

The Power of Change
Daodejing and the Classic of Change

I Inspiration



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1 The Way that can be walked



1 Inspiring Force/Dragon QIAN



This is Heaven doubling, the dynamic power that guides and inspires. Draw on the strength of these origins and do not pause. Inner perseverance now will give you the ability to connect your actions with the spirit.

*The way that can be walked
is not the unceasing Way.
The name that can be named
is not the unceasing Name.
Without a name
it is the origin of Heaven-and-Earth.
With a name
it is the Mother of the Ten Thousand Things.
Now listen: By never trying to think about it
you can perceive its mysteries.
By always trying to think about it
you can perceive its appearances.
These two perspectives have the same source
but different names.
Together they are the mystery,
dark mystery enfolding into mystery,
the manifold mystery
of the Gates.*

The Pair 1:2 *Dragon and Dark Animal Goddess* is the Gate to the First Decade of the Symbolic Life, a time when the child seeks to create a world in which to discover a self. The images center on the experience of spirit and its emergence, opening a new world and changing the orientation of the heart.

2 When everyone in the All-under-Heaven



This is Earth doubling, common labor that produces concrete results through service. Use this munificent power to carry all the beings. Inner devotion now will bring you a deep faith in the overall processes of life.

*When everyone in the All-under-Heaven
recognizes beauty as Beauty,
Ugliness arises.*

*When everyone in the All-under-Heaven
recognizes good as Goodness,
Wickedness arises.*

Now listen: Being and non-being beget each other.

*Hard and easy produce each other.
Long and short confront each other.
High and low determine each other.
Song and voice harmonize each other.
Front and back follow each other.
This is why the One who can Hear
holds to not-acting when she acts,
practices not-talking when she teaches.
The Ten Thousand Things arise
and she does not reject them,
creating and not possessing,
acting and taking no credit,
achieving and accomplishing
without recognition. Truly*

alone.

The Pair 1:2 *Dragon and Dark Animal Goddess* is the Gate to the First Decade of the Symbolic Life, when the child seeks to create a world in which to discover a self. The images here center on the experience of spirit and its emergence, opening a new world and changing the orientation of the heart.

3 *Do not esteem the paragons of virtue*



3 *Sprouting* ZHUN



This is Thunder beneath the Ghost River, the difficulties at the beginning of a new time and the inner river of strength needed to confront them. Use clear signs to connect the people involved, but do not try to control the process. Accepting the shock of inner enlightenment now gives you the ability to manage the flow and flux of events.

*Do not esteem the paragons of virtue
and people will not compete.
Do not treasure what is hard to obtain
and people will not steal.
Do not flaunt what people desire
and their hearts remain untroubled.
Thus the One who can Hear governs
by emptying hearts
and filling bellies,
weakening ambitions
and strengthening bones.
Now listen: If you can keep people
from calculating and craving
the cunning cannot manipulate them.
Then there is nothing

that is not in its place.*

The Pair 3:4 *Sprouting and Enveloping* is the Approach to the Centers of Power in the First Decade of the Symbolic Life, when the child seeks to imagine a world in which to discover a self. It suggests the conception and secret growth of a new guiding figure hidden by the covered sky who will bring about a great change.

4 *Dao is empty*



This is the Ghost River below the Mountain, a time to conceal and protect the beginnings and nurture hidden growth. Ripen the hidden fruits to nourish your power and virtue. Containing fear and impulse now reveals the patterns that mark real ends and beginnings.

*Dao is empty
yet use it and somehow
it is never exhausted.
Deep! Oh so Deep!
The source of the Ten Thousand Things.
It blunts the sharpened
loosens the knots
dims the bright
mixes with the dust.
Deep! Oh so Deep!
Unceasing!
I do not know whose child it is.
Its symbol appears

before there were ancestors.*

The Pair 3:4 *Sprouting and Enveloping* is the Approach to the Centers of Power in the First Decade of the Symbolic Life, when the child seeks to imagine a world in which to discover a self. It suggests the conception and secret growth of a new guiding figure hidden by the covered sky who will bring about a great change.

