrines and temples where we talk with the ghosts and spirits. This is where we are born, lead our lives, fulfill our destinies and return to the source of all.

When seen from this perspective, the Four Pillars Chart becomes a Portable Altar, doubling the ritual practices of the old sacred cosmos into its images and symbols. Its pillars take on their old nature and quality as protectors, opening

the imaginative world where your individual dialogue with destiny can take place.

Pillar/ZHU



The character shows the sign for wood or vigorous growth and the sign for a lord or master, a lamp with a flame on top. This is something fixed, firm and upright, the place where we live, existence itself. It controls, calms, retains and preserves, managing pain, shock and fatigue through its hidden strength.

### **The Heart of the Four Pillars**



28 *Great Transition* portrays the critical passage when we free ourselves from stereotypes, conventions and corrupt institutions to emerge as a true individual.

When we look deeply into the heart of the sacred cosmos the Four Pillars unfold, we can see its earliest purpose: helping us acquire the inner power and virtue to become who we are meant to be. Jung called this individuation, becoming whole, no longer the victim of cultural stereotypes or inner corruption, the histories of rage, pain, need and betrayal passed on to us in our family histories. This inner focus and goal is expressed in a key hexagram from the Classic of Change:



### **28 Great Transition**

**The old characters show the Great People and three footsteps at a crossroads, a decisive moment expressed as a mountain ridge or boundary and a closed mouth. This crisis is the inner ground that lets us connect our inner and outer lives in the truth of the Opened Heart (61).**

*Da Guo*, Great Traverses or the Great Transition is a dialogue between structure, the house and the ridgepole as the social structures that support and constrain us, and the process of becoming a true individual, a great being with an individual identity free of social conventions. It represents the initiation of a noble child through which he becomes a warrior and acquires a ritual presence and the transition to a higher class or becoming a high ranking lord. It is a passage through liminal space where structures dissolve, a re-ordering of fundamental principles. This is a matter of life and death, of letting go of the past and crossing the threshold, a crisis in life when you must stand by what you know to be true and find the power to exist independent of collective norms.

This is an Engine and Heart Theme of Change that recharges experience with meaning and energy. It is a key site on the Sacred Sickness Pathways that connect personal disorders with cultural change and the Mission of the stage of the Symbolic Life that centers on initiation and the search for an image of the deeper self.

### **The Four Pillars Chart**

Each of the Four Pillars in a chart is a combination of a Heavenly Stem that defines a channel through which spirit flows into the Pillar and an Earthly Branch or Animal that shows how it manifests. Each Branch Animal connects with a Profile that describes its field of activity and how it sees the world. These Profiles are based on the Eight Trigrams or Spirit Helpers of the I Ching. Each Branch or Animal also contains one or more Hidden Elements that connects it with the workings of the Five Processes that interconnect and circulate spirit energy in the world we live in. All of the Stems (Year, Month and Hour) are in a particular relation to the Day Stem, the center of your conscious life, based on

these Five Process connections. You develop the inner characters your Pillars represent by using these tools to visualize and imaginatively interact with them and the energies they embody.

These are the Four Pillars of a chart seen from this mythic perspective, the four characters that form the four corners of your inner world.

Year Stem: **Generational Mission**. The Generational Mission images your primary sense of “us”, your basic sense of social bonding. It is how you see yourself in the widest sense and others first see you. You can understand how it colors your experience of yourself by looking at your reactions to basic experiences in late childhood, adolescence and early adulthood.

Month Stem: **Life Manager**. The Life Manager is your “I”, your style of ordering life and doing business in the broadest sense of the word. It is your main ally in the battles of life. You can understand how it colors your experience of yourself by looking at your reactions to the parenting you received.

Day Stem: **Self Image**. This is your “Me”, your conscious image of who you are and how you do things. It is your ally in the battles of identity, the key to your conscious development. You can understand how it colors your experience of yourself by reflecting on your basic experiences in early childhood.

Hour Stem: **Hidden Face**. This is a hidden nature or energy that influences all your other stems through their hidden elements. It carries your destiny and expresses itself synchronistically. It reflects your sense of being a mature adult, your artistic desires and capabilities and your love-life.

### **The Five Processes or Elements**

These Four Pillars are created by the interaction of several complex systems of ancient images and symbols. The most fundamental system is *Wu Xing*, the Five Processes or Elements: **Wood/Wind**, **Fire**, **Earth**, **Metal** and **Water**.



### Five/WU (top character)

The old character is said to portray the two principles, yin and yang, begetting the five processes in the space between heaven and earth. Five is an organizer of life and its remarkable aspects. The space/time it creates organizes the succession and permutation of the hidden winds that produce and animate all being, grouping them around and through the Center and the Earth. This is expressed as the Five Processes, the Five Ancestral Spirits, the Five Ancestral Generations, the Five Royal Spouses, the Five Warrior Clans, the five planets reunited in the asterism of the Ghost Cart. It is also an intermediary temple and entrance to a cemetery where the dead dwell in peace and harmony.

### Process/Element/XING (bottom character)

The character shows a shape or form derived from the graph for Well, common humanity, and the shadow it cast. It represents embodied form, sensory appearance, the perceptible form of the shen or spirits and means to give form to or embody something. It is directly connected to the hidden winds and their essence energies, the configuration of body that reveals the inner energy it hides and the wind or breath that renews it. It means visage, figure, physiognomy, configuration, terrain or situation, method and means, to appear and take form.

## Wood/Wind

### Rousing new growth springs up and opens out.

Wood/Wind signifies growth, budding, outward movement and expansion, springing up and opening out. It is origins, beginnings, the initial burst of energy and the rising sap, impulsive, vital, activating, enlivening and free flowing, keen and fresh. Its action is to push through, like plants as they push up into the light. It governs the capacity to respond and adapt, stimulating mind and emotion.



## Wood/MU

The Wood character shows young sprouts emerging and their roots penetrating the ground. These sprouts are the hidden triggers of change, like the Tree at the Earth Altar, protector of the land, and the World Tree or Bushy Mulberry, They are all things that sprout and grow, sign of the fertile chaos at the center of life.

## Fire Process

**Brightness and warmth spread beauty and change awareness.**

Fire is burning and combustion, warmth and light, joy and luxuriant growth, the glow, climax or zenith. It brings ease and accomplishment, joy, happiness, expansive feeling, upward movement and excitement. It expresses itself in the body as the Heart, seat of the spirit that commands the blood and energy channels, nourishing, invigorating and bringing the spark of life to full growth.



### Fire/HO

The Fire character shows flames rising from a ritual base. Meanings of the character include flame, fire, lighting a fire; fire offerings and rituals; to cook, clarify, illuminate, burn, consume or transform by fire; expansion, inflammation; an originating inspiration, motor of the work, the spark of yang, the essence of breath; fever, anger, passions, pressing, urgent; companions, associates; a utensil or instrument.

## Earth Process

**Yield and serve, common labor produces concrete results.**

Earth is the center, the pivot of transformation in the alternation of yin and yang, and the point around which the seasons and directions revolve and through which they change. Her action is yielding and bringing forth, sowing, sprouting and harvesting. She transforms and distributes nourishment to assure a free flow of thought.



## Earth TU

The character shows a tree and the ground from which it grows. Meanings of the character include the ancestral protector of the land that controls the four directions with their hidden winds through which spirit energies enter the world we live in; soil, cultivated fields, mounted soldiers and hunting grounds.

## Metal Process

**Destroying old forms and creating new relations.**

Metal is ore in the earth, gemstones and the melting, casting and working of metals. This is concentration and crystallization, insight and thought that restrains things into forms then strips away the mold. Metal is an interface that draws energy in and distributes it down, regulating the rhythms of life.



## Metal JIN

The character shows a cast bronze vessel and bronze weapons. Its meanings include all forms of metal; bronze, bronze vessels, making bronze vessels; a standard or flag; valuable (ores, gems), precious; metal instruments, military gongs; solid, durable, resistant; money, gold, riches; transmutation, alchemical processes, alchemical lead; a state of perfection. Metal is long in the earth, unalterable, workable and malleable and does not lose its strength.

## Water Process

**Structures dissolve and you must risk, fall, labor and flow on.**

Water dissolves structures. It is streams, floods, rivers and all moving water; the flow of emotion and the underworld river of ghosts, secret, dark, mysterious; hidden depths and secret sources, cold and lonely toiling. It pushes the being to actualize its potential, holds individual fate, stores and maintains the blood and regulates the body fluids.



### **Water SHUI**

The character shows rivulets running side by side with the imperceptible yang breath in the center. Meanings include the source of a river; waters, springs, lakes, seas, rain; strong currents, inundation; deep attraction, to receive heavenly favor; liquid metabolism, the vital continuity of the body; a measure of unity, quality, worth; efficacious virtue that expands and vivifies; supple, tender; yield, give way; a low condition, many worries.

### **The Five Process Families**

These five elemental processes interact with each other in specific ways. Each Process has a Parent, a Child, a Grandchild, a Sibling and a Grandparent and each of these relations governs an area of your life.

- The Parent nourishes the Process in question. This relation influences the flow of **Resource**, of love, support and opportunity. The flow of Resource can be Primary/Unconditional or Inconsistent/Conditional.
- The Child is nurtured by the Process in question. This relation influences the power of **Expression**, which can be either Proper and balanced or Powerful, aggressive and abrasive.
- The Grandchild enriches the Process in question. This relation influences the flow of **Wealth** and the success of finances, planning and organization. This flow of Wealth can be either Primary, steady and assured, or Dynamic, difficult, volatile and slippery.
- The Sibling supports the Process in question. This flow of **Support**, help and assistance can come from Friends of like kind or both Friends and Competitors or seeming enemies.
- The Grandparent controls, restrains and releases the Process in question. This relation influences the use of **Power**. The expression of Power can be Proper, balanced and responsible, or Aggressive, assertive, insensitive and selfish.

### **The Ten Heavenly Stems**

The system of the Ten Heavenly Stems articulates the Five Processes and their families by connecting them with the primal energies of yin and yang form.

Stem/JING



The character is made of the graph for grass and the graph for a model or norm put in practice, seen as an underground current or wind waves on water. It means a direct route, expedient means, direct, simple. It is traveling or voyaging on a north-south path through a defile, gorge or mountain pass.

The Ten Stems were seen as ten heavenly Ancestors or Royal Lineages from which humanity and culture arose. The system portrays these spirit energies as contained in Five Star Palaces connected with the sacred cosmos of the overarching Heavens, the Flat Earth spread to the Four Sides below them and the Ghost River running beneath all.

**The Palace of the Azure Dragon**

Yang **Wood**: Spring/Seedburst

Yin **Wood**: Spring/Sprout

	Parent Nourishes <i>Resource</i>	Child Is nurtured <i>Expression</i>	Grandchild Enriches <i>Wealth</i>	Sibling Helps <i>Support</i>	Grandparent Controls <i>Power</i>
<b>Wood</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Fire</b>	<b>Earth</b>	<b>Wood</b>	<b>Metal</b>

**The Palace of the Vermillion Bird**

Yang **Fire**: Summer/Brilliance

Yin **Fire**: Summer/Force

	Parent Nourishes <i>Resource</i>	Child Is nurtured <i>Expression</i>	Grandchild Enriches <i>Wealth</i>	Sibling Helps <i>Support</i>	Grandparent Controls <i>Power</i>
<b>Fire</b>	<b>Wood</b>	<b>Earth</b>	<b>Metal</b>	<b>Fire</b>	<b>Water</b>

**The Palace of the Yellow Dragon**

Yang **Earth**: Center/Central Palace  
 Yin **Earth**: Center/Desires and Passions

	Parent Nourishes <i>Resource</i>	Child Is nurtured <i>Expression</i>	Grandchild Enriches <i>Wealth</i>	Sibling Helps <i>Support</i>	Grandparent Controls <i>Power</i>
<b>Earth</b>	<b>Fire</b>	<b>Metal</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Earth</b>	<b>Wood</b>

**The Palace of the White Tiger**

Yang **Metal**: Fall/Transmission  
 Yin **Metal**: Fall/Sacrifice

	Parent Nourishes <i>Resource</i>	Child Is nurtured <i>Expression</i>	Grandchild Enriches <i>Wealth</i>	Sibling Helps <i>Support</i>	Grandparent Controls <i>Power</i>
<b>Metal</b>	<b>Earth</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Wood</b>	<b>Metal</b>	<b>Fire</b>

**The Palace of the Black Tortoise**

Yang **Water**: Winter/Conception  
 Yin **Water**: Winter/Limits

	Parent Nourishes <i>Resource</i>	Child Is nurtured <i>Expression</i>	Grandchild Enriches <i>Wealth</i>	Sibling Helps <i>Support</i>	Grandparent Controls <i>Power</i>
<b>Water</b>	<b>Metal</b>	<b>Wood</b>	<b>Fire</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Earth</b>

**The Four Directions and the Field of Earth**

The Ten Heavenly Stems intersect with another basic energy system called the Four Sides or Four Directions to frame the world of space we live in. They are the basis of the Four Pillars.



Four/SI (top character)

The old character shows the square field of earth divided into two halves. It carries out the yin process of doubling and pairing, creating the four territories or regions around the center, the four winds or hidden virtues of earth that make the four directions appear, the four spirit protectors of the life of the land that assist the Great Ancestor, the four seasons and the four pillars. It means all, everything connected with the power of Earth and the yin.

Directions/Sides/Powers/FANG (bottom character)

The old character shows an agricultural instrument, a plow or cultivator that opens the earth and establishes lines or furrows in its surface. It establishes all the regions and places, the orientations and cardinal points and the sacrifices to the four directions. It means a goal, purpose or intention, a campaign to annex and occupy territory, a medical or therapeutic formula, special abilities, rights, justice, virtues and fixed rules. It is what is stable and dependable, constant, continual, regular, peaceful. It is the means and the expedient method, the right moment to act. It examines, judges, compares, makes categories and distinctions and governs arts and letters, a complete and harmonious song, chant or poem, the first stage in the revelation of the Mystery.

Direction	Season	Process	Profiles	Pillar
East	Spring	Wood	Groundbreaker Matchmaker	Generational Mission
South	Summer	Fire	Visionary	Self Image
West	Fall	Metal	Creator Mediator	Life Manager
North	Winter	Water	Navigator	Hidden Face
Center	Transitions	Earth	Midwife Gatekeeper	Field

The Hidden Winds or breaths of these Four Directions circulate the energy of the Ten Heavenly Stems through the inner and outer worlds of our experience.

Winds/FENG



The oldest form of the character portrays a phoenix, the divine bird-spirit that animates and controls the winds and their hidden breath, subtle, mysterious, and enigmatic powers that cause things to vibrate in accord with the hidden power and influence of the ancient sages. A wind is a style, ambiance, attitude and allure, costumes and customs, reputation and renown, rumor, news and gossip. It can bring sudden folly, madness and derangement, an evil that spreads rapidly. It is connected with Wood, the Liver, the East and amorous pursuit.

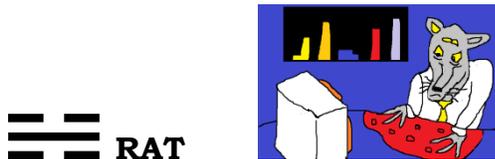
## The Twelve Earthly Branches

The Twelve Earthly Branches or Animals show how the Heavenly Influences and the Hidden Winds are embodied in the flow of time and space. The Branch Animals connect the Four Pillars with the trigrams of the Classic of Change and with the Profiles that describe their characteristic energies and activities.

Branch/ZHI



The old character shows a hand holding a branch. It is part of the circulation of vital energy and also refers to the 12 double hours, each described as an animal, that make up the Chinese clock. It means to support, carry, maintain, measure, furnish, endure, dispense, count or separate from. It is the branch of a tree or a river and the branch of a family, its descendents.



**Profile: Intuitive Navigator.**

**Year Influence:** The Rat gives you the foresight to plan, invest wisely, overcome obstacles and relate to people in all walks of life without being duped. Rat is the ultimate survivor.

**Hour: Midnight/Commencement 11pm-1 am.** Kidneys/Water/Winter. This is the entrance to the night world. The Rat gathers the life force and pushes the organism to actualize potential. He controls the flow of emotions, particularly courage and fear and transforms essence into available energy for the long journey ahead.

**Indicator: Establishing.** Set things up, generate interest. This is a time for new ventures, business deals, short journeys, barter and travel. Avoid long journeys by sea and air, heavy work in the earth and opening hidden stores or treasures.



**Profile: Perceptive Midwife**

**Year Influence:** The Ox gives you the strength to work hard, value family, accomplish things for the common good and succeed through caring for others.

**Hour: Cockcrow/Closure 1am-3am.** Stomach/Spleen/Earth/Transition. This is the seed's struggle to break out and sprout. It is a transition from the dark flow of Water to the emerging force of Wood. The Ox stabilizes and transforms nourishment, governs the free flow of ideas, controls and protects central energy.

**Indicator: Discarding.** Sweep away evil, wash and bathe, address health concerns, be physically active. Do not arrange weddings or conferences, travel, open wells or storehouses.



**Profile: Groundbreaker**

**Year Influence:** The Tiger gives you the creative power that separates you from conventional ideas and the talent to impress others, gather friends, and relate well to different types of people.

**Hour: Early Dawn/Establishing 3am-5am.** Liver/Wood/Early Spring. This is driving energy breaking free and the onset of dreaming. Tiger governs flow of energy and emotion, purifies the blood, links eyes and sexual organs, desire and anger, vision and motivation, giving the capacity to act decisively.

**Indicator: Full.** Heaven has filled the treasuries. Organize weddings, conferences, meetings and journeys. Do not cut into the earth, plant or try to open clogged pathways.



**Profile: Matchmaker**

**Year Influence:** the Hare gives you the grace to be kind, gentle, soft-spoken and adaptable along with the potential to succeed in any type of undertaking and environment.

**Hour: Sunrise/Dividing 5am-7am.** Liver/Wood/Full Spring. This is effortless growth in magical spring light, linking the dream time to waking life. The Hare assures the free flow of energy and emotion, purifies the blood, links eyes and sexual organs, vision and motivation, giving the capacity to act decisively.

**Indicator: Apportioning/Gather and Divide.** Go through with things already planned - weddings, conferences, major moves. Do not start things. Sit back and take stock, cultivate the Way. Avoid planning, excavating and trying to open clogged passages.



## DRAGON



### **Profile: Perceptive Creator**

**Year Influence:** The Dragon adds intensity, drama and excitement to life. He gives you the ability to plan, work hard and complete projects. He assures success.

**Hour: Mealtime/Filling 7am-9am.** Lungs/Skin/Fall/Metal/Spring to summer. This is vigorous expansion, creative energy moving into the day life. Dragon regulates the rhythm of life, dispersing energy and connecting the surface with the central nervous system, sexual stimulation and the power of inner images.

**Indicator: Arranging.** Everyone has been placed correctly. There is great abundance. Dig into the ground, plant new things, open the well. Keep busy and do not accuse others.



## SNAKE



### **Profile: Intuitive Visionary**

**Year Influence:** The Snake gives you the patience, intuition and understanding of the human psyche that can turn you into a dynamic leader who succeeds in all.

**Hour: Middle Angle/Equalizing 9 am-11 am.** Heart/Fire/Summer. This is the moment when plants complete their growth and vigor and power turn inward. Snake commands the pathways of the blood, brings the spark of life and offers a quiet center in which the spirits find a voice.

**Indicator: Grasping it.** Heaven bestows blessings. Arrange weddings, cut into things, plant new crops, open the wells. Do not travel, make a major move or open the storehouses. Stay in and get the work done.



## HORSE



### **Profile: Instinctive Visionary**

**Year Influence:** The Horse gives you uncanny awareness, enabling you to recognize opportunity and avoid danger, along with an adventuresome spirit, a dash of daring, and the inner joy to be popular and well liked.

**Hour: Midday/Fixing 11 am- 1pm.** Heart/Fire/Summer. This is a moment when the sun is strongest and plants reach full maturity, the apex of the day life, bright, open and cheerful. Horse commands the pathways of the blood, brings the spark of life and offers a quiet center in which the spirits find a voice.

**Indicator: Ruin.** Potential for serious conflicts, face to face arguments and quarrels. Avoid discord and punish criminals. Even better, go fishing.

☰ ☷  
**GOAT**



**Profile: Inventive Midwife**

**Year Influence:** The Goat will make you artistic, inventively creative and peaceful. She gives you the ability to help people solve their problems without fault-finding or judgment.

**Hour: Sun Declines/Regulating 1 pm-3 pm.** Stomach/Spleen/Earth/Transition. This is a transition from Fire energy to Metal energy, when things take their final form. Plants ripen and all is peaceful and assured. Sheep stabilizes and transforms nourishment, governs the free flow of ideas, controls and protects central energy.

**Indicator: Danger.** A dangerous mountain, with fierce winds all around. Avoid the perils. Walk away, for nothing else will work. Be joyous and drink wine.

☰  
**MONKEY**



**Profile: Inventive Creator**

**Year Influence:** The Monkey gives you the ability to succeed in variety of occupations and be a dynamic salesman, witty, charming and highly inventive.

**Hour: Breaking in/Digesting 3 pm- 5 pm.** Lungs/Skin/Metal/Summer to Fall. This is the moment when crops are ready and the harvest is prepared. Monkey regulates the rhythm of life, disperses energy and connects the surface with the central nervous system, sexual stimulation and the power of inner images.

**Indicator: Completing.** The lives of the Ten Thousand Things are all in Heaven's annals. Arrange weddings, great activities, long journeys, significant meetings. Dig deep and do not slander others.

☰  
**ROOSTER**



**Profile: Mediator**

**Year Influence:** The Rooster gives you strong will, determination, the ability to handle money well, be skeptical or suspicious when necessary, and work hard to achieve success.

**Hour: Sunset/Danger Passing 5 pm-7 pm.** Lungs/Skin/Metal/ Full Autumn. This is a moment of harvest, prosperity and responsibility, the fruition of the day life. Rooster regulates rhythm of life, disperses energy and connects the surface with central nervous system, sexual stimulation and the power of inner images.

**Indicator: Acceptance.** Heaven's blessings have been received. Open the granaries, trade and barter, arrange weddings, cultivate the earth, embark on a course of study, think deeply, learn a skill. Avoid travel, funerals and doctors.

☰ DOG



**Profile: Gatekeeper**

**Year Influence:** The Dog gives you the ability to be loyal and true, a fighter and survivor guided by high moral principles who can determine what is feasible.

**Hour: Yellow Dusk/Perfecting 7 pm-9pm.** Stomach/Spleen/Earth/ Transition. This is the transition from the forms of metal to the dark flow of water, when plants disintegrate and the night life is prepared. Dog stabilizes and transforms nourishment, governs the free flow of ideas, controls and protects central energy.

**Indicator: Opening.** You are out of danger; the illness has passed. Complete the deals, arrange the weddings, send the messages, learn a craft, practice music and painting and set off on your travels. Avoid funerals, burials and heavy work.

