

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.

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