5 *Heaven and Earth are ruthless*

Spirit manifests in quake and thunder



Zhen/Shake: Thunder/Groundbreaker

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

*Heaven and Earth are ruthless.
They see the Ten Thousand Things as straw dogs.
The mind of the One who can Hear is ruthless.
She sees the families of men as straw dogs.
The space-between Heaven and Earth
is like the sack of a bellows,
empty and yet never-failing.
Work it simply
and more comes out.
Many words, many speeches exhaust it.
Better hold fast
to its empty center.*

Transformative Cycle: Shake is the Groundbreaker and Exorcist that begins the Transformative Cycle, rousing energy that brings things out of concealment. Shake's function is to eliminate old patterns and open the field for new creative energy.

6 *The Valley Spirit never dies*



5 *Attending Xu*



This is Heaven below the Ghost River, a time to attend to what is needed and wait for the right moment to act. Take delight in things. Do not seek control or recognition. Inner perseverance now will bring you the ability to manage the flow and flux of events.

*The Valley Spirit never dies.
Call it the Dark Animal Goddess.
Call the Gate of the Dark Animal Goddess
the Source of Heaven-and-Earth.
Unceasing! Enduring!
At the brink of existence.
Use it
but never try.*

The Pair 5:6 *Attending and Arguing* is the Encounter with the Centers of Power in the First Decade of the Symbolic Life, when the child seeks to create a world in which to discover a self. The images here reveal numinous things, connecting language and action to the spirit.

7 *Heaven is constant*



This is Ghost River below Heaven, a time to retreat from open conflict and seek consensus. Arouse the desire to serve and plan new beginnings. Containing your fear and impulse now will bring you the ability to connect your actions with the spirit.

*Heaven is constant.
Earth is enduring.
The reason Heaven-and-Earth
can be constant and enduring
is that they do not live for themselves.
Thus they can arise, Unceasing!
This is why the One who can Hear
puts herself behind
yet finds herself in front.
Denies her self
yet always survives.
Is this because she has no self?
Or is she able
herself
to realize who she is?*

The Pair 5:6 *Attending and Arguing* is the Encounter with the Centers of Power in the First Decade of the Symbolic Life, when the child seeks to create a world in which to discover a self. The images reveal numinous things, connecting language and action to the spirit.

8 *The highest good is like water*



This is Ghost River below Earth, a time to build teams, educate, order, mobilize and lead. Support the people around you to accumulate the crowds. Containing your fear and impulse now will bring you a deep faith in the overall processes of life.

*The highest good is like water.
Best to be like water
that benefits the Ten Thousand Things
without striving.
It dwells in the lowliest places that all people disdain.
Thus it is close to Dao.
So live on the earth where the heart is deep.
Be generous, adept and benevolent.
Govern your love with harmony.
Let your words be trustworthy.
Use your skill to serve what is right.
Above all, do not compete or contend
and you will be free
of all fault.*

The Pair 7:8 *Legions and Grouping* is the Mission of the First Decade of the Symbolic Life, when the child seeks to create a world in which to discover a self. These images release stored energy into action that effects change, connecting individual struggle with a new vision of culture.

9 *Stretching the bow*



This is Ghost River above Earth, a time to reorganize, find new allies and create new strategies. Empower others to connect things, but do not impose your ideas. Inner devotion now brings you the ability to manage the flow and flux of events.

*Stretching the bow taut
is not as good as letting it be.
Beating and sharpening the blade?
It can't last like that.
When gold and jade fill the house
no one can guard it.
Wealth and honor lead to self-pride.
What follows is disaster.
So when the work is done -
Withdraw!*

This is Heaven's Dao.

The Pair 7:8 *Legions and Grouping* is the Mission of the First Decade of the Symbolic Life, a time when the child seeks to create a world in which to discover a self. The images release stored energy into action that effects change, connecting individual struggle with a new vision of culture.