☷ BOAR



**Profile: Instinctive Navigator**

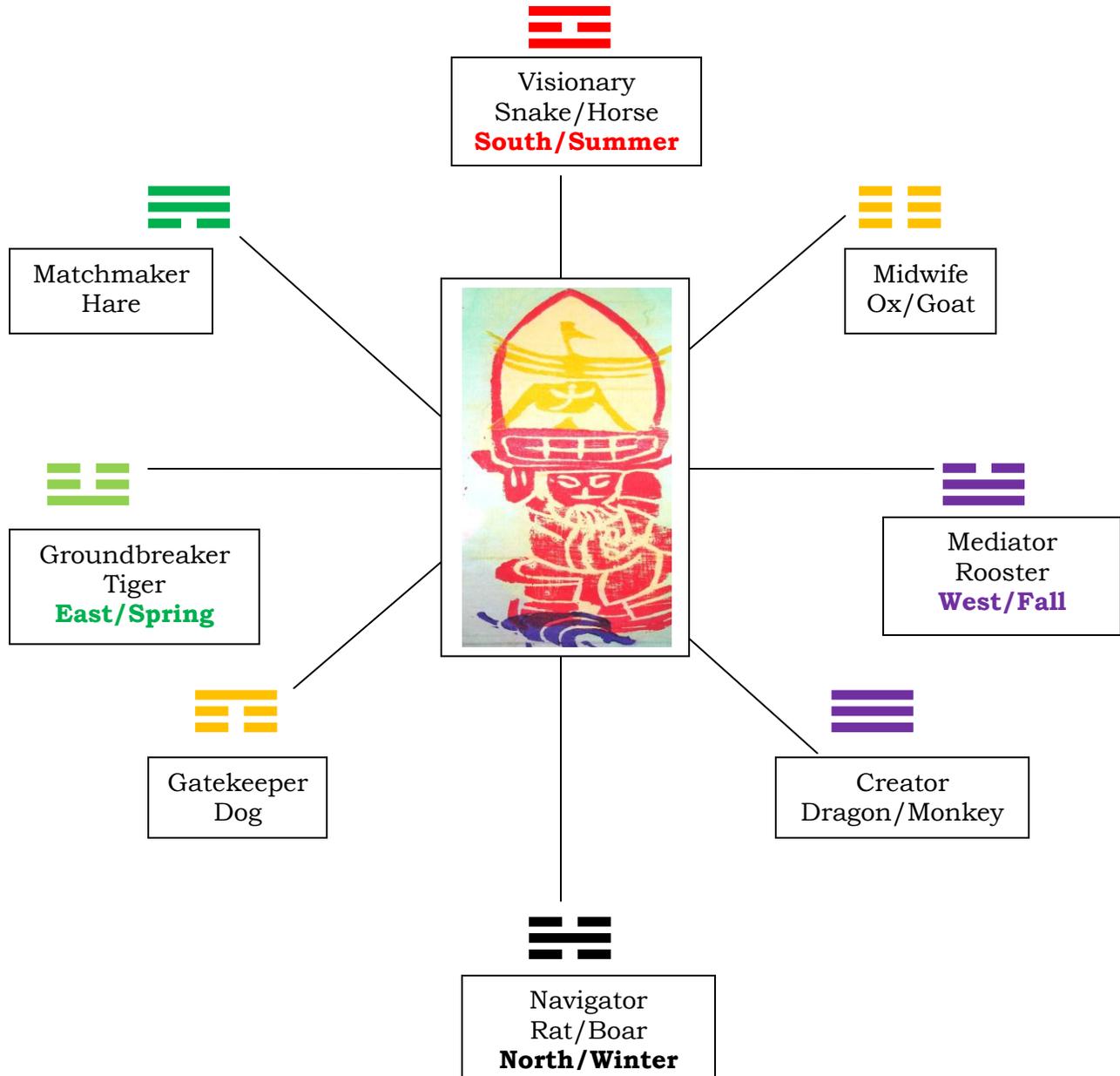
**Year Influence:** The Boar gives you natural sensitivity and creativity, the knack of enjoying life, sharing easily with others, finding contentment in a faith that people can overcome all obstacles through correct guidance and nurturing.

**Hour: Reposing/Receiving 9 pm - 11 pm.** Kidneys/Water/ Early Winter. This is a moment when earth is at rest and the night life awaits. Boar conserves life and transforms experience into available energy, controlling the flow of emotions, particularly courage and fear.

**Indicator: Shut.** This is the time of burials and concealment. Set up memorials, save and hoard resources, deal with your correspondence, begin a regime, advertise future events.

## The Later Heaven or Facilitating Cycle of the Trigrams

Energetic movement in the Four Pillars is based on the King Wen or Later Heaven Sequence of the Eight Trigrams or Spirit Helpers. This sequence is process-oriented. It portrays a world in constant action and interaction with no inner symmetry or fixed mathematical logic and was used by analysts, strategy planners, working diviners and medical practitioners. It offers a flow chart of the world of experience that helps us see into fluid situations in depth.



## **The Friendship of the Spirit**

Connecting the Four Pillars Chart to the wisdom tradition of Change shifts us from the world of concepts and literal predictions to the potent world of psycho-active symbols that lies behind it. It opens the way to a dialogue with what has been called the Spirit Helpers. The individual experience of these helping spirits can make you sage and clear-seeing, able to feel the friendship of the spirit and express compassion for fellow humans.

This way responds directly to our individual concerns, offering protection, insight and self-realization. In following this way of using the Four Pillars, we are imitating the early spirit-intermediaries who could see and hear what is hidden, giving the bright spirits and the dark ghosts what is due to them. This kind of imaginative generosity causes a radiant spirit, the light of our destiny, to descend on us and take up a home in our hearts. The inner chapters of an early Daoist text (c. 400 BCE) give us a sense of this practice:

When your life-energy is put on the Way,  
It vitalizes you.  
When you are vitalized, you can imagine.  
When you imagine, you truly know.  
When you know, you stop.  
The hearts of all beings are shaped like this.  
If your thirst for knowing seeks to go farther,  
You will kill them.

There is a limit to knowing in the true sense and that limit is imagination. This way of working with ourselves puts us on the Way, vitalizes our imagining and opens our heart - and that is enough.

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

# The Energetic Functions of the Four Pillars

## First Pillar: Year



### Generational Mission

The Generational Mission is your primary sense of “us”, your first social bonding. It is how you see yourself and others see you. You can see how it is formed by looking at your reactions to experiences in late childhood, adolescence and early adulthood.

The Year Stem is connected with Spring, the moment when vegetation revives and things are put in motion; with Wood that governs the capacity to respond and adapt; and with the East Wind that disseminates the new and dissipates the old. It is associated with the Sensation Function and enters the world through Hexagram 1 the Dragon Gate, connecting you with creative force.

Year/NIAN



The old character shows the graph for grain over the graph for person or people. Later it included the character for thousand, the thousand grains and the ten thousand or myriad beings. It is a year, an age, a period in one’s life, a period in history. Its basic meanings are harvest, the annual crop, and the years of your life. Its hidden root shows a pestle, suggesting both grinding grain and the grinding force of collective destiny.

## Year Pillar Functions



### **Season/Spring** (first two characters from bottom)

Season/LING

The old character shows a person kneeling beneath a great bronze bell, used to call the energy of the seasons. It is a command, cause, order or decree; something excellent, honorable, full of power and virtue; to listen and receive permission.

Spring/CHUN

The old character shows the bushy mulberry tree or world tree, and the graph for sun. It is the moment when vegetation revives and things are put in motion, it connects with wood, the liver, the east and sunrise and includes the meanings vitality, love, lust, amorous desire, gay, wanton.

### **Process: Wood**

Wood is growth, budding, outward movement and expansion, springing up and opening out. It is origins, beginnings, the initial burst of energy and rising sap – impulsive, vital, activating, enlivening and free flowing, keen and fresh. Its action is to push through, like plants as they push up into the light. It governs the capacity to respond and adapt, stimulating mind and emotion. The task of the Wood Type is learning to control anger and channel it into positive work that benefits all.

**Direction: East/Hidden Wind** (third and fourth characters from bottom)

East/DONG

The old character shows the sun appearing above the horizon, shining through the tops of the trees. It is connected with spring, Wood, the liver and the color blue-green. It means to put things into motion, the surging appearance of new life, excitement, the vital movement of all beings, the master of the house.

East Wind/XI

The spirit of the East Wind is called Xi. The character shows the graph for wood and the graph for an ax. It means to chop wood, to divide things, to analyze, explain and judge. It disseminates the new and dissipates the old, resolving conflicts and eliminating old patterns.

### **Spirit Helpers:**



**The Groundbreaker – challenge, inspire, invigorate.**

**Zhen/Thunder** is the Groundbreaker and Exorcist, rousing energy that brings things out of concealment. His function is to eliminate old patterns and open the field to new creative energy. He clears the feeling function, releasing people from painful memories.



**The Matchmaker – find, explain, release, awaken.**

**Sun/ Penetrating** is the Matchmaker and Analyzer who enters from below to find the disorders that block emerging energy and connect people with their destiny. Her function is to eliminate hidden sickness and awaken inner wisdom.

### **Five Process Portrait**

The **Generational Mission** embodies **Spring/Wood/Wind** energy that rouses new growth.

- It is nourished by the **Winter/Water** energy of the **Hidden Face** (Hour) that finds the seed of the new by dissolving the old.
- It acquires power and focus through the **Fall/Metal** energy of the **Life Manager** (Month) that harvests and gathers the insights of life.
- It makes its wealth available through the **Earth** energy of the **Center** that facilitates seasonal and elemental transitions.

### **Cultural Cycle: Enter the Dragon**

As the time of the **Generational Mission** comes to a close, its task is to give birth to the **Self Image** and the energies of **Summer/Fire** that can ripen the fruits of individual identity. To do this it draws on **Metal** and the power of the **Creator/Dragon** hidden in the **Earth** to disentangle the beings it has engendered from the ghosts of the past (25 Disentangling) and couple them with their new fates (44 Coupling).

## Month Pillar



## Life Manager

The Life Manager is your “I”, your sense of ordering life and doing business. It is your main ally in the battles of life. You can see how it is formed by looking at your reactions to the parenting you received.

The Month Stem is connected with Fall, harvest, labor and agility at the critical moment; with Metal, the insight and thought that creates inner space and regulates the life rhythms; and with the West Wind that brings decline, descent and return. It is associated with the Thinking function and controls the flow of the river of life and death through Hexagram 63 Already Fording, letting you cooperate with the ongoing process of change.

Month/YUE



The old character shows the graph for moon, which also suggests a boat and a journey by water. It means, the moon, a lunar month, the spiraling path of the moon and the menstrual cycle. It is the process of yin, the realizing power, as it waxes and wanes.

## Month Pillar Functions



### **Season/Fall** (first two characters from bottom)

Season/LING

The old character shows a person kneeling beneath a great bronze bell, used to call the energy of the seasons. It is a command, cause, order or decree; something excellent, honorable, full of power and virtue; to listen and receive permission.

Fall/QIU

The old character shows the graphs for grain and for fire, the color of the ripened grain and burning the stubble in the fields. It is connected with metal, the lungs and the harvest, a period of labor. Its image is the flight of the swallows, agility and quick movement at the critical moment. Its feelings are sadness and melancholy, the decline of life.

### **Process: Metal**

Metal is ore in the earth, gemstones, and the melting, casting and working of metals. This is concentration and crystallization, insight and thought that restrains things into forms, like casting molten metal, then strips away the mold. Metal is an interface that draws energy in and distributes it down, regulating the rhythms of life. The task for a Metal type is learn how to express grief and find healing.

**Direction: West/Hidden Wind** (third and fourth characters from bottom)

West/XI

The old character is the image of a bird sitting on its nest, for birds go to roost when the sun sets. It is connected with sunset, metal, the lungs, and the color white. It is the sun in decline, descent and return.

West Wind/YI

The spirit of the West Wind is called Yi. The old character shows a man and the path of many arrows, alluding to the archaic hero Yi the Archer who shot down the ten suns that were threatening to burn the earth. Its meanings include to obscure or be wounded, a sacrifice of birds who were drowned, barbarians, strangers, common, banal, to destroy, raze, eliminate the false, to expose a coffin or a corpse, what is eternal and invariable, to be calm, tranquil, to rejoice, an infinite flat plane with no visible forms.

### **Spirit Helpers:**



**The Creator – create, imagine, empowering images.**

**Qian, Heaven/Dragon** is the Creator who challenges people to grapple with their creative spirit. His function is to be a source of tireless transformative power and dynamic, inspiring images.



**The Mediator – connect, express, liberate.**

**Dui, Mists/Lake**, is the Mediator and Communicator, the expressive spirit of the inner life. Her function is to join people together by expressing the spirit in the human community, giving answers that cheer and inspire.

### **Five Process Portrait**

The **Life Manager** embodies the energy of **Fall/Metal** that harvests the crop and gathers the insights life offers.

- It is nourished by the **Center** and the energy of **Earth** that facilitates all important transitions.
- It acquires power and focus through the **Self Image** (Day) and the energies of **Summer/Fire** that ripen the fruits of individual identity.
- It makes its wealth available through the **Generational Mission** (Year) and the energies of **Spring/Wood** that rouse new growth.

### **In the Cultural Cycle: Shaman of the Shadows**

As the time of the **Life Manager** comes to a close, it must give birth to the **Hidden Face** (Hour) and the energies of **Winter/Water** that can find the seed of the new by grinding away the old. To do this it must draw the power of **Fire** and the **Visionary** down into the **Earth** to revision what has been cast out of the Dwelling (38 Fire above Lake) and melt away the outmoded forms of culture this repression has created (49 Fire in the Lake).

## Third Pillar: Day

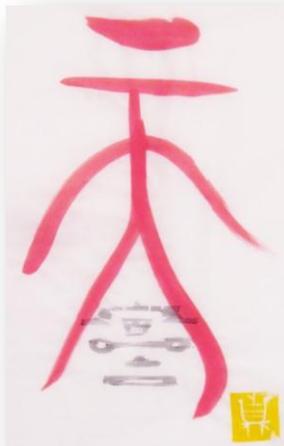


### Self Image

Day Stem: **Self-Image**. This is your “Me”, your conscious image of who you are and how you do things. It is your ally in the battles of identity. You can see how it is formed by reflecting on your experiences in early childhood. The strength or weakness of your Self Image is a key to your conscious development.

The Day Stem is connected with Summer that ripens the fruits, spacious, abundant and multicolored; with Fire that nourishes, invigorates and brings the spark of life to full growth; and with the South Wind, that spreads the heat and abundance of life and gathers the people. It is associated with the Feeling function and enters the world through the Hexagram 2 the Earth Gate, bringing everything what it needs to flourish.

Day/TIAN



The old character shows a person with a head filled with spirit, the spirit of Heaven and the Dragon. It means day, sky and heaven, the power that regulates the seasons, the times and the climate of things. It bestows the innate nature and power of each thing, what is great, celestial, divine and spontaneous, perfect yang power.

## Day Pillar Functions



### **Season/Summer** (first two characters from bottom)

Season/LING

The old character shows a person kneeling beneath a great bronze bell, used to call the energy of the seasons. It is a command, cause, order or decree; something excellent, honorable, full of power and virtue; to listen and receive permission.

Summer/XIA

The old character shows a head, a person, and the graph for to walk slowly. It is a picture of the peasants walking slowly in the summer heat, waiting for the grain to ripen. It is connected to fire, the heart and the color red. It means grand, great, vast, spacious, abundant and multicolored. It is a sign for a minister of arms, the middle kingdom, China and the Chinese language and refers to the Han Dynasty, the first imperial state.

### **Process: Fire**

Fire is burning and combustion, warmth and light, joy and luxuriant growth, the glow, climax or zenith. It brings ease and accomplishment, joy, happiness, expansive feeling, upward movement and excitement. It expresses itself in the

body as the Heart, seat of the spirit that commands the blood and energy channels, nourishing, invigorating and bringing the spark of life to full growth. The task of a Fire type is to share joy and laughter without thought of reward.

**Direction: South/Hidden Wind** (third and fourth characters from bottom)  
South/NAN

The old character shows a hanging brass percussion instrument used to spread the news and gather the people. It is connected with summer, Fire and the color red. It is the heat and abundance of life, deployment and profusion, exuberant, luxuriant vegetation.

South Wind/YIN

The spirit of the South Wind is called Yin. The old character shows a person lying on a bed or mattress that suggests relying on the original cause of things. Its meanings include to follow or conform to, to follow nature, to found yourself on realities, to profit from, the fundamental cause of things, the reason or motive, something that is a given, a marriage.

### **Spirit Helpers:**



**The Visionary – clarify, energize, support.**

**Li/ Bright Omens** is the Leader. Her function is to reveal new possibilities, leading through beauty, elegance and the clarity that brings people together.

### **Five Process Portrait**

The **Self Image** embodies the energies of **Summer/Fire** that ripen the fruits of individual identity.

- It is nourished by the **Generational Mission** and the energies of **Spring/Wood** that rouse new growth.
- It acquires power and focus through the **Hidden Face** (Hour) and the energies of **Winter/Water** that find the seed of the new by grinding away the old.
- It makes its wealth available through the **Life Manager** (Month) and the energies of **Fall/Metal** that harvest and gather the insights of life.

### **In the Cultural Cycle: Ghost Dancer**

As the time of the **Self Image** comes to a close, it must give birth to the energy of **Earth** and the **Center** that facilitates all important transitions. To do this it must draw up and unite with the power of **Water** and the **Navigator**, creating the inner Fire-Water Axis of Change (63:64 Burning Water) that individualizes ancestral energies.

## Fourth Pillar: Hour



### Hidden Face

Hour Stem: **Hidden Face**. This is a hidden nature or energy that influences all your other stems through their hidden elements. It carries your destiny and expresses itself synchronistically, reflecting mature adulthood, artistic desires and love-life.

The Hour Stem is connected with Winter, finding the seed of the new by grinding away the old; with Water, the flow of emotion and the underworld river of souls; and with the North Wind and profound yin, the great reserves hidden in the ferment of life. It is association with the Intuition function and works with the river of life and death through Hexagram 64 Not Yet Crossing, carefully preparing the decisive new move.

Hour/SHI



The old character shows the graph for day (a hand and a mouth) and the graph for temple, a seat of inner power that guards and conserves. It represents a double hour in the Chinese clock, each of which is identified with one of the Twelve Branch Animals. It represents a hidden trigger, a chance or opportunity, a favorable moment when things transform and the efficacious strategy that comes from watching the spirit of the time and adapting to circumstances.

## Hour Pillar Functions



### **Season/Winter** (first two characters from bottom)

Season/LING

The old character shows a person kneeling beneath a great bronze bell, used to call the energy of the seasons. It is a command, cause, order or decree; something excellent, honorable, full of power and virtue; to listen and receive permission.

Winter/DONG

The old characters show ice and a pair of legs with the heels (the ends) walking carefully or a rope with knots at both ends. It means winter, hibernation, the end, day is done, the close of the seasonal cycle, a happy death, and something endless. It is connected to water, the kidneys and the color black.

### **Process: Water**

Water dissolves structures. It is streams, floods, rivers and all moving water, the flow of emotion and the underworld river of ghosts, secret, dark, mysterious; hidden depths and secret sources, cold and lonely toiling. It pushes the being to actualize its potential, holds individual fate, stores and

maintains the blood and regulates the body fluids. The task for a Water type is to overcome fear and become an active participant in life.

**Direction: North/Hidden Wind** (third and fourth characters from bottom)  
North/BEI

The old character shows back to back, turning their backs to each other and going into seclusion. It is connected to winter, the kidneys, the color black and the taste of salt. It is what is obscure, profound yin, and means exile, defeat, rupture of communications as well as the great reserves hidden in the ferment of life.

North Wind/YUAN

The spirit that controls the North Wind is called Yuan. The old character shows a person returning to the source or resting place, and the ceaseless flow of the Ghost River or River of Souls.

### **Spirit Helpers:**

 **The Navigator – risk, venture, toil.**

**Kan/Ghost River** is the Navigator who dissolves all things and streams on. His function is to control the flow, inspiring the courage and labor necessary at a critical time.

#### **Five Process Portrait**

The **Hidden Face** (Hour) has the energies of **Winter/Water** that find the seed of the new by grinding away the old.

- It is nourished by the **Life Manager** (Month) and the energies of **Fall/Metal** that harvest and gather the insights of life.
- It acquires power and focus through the **Center** and the energy of **Earth** that facilitates all important transitions.
- It makes its wealth available through the **Self Image** and the energies of **Summer/Fire** that ripen the fruits of individual identity.

#### **In the Cultural Cycle: Dark Animal Goddess**

As the time of the Hidden face comes to a close, it must give birth to the **Generational Mission** and the energies of **Spring/Wood** that rouse new growth. To do this it must draw on the power of **Earth** and the **Midwife** to assemble and organize the hidden powers of change (7 Ghost River beneath Earth) that regroup basic processes of thought and feelings of spiritual kinship (8 Ghost River above Earth).

## Center Functions

Center defines the playing field of Earth that interconnects the Four Pillars and enables their transformations.



**Season/Center** first and second characters from bottom):

Season/LING

The old character shows a person kneeling beneath a great bronze bell, used to call the energy of the seasons. It is a command, cause, order or decree; something excellent, honorable, full of power and virtue; to listen and receive permission.

Center/ZHONG

The old character shows a square field with a line going through the middle, drawn as a continuous line. It is a banner at the center of the square field of earth, a ceremony that controls the hidden winds, an ancestral altar and is connected with the night of the autumn equinox. It means the middle, the interior of all things, to interiorize, inner spirit, the depth of the heart, an individual; to concentrate forces, to catch and hold, touch deeply, connect and join; to make use of, by means of, efficacious; prosperous, luxuriant; equity, justice, a harmonizing influx. The center roots and supports vital force, an inner equilibrium the controls the permutations of the hidden winds. It is a non localized space between Heaven and Earth that allows the myriad beings to appear and the place in space and time that supports them, the central axis of conduct.

### **Process: Earth**

Earth is the center, the central pivot of transformation in the alternation of day and night, yin and yang, the point around which the seasons and directions

revolve and through which they change. Her action is yielding and bringing forth, sowing, sprouting and harvesting. She assimilates, transforms and distributes nourishment to assure a free flow of thought. The task for an Earth type is to honor her sympathetic nature by showing great kindness to others.

### Central Activity

Symbolizing/XIANG (third character from bottom)



The old character shows an elephant and suggests the elephant mind, where all the great symbols reside. A symbol is an image that has the power to connect things, to connect the visible world of your problem to the invisible world of the spirit. Change works through the symbols or *xiang*, which were created by the sages and shamans through a kind of imaginative induction that is also called *xiang*. A *xiang* is a magic spell, a figure or likeness that provides a pattern or model. We make the connection between the invisible world of the spirit and the visible world of our lives by playing with the symbols, by imitating them and acting them out. Symbol is an exchange character for HENG, the summer sacrifice, a pig-offering to the underworld powers and the capacity to form symbols that help the heart endure on the voyage of life.

### Central Focus:

Enduring/HENG (Fourth character from bottom)



The character shows the heart and the path of the crescent moon. It means to create an enduring form for the gifts of the spirit, to make power and virtue endure in the

heart; to continue in what is right, endure and renew the Way; constant, consistent, durable, self-renewing, regular, perpetual, universal; a stable married couple.

### **Spirit Helpers:**



**The Midwife – ground, collect, manifest, produce.**

**Kun/Field** is the Midwife and Realizer. Her function is to supply the inner security that produces concrete results. She is the Mother as the essence of yin.



**The Gatekeeper – fix limits, articulate form, better the system.**

**Gen/Mountain** is the Gatekeeper and Completer who brings things to an end through accomplishing words. His function is to set limits that still and stabilize, reflecting on the past to articulate the future.

### **Five Process Portrait**

The the **Center** and the energy of **Earth** facilitate all important transitions.

- It is nourished by the **Self Image** and the energies of **Summer/Fire** that ripen the fruits of individual identity.
- It acquires power and focus through the **Generational Mission** and the energies of **Spring/Wood** that rouse new growth.
- It makes its wealth available through the **Hidden Face** (Hour) and the energies of **Winter/Water** that find the seed of the new by grinding away the old.

### **In the Cultural Cycle: Marrying the Maidens**

As the time of the Center comes to a close, it must give birth to the **Life Manager** (Month) and the energies of **Fall/Metal** that harvest and gather the insights of life. To do this it must foster the **Wood** powers of **Thunder** and **Wind** to embody the Opened Heart (61 Wind above Lake) and produce a radical change of awareness and expressive power (54 Thunder above Lake).



## Azure Dragon Palace *Cang Long Gong*



### *Celestial Stems of the Azure Dragon Palace* Yang Wood: Seedburst Yin Wood: Sprouting

The Azure Dragon Palace is connected with Spring, the moment when vegetation revives and things are put in motion; with Wood that governs the capacity to respond and adapt; and with the East Wind that disseminates the new and dissipates the old. It is associated with the Sensation Function and enters the world through the Dragon Gate (Hexagram 1), connecting you with creative force. It is the inner core of the Year Pillar or Generational Mission, your first sense of social bonding and identity. It carries your family histories, the intergenerational conflicts and their burden of inner corruption, reflecting how you reacted to experiences of both family and culture in late childhood and adolescence.

You enter this Palace through the **Eastern Gate**, the gate of the **Groundbreaker** whose core drive is to eliminate old patterns and rouse creative energy.



Imagine you are entering this great temple through the **Groundbreaker's Gate** and look around. Four great pillars, translucent green marble veined with deep turquoise, rise at the four corners of the inner space, supporting the round dome of the dark heavens, filled with the Spring stars that shine down from this quadrant of the sky. This space embodies the **Wood** Process.

### **Wood/Wind Process**

**Rousing new growth springs up and opens out.**

Wood/Wind signifies growth, budding, outward movement and expansion, springing up and opening out. It is origins, beginnings, the initial burst of energy and the rising sap, impulsive, vital, activating, enlivening and free flowing, keen and fresh. Its action is to push through, like plants as they push up into the light. It governs the capacity to respond and adapt, stimulating mind and emotion.



### **Wood/MU**

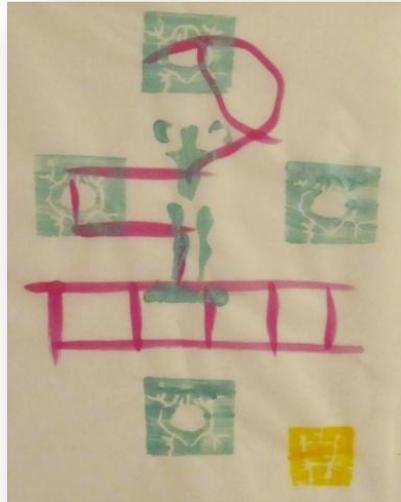
The Wood character shows young sprouts emerging and their roots penetrating the ground. These sprouts are the hidden triggers of change, like the Tree at the Earth Altar, protector of the land, and the World Tree or Bushy Mulberry, They are all things that sprout and grow, sign of the fertile chaos at the center of life.

As you begin to circle the space you will see that there are empty niches in the walls, meant to hold icons. Call up images of all the people, living or dead, all the books, images, events and encounters that roused your creative drive and joy in life. Fill the niches with these images. Take time and imagine them carefully.

These images are the sprouts of power and virtue, of your actualizing power. Your attention to them will open the inner Axis of Change and bring them to life in your heart-mind. This space will activate your capacity to eliminate the old patterns that keep people cut off from one another and rouse their creative potential.

## **The Faces of the Moon** **Dreamwork and the Lunar Mansions/ *Xiu***

The four Palaces - Azure Dragon, Vermillion Bird, White Tiger and Black Tortoise - are the heart, the inner temples, of the Four Pillars. Like the Pillars, each is associated with a Season, a process or element and a direction. These Palaces are the four quadrants of Heaven and each of them contains seven Mansions of the Lunar Zodiac, literally star clusters close to the ecliptic that the moon passes through in its 28 day cycle.



The old character shows the moon entering the lunar mansions. It means to spend a night in an inn or way station, to establish a guard, renew defenses, do your duty, and be faithful. It is something that is first, ancient, perpetual, predestined, latent, proving an anterior existence. It is the plants that grow on a grave and the circumstances you encounter, and a bird in its nest. Above all it is an offering of spirits to the unending cycles of the moon.

These lunar mansions are the deep symbols of the moon's journey, transformational symbols in the night sky that link us with the dreaming process of the temple we have entered. These are the agents of the Dreamwork that turns the snares of fate into the bright omens of destiny by deliteralizing our personal suffering and opening it to the imaginal world of the heart-mind.

Walk around the circumference of your temple, call on the images in the niches of those who truly inspired you with a creative love of life and then move to the center of the space where you will see a small, thatched hut with an earthen floor. This is the Mourning Hut, where we go to symbolically die and be reborn into a higher level of awareness and maturity.

Step into the Hut and sit on the bare earth floor. Call up the experiences, particularly in your childhood and early adolescence that are the root of your sense of fear, lack, need, pain and inner pollution. Simply visualize them without attachment or reaction. These early experiences of conditional love are what you are suffering from. Hold these experiences in your mind and call on those who inspired you to give the part of yourself that suffers the lack, need and pain the unconditional love you never received. Let them show you how to love your creative self in all its manifestations.

The shape and dynamic of your journey through the Lunar Mansions of the Azure Dragon Palace is embodied in Hexagram 51 of the Classic of Change.

 **51 Shake/ Groundbreaker ZHEN** 



The old character shows rain falling from heaven and the sign for shock or cutting through, the waking of the earth in early spring. This energy renews itself ceaselessly.

#### **Circle of Meanings**

A disturbing and fertilizing shock; thunder, earthquake, male sexual energy; arouse, inspire, wake up, shake up, stir up, quicken; break through the shell, come out of the bud, the return of life in early spring; a great shaman who drives out the old, arouses the new and gives the capacity to act decisively. *Heart Theme:* 39 the Difficult goings and comings that prepare deliverance.

#### **Myths for Change**

*Zhen*, Shake is rain and the spirit that brings the rains, violent thunder from beneath that rouses all to new growth after the dead time of winter. It is the ritual of opening the fields performed at the ancestral temple and the field altar, where an offering of dark aromatic millet wine perfumed with the sensual fragrance of the *orchis* calls the spirits to return. It is the great exorcism at spring's beginning, a burst of violent noise and chaos that frightens away the spirits grown old, those whose time has passed and wakes the insects sleeping in the earth. This dynamic process is expressed as thunder, the spark of yang born in the breast of yin, the thunder rituals and incantations that inspire both terror and joy. It is the moment when the fetus begins to stir, associated with dawn, the east, the rising sun, green and the wood moment. *Zhen*, Shake is the Arouser and Exorcist. He is flamboyant and sexual, luxuriating, frightening and inspiring, green and full of juice. He is motion and moves all things, an emerging Dragon. Shake stimulates everything that moves or moves in the

body, purifies the blood, links eyes and sexual organs, desire and anger, vision and motivation, giving the capacity to act decisively.

When you accept the journey, the Lunar Mansions governed by the power of the **Groundbreaker** will appear around you in the Mourning Hut. These are the steps or stages in the process of transformation that occurs in the Palace of the **Azure Dragon**. As each image appears, project yourself into the situation it portrays, let the image change the way you perceive yourself and your life and follow the directions it offers.

## **The Transformations of the Azure Dragon**

that eliminate old patterns and generational corruption to rouse individual creative energy.

### ***Foundations: the Inner World***

#### **Mansion 1 Great Horn/Da Jue**



**Element:** Wood **Planet:** Jupiter **Animal:** Smooth Dragon **Polarity:** (+Opening)

This is spring's beginning and emerging creative energy that brings rains and floods. Birds and beasts mate, buds burgeon. This Mansion rules over agriculture and gardening. It is a time to begin work, acquire land or marry. It is the sound of military trumpets and means to attack at strategic points. It is also a bronze tripod wine vessel with two heads or beaks that pour the wine in two directions. It connects with the energy of Change hexagram 40:



The old character shows an animal's horn, a knife that cuts it free and an instrument made from horn used to untie knots and loosen nets. Liberation develops from dealing with the difficulties at the birth of a new time (3).

### **Myths for Change**

*Jie*, Deliverance releases the Rouser who frees us from difficulties, the emergent Dragon released from the river of ghosts. It is a critical moment, an opening in time that combines release and good augury or blessings, an exorcism at the city walls. The root of the word is horn: the horns of a sacrificial victim, a horned instrument to undo knots, the rhinoceros-horn wine cup used at the River Mountain festivals, the one-horned beast that attacks evil-doers, the cornucopia. It represents a juncture, a point of insertion or critical point when the inner work is done, the sacrifice is accepted and the blessings flow. It signifies escape, release, the loosening of the trap, released from the knot or noose of a hostile fate. It is dissipating melancholy, awakening from illusion, fever breaking, satisfying natural needs, opening communication and sexual climax when inhibited forces are set free and the blessings shared. The word was used to describe release from the body, liberation through spiritual practices and becoming an Immortal, a Sage who perceives through the bright spirits and is thus liberated from compulsion and fear.

- This Mansion frames the overall process and focuses on a breakthrough point. Here Earth is working with Fire to clarify your inner world. This conjunction activates the animal powers of the psyche (15:16) and focuses them on the need to bite through obstacles to a higher awareness of your real beauty (21:22).

These are your instructions:

**Step 1: Omen of Beginnings.** This return of the spirit attracts a new fate.

**The Shake comes, frightening! frightening!**

**Then laughing words, shouting! shouting!**

**Wise Words! The Way is open.**

*Anxiety over blessing, it will soon be there.* This is a profound shock. Though everything is turned upside down the anxiety will soon turn to joy in a burst of creative energy. Let it move you. The Way is open.

Call up the experiences that are the root of your fear, lack, need and pain and let this burst of invigorating energy cut your feeling connections to them. Reconnect your words and thoughts to fundamental things and think of yourself in a modest way. Get out of struggles for power and the feeling of being victimized by voluntarily taking the lower position. By yielding and letting this process re-balance your inner male-female energies, you can acquire the power to realize the Way in your life.

Guideway (51.1 [**16.1 : 15.6**] 52.6): Do not call out for help now. Cut through pride and complication. Set the armies marching and take the capital city. If you meet people with generosity, honesty and care now you can signal to your true kin. Step outside the norms and re-imagine the situation. These goings and comings will release the energy now bound up in the past. Gather it for a decisive new move. Accepting the shock of inner enlightenment now will bring you a deep faith in the processes of life.

## **Mansion 2 Dragon's Neck/*Kang***



**Element:** Water    **Planet:** Mercury    **Animal:** Dragon    **Polarity:** (-) Enclosing

This Mansion portrays a person's neck, the throat of a bird and a solar eclipse. It presides over both judgments and punishments and the release of prisoners or the freeing of animals. When it is clouded or adversarial it brings illness, inflexibility, hyperactivity, excess and pride, along with drought and dust storms. When clear it means partners, loyal ministers and peace in the country. It is the patron of alchemy; its root is to enter into, to go within, a symbolic death.

- This Mansion shows how your inner and outer lives can be re-connected. Here the Anima Operators that create soul connections work to find the hidden sickness, clearing the pain around your inner parental images (17:18) and linking you to the preparation of a radical shift in culture (53:54).

These are your instructions:

**Step 2: Omen for the Inner Center.** This inner re-organization leads to harmony with others.

**The Shake comes bringing adversity, hungry souls and angry ghosts.**

**A hundred thousand cowries lost.**

**Climb the Nine Mounds. Do not pursue what has been lost.**

**On the seventh day you will acquire it.**

*This is riding a strong power.* The fertilizing shock comes. You think you have lost something precious and are plagued by the remorse of the past. Do not grieve. Hide on the frontiers. Climb the mounds of transformation. Everything you lost will soon return of itself.

Go to your inner center and contemplate all those the situations that have caused you pain. Call on your helpers and guides. Advance step by step through subtle penetration. Try to understand how each of these terrible things

has been a gift, a gift that pushes you into transformation. Act through the receptive and the feminine. Do not try to dominate the situation. If you can truly understand, you will achieve mastery and find the place where you belong.

Guideway (51.2 [54.2 : 53.5] 52.5): Look at things from an independent perspective. Your creative energy will make contact with the ancestors. When this is complete, nothing can stop you. What you say will have order and elegance. If you communicate this way your sorrows will vanish. Let yourself be led and you can realize the hidden potential. Cooperate with the ongoing process of change. Accepting the shock of inner enlightenment now lets you express the spirit in the human community.

### **Mansion 3 Base/Roots/*Di***



**Element:** Earth    **Planet:** Saturn    **Animal:** Marten    **Polarity:** (-) Enclosing

This Mansion presides over the calamities that are due to the failure to perform proper rituals to ancestors or lack of respect for elders. It brings the sweet rains of spring as well as spring illnesses, tempests, gales and forced labor and its hidden spirit has the power to search out the secrets of magic remedies. It means to get to the root of something, to eliminate family and clan corruption, to terminate, finish, set limits or find a destination.

- This Mansion shows the change necessary to power the process of transition and initiation. Here Earth works with Fire to clarify your relations to the outer world. This lets you see the necessity to strip away your old patterns and habits (23:24) as part of the greater effort to spread the abundance of cultural renewal to all (55:56).

These are your instructions:

**Step 3: Omen at the Threshold.** This inner re-balancing will let you make your way in life.

**Shake reviving, Oh! Oh!**

**Shake moves without a mistake.**

*The force does not match the position.* A fertilizing shock rouses your dormant creative energy. Everything is renewed and inspired. Move with it. It is not a mistake.

This is the time to look deeply into your motives. Look outside your usual networks and patterns of thought and listen carefully to the still, small voice of your heart; see it as an emissary bringing news from a distant center. Be willing to travel and search. Adapt to whatever you hear, whatever crosses your path. You are on a mission of real importance.

Guideway (51.3 [**55.3 : 56.4**] 52.4): In this time of abundance you can see only dimly. Though you have found a place to abide with goods and a position, your heart is not glad for you know a greater mission awaits. Still your compulsive desires. This frees you from mistakes and lets you see where the real motivating power lies. Do not be afraid to act alone. You are connected to a creative force. Accepting the shock of inner enlightenment now lets you find real directions in life.

## **Transition**

### **Mansion 4 Room/Chamber/*Fang***



**Element:** Fire/Wood    **Planet:** Sun    **Animal:** Hare    **Polarity:** (+Opening)

This Mansion is the Dragon's stomach. It is the opener of what is closed, the chariot of the sun and commander of the armies. It presides over building, increasing holdings and land, happiness and longevity, health and the help of the ancestors. The character portrays a low altar in the shape of a building through which offerings were made to the generations of the ancestors. It is a chamber, an alcove, a chapel or monastic cell, the branch of a family, a cell in an organism and a door or window. You can see its power in Change hexagram 57:



**57 Subtle Penetration/Matchmaker SUN**



The old character shows an altar with wrapped meat offerings on it representing the myriad creatures. This energy renews itself repeatedly.

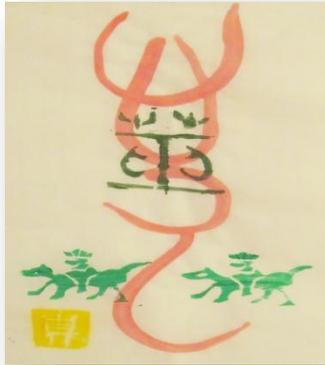
### **Myths for Change**

*Sun*, Subtle Penetration, is the Lady of Fates who lays out the offerings on the low altar and binds the Myriad Beings to their fates. She crosses thresholds and transmits orders from Heaven. Her wrapped food offerings are an image of the Myriad Creatures toiling and laboring on the field of earth, for life is brought and carried by her winds. She is connected to the Central Palace where fates are consigned and represents a profound penetration of the above into the below which can lead to the awakening of wisdom. She prepares the food and drink for the great meal shared by humans and spirits and nourishes the people on ancient virtue. A spirit-worker and healer, she offers the virtue or *de* that actualizes an individual being. She finds the hidden sickness through hidden influences, the silent power of wind and wood. She controls the omens that regulate power and virtue, plans from hiding and knows the right moment to act. She matches and couples the beings, leading each thing to its destiny. She is imaged as a bright strutting cock, strong scented, that stimulates everything that moves or moves in the body, purifies the blood, links eyes and sexual organs, controls desire and anger. She gives vision, motivation and the capacity to act decisively at the key moment.

As you approach the threshold to the outer world, look at the patterns of need and fear that make you try to dominate situations and relationships. Let the deep feminine power of the Matchmaker show you how to act through the receptive and the feminine, giving you the patience to wait on events and the ability to let yourself be led at the critical moment. Reside in this power. Advance step by step through subtle penetration. Use your creative spirit in the right way. You will achieve mastery and find the place where you belong.

## ***Encountering Trouble: the Outer World***

### **Mansion 5 Heart/*Xin***



**Element:** Fire/Earth    **Planet:** Moon    **Animal:** Fox    **Polarity:** (-) Enclosing

This Mansion is the sign of the Dream Fox, the shape-shifter who navigates through liminal boundaries. It deals with the correct expression of inner feelings, motives, resolutions, passions and intelligence and is the seat of the feeling and thought that animates a being. It also means “me”, imaged as a spine or sharp thorn, for the heart seen here is doubled, good and bad. The Dream Fox or inner genius of the heart seen here can conduct us through the hazards of life on the narrow path between our inner nature and our particular destiny. Its name is seen as a synonym of the Dao or Way.

- This Mansion shows the change necessary to power the process of transition and initiation. Here Earth works with Fire to clarify your relations to the outer world. This lets you see the necessity to strip away your old patterns and habits (23:24) as part of the greater effort to spread the abundance of cultural renewal to all (55:56).

These are your instructions:

**Step 4: Omen for Arrival.** This inner preparation will lead to what is greater.

**Shake released from a bog.**

*This is not shining yet.* Everything is bogged down. Release the fertile energy from this cloud of confusion. Try to understand where the new impulse comes from and move with it.

Look deeply at your ideas of your place in the world around you and eliminate all the ideas and patterns that are connected with the old stories of pain, need and rejection. Cut into the problems and strip away the unessential without thought of immediate gain or purpose. This will bring renewal. When this is complete, you will see your real direction.

Guideway (51.4 [24.4 : 23.3] 52.3): The center of life is moving. Return to yourself and strip away your old ideas. Do not cut yourself in two, separating yourself from real and legitimate desires. The acrid smoke from this repression is smothering your heart. Something important is returning now. Be open and provide what is needed. Accepting the shock of inner enlightenment now brings you a deep faith in the processes of life.

### **Mansion 6 Tail/Wei**



**Element:** Fire      **Planet:** Mars      **Animal:** Tiger      **Polarity:** (+) Opening

This Mansion shows the sign for the heir apparent, the new king, and the women's quarters where he is brought up. It is a dam, a dyke or a wooden boat, whatever what separates wood from water. It represents the succession of power and inheritance as a passage through the feminine and means downstream, a gulf that dumps water into the sea, the end of pursuit, to arrive at a goal, a relic or remains. Its action is to yoke or link animals together in a team or chain.

- The Mansion shows show how your inner and outer lives can be re-connected. Here the Anima Operators that create soul connections work to find the hidden sickness, clearing the pain around your inner parental images (17:18) and linking you to the preparation of a radical shift in culture (53:54).

These are your instructions:

**Step 5: Omen for the Outer Center.** This re-grouping will let your real purpose shine.

**Shake comes and goes. Adversity, the hungry souls and angry ghosts. Stay intent on your desire. Do not lose your purpose.**

**There will be service.**

*Moving in an exposed position without losing the Great.* As the fertilizing shock comes and goes it brings up old memories and quarrels and you must deal with them. Keep your mind on what you truly want to do and all will be well. You will be involved in the service of greater things.

Here you confront the insidious corruption that flows from the Mothers. This is the source of the conditional love that plagues you and the key to the sacred sickness pathway that connects personal suffering to cultural change. Look deeply into your inner lack and sense of emptiness and clear out the sources of this corruption. This is the time for a real change, the time when you can give birth to yourself. Prepare the moment to announce the changes then carefully watch over their growth.

Guideway (51.5 [17.5 : 18.2] 52.2): You have made a connection that will lead to real excellence. Now you must deal with the inner corruption of nourishment and care. Stop running after impossible desires. You cannot rescue your followers now though your heart may ache for them. Put yourself in the middle of the situation and you will find the Way. Step out to meet the new destiny. Accepting the shock of inner enlightenment now lets you express the spirit in the human community.

**Mansion 7 Wincrowing Basket/Ji**



**Element:** Water/Wood **Planet:** Mercury **Animal:** Leopard **Polarity:** (+) Opening

This Mansion is both the Wincrowing Basket in which grain is separated from chaff and the Dung Basket in which fertilizer is gathered and spread. It is a time of good fortune, excellent for beginnings, a time in which herds multiply,

granaries are gorged and industry is rewarded. Its root is bamboo, the magic wood on which the oracle books were written, and the source of ancient wisdom. It also points at eliminating the evil wind that comes from the mouths and tongues that spread vicious gossip, rumors and slander. It connects with Change hexagram 42:



The old character shows a container like a cornucopia and the sign for river or water, a stream of blessings. This expansion develops from fixing the omens given by the spirit (32).