10 *Carrying the full moon and the dark moon*



9 Small Accumulates XIAO CHU



This is Wind/Wood over Heaven, a time to pay attention to details, to nurture small things in order to accomplish something great. Bring out the innate pattern of each thing to nourish its power and virtue. Inner perseverance now lets you acquire a place where you can influence the world you live in.

*Carrying the full moon and the dark moon,
embracing the One –
can you keep from seeing the difference?
Making your breathing yielding and soft -
can you become as a newborn child?
Washing and cleaning the mirror of the heart -
can you leave no blemish?
Caring for the people, ruling the state –
can you dispense with all your thoughts?
When Heaven's Gates open and close –
can you become the woman?
Understanding clearly the four directions –
can you renounce all acting?
Giving life and not claiming it,
acting and not taking credit,
leading without controlling -
This is the Dark Power*

of Dao.

The Pair 9:10 *Small Accumulating and Treading* is the Transition from the First Decade of the Symbolic Life, when the child seeks to create a world in which to discover a self. The images dissolve the old and release the potential of the new, connecting birth into culture with a greater destiny.

11 *Three times ten spokes share a single hub*



10 Treading LU



This is Lake below Heaven, a time to launch a new project or find a new direction. Cultivate the inner world and express yourself joyously. Differentiate what is above and below. Set right the common purpose. Inner self-reflection now brings you the ability to connect your actions with the spirit.

*Three times ten spokes share a single hub.
Because it is empty
the wheel can work.
Molding clay makes a vessel.
Because it is empty
the vessel can work.
Cutting doors and windows makes a house.
Because they are empty
the house can work.
Thus what is there leads to profit.
What is not there
makes things work.*

The Pair 9:10 *Small Accumulating and Treading* is the Transition from the First Decade of the Symbolic Life, the time when a child seeks to create a world in which to discover a self. The images dissolve the old and release the potential of the new, connecting birth into culture with a greater destiny.

12 *The five colors blind your eyes*



11 Pervading TAI

This is Heaven below Earth, a time of peace, harmony and spreading abundance. Offer what you have to the Way of Heaven. Inner perseverance now brings a deep faith in the overall processes of life.

*The five colors blind your eyes.
The five sounds deafen your ears.
The five flavors blunt your taste.
Chasing the birds and beasts of the field
drives your heart wild.
Obtaining precious things
injures your power to act without thinking.
Thus the One who can Hear
is guided by her belly
not her eyes.
Rejects That-there
and holds
to This-here.*

The Pair *11:12 Pervading and Obstruction* is the Gate to the Second Decade of the Symbolic Life, where we confront sexuality and personal destiny. The images open a new world and change the orientation of the heart, connecting the struggle to emerge from childhood with a great cultural change.

13 Praise and blame are like fear



12 Obstruction Bi



This is Heaven above Earth, a time of blocked communication, isolation and disjunction. Use your power and virtue carefully. Do not accept gifts. Do not try to spread blessings to others. Inner devotion now brings you the ability to connect your actions with the spirit.

*Praise and blame are like fear.
Honor and dishonor are like the self.
What does this mean?
Praise and blame cause fear.
Praise debases us -
afraid when we get it,
afraid to lose it.
This is why praise and blame are like fear.
Why is it said honor and dishonor
are a great affliction like the self?
The reason you have affliction
is that you think you have a self.
No self.
No affliction.
Value the All-under-Heaven as your self
and it will care for you.
Love the All-under-Heaven as your self
and it will trust you.*

The Pair 11:12 *Pervading and Obstruction* is the Gate to the Second Decade of the Symbolic Life, when we confront sexuality and personal destiny. The images open a new world and change the orientation of the heart, connecting the struggle to emerge from childhood with a great cultural change.

14 *Looking but not seeing*

Spirit works through the offerings to find the hidden sickness



Sun/Penetrating: Wind/Wood/Matchmaker

The character shows an altar with offerings representing the myriad creatures.