### **Myths for Change**

*Sun*, Diminishing and *Yi*, Augmenting offer a paradigm of sacrifice and its results. Augmenting is the blessing: What is above gives to what is below. The root of the term is a recipient for food. It is the meats eaten at the feast, a vessel overflowing with blessing, the sun that appears through the grace of the ancestor after a dark time, gladdening and enriching everything. This is the feast in which all partake and the blessings (*fu*) showered on us through the Ancestors after they have received and accepted our sacrifice and presented our needs to the High Lord. *Yi*, augmenting is a synonym of *yi*, change, as a gift or blessing, a transformation that is effected by a crossing like the transforming lines in the Change. Philosophically, it is what enriches power and virtue (*de*), rising and opening from the seeds. It is the waxing moon, the celebrant, the new king, the blessing, a connection of Heaven and Earth brought about by ritual, sacrifice and inner work.

- This Mansion frames the overall process and focuses on a breakthrough point. Here Earth is working with Fire to clarify your inner world. This conjunction activates the animal powers of the psyche (15:16) and

focuses them on the need to bite through obstacles to a higher awareness of your real beauty (21:22).

These are your instructions:

**Step 6: Omen for Culmination.** This stripping will lead to a breakthrough.

**Shake twisting and turning! Observing, you are terrified Oh! Oh!**

**Trap! Chastising closes the Way.**

**Shake is not in your body, but in your neighbor's body.**

**Be calm. This is not a mistake.**

**There will be words about a marriage.**

*Not the center yet. Warning: beware your neighbor!* The fertilizing shock twists and turns, driving people around you into a frenzy. Do not try to put this all in order. Stay aloof. Do not get caught in the trap. This is not the right time to begin anything. Be cautious about entering a new relationship.

You are confronting the flood of poisonous ideas, prejudices, hatreds and vilification that plagues the body politic, expressed in us as stereotypes and introjects that keep us cut off from others and continually at war with our own projected shadow. This is a very tenacious obstacle and you must take decisive action. Focus on your true goals in life. Be determined. Gnaw away what is unnecessary and bite through to the core of the problem.

Guideway (51.6 [**21.6 : 22.1**] 52.1): Do not lock your understanding away in these old patterns. Adorn yourself with courage and independence. Leave your carriage and go on foot. When an impulse to action comes, try to hold back before it leads you into compulsive entanglements. This could become an ever-flowing source of profit and insight. Step outside the norms and re-imagine the situation. These goings and comings will release the energy now bound up in the past. Accepting the shock of inner enlightenment now lets you find real directions in life.

# The Lunar Mansions of the Azure Dragon Palace

## Mansion 1 Great Horn/*Da Jue*



**Element:** Wood **Planet:** Jupiter **Animal:** Smooth Dragon **Polarity:** (+Opening)  
This is spring's beginning and emerging creative energy that brings rains and floods. Birds and beasts mate, buds burgeon. This Mansion rules over agriculture and gardening. It is a time to begin work, acquire land or marry. It is the sound of military trumpets and means to attack at strategic points. It is also a bronze tripod wine vessel with two heads or beaks that pour the wine in two directions.

## Mansion 2 Dragon's Neck/*Kang*



**Element:** Water **Planet:** Mercury **Animal:** Dragon **Polarity:** (-) Enclosing  
This Mansion portrays a person's neck, the throat of a bird and a solar eclipse. It presides over both judgments and punishments and the release of prisoners or the freeing of animals. When it is clouded or adversarial it brings illness, inflexibility, hyperactivity, excess and pride, along with drought and dust storms. When clear it means partners, loyal ministers and peace in the

country. It is the patron of alchemy; its root is to enter into, to go within, a symbolic death.

### **Mansion 3 Base/Roots/Di**



**Element:** Earth **Planet:** Saturn **Animal:** Marten **Polarity:** (-) Enclosing  
This Mansion presides over the calamities that are due to the failure to perform proper rituals to ancestors or lack of respect for elders. It brings the sweet rains of spring as well as spring illnesses, tempests, gales and forced labor and its hidden spirit has the power to search out the secrets of magic remedies. It means to get to the root of something, to eliminate family and clan corruption, to terminate, finish, set limits or find a destination.

### **Mansion 4 Room/Chamber/Fang**



**Element:** Fire/Wood **Planet:** Sun **Animal:** Hare **Polarity:** (+Opening)  
This Mansion is the Dragon's stomach. It is the opener of what is closed, the chariot of the sun and commander of the armies. It presides over building, increasing holdings and land, happiness and longevity, health and the help of the ancestors. The character portrays a low altar in the shape of a building

through which offerings were made to the generations of the ancestors. It is a chamber, an alcove, a chapel or monastic cell, the branch of a family, a cell in an organism and a door or window.

### **Mansion 5 Heart/*Xin***



**Element:** Fire/Earth **Planet:** Moon **Animal:** Fox **Polarity:** (-) Enclosing  
This Mansion is the sign of the Dream Fox, the shape-shifter who navigates through liminal boundaries. It deals with the correct expression of inner feelings, motives, resolutions, passions and intelligence and is the seat of the feeling and thought that animates a being. It also means “me”, imaged as a spine or sharp thorn, for the heart seen here is doubled, good and bad. The Dream Fox or inner genius of the heart seen here can conduct us through the hazards of life on the narrow path between our inner nature and our particular destiny. Its name is seen as a synonym of the Dao or Way.

### **Mansion 6 Tail/*Wei***



**Element:** Fire **Planet:** Mars **Animal:** Tiger **Polarity:** (+) Opening  
This Mansion shows the sign for the heir apparent, the new king, and the women’s quarters where he is brought up. It is a dam, a dyke or a wooden boat, whatever what separates wood from water. It represents the succession of

power and inheritance as a passage through the feminine and means downstream, a gulf that dumps water into the sea, the end of pursuit, to arrive at a goal, a relic or remains. Its action is to yoke or link animals together in a team or chain.

### **Mansion 7 Wincnowing Basket/*Ji***



**Element:** Water/Wood **Planet:** Mercury **Animal:** Leopard **Polarity:** (+) Opening  
This Mansion is both the Wincnowing Basket in which grain is separated from chaff and the Dung Basket in which fertilizer is gathered and spread. It is a time of good fortune, excellent for beginnings, a time in which herds multiply, granaries are gorged and industry is rewarded. Its root is bamboo, the magic wood on which the oracle books were written, and the source of ancient wisdom. It also points at eliminating the evil wind that comes from the mouths and tongues that spread vicious gossip, rumors and slander.

## **Vermillion Bird Palace**

### ***Zhu Niao Gong***



### ***Celestial Stems of the Vermillion Bird Palace***

**Yang Fire: Summer's Brilliance**

**Yin Fire: Summer's Force**

The Vermillion Bird Palace is connected with Summer, spacious, abundant and multicolored, that ripens the fruits; with Fire that nourishes, invigorates and brings the spark of life to full growth; and with the South Wind that spreads the heat and abundance of life and gathers people together. It is associated with the Feeling function and the Earth Gate, bringing everything what it needs to connect and flourish. In the Four Pillars it is the core of the Day Pillar or Self Image, your conscious image of who you are. It is your ally in the battles of identity. You can see how it is formed by reflecting on your first experiences of your individual identity in early childhood and the forces that threatened it.

You enter this Palace through the **Southern Gate**, the **Dark Bird Gate** whose core drive is to connect the dark flow of the Ghost River and the snares of fate with the Bright Omens of destiny held in the heart.



Imagine you are entering this great temple through the **Dark Bird Gate** and look around. Four great pillars, translucent pink marble veined with indigo, rise at the four corners of the inner space, supporting the round dome of the dark heavens, filled with the Summer stars that shine down from this quadrant of the sky. This space embodies the **Fire Process**.

## **Fire Process**

**Brightness and warmth spread beauty and change awareness.**

Fire is burning and combustion, warmth and light, joy and luxuriant growth, the glow, climax or zenith. It brings ease and accomplishment, joy, happiness, expansive feeling, upward movement and excitement. It expresses itself in the body as the Heart, seat of the spirit that commands the blood and energy channels, nourishing, invigorating and bringing the spark of life to full growth.



## **Fire/HO**

The Fire character shows flames rising from a ritual base. Meanings of the character include flame, fire, lighting a fire; fire offerings and rituals; to cook, clarify, illuminate, burn, consume or transform by fire; expansion, inflammation; an originating inspiration, motor of the work, the spark of yang,

the essence of breath; fever, anger, passions; pressing, urgent; companions, associates; a utensil or instrument.

As you begin to circle the space you will see that there are empty niches in the walls, meant to hold icons. Call up the images of all the people, living or dead, all the books, images, events and encounters that have inspired and oriented you in your darkest hours and most difficult passages. Fill the niches with these images. Take time and imagine them carefully. Feel them, sense them, smell them, hear them speaking to you.

These images are your ancestors, the sprouts of your inner power and virtue, your actualizing power. Your attention to them will open the inner Axis of Change and bring them to life in your heart-mind. This is the space that activates your visionary capacity to ripen and transform insight into bright omens of change.

## **The Faces of the Moon** **Dreamwork and the Lunar Mansions/*Xiu***

The four Palaces - Azure Dragon, Vermillion Bird, White Tiger and Black Tortoise - are the heart, the inner temples, of the Four Pillars. Like the Pillars, each is associated with a Season, a process or element and a direction. These Palaces are the four quadrants of Heaven and each of them contains seven Mansions of the Lunar Zodiac, literally star clusters close to the ecliptic that the moon passes through in its 28 day cycle.



These lunar mansions are the deep symbols of the moon's journey, transformational symbols in the night sky that link us with the dreaming process of the temple we have entered. These are the agents of the Dreamwork

that turns the snares of fate into the bright omens of destiny by deliteralizing our personal suffering and opening it to the imaginal world of the heart-mind.

The old character shows the moon entering the lunar mansions. It means to spend a night in an inn or way station, to establish a guard, renew defenses, do your duty, be faithful. It is something that is first, ancient, perpetual, predestined, latent, proving an anterior existence. It is the plants that grow on a grave and the circumstances you encounter, and a bird in its nest. Above all it is an offering of spirits to the unending cycles of the moon.

Walk around the circumference of your temple, call on the images in the niches of those who truly came to your aid in times of danger and then move to the center of the space where you will see a small, thatched hut with an earthen floor. This is the Mourning Hut, where we go to symbolically die and be reborn into a higher level of awareness and maturity.

Step into the Hut and sit on the bare earth floor. Call up the experiences, particularly in your childhood and early adolescence, that are the root of your sense of fear, lack, terror, over-excitement, need for control and sense of abandonment. Simply visualize them without attachment or reaction. These early experiences of conditional love are what you are suffering from. Hold these experiences in your mind and call on your spirit helpers to give the part of yourself that suffers the lack, need and pain the unconditional love you never received. Let them show you how to love your creative self in all its manifestations.

The shape and dynamic of your journey through the Lunar Mansions of the Vermillion Bird Palace is embodied in Hexagram 30 of the Classic of Change.

 **30 Radiance/Visionary LI** 



The old character shows the bright bird of omen and a net, a pattern of words and symbols through which we reflect on what it represents and spread the awareness to all. This energy renews itself constantly.

### **Circle of Meanings**

Light, warmth, awareness, brightness; illuminate, discriminate, articulate, see clearly and spread the light; join with, adhere to, meet with, encounter partners by chance; a mandate, omen or sign from above, the Bright Omens that reveals the presence of the spirit in all things; a powerful shaman who is part of the inner Axis of Change. *Heart theme: 28* the Great Transition and emergence as an individual. This is a Realizing Figure and Engine of Change that recharges experience with meaning and energy.

### **Myths for Change**

*Li*, Radiance is the Bright Presence of things, a numen that surges from the depths and turns them into omens that reveal the spirits. It is associated with birds, nets and victims taken for sacrifice, the rituals of the bird dancers who call the spirits down and the creation of an oracular language, the symbolic openings through which they can speak. It is the yellow *lia*-bird whose song makes the silkworms appear and who sponsors lovers and the dance of the pheasant drumming the earth to call to her mate, a dance that awakens the thunder in spring. *Li*, Radiance and the Bright Omens makes people go in pairs. She suggests extraordinary happenings that separate people from the conventional and evokes stringed instruments, a bride's veil and a woman's decorated girdle. She is associated with brightness, fire and the light of the heavenly bodies, midday sun, summer, the south and the beauty and splendor of things. Radiance or Bright Omens is part of the Axis of Change, the Burning Water or *prima materia*. She leads through her warm clear light, the radiance of living beings holding together. She is nets and soft things with shells, a bright pheasant, a bird of omen. Radiance works in the Heart, master of the organs, commanding the pathways and the blood, bringing the spark of life and offering a quiet center in which the spirits find a voice.

When you accept the journey, the Lunar Mansions governed by the power of the **Bright Omens** will appear around you in the Mourning Hut. These are the steps or stages in the process of transformation that occurs in the Palace of the **Vermillion Bird**. As each image appears, project yourself into the situation it portrays, let the image change the way you perceive yourself and your life and follow the directions it offers.

## **The Transformations of the Vermillion Bird**

that connect the dark flow of the Ghost River and the snares of fate with the Bright Omens of destiny held in the heart.

## ***Foundations: the Inner World***

### **Mansion 22 Eastern Well/Jing**



**Element:** Water    **Planet:** Jupiter    **Animal:** Tapir    **Polarity:** (+/-) Variable

This Mansion presides over cleaning, ablutions, purifications, expurgations, repairs and refurbishments. It cleanses away criminal acts and restores proper order. It is a time to open doors, work in the garden, take examinations, open the water ways and raise silkworms, a time when flocks grow fat and prosper. It connects directly with Change hexagram 48 Well whose meanings include: underlying structure or network, resources held in common, the source of life-water welling up from the depths; communicate, interact, return to common needs, strengths and feelings; life and community in good order, a norm, model, measure. The root of the character is the pair or pairing, the rejoining of the opposites.

As the Eastern Well (Spring and Wood, the parent of the Fire of Summer) it is a place where the Wood process that carries all the memories and traumas of childhood and early adolescence, particularly the sexually charged episodes, emerges and breaks through the screens of repression. This Wood becomes the Well Bucket, reaching down and bringing up the underground water, the grandparent and controller of Fire. The generational stream begins to flow backwards.

- This Mansion frames the overall process and focuses on a breakthrough point. Here Anima Intermediaries, who make the soul connections, and Animus Operators, who clear thinking and feeling, join to clear the inner channels. This disperses your old identity and lets you articulate the image of a world (59:60) in which the joy of renewal can be circulated to all (55:56).

These are your instructions:

**Step 1: Omen for Beginnings.** This return of the spirit will attract a new fate.

**Treading crosswise. Honor the Bright Omen!**

**This is not a mistake.**

*This uses casting out faults!* These are good omens, a bright presence for beginnings. Be very careful with these first steps. Polish and clarify your motives and feelings. You will not be making a mistake. Treat this with respect.

Call up the experiences that are the root of your fear, lack, need and pain. Visualize each of these experiences in their original setting and project them into an icon do you can look at them and feel into them without fear, need or anger. Carefully look at both aspects of the experiences, the sense of abuse or trauma and the initiatory aspect, how the experience sought to open you to some aspect of your destiny. Carefully separate the sexual and visionary aspects from the screen memory of trauma and pain.

Guideway (29.1 [60.1 : 56.1] 30.1): If you respond the same way again and again you will be caught in the tomb of depression and melancholy. Do not leave your inner door and chambers now. If you make an impulsive move, you will be split off from your place and grasp disaster. Search outside the norms and re-imagine the situation. Do not be afraid to act alone. You are connected with a creative force. Accepting inner guidance now lets you see the patterns that mark real ends and beginnings.

### **Mansion 23 Ghost Cart/ Yu Gui**



**Element:** Metal **Planet:** Venus **Animal:** Sheep/Goat **Polarity:** (-) Enclosing

The Ghost Cart collects and transports ghosts and demons and the miasmas they spread that can cut you off and freeze you in fear. It is the sign for the last day of a ritual period when divinations were made to eliminate threatening

forces that might harm the new beginning. It presides over dire fates, departed spirits and places where men have been killed, battlefields, horses, soldiers, death and loss. It is also treasure buried during war, hidden jewels and accumulated wealth. This Mansion connects directly with Change hexagram 38 the Shadow Lands which means: Opposition, discord, arguments, conflict; step outside the norms, cast out, in exile; a journey to the ghost world, meetings with hidden spirits; change conflict to fertile tension through dealing with the shadow; recognizing the other as truly other.

- This Position shows how your inner and outer lives can be re-connected. Here Inspiring Force and Earth join to open a new world. This organizes you to take effective action and find a group (7:8) that lets your real power and destiny emerge (13:14).

These are your instructions:

**Step 2: Omen for the Inner Center.** This inner re-organization will lead to harmony with others.

**Yellow Radiance. The Bright Omen.**

**Wise Words! The Way to the Source is open.**

*You acquire the Way and the center. You have found the connection. Light and power surge up from below. The Way is fundamentally open.*

Go to your inner center and contemplate all the situations that have caused you pain. Call on your helpers and guides. Collect the traumatic elements or screen memories of all those early experiences that keep you frozen in past time, locked in the experience of being a child and a victim. Release these embodied memories and project them into the Ghost Cart. Then embrace the sensual and visionary experiences and feelings that are being freed from the Ghost River of past pain and bring them into present time. Let them help you understand how each of these terrible things has been a gift, a gift that leads to transformation.

Guideway (29.2 [8.2 : 14.2] 30.2): As you venture into danger you will get what you need by being flexible and adaptable. Gather people around you and do not impose your will. You are at the center of this group, a part of its origin, so do not let this chance slip through your fingers. Use a great chariot, an inspiring idea, to carry your feelings and desires. A blossoming time is approaching. Be resolute and part from the past. You are connected with a creative force. Accepting inner guidance lets you connect action with the spirit.

## Mansion 24 Willow/*Liu*



**Element:** Earth    **Planet:** Saturn    **Animal:** Buck    **Polarity:** (-) Enclosing

This Mansion connects with 18 Pleiades/Closed Door in the Azure Dragon Palace as sacrificial rites and offerings that aid the sun when it is dark, eclipsed or obscured. It wards off poisons, stills pain and is connected to the act of divination, for the original instruments used to consult the Change were probably willow wands. It is also the weeping willow, intense sadness and tears, and further evokes the willow-world of sexuality, the pleasure houses and dissipation. It is imaged as the catafalque covering a coffin on the funeral cart. All these associations link it with Change hexagram 44.

 **44 Coupling Gou** 



The old character shows a pregnant woman and a woman giving birth, sign for the Royal Bride who arrives at the borders and will give birth to an heir. This moment of creative contact develops from accumulating the small and gathering in your ghosts (9).

### **Myths for Change**

*Gou*, Coupling is the appearance of the fate announced by an oracular message. It is the procession of the Royal Bride appearing at the borders on her journey to the sacred marriage with the King that will renew the time. It portrays a strong woman, a queen or ruler who distributes the fates. She symbolizes the return of the feminine power, of desire, joy, and beauty, the ability to manifest and take pleasure in life and brings strange encounters in her train. She inaugurates the River-Mountain festivals and sponsors all forms of coupling and mating, particularly the brief encounters when men and women meet, mate and take joy in each other. She presides over the autumn marriages and the omens of fertility, the *bin*-ritual and the “fish in the wrapping,” and suggests the willow-world of sexuality symbolized by melons and creeping vines. This is the Young Ancestress coming back from the mountain after receiving the seed of the spirit. It is the Ox Boy crossing the river of stars on a bridge of magpies, the lover’s bird, to mate with the Weaver Girl on the Feast of Women, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> moon. The injunction is not to grasp the woman by force but to help her on her journey to the King and the royal marriage. It will lead to a new order, a containing beauty that tumbles down from Heaven.

- This Position shows the change necessary to power the process of transition and initiation. Here Anima Intermediaries, who make the soul connections, and Animus Operators, who clear thinking and feeling, join to express the spirit. This empowers the first images of your deeper self (21:22) to free you from oppressive social structures and return you to the sources of human community (47:48).

These are your instructions:

**Step 3: Omen for the Threshold.** This inner re-balancing will let you make your way in life.

**The setting sun’s Radiance.**

**If you do not beat the clay drum and sing,  
you will lament like a Great old person. Alas!**

**Trap! The Way closes.**

*Why let this last?* Instead of spreading the warmth of the bright presence you see everything in the light of the setting sun. If you do not beat your drum and sing your songs now, you will end up lamenting all the terrible things that have happened in your life. Why go on like this?

This is the time to look deeply into your real motives. Fully embrace and embody the sexuality and sense of strange and new possibilities that have been freed from the stream of the past. Leave the weeping tree behind you. Let this sense of a new destiny that is approaching you outside the norms and conventions energize you and open you to the wonder and mystery of life.

Guideway (29.3 [48.3 : 21.3] 30.3): If you push on into your melancholy you will be trapped in a fatal diversion. The well, the source of common value and feeling is disturbed and turbid. You feel the sorrow of someone who is connected to the source of life but has no one with whom to share it. As you bite through the obstacles to union you will encounter something poisonous. You must bring it out or become the victim of your own past. Proceed step by step. Accepting inner guidance now lets you find a place where you can influence the world you live in.

## Transition

### Mansion 25 Bird/Seven Stars/*Niao*



**Element:** Variable    **Planet:** Sun    **Animal:** Horse    **Agency:** (+/-) Variable

This Mansion contains the Bird Star, the determinative star that gives its name to the Vermillion Palace. It marks the summer solstice, the bridge between the two halves of the year and presides over bridges, fords, passages and the dangers on journeys. It connects you with Change hexagram 28 Great Traverses.



**28 Great Transition DA GUO**





The old characters show the Great People and three footsteps at a crossroads, a decisive moment expressed as a mountain ridge or boundary and a closed mouth. This is the ground that lets you connect your inner and outer lives (61).

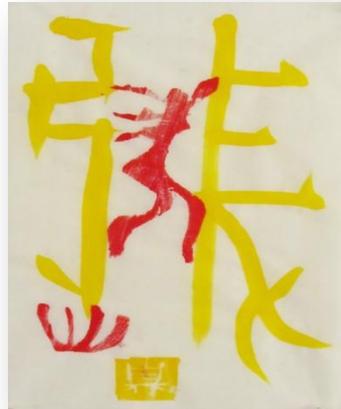
### **Myths for Change**

*Da Guo*, Great Traverses or the Great Transition is a dialogue between structure, the house and the ridgepole as the social structures that support and constrain us, and the process of becoming a true individual, a great being with an individual identity free of social conventions. It represents the initiation of a noble child through which he becomes a warrior and acquires a ritual presence, the transition of marriage, the transition to a higher class or becoming a high ranking lord. It is the transition time in a ritual, a passage through liminal space where structures dissolve, a re-ordering of fundamental principles. It is a matter of life and death, of letting go of the past and crossing the threshold, a crisis in life when you must stand by what you know to be true and find the power to exist independent of collective norms.

This is a critical situation, a moment of truth. Push your principles beyond ordinary limits and accept the movement it brings. Have a noble purpose. The structure of your life is in danger but there is a creative force at work in this breakdown. Impose a real direction on things. Do not listen to conventional thinking. This will bring success and the capacity to bring things to maturity.

## ***Encountering Troubles: the Outer World***

### **Mansion 26 Spreading/Drawn Bow/Chang**



**Element:** Variable    **Planet:** Moon    **Animal:** Deer    **Polarity:** (+) Opening

This Mansion is a spreading net, the string of a bow and the string of a musical instrument. It is game collected for a feast, festivities, gifts and music, cooking and preparing food. It is a sign of right conduct rewarded, flourishing like the industrious silkworm, harmonious relations and the acquisition of new properties. It means to extend, deploy, fix in place; to escape or separate from noxious influences; to arrange and prepare something great, vast and prosperous.

- This Position shows the change necessary to power the process of transition and initiation. Here Anima Intermediaries, who make the soul connections, and Animus Operators, who clear thinking and feeling, join to express the spirit. This empowers the first images of your deeper self (21:22) to free you from oppressive social structures and return you to the sources of human community (47:48).

These are your instructions:

**Step 4: Omen for Arrival.** This inner preparation will lead to what is greater.

**It comes suddenly, flares up and dies out.**

**This is an image of what can be abandoned.**

*This has no place in your life.* This is an omen of what must be cast out so that your life can proceed. It comes suddenly, burns up and dies out. You can simply throw it away. Be assured it has no place in your life.

As you approach the threshold to the outer world, Let the deep feminine power of the Matchmaker show you how to act through the receptive and the feminine,

Stand in the new space this process has opened in your heart and feel your embodied sexuality and awareness. Now look at the old patterns of need and fear that make you try to dominate situations and relationships. See these as a flock of mind demons, thought patterns that have been cut off from the old traumas that fed and powered that, that arise around you like a flock of gnats or stinging insects. Simply wipe them away and free your mind into its new peace and embodied truth.

Guideway (29.4 [47.4 : 22.4] 30.4): You may feel trapped and cut off but do not fight the situation. Lay out an offering to the hidden spirits. You are right on the border, the place where events emerge. The host of oppressive duties that confine you will slowly loosen. The people approaching you now are not outlaws. Attribute great wisdom and worth to them. Seek the marriage alliance and make them kin, for they can carry you like the soaring white horse of inspiration. These goings and comings will release the energy now bound up in the past. Step outside the norms and re-imagine the situation. Accepting inner guidance now lets you see the patterns that mark real ends and beginnings.

### **Mansion 27 Wings/ Yi**



**Element:** Fire    **Planet:** Mars    **Animal:** Snake    **Polarity:** (+) Opening

This Mansion portrays the Grand Assembly, the Emperor's speech of praise and admonishment that culminates in a Grand Concert and the music of the season. It is the wing of a bird, the wing you will rise and fall on, that aids and protects, bringing things to completion and perfection and repulsing negative influences. It is also the handles of the great ritual vessel called the Ding in which a sacred meal was prepared that reunites, spirits, ancestors and noble humans, signifying a new relation between the visible and the invisible.

- This Mansion shows how your inner and outer lives can be re-connected. Here Inspiring Force and Earth join to open a new world. This organizes you to take effective action and find a group (7:8) that lets your real power and destiny emerge (13:14).

These are your instructions:

**Step 5: Omen for the Outer Center.** This re-grouping will let your real purpose shine.

**Tears flowing like rivers, lamenting like mourners at a funeral.**

**Wise Words! The Way opens.**

*The king and the minister are brightened and shine.* It feels as if you have lost a connection with someone important to you. Let your sadness be seen, like mourners at a funeral rite who earth the ghost and release the spirit.

Look deeply at your ideas of your place in the world around you and eliminate all the ideas and patterns that are connected with the old stories of pain, need and rejection. Call up the images of your mentors and initiators, all that has inspired you, the images of your early traumatic experiences and what has emerged from them. Think of all the juncture points in your life, your friends and your oppressors, and imagine them. Think over your hopes and goals for the future and the new way that is unfolding for you. Imagine all this as the people and stars gathered at the great assembly and put them into the Ding, the great Vessel.



### **50 Vessel**

The old character shows the vessel used for the sacred meal that joins spirits and humans and a head filled with spirit. This new paradigm develops from establishing and stabilizing the dwelling (37).

### Circle of Meanings

A major paradigm shift symbolized as a cast bronze cauldron used for the sacred meal that unites spirits, ancestors and noble people; hold, contain, transform, transmute through symbolic imagination; high divinations, new spiritual paradigm and sign of blessing; establish, found, consecrate, found a noble house and line; secure, precious, well-grounded. *Heart Theme*: 43 Decide and part from the past.

See the whole interconnected network of things contained and cooking in this Vessel. Let this great vision embrace you. Let its transformative energy turn everything that has touched you, past, present and future, into Bright Omens of Change.

Guideway (29.5 [7.5 : 13.5] 30.5): The sacrifice to the Earth Spirit is over. The danger is passed and the spirits are appeased. Have no fear. The decisive encounter approaches and you are assured of victory. Come out of mourning for the past. Get rid of old ideas, irrelevant images and bad memories. People are coming together now after a time of loneliness and separation. The Great Leaders are meeting to mutualize their power for the good of all. Have no fear. You will soon find supportive friends. You are coupled with a creative force. Accepting inner guidance now lets you connect your actions with the spirit.

### Mansion 28 Celestial Carriage/Mounting Board/*Chen*



**Element:** Water    **Planet:** Mercury    **Animal:** Worm    **Polarity:** (+) Opening

This Mansion is the image of a car or chariot on a path that continually turns and returns. It controls the winds, master of swiftness, and presides over travel and vehicles. Its influence spreads like the master tone that emanates from the plucked string of a lute, gathering tribute from foreign lands. It signifies the

advent of wealth from numerous and abundant sources and blesses those married on its day with a dragon child of extreme talent who brings glory and riches to his family.

- This Position frames the overall process and focuses on a breakthrough point. Here Anima Intermediaries, who make the soul connections, and Animus Operators, who clear thinking and feeling, join to clear the inner channels. This disperses your old identity and lets you articulate the image of a world (59:60) in which the joy of renewal can be circulated to all (55:56).

These are your instructions:

**Step 6: Omen for Culmination.** This inner stripping leads to a breakthrough.

**The King sets out on campaign. There will be excellent results.**

**Sever the heads, offer the rebel chiefs in sacrifice.**

**Put them to the question. This is not a mistake.**

*Use this to correct the balance of power.* This is a time to take aggressive measures. Something harmful has occurred and you must deal with it. Be determined. Seize what is truly important. Offer the old in sacrifice. This is not a mistake.

Turn your new vision back onto the literal events of your life outside the temple. Look carefully at the situations you are involved with that are tangled up with negative emotions and past sorrows. You are confronting the flood of poisonous ideas, prejudices, hatreds and vilification that plagues the body politic, the stereotypes and introjects that keep us cut off from our bodies and from each other, continually at war with our own projected shadow. Dissolve these old structures and let your sensual and creative the energy flow. Clear up misunderstandings, illusions and obstacles, melt the ice, dispel the fear and eliminate the suspicion. Clear away what is blocking clarity. Let the sun shine through. This is the right time to embark on a significant enterprise. Put your ideas to the trial. Make a vow to bring the outer things you are involved with into line with the Bright Omens that you have been given.

Guideway (29.6 [**59.6 : 55.6**] 30.6): If you go on in the old ways now you will be bound, judged and imprisoned. Disperse the bad blood. Send it away and then you can come forth. Fix this omen and you will receive the blessing. Do not stay in mourning for the past. Your melancholy and pain will trap and cut you off. A time of abundance is coming. You are coupled with a creative force.

## The Lunar Mansions of the Vermillion Bird Palace

### Mansion 22 Eastern Well/*Jing*



**Element:** Water **Planet:** Jupiter **Animal:** Tapir **Polarity:** (+/-) Variable  
This Mansion presides over cleaning, ablutions, purifications, expurgations, repairs and refurbishments. It cleanses away criminal acts and restores proper order. It is a time to open doors, work in the garden, take examinations, open the water ways and raise silkworms, a time when flocks grow fat and prosper. It suggests the underlying structure or network, resources held in common, the source of life-water welling up from the depths; return to common needs, strengths and feelings; life and community in good order. The root of the character is the pair or pairing, the rejoining of the opposites.

### Mansion 23 Ghost Cart/*Yu Gui*



**Element:** Metal **Planet:** Venus **Animal:** Sheep/Goat **Polarity:** (-) Enclosing

The Ghost Cart collects and transports ghosts and demons and the miasmas they spread that can cut you off and freeze you in fear. It is the sign for the last day of a ritual period when divinations were made to eliminate threatening forces that might harm the new beginning. It presides over dire fates, departed spirits and places where men have been killed, battlefields, horses, soldiers,

death and loss. It is also treasure buried during war, hidden jewels and accumulated wealth and a journey to the ghost world.

### **Mansion 24 Willow/*Liu***



**Element:** Earth    **Planet:** Saturn    **Animal:** Buck    **Polarity:** (-) Enclosing  
This Mansion connects with 18 Pleiades/Closed Door in the Azure Dragon Palace as sacrificial rites and offerings that aid the sun when it is dark, eclipsed or obscured. It wards off poisons, stills pain and is connected to the act of divination, for the original instruments used to consult the Change were probably willow wands. It is also the weeping willow, intense sadness and tears, and further evokes the willow-world of sexuality, the pleasure houses and dissipation. It is imaged as the catafalque covering a coffin on the funeral cart.

### **Mansion 25 Bird/*Seven Stars/Niao***



**Element:** Variable    **Planet:** Sun    **Animal:** Horse    **Agency:** (+/-) Variable  
This Mansion contains the Bird Star, the determinative star that gives its name to the Vermillion Palace. It marks the summer solstice, the bridge between the

two halves of the year and presides over bridges, fords, passages and the dangers on journeys.

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### **Mansion 28 Celestial Carriage/Mounting Board/*Chen***



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This Mansion is the image of a car or chariot on a path that continually turns and returns. It controls the winds, master of swiftness, and presides over travel and vehicles. Its influence spreads like the master tone that emanates from the plucked string of a lute, gathering tribute from foreign lands. It signifies the advent of wealth from numerous and abundant sources and blesses those married on its day with a dragon child of extreme talent who brings glory and riches to his family.



# White Tiger Palace

## *Bai Hu Gong*



### ***Celestial Stems of the White Tiger Palace***

**Yang Metal: Fall/Transmission**  
**Yin Metal: Fall/Sacrifice**

The White Tiger Palace is connected with Fall, harvest, labor and agility at the critical moment; with Metal, the insight and thought that creates inner space and regulates the life rhythms; and with the West Wind that brings decline, descent and return. It is associated with the Thinking function and is informed by the process of Already Forging the Great Stream (Hexagram 63), helping you cooperate with the ongoing process of change. In the Four Pillars, it is the inner core of the Month Pillar or Life Manager, your sense of ordering life and relating to others, your social personality, motivations and personal fate. You can see how it influences you by looking at your reactions to the parenting you received.

You enter this Palace through the **Western Gate**, the **Tiger's Mouth**, whose core drive is to clear away the histories of inner corruption passed to you through your parents and family line and activate the power of your inner ancestral images.



Imagine you are entering this great temple through the **Tiger Gate** and look around. Four great pillars, translucent white marble veined with deep crimson, rise at the four corners of the inner space, supporting the round dome of the dark heavens, filled with the Autumn stars that shine down from this quadrant of the sky. This space embodies the **Metal** Process.

### **Metal Process**

#### **Destroying old forms and creating new relations.**

Metal is ore in the earth, gemstones and hidden treasures, the melting, casting and working of metals. It is concentration and crystallization, insight and thought that restrains things into forms then strips away the mold. It acts as an interface that draws energy in and distributes it down, regulating the rhythms of life.



### **Metal JIN**

The character shows a cast bronze vessel and bronze weapons. Its meanings include all forms of metal; bronze, bronze vessels, making bronze vessels; a standard or flag; valuable (ores, gems), precious; metal instruments, military gongs; solid, durable, resistant; money, gold, riches; transmutation, alchemical processes, alchemical lead; a state of perfection. Metal is long in the earth, unalterable, workable and malleable and does not lose its strength.

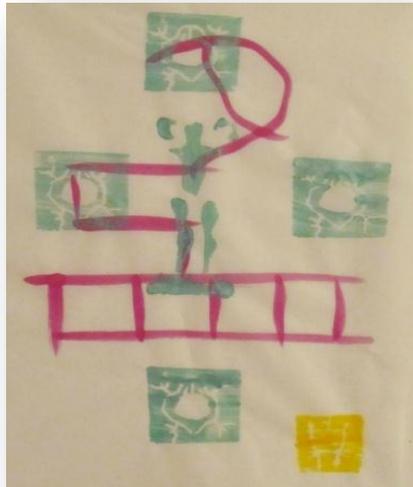
As you begin to circle the space you will see that there are empty niches in the walls, meant to hold icons. Call up the images of all the people, living or dead, all the books, images, events and encounters that have inspired and oriented you, opening you to the thought of the heart. Fill the niches with these images. Take time and imagine them carefully. Feel them, sense them, smell them, hear them speaking to you.

These images are your ancestors, the sprouts of your inner power and virtue, your actualizing power. Your attention to them will open the inner Axis of Change and bring them to life in your heart-mind. This is the space that activates your transformational capacity to produce symbols of change that harvest the crop and gather the insights through the magic of their symbolizing power.

## **The Faces of the Moon**

### **Dreamwork and the Lunar Mansions/*Xiu***

The four Palaces - Azure Dragon, Vermillion Bird, White Tiger and Black Tortoise - are the heart, the inner temples, of the Four Pillars. Like the Pillars, each is associated with a Season, a process or element and a direction. These Palaces are the four quadrants of Heaven and each of them contains seven Mansions of the Lunar Zodiac, literally star clusters close to the ecliptic that the moon passes through in its 28 day cycle.



These lunar mansions are the deep symbols of the moon's journey, transformational symbols in the night sky that link us with the dreaming process of the temple we have entered. These are the agents of the Dreamwork that turns the snares of fate into the bright omens of destiny by deliteralizing our personal suffering and opening it to the imaginal world of the heart-mind.

The old character shows the moon entering the lunar mansions. It means to spend a night in an inn or way station, to establish a guard, renew defenses, do your duty, be faithful. It is something that is first, ancient, perpetual, predestined, latent, proving an anterior existence. It is the plants that grow on a grave and the circumstances you encounter, and a bird in its nest. Above all it is an offering of spirits to the unending cycles of the moon.

Walk around the circumference of your temple, call on the images in the niches of those who truly parented and mentored you and then move to the center of the space where you will see a small, thatched hut with an earthen floor. This is the Mourning Hut, where we go to symbolically die and be reborn into a higher level of awareness and maturity.

Step into the Hut and sit on the bare earth floor. Call up the experiences, particularly in your childhood and early adolescence, that are the root of your sense of lack, need, pain and inner pollution. Simply visualize them without attachment or reaction. These early experiences of conditional love are what you are suffering from. Hold these experiences in your mind and call on your mentors to give the part of yourself that suffers the lack, need and pain the unconditional love you never received. Let them show you how to love your creative self in all its manifestations.

The shape and dynamic of your journey through the Lunar Mansions of the White Tiger Palace is embodied in Hexagram 1 of the Classic of Change.

☰ **1 Inspiring Force/Creator QIAN** 乾



The old character shows the sun at dawn, a three-leaved sprout and vapors, the energy flowing from Heaven that spreads to nourish the world. This energy drives itself onward in a self-renewing cycle.

### **Circle of Meanings**

Creative energy, dynamic power that guides and inspires; persist, endure, untiring; the shape-changer, the rainmaker; Heaven, the yang force awakening life, the daimon who brings the protection of the Ancestors and activates the power of inner images; the key, the male sexual organ. This is an Engine of Change that recharges experience with meaning and energy.

### **Myths for Change**

Inspiring Force, the Dragon is a shape-changer that constantly breaches natural reality. His inspiring force rises as the constellation Cerulean Dragon that presides over the growing season and his weaving body surrounds us as both lifelines in the landscape through which energy flows and as images rising within us, a mysterious vital force moving and circulating through the subtle body. The Dragon is the inspiration in a work of art and the dynamic language of the myth-world, our connection with the Great Person, the deep personality in all of us. It promotes seeing or visualizing (*jian*): becoming aware, connecting with inner images, being struck and moved by Inspiring Force. It is a realizing spirit-image, a gate to the unseen, mediator and conductor of blessings. Its earliest image may be the Staring Eyes found on sacrificial objects from earliest times, signifying the awesome power of the Other, the Ancestor. Inspiring Force is tireless creative energy, inspiring and creating dynamic harmony. In the

body, Force acts through the Lungs, skin and nervous system, regulating the rhythm of life, making energy descend and dispersing it. It connects the surface with the central nervous system, sexual stimulation and the power of inner images.

When you accept the journey, the Lunar Mansions governed by the power of the **Dragon** will appear around you in the Mourning Hut. These are the steps or stages in the process of transformation that occurs in the Palace of the **White Tiger**. As each image appears, project yourself into the situation it portrays, let the image change the way you perceive yourself and your life and follow the directions it offers.

## **The Transformations of the White Tiger**

who clears away the corruption passed to you through your parents and family line and activated the power of your inner ancestral images.

### ***Foundations: the Inner World***

#### **Mansion 15 Astride/Kui**



**Element:** Wood    **Planet:** Jupiter    **Animal:** Wolf    **Polarity:** (-) Enclosing

This is the Arsenal of the Emperor where gathered riches are locked away. It is a temple situated between the exterior and interior gates of a cemetery, astride life and death like a man astride a horse. It gathers energy in and locks it up, locking us into all the old family quarrels and discord. Sickness takes a firm grip. All constructive work is ill-omened. You are called to follow the retreating energy and confront the causes of inner corruption.

- This Mansion frames the overall process and focuses on a breakthrough point. Here Anima Intermediaries, who make the soul connections, and Animus Operators, who clear thinking and feeling, join to still

compulsions and eliminate hidden sickness. This lets you strip away your old patterns (23:24) and gives you the courage to stand up for change and carry it into the world (43:44).

These are your instructions:

**Step 1: Omen for Beginnings.** This return of the spirit attracts a new fate.

**Immersed Dragon, do not use it!**

*Spirit power is located below.* Creative energy is dormant in the underworld waters. The situation feels confused and uncertain. You want to take hold and set it right but hold back for now. Creative energy will soon re-emerge.

Call up the experiences, particularly in your childhood and early adolescence, that are the root of your sense of fear, lack and sense of abandonment. Simply visualize them without attachment or reaction. Hold these experiences in your mind and call on your spirit helpers to give the part of yourself that suffers the lack, need and pain the unconditional love you never received.

Guideway (1.1 [44.1 : 24.1] 2.1): Give up your impulsive desire to act. Attach this to the hidden loom of change and let it circulate. Do not keep this return at a distance, for the Way to the Source is open now and the time when things take form draws near. Act slowly and carefully to build the base. Have no fear. You are coupled with a creative force. Inner perseverance now lets you find a place where you can influence the world you live in.

**Mansion 16 Mound/Fish Net/Lou**



**Element:** Metal    **Planet:** Venus    **Animal:** Dog    **Polarity:** (+) Opening

These are the rites and festivals of harvest, the fall River-Mountain festivals of celebration, music and thanksgiving presided over by the Joyous Dancer.

Music and joy abound, men and women come together joyously. Those who have been separated are re-united. There is a good harvest and peace in the empire, family concord and opening doors.

This atmosphere connects directly with of the great Anima Intermediaries in the Change:



The old character shows a person with an upturned face and opened mouth and the words of the spirit that rise from it. This energy renews itself continuously.

### **Myths for Change**

*Dui*, Open is the Joyous Dancer, the *wu* or spirit-medium who calls down and speaks for the *shen* or spirits. She is the Young Ancestress who conceives by stepping in a footprint of *Di*, the High Lord, or becomes pregnant after swallowing the egg of the Dark Bird. She is the mediator whose inspiring words bring joy. We see her in the luminous vapors rising from open waters, fertile marshes and sunlit lakes and in the words from people's mouths that connect and inspire. She presides over the marketplace where we come together and news passes joyously and freely from mouth to mouth. She inspires sexuality and satisfaction, expressed as the moment when the harvest is home and the winter secure. She is the stimulating and loosening one, persuasive speech, delight and freedom from constraint. She leads through joy and cheering words, magic and pleasure. She feels the spirit in her body and gives it words, making it present in the human community. She gladdens all things that welcome her.

- This Mansion shows how your inner and outer lives can be re-connected. Here Fire and Water join to establish the inner axis of change. This organizes you to take effective action (7:8) by empowering your first

experience of finding a group outside your family that helped you realize your destiny (13:14).

These are your instructions:

**Step 2: Omen for the Inner Center.** This inner re-organization leads to harmony with others.

**See the Dragon in the fields!**

**Advantageous to see the Great People. Harvesting.**

*Power and virtue is spreading throughout.* Creative energy emerges into the lower center. You have the ability to realize things now. Seek those who connect you to the great spirits and trust what is great in yourself.

Go to your inner center and contemplate all the situations that have caused you pain. Call on your helpers and guides. Collect the traumatic elements or screen memories of all those early experiences that keep you frozen in past time, locked in the experience of being a child and a victim. Take the joyous spirit of this Mansion into your heart and let it free you from your inner pain and isolation, dissolving the inter-generational corruption and connecting you with the great family of the world. Embrace the sensual and visionary experiences and feelings that emerge and let them help you understand how each of these terrible things has been a gift, a gift that leads to transformation.

Guideway (1.2 [**13.2 : 7.2**] 2.2): People gather in the ancestral hall and are distressed when they confront the images of their ancestors. Let this distress return you to the Way. Locate yourself in the center of the gathering force and you will receive the King's mandate. No need to repeat or rehearse things now. Your inner drive is straight, square and great. There is nothing that will not benefit. Have no fear. You are coupled with a creative force. Inner perseverance now lets you find real directions in life.

**Mansion 17 Stomach/Storehouse/Wei**



**Element:** Earth    **Planet:** Saturn    **Animal:** Pheasant    **Polarity:** (+) Opening

This Mansion is the celestial granary, where the harvest of insight, joy and connection is concentrated and connected to the ancestral energies. It is the Grand Embankment that channels the flow of the river of life and prevents flooding and lets you find your true name. It recalls Yu the Great, the culture founder who created the waterways that drained the earth after the Ghost River had flooded it and gave people writing and the sacred vessels to differentiate between the bright and the dark spirits.

- This Mansion shows the change necessary to power the process of transition and initiation. Here Anima Intermediaries, who make the soul connections, and Animus Operators, who clear thinking and feeling, join to express the spirit in the human world. This lets you find a creative way to live (9:10) by equalizing the male and female powers within (15:16) so you can respond joyously to life.