*Looking but not seeing,
we call it elusive.
Listening but not hearing,
we call it faint.
Grasping but not catching,
we call it formless.
These three defy understanding
because they mingle
and become One.
Rising up it is not bright.
Sinking down it is not dark.
Unceasing, it is unnamable.
It takes everything back
to where there is nothing.
This is called form without form,
symbols without substance.
Vague! Elusive!
Encountering it you find no front.
Following it you find no back.
Hold fast to this ancient Way!
You can ride the wave of Now
and understand the first beginnings.
This is called Dao's

unbroken thread.*

Transformative Cycle: Called up by the Groundbreaker, the Matchmaker enters from below to find the disorders that block emerging energy. Her function is to release people from hidden sickness and awaken inner wisdom.

15 *Those ancients who were adept*



13 Harmonizing People TONG REN



This is Fire below Heaven, a time to synchronize things, to bring people together in concord and harmony. Sort out the various groups and brighten their understanding of each other. Accepting inner guidance now brings you the ability to connect your actions with the spirit.

*Those ancients who were adept
at cultivating rulers
were subtle and mysterious,
deep and penetrating,
profound and impossible to understand.
Truly we cannot understand them.
So I can only try to describe
how they appeared in the world:
Circumspect! like crossing a winter river.
Vigilant! fearing danger from all sides.
Dignified! like one who is a guest.
Yielding! like ice about to melt.
Thick! like uncarved wood.
Empty! as a valley in the hills.
Confused! as a murky pool.
Murky! but at the end still and clear.
Inert! but at the end full of life.
Those who held to this way
did not want to be filled.
Thus they grew old
like a garment perfected

but never renewed or repaired.*

The Pair 13:14 *Harmonizing People and Great Being* is the Approach to the Centers of Power in the Second Decade of the Symbolic Life, when we confront sexuality and personal destiny. The images prepare us to be charged with a higher level of energy, connecting social birth with a vision of future greatness.

16 Reach the empty summit



14 Great Being/Great Possessions DA YOU



This is Fire above Heaven, a time to concentrate your efforts on a single inspiring idea and share your success with others. Yield to what is great and release the Mandate of Heaven. Inner perseverance now brings you the ability to find real directions in life.

*Reach the empty summit. Cling to the still point.
As the Ten Thousand Things arise and flourish
witness their returning.*

*As all things flourish and bloom,
flourish and bloom,
watch each one return,
return to its source.*

*Returning to the source is called stillness.
This stillness is called returning to destiny.
Returning to destiny is called the unceasing.
Knowing the unceasing is called illumination.
Not knowing the unceasing
is a blindness that leads to disaster.
Knowing the unceasing embraces everything.
Embracing everything leads to compassion.
Compassion leads to nobility.
Nobility leads to Heaven.
Heaven accords with Dao.
Dao abides forever -
so you will be without danger*

when the body dies.

The Pair 13:14 *Harmonizing People and Great Being* is the Approach to the Centers of Power in the Second Decade of the Symbolic Life, when we confront sexuality and personal destiny. The images prepare us to be charged with a higher level of energy, connecting social birth with a vision of future greatness.

17 The greatest rulers



15 Humbling QIAN



This is Mountain below Earth, a time to balance and adjust things by cutting through pride and complication. Reduce the many to augment the few. Evaluate and even things out. Inner self-restraint now brings you a deep faith in the overall processes of life.

*With the greatest rulers
the people below are simply aware of their presence.
The next best the people know and praise.
The next best they fear.
The next best they despise and revile.
Indeed, when faith and trust in others is lacking
others find no faith in you.
This is why the One who can Hear
so sparingly chooses her words
that when she completes her task
everyone says: "We did it!"*

Naturally.

The Pair 15:16 *Humbling and Providing For* is the Encounter with the Centers of Power in the Second Decade of the Symbolic Life, when we confront sexuality and personal destiny. The images reveal numinous things, linking social identity with a great change in culture.

18 *When the Great Way is forgotten*



16 *Providing for Yu* 豫

This is Thunder above Earth, a time to collect the energy and resources you need to meet the future joyously. Arouse people's delight and honor real power and virtue. Inner devotion now brings you a liberating awareness of the whole.