These are your instructions:

**Step 3: Omen for the Threshold.** This inner re-balancing lets you make your way in life.

**Noble One completes the day using Inspiring Force again and again.**

**At night come alarms and adversity. This is not a mistake.**

*The Way reverses and returns.* This is a transitional time of incessant activity plagued by practical and emotional problems. Old ghosts come back to haunt you but the creative energy to deal with them is available if you turn your back on the past.

This is the time to look deeply into your real motives. Use the joy and insight you have stored to connect with ancestral energies and find out who you are truly meant to be. Leave the weeping tree behind you. Embrace and embody the sense of strange and new possibilities that have been freed from the stream of the past. Let this sense of a new destiny approaching energize you and open you to the wonder and mystery of life.

Guideway (1.3 [**10.3 : 15.3**] 2.3): Do not take the role of the Great Leader now or the powerful spirit will maul you. Continue toiling humbly to bring things to completion. Act through a design that contains and conceals for this is the place of hidden excellence. If you do not succumb to the premature need to accomplish something, you can bring all your plans to a beautiful completion. Step out to meet the new destiny. You will find supportive friends. Inner perseverance now brings you the ability to express the spirit in the human community.

## Transition

### Mansion 18 Closed Door/Pleiades/Mao



**Element:** Variable    **Planet:** Sun    **Animal:** Cockerel    **Polarity:** (-) Enclosing

This Mansion shows a closed door surmounted by the dark sun. It is the ears and eyes of Heaven, represented as the flickering of the Pleiades that presides over the conclusion of criminal and judicial proceedings and untimely death. This is the determining constellation of the White Tiger Palace; it displays the results of misjudged actions and the nets of fate that await it. One of its characters connects it directly with the name of the fourth branch animal, the Hare or Lady of Fates and the hexagram that expresses her activity.



**57 Subtle Penetration/Matchmaker SUN**



The old character shows an altar with wrapped meat offerings on it representing the myriad creatures. This energy renews itself repeatedly.

**Myths for Change**

*Sun*, Subtle Penetration, is the Lady of Fates who lays out the offerings on the low altar and binds the Myriad Beings to their fates. She crosses thresholds and transmits orders from Heaven. Her wrapped food offerings are an image of the Myriad Creatures toiling and laboring on the field of earth, for life is brought and carried by her winds. She is connected to the Central Palace where fates are consigned and represents a profound penetration of the above into the below which can lead to the awakening of wisdom. She prepares the food and drink for the great meal shared by humans and spirits and nourishes the people on ancient virtue. A spirit-worker and healer, she offers the virtue or *de* that actualizes an individual being. She finds the hidden sickness through hidden influences, the silent power of wind and wood. She controls the omens that regulate power and virtue, plans from hiding and knows the right moment to act. She matches and couples the beings, leading each thing to its destiny. She is imaged as a bright strutting cock, strong scented, that stimulates everything that moves or moves in the body, purifies the blood, links eyes and sexual organs, controls desire and anger. She gives vision, motivation and the capacity to act decisively at the key moment.

Embrace this deep connection between your own hidden sickness and the sickness in the culture that surrounds you. This is the beginning of the Sacred Sickness Pathway that connects personal disorders with cultural change. It will make you an agent of renewal.

## ***Encountering Troubles: the Outer World***

### **Mansion 19 Hunting Net/*Bi***



**Element:** Variable      **Planet:** Moon      **Animal:** Crow      **Polarity:** (+) Opening

This Mansion shows a hunting net with a long handle used to capture the Hares and Birds that represent the causes of hidden sickness and the Bright Omens they reveal. The character means to finish, achieve, complete something, to make it whole. It is a net catching all sorts of game rather than the spear of aggression and compulsion. Its heart theme is a cultivated field, inner cultivation.

- This Mansion shows the change necessary to power the process of transition and initiation. Here Anima Intermediaries, who make the soul connections, and Animus Operators, who clear thinking and feeling, join to express the spirit in the human world. This lets you find a creative way to live (9:10) by equalizing the male and female powers within (15:16) so you can respond joyously to life.

These are your instructions:

**Step 4: Omen for Arrival.** This inner preparation leads to what is greater.

**Someone is playing in the depths. This is not a mistake.**

*This means advancing without fault.* Creative energy emerges in the heart center. Do not lose the playful spirit. You are mingling with the Source. Joy is the key to creation.

Embrace the emptiness at the center of all things. Stand in the new space this process has opened in your heart and look at the old patterns of need and fear that make you try to dominate situations and relationships. See these as a flock of mind demons, thought patterns that have been cut off from the old traumas that fed and powered that, that arise around you like a flock of gnats or stinging insects. Simply wipe them away and free your mind into its joyous sense of new identity.

Guideway (1.4 [9.4 : 16.4] 2.4): You have a connection to the spirit that will carry you through. Let bad blood and apprehension depart. Have no fear, this source provides for great acquisitions. You will gather friends as a hair clasp gathers the hair. All is bundled in the bag now, held in the fertile chaos, so step outside the norms and re-imagine the situation. Cooperate with the ongoing process of change. Inner perseverance now lets you find a place where you can influence the world you live in.

**Mansion 20 Turtle's Beak/*Zhui***



**Element:** Fire      **Planet:** Mars      **Animal:** Monkey      **Polarity:** (-) Enclosing

This Mansion is the image is of a Turtle's Beak, often seen as the head of the White Tiger. It is a large pointed metal object like an awl or large needle that penetrates and punctures things and the stiff bristling hair of an animal that is challenged or threatened. It presides over flocks, herds and groups of people under protection. Its sharp beak continually punctures certainties and its woeful portents are stern warnings about the results of wrongdoing. This process readies the being to receive higher energies and confers the ability to make real choices.

- This Mansion shows how your inner and outer lives can be re-connected. Here Fire and Water join to establish the inner axis of change. This organizes you to take effective action (7:8) by empowering your first experience of finding a group outside your family that helped you realize your destiny (13:14).

**Step 5: Omen for the Outer Center.** This inner re-grouping lets your real purpose shine.

### **Flying Dragon in the Heavens.**

#### **Advantageous to see the Great People! Harvesting.**

*The Great Person is creating.* Creative energy appears, bright against the dark night sky. Spread your wings. Let your creative power emerge. You will receive guidance. Seek those who connect you to what is great. Now is the time to build something enduring.

These are your instructions:

Look deeply at your ideas of your place in the world around you and eliminate all the ideas and patterns that are connected with the old stories of pain, need and rejection. Call up the images of your mentors and initiators, all that has inspired you, the images of your early traumatic experiences and what has emerged from them. Think of all the juncture points in your life, your friends and your oppressors. Think over your hopes and goals for the future and the new way that is unfolding for you. It is time to walk the talk. Let this process convince you of the absolute necessity to leave the past behind and live in accord with the Way, fulfilling your ancestral potential and becoming who you are meant to be.

Guideway (1.5 [**14.5 : 8.5**] 2.5): The connection to the spirits you make now will carry you through, an awesome presence that impresses others. Be generous in your victory and people will be attracted by your compassion. Even though things may look confusing there are hidden processes at work that open the way to enduring connections. These changes will affect you deeply, a

source of great good fortune and real significance. Be resolute and part from the past. You are connected with creative force. Inner perseverance now lets you find real directions in life.

### **Mansion 21 Orion/Warrior/Three Stars/Shen**



**Element:** Water    **Planet:** Mercury    **Animal:** Ape    **Polarity:** (+/-) Variable

The Warrior, constellation of winter and the darkest hour, is the gate through which you emerge from the White Tiger's Palace. The Mansion shows the three stars of his head and the sword hanging from his belt. This sword is the Razor's Edge, the path you must walk between his two aspects. The Warrior presides over decapitations, executions and massacres on the one hand and fortresses and frontiers on the other; destruction or protection, according to your own actions. The heart of the character shows someone wound up into himself like a silkworm in a cocoon, totally self absorbed, private and selfish. The sword cuts into this isolation, demanding a sacrifice of personal desires.

- This Mansion shows the change necessary to power the overall process. Here Anima Intermediaries, who make the soul connections, and Animus Operators, who clear thinking and feeling, join to express the spirit in the human world. This lets you find a creative way to live (9:10) by equalizing male and female powers within (15:16) so you can respond joyously to life. Inner perseverance now brings you the ability to express the spirit in the human community.

These are your instructions:

**Step 6: Omen for Culmination.** This inner stripping leads to a breakthrough.

**Overbearing Dragon, heading into the gully.**

**There is cause for sorrow.**

*This means what is overfull cannot last.* Creative energy disappears below the horizon. The inspiring cycle is ending. If you keep pushing on, trying to dominate the situation it would be a misuse of creative energy. The time is changing and the force withdraws to fertilize the waters.

Turn your new vision back onto the literal events of your life outside the temple. Look carefully at the situations you are involved with that are tangled up with negative emotions and past sorrows, the stereotypes and introjects that keep us cut off from our bodies and from each other, continually at war with our own projected shadow. Confront these difficulties resolutely. Clarify what you must do and then act on it. Move quickly to part from the past. Have confidence. You are connected to the spirits and they will carry you through. Make a vow to bring the outer things you are involved with into line with the Bright Omens that you have been given.

Guideway (1.6 [43.6 : 23.6] 2.6): Be resolute and part from the past. You must truly understand this and make it known or the Way will close for you. Do not just change your face. There is a ripe fruit uneaten, a lesson you can carry away. The dragons are mating in the wilderness now and their blood flows down like the fertilizing rains. Follow it and have no doubts. You are connected to a creative force.

## **The Lunar Mansions of the White Tiger Palace**

### **Mansion 15 Astride/*Kui***



**Element:** Wood    **Planet:** Jupiter    **Animal:** Wolf    **Polarity:** (-) Enclosing  
 This is the Arsenal of the Emperor where gathered riches are locked away. It is a temple situated between the exterior and interior gates of a cemetery, astride life and death like a man astride a horse. It gathers energy in and locks it up, locking us into all the old family quarrels and discord. Sickness takes a firm grip. All constructive work is ill-omened. You are called to follow the retreating energy and confront the causes of inner corruption.

**Mansion 16 Mound/Fish Net/Lou**



**Element:** Metal    **Planet:** Venus    **Animal:** Dog    **Polarity:** (+) Opening  
 These are the rites and festivals of harvest, the fall River-Mountain festivals of celebration, music and thanksgiving presided over by the Joyous Dancer. Music and joy abound, men and women come together joyously. Those who have been separated are re-united. There is a good harvest and peace in the empire, family concord and opening doors.

**Mansion 17 Stomach/Storehouse/Wei**



**Element:** Earth **Planet:** Saturn **Animal:** Pheasant **Polarity:** (+) Opening  
 This Mansion is the celestial granary, where the harvest of insight, joy and connection is concentrated and connected to the ancestral energies. It is the Grand Embankment that channels the flow of the river of life and prevents flooding and lets you find your true name. It recalls Yu the Great, the culture founder who created the waterways that drained the earth after the Ghost River had flooded it and gave people writing and the sacred vessels to differentiate between the bright and the dark spirits.

### **Mansion 18 Closed Door/Pleiades/*Mao***



**Element:** Variable **Planet:** Sun **Animal:** Cockerel **Polarity:** (-) Enclosing  
 This Mansion shows a closed door surmounted by the dark sun. It is the ears and eyes of Heaven, represented as the flickering of the Pleiades that presides over the conclusion of criminal and judicial proceedings and untimely death. This is the determining constellation of the White Tiger Palace; it displays the results of misjudged actions and the nets of fate that await it.

## Mansion 19 Hunting Net/*Bi*



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This Mansion shows a hunting net with a long handle used to capture the Hares and Birds that represent the causes of hidden sickness and the Bright Omens they reveal. The character means to finish, achieve, complete something, to make it whole. It is a net catching all sorts of game rather than the spear of aggression and compulsion. Its heart theme is a cultivated field, inner cultivation.

## Mansion 20 Turtle's Beak/*Zhui*



**Element:** Fire    **Planet:** Mars    **Animal:** Monkey    **Polarity:** (-) Enclosing  
This Mansion is the image is of a Turtle's Beak, often seen as the head of the White Tiger. It is a large pointed metal object like an awl or large needle that penetrates and punctures things and the stiff bristling hair of an animal that is challenged or threatened. It presides over flocks, herds and groups of people under protection. Its sharp beak continually punctures certainties and its woeful portents are stern warnings about the results of wrongdoing. This

process readies the being to receive higher energies and confers the ability to make real choices.

### **Mansion 21 Orion/Warrior/Three Stars/Shen**



**Element:** Water    **Planet:** Mercury    **Animal:** Ape    **Polarity:** (+/-) Variable  
The Warrior, constellation of winter and the darkest hour, is the gate through which you emerge from the White Tiger's Palace. The Mansion shows the three stars of his head and the sword hanging from his belt. This sword is the Razor's Edge, the path you must walk between his two aspects. The Warrior presides over decapitations, executions and massacres on the one hand and fortresses and frontiers on the other; destruction or protection, according to your own actions. The heart of the character shows someone wound up into himself like a silkworm in a cocoon, totally self absorbed, private and selfish. The sword cuts into this isolation, demanding a sacrifice of personal desires.



# **Black Turtle/Somber Warrior Palace**

## ***Xuan Wu Gong***



### ***Celestial Stems of the Black Tortoise Palace***

**Yang Water: Winter/Conception**

**Yin Water: Winter/Limits**

The Black Turtle Palace is connected with Winter, finding the seed of the new by grinding away the old; with Water, the flow of emotion and the underworld river of souls; and with the North Wind and profound yin, the great reserves hidden in the ferment of life. It is association with the Intuition function and works with the river of life and death through Hexagram 64 Not Yet Crossing, carefully preparing the decisive new move. In the Four Pillars, it is the inner core of the Hour Pillar or Hidden Face, the true sign upon which your deep personality is based. It carries your destiny and expresses itself synchronistically, reflecting mature adulthood, artistic desires and the inner goals of your life.

You enter this Palace through the **Northern Gate**, the gate of the **Ghost Dancer** whose core drive is to give you the courage and insight to face all challenges and take all risks, clearing away the ghosts of the past so the flow of life can go on.



Imagine you are entering this great temple through the **Ghost Dancer's Gate**. Four great pillars, deep black jade shot with flashes of fire, rise at the four corners of the inner space, supporting the round dome of the dark heavens, filled with the Winter stars that shine down from this quadrant of the sky. This space embodies the **Water** Process.

### **Water Process**

**Structures dissolve and you must risk, fall, labor and flow on.**

**Water** dissolves structures. It is streams, floods, rivers and all moving water; the flow of emotion and the underworld river of ghosts, secret, dark, mysterious; hidden depths and secret sources, cold and lonely toiling. It pushes the being to actualize its potential, holds individual fate, stores and maintains the blood and regulates the body fluids.



## **Water SHUI**

The character shows rivulets running side by side with the imperceptible yang breath in the center. Meanings include the source of a river; waters, springs, lakes, seas, rain; strong currents, inundation; deep attraction, to receive heavenly favor; liquid metabolism, the vital continuity of the body; a measure of unity, quality, worth; efficacious virtue that expands and vivifies; supple, tender; yield, give way; a low condition, many worries.

As you begin to circle the space you will see that there are empty niches in the walls, meant to hold icons. Call up the images of all the people, living or dead, all the books, images, events and encounters that have helped you through the difficult passages of your life, the night-sea journeys. Fill the niches with these images. Take time and imagine them carefully. Feel them, sense them, smell them, hear them speaking to you.

These images are your ancestors, the sprouts of your inner power and virtue, your actualizing power. Your attention to them will open the inner Axis of Change and bring them to life in your heart-mind. This is the space that activates the courage, fearlessness, agility and insight that will take you through all dangers and let you face all challenges.

## **The Faces of the Moon** **Dreamwork and the Lunar Mansions/ *Xiu***

The four Palaces - Azure Dragon, Vermillion Bird, White Tiger and Black Tortoise - are the heart, the inner temples, of the Four Pillars. Like the Pillars, each is associated with a Season, a process or element and a direction. These Palaces are the four quadrants of Heaven and each of them contains seven Mansions of the Lunar Zodiac, literally star clusters close to the ecliptic that the moon passes through in its 28 day cycle.



These lunar mansions are the deep symbols of the moon's journey, transformational symbols in the night sky that link us with the dreaming process of the temple we have entered. These are the agents of the Dreamwork that turns the snares of fate into the bright omens of destiny by deliteralizing our personal suffering and opening it to the imaginal world of the heart-mind.

The old character shows the moon entering the lunar mansions. It means to spend a night in an inn or way station, to establish a guard, renew defenses, do your duty, be faithful. It is something that is first, ancient, perpetual, predestined, latent, proving an anterior existence. It is the plants that grow on a grave and the circumstances you encounter, and a bird in its nest. Above all it is an offering of spirits to the unending cycles of the moon.

Walk around the circumference of your temple, call on the images in the niches of those who helped you at the critical point, and then move to the center of the space where you will see a small, thatched hut with an earthen floor. This is the Mourning Hut, where we go to symbolically die and be reborn into a higher level of awareness and maturity.

Step into the Hut and sit on the bare earth floor. Call up the experiences at the critical points in your life that are the root of your fear, panic and belligerence, your sense of lack, need and abandonment. Simply visualize them without attachment or reaction. These experiences of conditional love are what you are suffering from. Hold these experiences in your mind and call on your helpers to give the part of yourself that suffers the lack, need, pain and fear the unconditional love you never received. Let them show you how to love your creative self in all its manifestations.

The shape and dynamic of your journey through the Lunar Mansions of the Black Turtle Palace is embodied in Hexagram 29 of the Classic of Change.



The old character shows the Tree on the Earth Altar and a person kneeling beside it to offer sacrifice, surrounded by the rising vapors of the Ghost River beneath. This energy renews itself repeatedly.

#### **Circle of Meanings**

A critical time or test; a dangerous place, a hole, cavity, hollow, snare, trap, grave; midnight, winter, black rushing water; confront your fear, face the danger, collect your forces, take the plunge, rise to the challenge; practice, repeat, rehearse, teaching the Way again and again; the Earth Pit, the Ghost World and the Ghost Dancer, a powerful shaman who is part of the inner Axis of Change. *Heart Theme: 27 the Tiger's Mouth.* This is an Inspiring Figure and an Engine of Change that recharges experience with meaning and energy.

#### **Myths for Change**

*Kan*, Ghost River, is the sacrificial pit at the Earth Altar and the underworld waters that flow beneath it that connect the Sun Tree and the Moon Tree, the axis of the world, and open the Gate of Destinies through which souls enter the world. It alludes to religious rites where the victims were drowned and buried and the Moon Goddesses who sponsored the earliest form of the reading the Changes. Its symbols are rushing water, holes, pits and snares, tombs and graves, prisons and the Yellow Springs, the deep center where the dead live. It evokes the north, midnight, winter and cold dark waters. It represents a critical moment that requires courage and determination in face of the great fear engendered by the presence of the ghost world, a time to confront and dissolve obstacles, venture, fall and move on. It is part of the central Fire-Water Axis of Change, the Burning Water or *prima materia*. As the Ghost Dancer, this figure leads through danger, dances with ghosts, risks all and always comes through.

He exults in work and dissolves all things, a black pig and hidden riches. In the body, Pit works through the Kidneys, conserving life and pushing the organism to actualize potential. This is the site of the essence (*jing*) or individual fate; the power of the Ghost Dancer transforms this essence into available energy, controlling the flow of emotions, particularly courage and fear.

When you accept the journey, the Lunar Mansions governed by the power of the **Ghost Dancer** will appear around you in the Mourning Hut. These are the steps or stages in the process of transformation that occurs in the Palace of the **Black Turtle**. As each image appears, project yourself into the situation it portrays, let the image change the way you perceive yourself and your life and follow the directions it offers.

### **The Transformations of the Black Turtle**

who gives you the courage and insight to face all challenges and take all risks, clearing away the ghosts of the past so the flow of life can go on.

#### ***Foundations: the Inner World***

#### **Mansion 8 Southern Ladle/*Nan Du***



**Element:** Wood    **Planet:** Jupiter    **Animal:** Unicorn    **Polarity:** (+) Opening

This Mansion shows the head of the tortoise used as a measure for liquid, more specifically distilled spirits, and mean recompense, satisfaction, completion and reward. It presides over wine and wine merchants and is a thanksgiving offered to the spirits for their benefactions. It is a wooden vase that holds water used to wash a corpse, something steep, abrupt and sudden, the ability to

discriminate between right and wrong and the littlest thing, the insignificant beginning of profound change. It connects directly to Change hexagram 46:



The old character shows a small measure for alcohol poured out in sacrifice and a head filled with spirit, the illumination that results. This possibility to rise to a higher level is enabled by carefully watching for the manifestations of a new spirit (20).

### Myths for Change

*Sheng*, ascending shows a procession up the Sacred Mountain, specifically a journey through the old Zhou capital, the empty city, up to the Twin-Peaked Mountain that was the ancestral home of the Zhou ancestors. This was the King's temple where the spirit tablets of the Royal Ancestors were housed. A journey up this mountain means becoming part of the founders, one with the Great People. It alludes to the story of a timely intervention by Confucius, who "ascended the three steps" of the ritual platform to save his lord from being killed through treachery at a treaty negotiation. His precise knowledge of the ritual and his moral integrity allowed him to make the crucial intervention. Behind this is a very old tradition of the Wu or Spirit-Intermediaries ascending to the mountain shrine of the Tiger spirit hidden just below the summit to receive the destinies of noble souls and open the fields for the people. The term means to rise up like the sun, to climb the steps and present an offering. It is a series of high divinations that goes on through the night. In meditation, this is the rising of energy from the base of the trunk to the heart center that connects above and below. It is setting out to subdue the Demon Country, freed from care, melancholy and compulsive desire. The root of the term means complete and shows a small measure, a libation cup full of spirit.

- This Mansion frames the overall process and focuses on a breakthrough point. Here Anima Intermediaries, who make the soul connections, and Animus Operators, who clear thinking and feeling, join to clear the inner

channels. This disperses your old identity and lets you articulate the image of a world (59:60) in which the joy of renewal can be circulated to all (55:56).

These are your instructions:

**Step 1: Omen for Beginnings.** This return of the spirit attracts a new fate.

**Repeating the Pit. Entering the pitfall.**

**Trap! The Way closes.**

*This means letting go of the Way and falling into a trap. By responding in the same way again and again you fall into the tomb of depression and melancholy. Do not get caught here or the Way will close.*

Call up the experiences, particularly in your childhood and early adolescence, that are the root of your sense of fear, lack and sense of abandonment. Simply visualize them without attachment or reaction. Hold these experiences in your mind and call on your spirit helpers to give the part of yourself that suffers the lack, need and pain the unconditional love you never received.