*When the Great Way is forgotten,
humanity and morality appear.
When intellect and erudition appear,
the Great Fraud begins.
When the families of men can no longer live in harmony,
duty, devotion and parental love appear.
When the nation is completely benighted,
loyalty and patriotism appear
and we hear of those
who "serve with devotion."*

The Pair *15:16 Humbling and Providing For* is the Encounter with the Centers of Power in the Second Decade of the Symbolic Life, when we must confront sexuality and personal destiny. The images reveal numinous things, linking social identity with a great change in culture.

19 *Exterminate holiness, discard learning*



17 Following SUI



This is Thunder below the Lake, a time to insert yourself into the universal flow. Stir up joyous ideas. Let yourself be moved. Accepting the shock of inner enlightenment now brings you the ability to express the spirit in the human community.

*Exterminate holiness, discard learning
and people will benefit a hundred times over.
Abandon benevolence, discard morality
and people will return to affection and compassion.
Abandon skill, renounce propriety
and people's sorrows will vanish.
Eliminate shrewdness, banish profit
and thieves and robbers will disappear.
If the learned turn these lessons
into rules of conduct
then you can depend on these:
Recognize the simple.
Embrace the uncarved block.
Cast off
your greedy desires.*

The Pair 17:18 *Following and Corruption* is the Mission of the Second Decade of the Symbolic Life, when we confront sexuality and personal destiny. The images release stored energy into action that effects change, connecting the struggle with corruption with a vision of cultural renewal.

20 *Banish learning, no more grief*



18 Corruption/Renovating Gu



This is Wind/Wood below Mountain, a time to rid yourself of inner and outer corruption. Rouse the common people to nurture your actualizing power. Inner self cultivation now reveals the patterns that mark real ends and beginnings.

*Banish learning, no more grief.
Between “yes, sir” and “no, sir”
is there really that much difference?
Is it really the difference between good and evil?
That saying: What others fear, I must fear -
what a barren wilderness.
Alas, I fear it has not touched me.
All these people enjoying the great celebrations,
going up to the Spring Festival to see the sights.
I-alone anchors me,
like a baby who has not yet given a sign,
like a newborn who has not yet smiled.
Weary and exhausted with nowhere as home,
I-alone seems lost and left out.
Stupid man! Chaotic and Confused!
The world is full of bright people.
I-alone am Dark and Dim.
The world is full of clever people
I-alone am Dark and Dim,
drifting on unsettled seas,
blown by restless winds
with no destination.
I-alone am different from the others.
I treasure only

the Mother’s milk.*

The Pair 17:18 *Following and Corruption* is the Mission of the Second Decade of the Symbolic Life, when we confront sexuality and personal destiny. The images release stored energy into action that effects change, connecting the struggle with corruption with a vision of cultural renewal.

21 *Power flows only from Dao*



This is the Lake below the Earth, the approach of something powerful and meaningful. Teach and ponder, tolerate and protect. Inner self-reflection now brings you a deep faith in the overall processes of life.

*Power flows only from Dao.
Vague! Intangible!
Vague! Intangible!
Within it are the symbols.
Vague! Intangible!
Within it are the beings.
Dark! Obscure!
Within it is the seed of life.
Life so real it contains the heart-mind.
Like ancient times reaching to now
its name remains
everything's beginning.
How do I know this?
Through This-here

not That-there.*

The Pair 19:20 *Nearing and Viewing* is the Transition from the Second Decade of the Symbolic Life, when we confront the problems of sexuality and personal destiny. These images dissolve the old and release the potential of the new, connecting our new adult status with the process of cultural renewal.

22 Limping, thus whole



20 Viewing GUAN



This is Wood/Wind above Earth, a time to let all things come into view and search for their deep meaning. Watch the hidden signs and set up their teachings for all. Inner devotion now lets you acquire a place where you can influence the world you live in.

*Limping, thus whole.
Crooked, thus straight.
Emptied, thus full filled.
Exhausted, thus renewing.
Diminished, thus acquiring.
Increasing, thus deluded.
This is why the One who can Hear
embraces the One
to measure the All-below-Heaven.
Does not show herself and therefore shines.
Does not correct herself and therefore flourishes.
Does not chastise herself and therefore succeeds.
Does not parade herself and therefore endures.
Does not compete
and therefore nothing in the All-under-Heaven
can compete with her.
The Old Ones said: Limp and be whole.
How can this be empty words?
Be truly whole

then return it.*

The Pair 19:20 *Nearing and Viewing* is the Transition from the Second Decade of the Symbolic Life, when we confront the problems of sexuality and personal destiny. The images dissolve the old and release the potential of the new, connecting our new adult status with the process of cultural renewal.

23 *Small words speak themselves*

Spirit reveals the Bright Omens



Li/Radiance: Bright Omens/Visionary

The old character shows the bright bird of omen and a pattern or net of words and symbols through which we capture and spread its message.

*Small words speak themselves.
Violent winds don't last till dawn.
Violent rains don't last the day.
What causes this?
Heaven-and-Earth.
If Heaven-and Earth can't last like this,
how can you?*

*Now listen: Follow Dao through Dao.
Align yourself with Dao and enjoy it.
Become one with it.
Align with the Power of Dao and succeed.
Align with loss.
Welcome it. Become one with it.
Align it with Dao and enjoy it.
And if this trust is not enough
there is indeed
no trust at all.*

Transformative Cycle: After the penetration of the Matchmaker, the new generation seeks new possibilities through the Visionary. Her function is to lead through beauty, elegance and the clarity that brings people together.

24 *Standing on tiptoe is no way to stand*



21 Biting Through SHI HE



This is Thunder below Fire, a time to confront problems with determination and bite through the obstacles to union. Clarify and enforce what is right. Accepting the shock of inner enlightenment now brings you the ability to set real directions in life.

*Standing on tiptoe is no way to stand.
Striding and straddling is no way to walk.
Displaying yourself is no way to see.
Self-righteousness is no way to beauty.
Self-approval is no way to accomplishment.
Self-esteem is no way to endure.
Dao says:
eat too much
do too much
and everything will disdain you.
This is why the one who seeks Dao
turns away

and moves on.*

The Pair 21:22 *Biting Through and Adorning* is the Gate to the Third Decade of the Symbolic Life, initiation and the search for the deeper Self. The images center on the struggle to emerge into a higher level of culture, opening a new world and changing the orientation of the heart.

25 *There is something*



22 *Adorning Bi*



This is Fire below the Mountain, a time to beautify the presentation of things. Let your appearance reflect your inner worth. Brighten people's understanding and do not be severe. Accepting inner guidance now reveals the patterns that mark real ends and beginnings.

*There is something
Confused! Complete!
that comes before Heaven-and-Earth was born.
Silent! Solitary!
It stands alone and does not waver.
It permeates everything and is never exhausted.
It can be called the Mother of the All-under-Heaven.
I do not know its name.
Those who cherish it call it Dao.
Forced to name it, I call it the Great.
Great means ever-flowing.
Ever-flowing means far-reaching.
Far-reaching means returning.
Thus Dao is great.
Heaven is great.
Earth is great.
Humans follow Earth.
Earth follows Heaven.
Heaven follows Dao.
Dao
follows itself.*

The Pair 21:22 *Biting Through and Adorning* is the Gate to the Third Decade of the Symbolic Life, initiation and the search for the deeper Self. The images center on the struggle to emerge into a higher level of culture, opening a new world and changing the orientation of the heart.

26 *Heavy is the root of light*



This is Earth below the Mountain, a time to eliminate ideas, habits, structures or connections that are outmoded or obsolete. Use your munificence quietly and give to the people below you. Inner devotion now opens the patterns that mark real ends and beginnings.