Guideway (29.1 [60.1 : 56.1] 30.1): Do not leave your inner door and chambers. If you make a move now your journey will end in fragments. You will be split off from your place and grasp disaster. The omens are good for beginnings, so honor them and make a new start. Do not stay in mourning for the past. Take things in. Be open and provide what is needed. Containing your fear and impulse now lets you express the spirit in the human community.

### **Mansion 9 Draught Ox/ Qian Niu**



**Element:** Metal

**Planet:** Venus

**Animal:** Ox

**Polarity:** (-) Enclosing

This Mansion is part of the story of the Ox Boy and the Weaving Maiden who were married and, because they become so taken up with each other that the Weaving Maiden gave up her work, had to be separated. They now live on opposite shores of the Milky Way and see each other only once a year on the Feast of Women, when flocks of magpies build a bridge the Ox Boy can cross to see his wife. Here the boy is leading his Ox to market, to be slaughtered or sacrificed like the Red Bull carefully raised for the great Spring sacrifice that opens the fields. The Mansion presides over roads, paths, fields and barriers and warns against leaving doors open or tasks unfinished. Incompletion, failure of enclosure or the inability to let go of the past will bring sickness and starvation, discord and separation, broken marriages and disappearing resources.

- This Mansion shows how your inner and outer lives can be re-connected. Here Inspiring Force and Earth join to open a new world. This organizes you to take effective action and find a group (7:8) that lets your real power and destiny emerge (13:14).

These are your instructions:

**Step 2: Omen for the Inner Center.** This inner re-organization leads to harmony with others.

**A Pit with sheer sides.**

**Seek and acquire through the Small.**

*Do not leave the inner center.* As you venture into danger you will get what you need by being flexible and adaptable. Have modest goals. Keep your sense of purpose. Do not impose your will and you will succeed.

Go to your inner center and contemplate all the situations that have caused you pain. Call on your helpers and guides. Collect the traumatic elements or screen memories of all those early experiences that keep you frozen in past time, locked in the experience of being a child and a victim. Take the spirit of this Mansion into your heart and let it free you from your inner pain and isolation, completely dissolving the inter-generational corruption and connecting you with the great family of the world. Embrace the sensual and visionary experiences and feelings that emerge and let them help you understand how each of these terrible things has been a gift, a gift that leads to transformation.

Guideway (29.2 [8.2 : 14.2] 30.2): Your connection puts you at the center of this group, a part of its origin. Gather the people. Adapt to what confronts you. Do not let this opportunity slip through your fingers. Use a great chariot, an inspiring idea, to carry your feelings and desires. Light and power will surge up from below, surrounded by the yellow light of the center. Strip

away your old ideas. Be open and provide what is needed. Containing your fear and impulse now brings you a deep faith in the processes of life.

### **Mansion 10 Serving Maiden/*Xu Nu***



**Element:** Earth    **Planet:** Saturn    **Animal:** Bat    **Polarity:** (+) Opening

This Mansion suggests the young girls who offer sacrifice and play the flute on the night of the summer solstice festival, asking for a good dowry and a good husband. It presides over weaving, marriages and textiles. Its animal, the Bat, indicates good fortune through dark means, the magic of darkness. It connects directly with Change hexagram 31:

☵ ☶    **31 Conjoining XIAN** 咸



The old character shows an ax cutting into a sacrificial victim and a hidden mouth, the spirit's response to the sacrifice. This is the inner ground that brings the blessing of spirit (42).

### **Myths for Change**

Conjoining is an image of the sacred sites and River-Mountain paradises where the spirits dwell, where the Intermediaries call the Bright Spirits that unite and support the people. It portrays the *Xian chi*, the Pool at the base of the Sun Tree where the new sun is bathed and sets out on its journey. The root of the word is heart, the heart moved and moving, an image of the attraction and union of contraries - man and woman, human and spirit - an influx or inspiration that stirs deep wellsprings of feeling. The term also means “to influence, to join with, to feel an influx,” a physical sensing of spirit moving in the body that doubles the sacred landscape. This is the way of the Wu or Spirit-Intermediaries who call the spirits and set out their omens for others. Another variant of the term refers to cutting or opening the sacrificial body to reveal how Heaven and Earth influence the hearts of the myriad beings. The central injunction is to embrace the woman and the yin, to submit and be moved. This is the contrary to heroic striving.

- This Mansion shows the change necessary to power the process of transition and initiation. Here Anima Intermediaries, who make the soul connections, and Animus Operators, who clear thinking and feeling, join to rouse and express the spirit. This empowers the first images of your deeper self (21:22) to free you from oppressive social structures and return you to the sources of human community (47:48). These are your instructions:

**Step 3: Omen for the Threshold.** This inner re-balancing lets you make your way in life.

**They come into the Pit again and again.**

**Steep and deep, the victims are drowning.**

**Do not get trapped in this pitfall!**

*An end without results.* Do not be a victim of the past. Relax and pull back. What is coming is more than you can handle right now. If you simply push on you will be trapped in a fatal diversion. Think carefully about your real values.

This is the time to look deeply into your real motives. Use the insight you have stored to connect with ancestral energies and find out who you are truly meant to be. Leave the weeping tree behind you. Embrace and embody the sense of strange and new possibilities that have been freed from the stream of the past. Let this sense of a new destiny approaching energize you and open you to the wonder and mystery of life.

Guideway (29.3 [48.3 : 21.3] 30.3): The source of common value and feeling is disturbed and turbid. You feel the sorrow of someone who is connected to the sources of life but has no one with whom to share. As you bite through the obstacles to union you will encounter something poisonous. Bring it out! If you do not beat your drum and you sing your songs now you will end

up an old person lamenting all the terrible things that have happened in your life. If you let yourself be led you can realize the hidden potential. Cooperate with the ongoing process of change. Containing your fear and impulse now lets you find a place where you can influence the world you live in.

## Transition

### 11 Void/*Xu*



**Element:** Variable      **Planet:** Sun      **Animal:** Rat      **Polarity:** (-) Enclosing

This is the determinative star of the Northern Palace. Its graph is made up of the signs for North and for Tiger. It is the source of rains, snows and storms and its images are a tomb, sepulcher, wild place or wasteland. It means empty, nothing, virtual reality, original chaos, an infinite space-time with no origin purified of all passions, desires and cognitive thought and animated only by vital spirits. This is the empty center that carries and penetrates all phenomena, the true nature of things that has no appearance. It welcomes all the hidden winds or breaths and the imaginal beings that ride them. It connects with the sacrifice to emptiness in Change hexagram 41, a Zone of Radical Transformation where we pass through the Tiger's Mouth to Open the Heart anew.



41 *Diminishing* SUN





The old character shows two open hands, a reverential bow and a sacred vessel with a circle above it that indicates empty, hollow, nothing, zero. It is an offering to emptiness. This offering lets you bring together what belongs together (31).

### **Myths for Change**

*Sun*, Diminishing and *Yi*, Augmenting offer a paradigm of sacrifice and its results. Diminishing is the offering: What is below gives to what is above. The root of the term is a hand and a sacrificial vessel, the act of pouring out the libation. It is the food and wine, the cooked grains in the vessel, the objects and victims offered in sacrifice or put into the tomb, the waning moon, the victim, the old king, all that is offered. It suggests making a reverence, a full ritual prostration and includes the meanings to lessen, harm, destroy, lose or weaken, for the things offered are truly destroyed. It is biting or mordant speech, criticism and self-reproach, a gift that costs much effort. Philosophically, this is the cultivation of power and virtue (*de*), what keeps harm away by reducing things to the essential, eliminating the useless or outmoded and thus revealing the Way.

Concentrate on real inner ideals. Decrease your personal involvements and emotional entanglements. Let go of your compulsions and curb your anger. Inquire into your motivations. Ask yourself why you do things. Augment the receptive and diminish the aggressive. Act this way with confidence, for it is the origin of great good fortune and meaningful events.

## ***Encountering Troubles: the Outer World***

### **12 Danger/Wilderness/Wei**



**Element:** Earth    **Planet:** Moon    **Animal:** Swallow    **Polarity:** (-) Enclosing

This Mansion shows the three day market held at the Winter Solstice and also suggests temples and places of worship. It is a building whose roof is too high and a person who is exposed to danger on the high roof, a specific injunction not to travel by land or water or you will face attack or shipwreck. The character means dangerous, peril, a high, elevated cliff and danger from authorities; hard labor and suffering, wounds and pernicious influences. At the same time it contains the subtle beginnings of what is correct, right, just and powerful. It connects with Change hexagram 23.

 **23 Stripping Bo** 剝



The old character shows an inscribed oracle bone, the knife used to carve the characters that express the words of the spirits and a winch used to draw water for irrigation. This ability to strip away the old grows out of an inner balancing that activates hidden creative powers (15).

### **Myths for Change**

The root of “*bo*, stripping” is knife. It represents stripping off rotting skin and flesh, slicing into the body to reveal the bones, uncovering the meats offered in sacrifice, eliminating the outmoded and decadent in preparation for the return of the new. There is deprivation and loss of direction involved in this, imaged as a period of time spent in the grave or the ritual of death and re-birth in the Mourning Hut. Literally, stripping represents the first burial or exposure of the corpse to animals and elements, when the flesh is rotted or stripped away. During this liminal period the soul must be fed and guided in the underworld, a job for the *Wu* or Spirit-Intermediaries who would talk to the ghost of the newly deceased, persuading it to return to the tomb rather than exorcising it as a bad influence. After the exposure or burial, the bones were gathered or disinterred, rubbed with red ocher and put into a vase or urn that served as the spirit-home. The liberated spirit-soul would then re-enter the human community and act as a guide and benefactor to the community of the living. Its name could be used again. The palace women in this figure are attendants on the Queen Mother of the West, the Queen of the Dead. The character shows the knife used to carve the oracle bones that record the words of the departed spirit once it is enshrined as an ancestor. This is a Zone of Radical Transformation when we pass through the Tiger’s Mouth to connect with the Realizing Power of Earth.

- This Mansion shows the change necessary to power the process of transition and initiation. Here Anima Intermediaries, who make the soul connections, and Animus Operators, who clear thinking and feeling, join

to rouse and express the spirit. This empowers the first images of your deeper self (21:22) to free you from oppressive social structures and return you to the sources of human community (47:48).

These are your instructions:

**Step 4: Omen for Arrival.** This inner preparation leads to what is greater.

**Set out wine in a flask and two sacrificial bowls. Use the earthen vessels.**

**Let in the bonds that come through the window.**

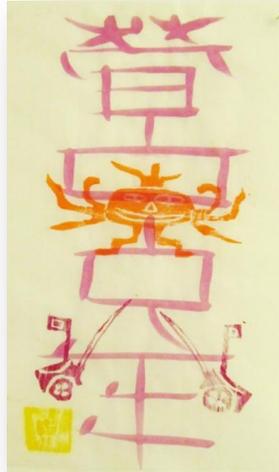
**Complete this! It is not a mistake.**

*This is the border between the strong and the supple. You are trapped or cut off, but do not fight the situation. Your rescuers are coming. Open the window and let them in. Lay out an offering and give of yourself. You are right on the border, the place where events emerge, so go through with this. It is not a mistake.*

Embrace the emptiness at the center of all things. Stand in the new space this process has opened in your heart and look at the old patterns of need and fear that make you try to dominate situations and relationships. See these as a flock of mind demons, thought patterns that have been cut off from the old traumas that fed and powered that, that arise around you like a flock of gnats or stinging insects. Simply wipe them away and free your mind into its joyous sense of new identity.

Guideway (29.4 [47.4 : 22.4] 30.4): You are confined by a host of oppressive duties but slowly they will loosen. See this as an omen of what must be cast out and make a sacrifice to your real ideals. The people approaching you now are not outlaws. Attribute great wisdom and worth to the connection. Seek the marriage alliance and make them kin, for they can carry you like the soaring white horse of inspiration. Any distress you might feel will flare up, burn out and be thrown away. Have no fear, you will find supportive friends. Containing your fear and impulse now lets you express the spirit in the human community.

## **Mansion 13 Palace Fire Ritual/ *Ying Shi***



**Element:** Fire      **Planet:** Mars      **Animal:** Pig      **Polarity:** (+) Opening

This Mansion is the Arsenal and the Regulator, a house full of riches. Within it is a ceremonial pyre where fire offerings are made, the Paper Horses that carry our needs and prayers to the ancestors who live in the Sacred Mountain. This is a time to instigate new ventures, a time when the Emperor bestows his favor and Heaven showers blessings on the fortunate person. It connects with Change hexagram 30 to set up the inner Fire Water Axis:

☲      **30 Radiance/Visionary LI**      離



The old character shows the bright bird of omen and a net, a pattern of words and symbols through which we reflect on what it represents and spread the awareness to all. This energy renews itself constantly.

**Myths for Change**

*Li*, Radiance is the Bright Presence of things, a numen that surges from the depths and turns them into omens that reveal the spirits. It is associated with birds, nets and victims taken for sacrifice, the rituals of the bird dancers who call the spirits down and the creation of an oracular language, the symbolic openings through which they can speak. It is the yellow *lia*-bird whose song makes the silkworms appear and who sponsors lovers and the dance of the pheasant drumming the earth to call to her mate, a dance that awakens the thunder in spring. *Li*, Radiance and the Bright Omens makes people go in pairs. She suggests extraordinary happenings that separate people from the conventional and evokes stringed instruments, a bride's veil and a woman's decorated girdle. She is associated with brightness, fire and the light of the heavenly bodies, midday sun, summer, the south and the beauty and splendor of things. Radiance or Bright Omens is part of the Axis of Change, the Burning Water or prima materia. She leads through her warm clear light, the radiance of living beings holding together. She is nets and soft things with shells, a bright pheasant, a bird of omen. Radiance works in the Heart, master of the organs, commanding the pathways and the blood, bringing the spark of life and offering a quiet center in which the spirits find a voice.

- This Mansion shows how your inner and outer lives can be re-connected. Here Inspiring Force and Earth join to open a new world. This organizes you to take effective action and find a group (7:8) that lets your real power and destiny emerge (13:14).

These are your instructions:

**Step 5: Omen for the Outer Center.** This inner re-grouping lets your real purpose shine.

**The Pit is not full. The Earth Spirit is already appeased.**

**This is not a mistake.**

*This is centered but not yet Great.* The sacrifice to the Earth Spirit is over. The spirits are appeased. Go on with your life. Be happy with your release. This inner re-grouping lets your real purpose shine.

Look deeply at your ideas of your place in the world around you and eliminate all the ideas and patterns that are connected with the old stories of pain, need and rejection. Call up the images of your mentors and initiators, all those who have helped you through the difficult passages of your life, the images of your early traumatic experiences and the gifts that have emerged from them. Think of all the juncture points in your life, your hopes and goals for the future and the new way that is unfolding for you. Let this process convince you of the absolute necessity to leave the past behind and live in accord with the Way, fulfilling your ancestral potential and becoming who you are meant to be.

Guideway (29.5 [7.5 : 13.5] 30.5): The decisive encounter approaches and you are assured of victory so come out of mourning for the past. Get rid of old ideas, irrelevant images and bad memories. Enter the battle and seize the enemy. People are coming together now after a time of loneliness and separation. Great Leaders meet to mutualize their power for the good of all. Let your tears flow like rivers, for this will release you from the past and open the Way. Something important is returning. Be open and provide what is needed. Containing your fear and impulse now brings you a deep faith in the processes of life.

### **Mansion 14 Eastern Rampart/*Dong Bi***



**Element:** Water    **Planet:** Mercury    **Animal:** Porcupine    **Polarity:** (+) Opening

This Mansion is the residence of the God of Wealth and Literature, the treasury of ancient virtue and power. It is a wall, a sheer precipice, a rampart or fortress that protects the archives, libraries and literary works. It brings riches and recognition through respectful offerings to elders and ancestors. It is also the bi-disc, a symbol of the gate to Heaven that has been placed in tombs since the early Neolithic.

- This Mansion frames the overall process and focuses on a breakthrough point. Here Anima Intermediaries, who make the soul connections, and Animus Operators, who clear thinking and feeling, join to clear the inner channels. This disperses your old identity and lets you articulate the image of a world (59:60) in which the joy of renewal can be circulated to all (55:56).

These are your instructions:

**Step 6: Omen for the Culmination.** This inner stripping leads to a breakthrough.

**Tied with stranded ropes, sent away to the dense thorn hedges.**

**For three years you will see nothing. Trap! The Way closes.**

*This means losing the Way and being trapped for three years.* If you go on as you are you will commit a serious transgression and be bound, judged and imprisoned. Change now!

Turn your new vision back onto the literal events of your life outside the temple. Look carefully at the situations you are involved with that are tangled up with negative emotions and past sorrows, the stereotypes and introjects that keep us cut off from our bodies and from each other, continually at war with our own projected shadow. Confront these difficulties resolutely. Clarify what you must do and then act on it. Move quickly to part from the past. Have confidence. You are connected to the spirits and they will carry you through. Make a vow to bring the outer things you are involved with into line with the Bright Omens that you have been given.

Guideway (29.6 [**59.6 : 55.6**] 30.6): Disperse the bad blood. Deal with it, send it away then you can come forth. Do not stay in mourning for the past. Your melancholy and pain will trap and cut you off. It is time to discipline the Demon Country within you. Sever the heads, offer the old in sacrifice and there will be excellent results. Be open and provide what is needed. Containing your fear and impulse now lets you find a place where you can influence the world you live in.

## The Lunar Mansions of the Black Turtle Palace

### Mansion 8 Southern Ladle/*Nan Du*



**Element:** Wood    **Planet:** Jupiter    **Animal:** Unicorn    **Polarity:** (+) Opening  
This Mansion shows the head of the tortoise used as a measure for liquid, more specifically distilled spirits, and mean recompense, satisfaction, completion and reward. It presides over wine and wine merchants and is a thanksgiving offered to the spirits for their benefactions. It is a wooden vase that holds water used to wash a corpse, something steep, abrupt and sudden, the ability to discriminate between right and wrong and the littlest thing, the insignificant beginning of profound change.

### Mansion 9 Draught Ox/*Qian Niu*



**Element:** Metal    **Planet:** Venus    **Animal:** Ox    **Polarity:** (-) Enclosing  
This Mansion is part of the story of the Ox Boy and the Weaving Maiden who were married and, because they become so taken up with each other, had to be

separated and live on opposite shores of the Milky Way and see each other only once a year. The Mansion presides over roads, paths, fields and barriers and warns against the inability to let go of the past that brings sickness and starvation, discord and separation, broken marriages and disappearing resources.

### **Mansion 10 Serving Maiden/*Xu Nu***



**Element:** Earth    **Planet:** Saturn    **Animal:** Bat    **Polarity:** (+) Opening  
This Mansion shows the young girls who offer sacrifice and play the flute on the night of the summer solstice festival, asking for a good dowry and a good husband. It presides over weaving, marriages and textiles. Its animal, the Bat, indicates good fortune through dark means, the magic of darkness.

### **Mansion 11 Void/*Xu***



**Element:** Variable    **Planet:** Sun    **Animal:** Rat    **Polarity:** (-) Enclosing  
This is the determinative star of the Northern Palace. Its graph is made up of the signs for North and for Tiger. It is the source of rains, snows and storms

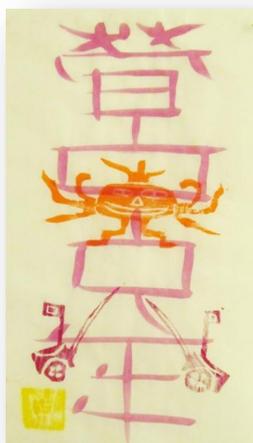
and its images are a tomb, sepulcher, wild place or wasteland. It means empty, nothing, virtual reality, original chaos, an infinite space-time with no origin purified of all passions, desires and cognitive thought and animated only by vital spirits. This is the empty center that carries and penetrates all phenomena, the true nature of things that has no appearance. It welcomes all the hidden winds or breaths and the imaginal beings that ride them.

### **Mansion 12 Danger/Wilderness/Wei**



**Element:** Earth    **Planet:** Moon    **Animal:** Swallow    **Polarity:** (-) Enclosing  
This Mansion shows the three day market held at the Winter Solstice and also suggests temples and places of worship. It is a building whose roof is too high and a person who is exposed to danger on the high roof, a specific injunction not to travel by land or water or you will face attack or shipwreck. The character means dangerous, peril, a high, elevated cliff and danger from authorities; hard labor and suffering, wounds and pernicious influences. At the same time it contains the subtle beginnings of what is correct, right, just and powerful.

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*31:32 Conjoining and Persevering displays the process through which spirit enters and influences the human world, offering omens that, when given an enduring form, help the heart endure on the voyage of life.*

This cosmos has the shape of the Numinous Turtle, swimming in the endless seas of the Way or Dao. Heaven is above, Earth and the Ghost River are below, the Sun Tree lies to the East, the Moon Tree is in the far West. The space between, spread to the Four Directions, is the world we live in, full of shrines and temples where we talk with the ghosts and spirits. This is the All-Under-Heaven, where we are born, lead our lives, fulfill our destinies and return to the source of all.

The Central Palace is the voice at the center of all created things.

**Center/Zhong**



The old character shows a square field with a line going through the middle, drawn as a continuous line. It is a banner at the center of the square field of earth, a ceremony that controls the hidden winds, an ancestral altar and is connected with the night of the autumn equinox. It means the middle, the interior of all things, to interiorize, inner spirit, the depth of the heart, an

individual; to concentrate forces, to catch and hold, touch deeply, connect and join; to make use of, by means of, efficacious; prosperous, luxuriant; equity, justice, a harmonizing influx. The center roots and supports vital force, an inner equilibrium the controls the permutations of the hidden winds. It is a non localized space between Heaven and Earth that allows the myriad beings to appear and the place in space and time that supports them, the central axis of conduct.

Its purpose or activity is manifesting the symbols that give safety and security to the Ten Thousand Things.

### **Symbolizing/ *Xiang***



The old character shows an elephant and suggests the elephant mind, where all the great symbols reside. A symbol is an image that has the power to connect things, to connect the visible world of your problem to the invisible world of the spirit. Change works through the symbols or *xiang*, which were created by the sages and shamans through a kind of imaginative induction that is also called *xiang*. A *xiang* is a magic spell, a figure or likeness that provides a pattern or model. We make the connection between the invisible world of the spirit and the visible world of our lives by playing with the symbols, by imitating them and acting them out.

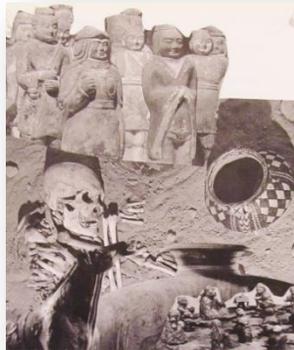
Its central focus is the power to endure.

### **Enduring/HENG**



The character shows the heart and the path of the crescent moon. It means to create an enduring form for the gifts of the spirit, to make power and virtue endure in the heart; to continue in what is right, endure and renew the Way; constant, consistent, durable, self-renewing, regular, perpetual, universal; a stable married couple.

We enter this Palace through the **Earth Gate**, the central pivot of transformation in the alternation of day and night, yin and yang, the point around which the seasons and directions revolve and through which they change.



Imagine you are entering this great temple through the Earth Gate and look around. Four great pillars rise at the four corners of the field of earth to frame the world we live in and hold up the round dome of the central heavens above. These are the Four Sides or Directions.

To the East is the **Groundbreaker's Gate**, a pillar of translucent green jade veined with deep turquoise, surrounded by the **Spring** stars or Lunar Mansions that shine from this quadrant of the sky. It embodies the **Wood** Process that gives you your Generational Mission and carries your family histories, the intergenerational conflicts and their burden of inner corruption. It is associated with the Sensation Function and its task is to help you connect with the inspiring force of the Dragon.

To the South is the **Dark Bird Gate**, a pillar of translucent pink marble veined with indigo, surrounded by the **Summer** stars or Lunar Mansions that shine from this quadrant of the sky. It embodies the **Fire** Process that gives you your Self-Image, your conscious image of who you are and how you do things that is constructed from personal experiences in early childhood. It is associated with the Feeling function and its task is service, bringing everything what it needs to connect and flourish.

To the West is the **Tiger Gate**, a pillar of translucent white marble veined with deep crimson, surrounded by the **Autumn** stars or Lunar Mansions that shine down from this quadrant of the sky. It embodies the **Metal** Process that gives you your **Life Manager**, your social personality and your style of ordering life and doing business. It carries your personal fate and inner motivations and affects how you relate to others, formed by your reactions to the parenting you received. It is associated with the Thinking function and its task is to help you cooperate with the ongoing process of change.

To the North is the **Ghost Dancer's Gate**, a pillar of deep black jade shot with flashes of fire, surrounded by the **Winter** stars or Lunar Mansions that shine from this quadrant of the sky. This space embodies the **Water** Process that gives you your **Hidden Face**, the true sign upon which your deep personality is based that reflects mature adulthood, artistic desires and the inner goals of your life. It is associated with the Intuition function and works to prepare the decisive new move to a higher state of awareness.

Hidden Winds arise from each of these Gates that circulate the breath of the Celestial Stems through the inner and outer worlds of your experience.

### **Winds/*Feng***



The oldest form of the character portrays a phoenix, the divine bird-spirit that animates and controls the winds and their hidden breath, subtle, mysterious, and enigmatic powers that cause things to vibrate in accord with the hidden power and influence of the ancient sages. A wind is a style, ambiance, attitude and allure, costumes and customs, reputation and renown, rumor, news and gossip. It can bring folly, madness and derangement, an evil that spreads rapidly.

The space between these Pillars or Directions embodies the **Earth** Process.

## **Earth Process**

**Yield and serve, common labor produces concrete results.**

Earth is the center, the pivot of transformation in the alternation of day and night, yin and yang, and the point around which the seasons and directions revolve and through which they change. Her action is yielding and bringing forth, sowing, sprouting and harvesting. She assimilates, transforms and distributes nourishment to assure a free flow of thought.



## **Earth TU**

The character shows a tree and the ground from which it grows. Meanings of the character include the ancestral protector of the land that controls the four directions with their hidden winds through which spirit energies enter the world we live in; soil, cultivated fields, mounted soldiers and hunting grounds.

As you begin to circle the inner temple of **Earth** you will see that there are empty niches in the walls, meant to hold icons. Call up the images of all the people, living or dead, all the books, images, events and encounters that have given you the inner strength and symbolic insight to endure in life and serve the ongoing process of the real. Fill the niches with these images. Take time and imagine them carefully. Feel them, sense them, smell them, hear them speaking to you. These images are your ancestors, the sprouts of your inner power and virtue, your actualizing power. Your attention to them will open the inner Axis of Change and bring them to life in your heart-mind. This is the

space that activates your deep power to serve and protect and give birth to yourself in the process.

### **The Star Garden: Bringing Heaven to Earth**

There are no Lunar Mansions in the Central Palace. Rather, it focuses on the Celestial Pole Star and the central star group known as the Northern Ladle.



The Northern Ladle, made up of the seven stars in what we call Ursa Major, is the center of the sky. It is surrounded by two chains of stars that form the Zi Wei Guan, the Forbidden Purple Enclosure.

The Ladle is a direction finder and transmitter of heavenly energy. It rotates on the central axis of Heaven-Earth to assign the stories of time to the Ten Thousand Things. By pointing at one of the 28 Lunar Mansions each day, it gives the beings born into that day their Lunar Birth Sign and Hidden Destiny, activating the Fire-Water Axis in the individual through that sign.

The individual stars that make up the Ladle are centers of power that, when reflected into the Earth of the Center, recharge life with meaning and energy. The shape and dynamic of the Central Palace and this process of connecting Heaven and earth is embodied in Change hexagram 11.





The old character links the shape of the Great Person and the Great Mountain with two hands like the woods embracing its flanks and waters running down its slopes to bring new life. This flow is the inner ground that lets you overcome outer obstruction and corruption (12).

### **Circle of Meanings**

Connection, peace, harmony, abundance; flowering, opening, expanding communication; connection and communion; the New King and the high ritual that brings a fertile new connection of Heaven and Earth. *Heart Theme: 54* a radical change of state through forces beyond your control. This is an Inspiring Figure, a site of intense mediating activity that connects the primal powers to personal life and cultural change. It is a Gate to the stage of the Symbolic Life when we confront the problems of individual identity, sexuality and personal destiny or mission.

### **Myths for Change**

*Tai*, Pervading, is a special form of the character *Da*, Great. It represents the great rituals (*da xeng*) that connect Heaven and Earth, rituals enacted on the first of the sacred mountains, *Taishan*. Only the King could make these sacrifices, for they involved direct communication with the Royal Ancestors and *Di* or Heaven that insures the communication between Heaven and Earth is open and flowing for all. *Tai*, Pervading suggests the time when the spirits walked among us bringing ease, joy and prospering for all. It evokes the first royal sacrifice made by the father of the Zhou, King Wen, which empowered the dynasty. The character *Tai* is phonetically connected to the names of the six stars of the Bin asterism, the Great Bear or Dipper that is the home of High Lord of Heaven who sends the fates to all. Its root is water and crossing the rivers and its old form is *Kan*, the Underworld or Ghost River. *Tai*, Pervading is the fluid metabolism of things, the flow, the streaming of the Way and the rising juices of sexual attraction, joy and ecstasy. It dissolves the spirit and puts it into circulation, a joyous flow and a revivifying spring that means

fishes, hidden wealth and the fertile womb. It shows the symbols of what is going and coming on the river of time, giving you the spirit to spread inner blessings and the fortitude to stand by what is right.

## ***Foundations: the Inner World***

### **1 Heaven's Ax/Tian Shu**



This Star Cluster channels the power of **Heaven** and the Emperor. It is a war ax with a bronze head and cutting edge on a bundled wood or bamboo handle. Two of these go in front of a war chariot to open its way by cutting through all obstacles. It is also seen as the morning star.

- This Star frames the overall process and focuses on a breakthrough point. Here Anima Intermediaries, who make the soul connections, and Animus Operators, who clear thinking and feeling, join to clear the inner channels. This connects your struggle to free yourself from conventional habits and memories (25:26) with a great cultural project in the making (45:46).

These are your instructions to connect with and embody the spirit of this star:

**Step 1 Beginnings:** This is a return of the spirit that attracts a new fate.

**Pull up and weave the twisted thatch-grass, each with its kind.**

**Wise Words! Chastising opens the Way.**

*Locate your purpose outside yourself.* Take vigorous action to get out of your lowly place and find the people you really belong with. Put things in order and set out. The Way is open. You are preparing something great.

Assemble the resources for a great project. Unite the people involved through common feeling. Turn them into an organized whole. Be like the king who imagines a temple full of images that connect the people with greater forces. Visit those who can help and advise you. Look at your own central idea and how you organize your thoughts. Make a great offering and you will reap a great reward.

Guideway (11.1 [46.1 : 45.6] 12.6): The old time is ending. Climb the sacred mountain, for the Way to the great begins here. Expressing your feelings now topples obstructions to communication and subverts corrupt authority. Step outside the norms. Re-imagine the situation. Cooperate with the ongoing process of change. Inner perseverance now lets you find a place where you can influence the world you live in.

## 2 Heaven's Jade Pivot/*Tian Xuan*



This Star Cluster channels the power and receptive strength of the **Earth** and the Empress. It is like something held in the hand and turned to all sides, a path or way that constantly turns and returns.

- This Star shows show how your inner and outer lives can be re-connected. Here Fire and Water join to establish the inner Axis of Change. This energizes your first experiences of spiritual and social

institutions (5:6) to free you from your need for recognition and your fears of being rejected (35:36).

These are your instructions to connect with and embody the spirit of this star:

**Step 2 Inner Center:** This inner re-organization leads to harmony with others.  
**Put on the hollow gourds and cross the River. Do not put off leaving.**  
**Your partners disappear. You acquire honor by moving to the center.**

*Moving toward the center using the shining Great.* You are surrounded by a wasteland. Gather your determination and cross the river to the vibrant center of life. The people you identify with will disappear. Have no fear. Your integrity will be honored and your desires fulfilled.

This is a time when you will emerge slowly and surely into the full light of day and be recognized. Be calm in your strength and poise. Give gifts of strength and spirit to enhance those connected with you. Delight in things. You will be received by the higher powers three times in a single day.

Guideway (11.2 [36.2 : 35.5] 12.5): You are unrecognized and feel wounded, but you can rescue the situation with a burst of invigorating strength. Losing or acquiring, have no cares. Attach yourself to the quiet at the center of the heart and you will soon flourish. These goings and comings release energy now bound up in the past. Cooperate with the ongoing process of change. Inner perseverance now lets you find real directions in life.

### 3 Heaven's Trigger/ *Tian Ji*



This Star Cluster channels the power of **Fire** as it is born from Wood. It governs internal chaos by activating the hidden triggers, motives, motors and strategies that enable our profound nature to respond to spiritual impulses. It is the inner working of the world, the threshold and the favorable moment.

- This Star shows the change necessary to power the process of transition and initiation. Here Anima Intermediaries, who make the soul connections, and Animus Operators, who clear thinking and feeling join to rouse and express the spirit. This lets you see the necessary withdrawal you are faced with (33:34) as a time when you can become a true adult (19:20).

These are your instructions to connect with and embody the spirit of this star:

**Step 3 Threshold:** This inner re-balancing lets you make your way in life.

**No level that does not slope. No going without a return.**

**Trial: this hardship and drudgery is not a mistake.**

**Have no cares. You are connected to the spirits.**

**You will share the great meal and find Heaven's blessing.**

*This is the border of Heaven and Earth.* After a level road there always is a difficult climb. But if you do not let go of your present connections, the spirit cannot return. The difficulties you face have real spiritual meaning. Going through the hardship draws the blessings down. You can join with others in this new and loving spirit.

These are the rituals of mourning that turn a deceased parent into a true ancestor. Something great is approaching you now. Welcome it without expectations. Do not try to take immediate advantage. This is the point of contact with the new after a time of dissolution. Look at everything with care and sympathy. It will open a whole new cycle of time. This is particularly favorable for what is growing. Rushing to completion now will cut you off from the process and leave you open to danger.

Guideway (11.3 [**19.3 :20.4**] 12.4): Your present connections may look sweet, but no good can come of them. Your grief at their failure will release you. Make the crossing to the new time. You will be a guest at the feast when the king hosts the ancestors and see the city shining. Cultivate this radiant omen in your solitude as you retreat from the past. Something significant is returning. Be open and provide what is needed. Inner perseverance now lets you express the spirit in the human community.

## **Transition**

### **Heaven's Balance/ *Tian Quan***



This Star Cluster channels the power of **Water** and the Ghost River. It is an image of the weights on a balance and is the rising force behind power, authority, depth of judgment and punishments. It means to evaluate, compare, examine in view of the actual circumstances and find what is equal, just and right.

This Star Cluster embodies is the heart of the world of the Four Pillars, helping us acquire the inner power and virtue to become who we are meant to be. Jung called this individuation, becoming whole, no longer the victim of cultural stereotypes or inner corruption, the histories of rage, pain, need and betrayal passed on to us in our family histories. This focus and goal is expressed in a key hexagram from the Classic of Change:



## **28 Great Transition**

The old characters show the Great People and three footsteps at a crossroads, a decisive moment expressed as a mountain ridge or boundary and a closed mouth. This crisis is the inner ground that lets us connect our inner and outer lives in the truth of the Opened Heart (61).

*Da Guo*, Great Traverses or the Great Transition is a dialogue between structure, the house and the ridgepole as the social structures that support and constrain us, and the process of becoming a true individual, a great being with an individual identity free of social conventions. It represents the initiation of a noble child through which he becomes a warrior and acquires a ritual presence and the transition to a higher class or becoming a high ranking lord. It is a passage through liminal space where structures dissolve, a re-ordering of fundamental principles. This is a matter of life and death, of letting go of the past and crossing the threshold, a crisis in life when you must stand by what you know to be true and find the power to exist independent of collective norms. This is an Engine and Heart Theme of Change that recharges experience with meaning and energy. It is a key site on the Sacred Sickness Pathways that connect personal disorders with cultural change and the Mission of the stage of the Symbolic Life that centers on initiation and the search for an image of the deeper self.

This is a critical situation, a moment of truth. Push your principles beyond ordinary limits and accept the movement it brings. Have a noble purpose. The structure of your life is in danger but there is a creative force at work in this breakdown. Impose a real direction on things. Do not listen to conventional thinking. This will bring success and the capacity to bring things to maturity.

## ***Encountering Troubles: the Outer World***

### **5 Jade Yoke / Yu Heng**



This Star Cluster channels the power of **Earth**, offering support from the center to the four quarters. It is government in harmony, gems of all kinds that come from earth and the sign of beautiful women, the Palace Jewels or Jade Maidens. Its image is a yoke or horn board, like the horn board for the Red Bull raised for the Spring Sacrifice. It represents inner equilibrium, balanced and mobile energy, the just choice, right and correct. It is also a support for the urns that offer sustenance to the departed ones.

- This Star shows the change necessary to power the process of transition and initiation. Here Anima Intermediaries, who make the soul connections, and Animus Operators, who clear thinking and feeling join to rouse and express the spirit. This lets you see the necessary withdrawal you are faced with (33:34) as a time when you can become a true adult (19:20).

These are your instructions to connect with and embody the spirit of this star:

**Step 4 Arrival:** This inner preparation leads to what is greater.

**Fluttering, fluttering, like a young bird leaving the nest.**

**Have no fear. This is not a warning.**

**If you are not affluent, use your neighbor's wealth.**

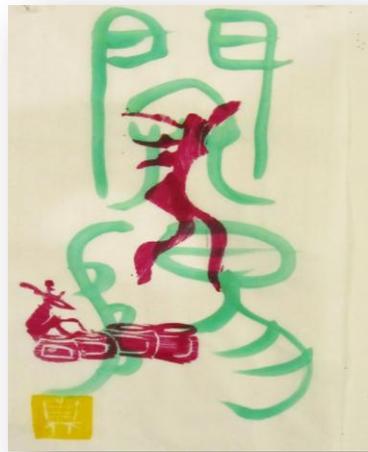
**Your connection to the spirits will carry you through.**

*Let go of possessions and center the heart's desire.* You are afraid to leave the nest. Have no fear. Come out and live in the great world. If you need help, use your connection to people who are your spiritual kin and act on your heart's desire. You have something important to give.

Focus your strength through a central creative idea and drive forward. Step outside the rules. Putting your ideas to the trial will bring profit and insight. Beware of hurting others needlessly through excessive use of force.

Guideway (11.4 [34.4 : 33.3] 12.3):. This is a time for resolute action. Break through the entanglements and the cause for sorrow will disappear. Retreat from the past and the angry ghosts that plague you. Make an offering to the spirit. Use friends and helpers. Be resolute. You are connected to a creative force. Inner devotion now brings you a liberating awareness of the whole.

## 6 Opening Gates/Kai Yang



This Star Cluster channels the power of **Wood** and bright yang energy as it is born from Water. It is the gates of the granaries. It opens the imagination to the spirit and clarifies communication between inside and outside, beginning, founding, liberating and reclaiming.

- This Star shows how your inner and outer lives can be re-connected. Here Fire and Water join to establish the inner Axis of Change. This energizes your first experiences of spiritual and social institutions (5:6) to free you from your need for recognition and your fears of being rejected (35:36).

These are your instructions to connect with and embody the spirit of this star:

**Step 5 Outer Center:** This inner re-grouping lets your real purpose shine.  
**The great ancestor offers the maidens in marriage.**  
**Use this happiness and satisfaction. It is the footstep of the spirit.**

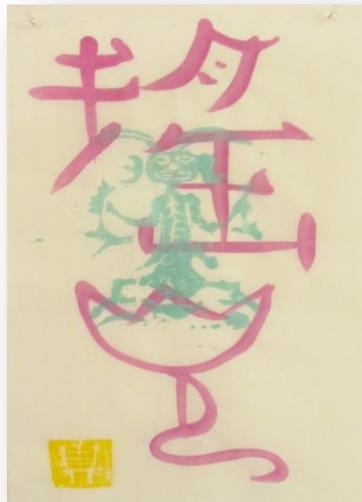
**Wise Words! The Way to the Source is open.**

*The center moves by using desire.* This is a ritual union that will have repercussions through the generations, an omen of future happiness that will gratify your desires and realize all your aims. The footsteps of the spirits are here. The Way to the Source is open.

You are not in control of things now, so do not try to make predictions or advance yourself. Think about what is necessary and wait for the right moment to provide it. Illuminate things through repeated efforts. Act this way with confidence. This is the right time to enter the stream of life with a goal or embark on a new enterprise.

Guideway (11.5 [5.5 : 6.2] 12.2): Gather with others and share what you have and you will share in the sacred meal that unites spirits, ancestors and nobles. Flee from old disputes. Stay true to yourself. Quarrels will disappear and new friends will seek you out. Step outside the norms and re-imagine the situation. Cooperate with the ongoing process of change. Inner devotion now brings you the ability to manage the flow and flux of life.

**Jade's Brilliance/ Yao Guang**



This Star Cluster channels the power of **Metal** as it is born in the Earth, ores, gems and precious stones. The image is a person kneeling in front of a low altar made of lustrous jade with their head filled with light and spirit, a celestial brilliance that illuminates all existence.

- This Star frames the overall process and focuses on a breakthrough point. Here Anima Intermediaries, who make the soul connections, and Animus Operators, who clear thinking and feeling, join to clear the inner channels. This connects your struggle to free yourself from conventional

habits and memories (25:26) with a great cultural project in the making (45:46).

These are your instructions to connect with and embody the spirit of this star:

**Step 6 Culmination:** This inner stripping leads to a breakthrough.

**The city walls dissolve and return to the moat.**

**Do not use the legions. This originates from the capital. Trial: Distress.**

*Your fate is in disarray.* The structure of things is collapsing. Do not try to force things by acting aggressively, for this dissolution has fate behind it. Though you may feel confused you are in the right position to change your thinking. Take your time. Collect the energy and insight to try again.

Disentangle yourself from compulsions and negative patterns. If you can clarify your awareness you will acquire the capacity to act spontaneously and confidently. If you do not correct yourself, you will consistently make mistakes through faulty perception. Nothing will bring you advantage.

Guideway (11.6 [26.6 : 25.1] 12.1): Disentangle yourself from the ghosts that haunt you. Have no doubts. An unexpected encounter will soon correct your situation and let the blessings flow. This unfortunate incident can turn out to be Heaven's highway. Take vigorous action to find the people you really belong with. Step outside the norms and re-imagine the situation. Cooperate with the ongoing process of change. Inner devotion now lets you see the patterns that mark real ends and beginnings.

## The Stars of the Central Palace

There are no Lunar Mansions in the Central Palace. Rather, it focuses on the Celestial Pole Star and the central star group known as the Northern Ladle.



The Northern Ladle, made up of the seven stars in what we call Ursa Major, is the center of the sky, surrounded by two star clusters that form the Zi Wei Guan, the Forbidden Purple Enclosure. The Ladle is a direction finder and transmitter of heavenly energy. It rotates on the central axis of Heaven-Earth to assign the stories of time to the Ten Thousand Things by pointing at one of the 28 Lunar Mansions each day, thus giving the beings born into that day their Lunar Birth Sign and Hidden Destiny. The individual stars that make up the Ladle are centers of power that, when reflected into the Earth of the Center, recharge life with meaning and energy.

### 1 Heaven's Ax/ *Tian Shu*



This Star Cluster channels the power of Heaven and the Emperor. It is a war ax with a bronze head and cutting edge on a bundled wood or bamboo handle. Two of these go in front of a war chariot to open its way by cutting through all obstacles. It is also seen as the morning star. This Star frames the overall process and focuses on a breakthrough point. Here Anima Intermediaries, who

make the soul connections, and Animus Operators, who clear thinking and feeling, join to clear the inner channels.

## **2 Heaven's Jade Pivot/ *Tian Xuan***



This Star Cluster channels the power and receptive strength of the Earth and the Empress. It is like something held in the hand and turned to all sides, a path or way that constantly turns and returns. This Star shows how your inner and outer lives can be re-connected. Here Fire and Water join to establish the inner Axis of Change.

## **3 Heaven's Trigger/ *Tian Ji***



This Star Cluster channels the power of Fire as it is born from Wood. It governs internal chaos by activating the hidden triggers, motives, motors and strategies that enable our profound nature to respond to spiritual impulses. It is the inner working of the world, the threshold and the favorable moment. This Star shows the change necessary to power the process of transition and initiation.

Here Anima Intermediaries, who make the soul connections, and Animus Operators, who clear thinking and feeling join to rouse and express the spirit.

### **Heaven's Balance/ *Tian Quan***



This Star Cluster channels the power of Water and the Ghost River. It is an image of the weights on a balance and is the rising force behind power, authority, depth of judgment and punishments. It means to evaluate, compare, examine in view of the actual circumstances and find what is equal, just and right. This Star Cluster embodies is the heart of the world of the Four Pillars, helping us acquire the inner power and virtue to become who we are meant to be.

### **5 Jade Yoke/ *Yu Heng***



This Star Cluster channels the power of Earth. It is government in harmony, gems of all kinds that come from earth and the sign of beautiful women, the Palace Jewels or Jade Maidens. Its image is a yoke or horn board, like the horn

board for the Red Bull raised for the Spring Sacrifice. It represents inner equilibrium, balanced and mobile energy, the just choice, right and correct. It is also a support for the urns that offer sustenance to the departed ones. This Star shows the change necessary to power the process of transition and initiation.

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