*Heavy is the root of light.
Tranquil is the master of haste.
Thus the One who can Hear
walks all day
without leaving her baggage wagon.
Though she sees magnificent sights
she sits calm and indifferent.
So how can the Master of ten thousand war-chariots
allow himself
to make light of the All-under-Heaven?
His lightness separates him
from his foundation.
His haste separates him
from not-acting.*

The Pair 23:24 *Stripping and Returning* is the Approach to the Centers of Power in the Third Decade of the Symbolic Life, initiation and the search for the deeper Self. The images connect personal emergence to the renewal of cultural institutions, preparing us to be charged with a higher level of energy.

27 *Good travelers leave no track or trace*



This is Thunder below the Earth, a time to renew, renovate and re-establish relationships and inspirations. Bar the passages and do not travel. Accepting the shock of inner enlightenment now brings you a deep faith in the overall processes of life.

Good travelers leave no track or trace.

Good words use no praise or blame.

Good reckoners need no tallies or numbers.

Good doors have no bolts or keys but cannot be opened.

Good knots use no rope or twine but cannot be loosened.

Thus the Skillful Person excels

at always rescuing people

and rejects none.

Always excels at caring for the beings

and rejects none.

This not rejecting things is called hiding your light.

Now listen: The Skillful Person

is the teacher of the Ignorant Person.

The Ignorant Person

is the Skillful Person's lesson.

Not honoring the teacher,

not cherishing the lesson,

deludes even the wise.

This is called

the essential.

The Pair 23:24 *Stripping and Returning* is the Approach to the Centers of Power in the Third Decade of the Symbolic Life, initiation and the search for the deeper Self. The images connect personal emergence to the renewal of cultural institutions, preparing us to be charged with a higher level of energy.

28 Recognize the male, abide in the female



25 Disentangling WU WANG



This is Thunder below Heaven, a time to free yourself from negative emotions and compulsive patterns. Use the luxuriance of this time to nurture the myriad beings. Accepting the shock of inner enlightenment now lets you connect your actions with the spirit.

*Recognize the male, abide in the female.
Become the ravine of the All-Under-Heaven.
Become the ravine of the All-Under-Heaven
and Dao's Power will be unceasing.
Without departing, return,
go back like a newborn child.
Recognize the bright, abide in the dark.
Become the pattern of the All-Under-Heaven.
Become the pattern of the All-Under-Heaven
and Dao's Power will be unceasing, never wavering.
Return, go back to where there are no limits.
Know honor, abide in disgrace.
Become the valley of the All-Under-Heaven.
Become the valley of the All-Under-Heaven
and Dao's Power will be full filled, unceasing!
Return, go back to the uncarved block.
Now listen: When this block is carved
it becomes a useful implement.
When the One who can Hear
uses these implements
they become the many altars. Unceasing! Enduring!
Even the greatest Ruler
would not dare
to reshape them.*

The Pair 25:26 Disentangling and Accumulating the Great is the Encounter with Center of Power the Third Decade of the Symbolic Life, initiation and the search for the deeper Self. The images reveal numinous things, energizing the struggle to emerge into a new vision of culture.

29 *Those who crave to rule the All-Under-Heaven*



26 Great Accumulates DA CHU



This is Mountain over Heaven, a time to focus on one central idea and use it to gather new insights. Use the records of the past to nurture your power and virtue and acquire the capacity to move correctly. Inner perseverance now reveals the patterns that mark real ends and beginnings.

*Those who crave to rule the All-Under-Heaven -
know that they cannot succeed!
The All-Under-Heaven is a sacred vessel
that nothing can change
that no one can control.
Tamper with it and you destroy it.
Grasp it and you lose it.
Some lead, others follow.
Some blow hot, some blow cold.
Some grow weak, some grow strong.
Some destroy, some give in.
This is why the One who can Hear
discards excess,
discards extravagance,
discards
the arrogant.*

The Pair 25:26 *Disentangling and Accumulating the Great* is the Encounter with Centers of Power the Third Decade of the Symbolic Life, initiation and the search for the deeper Self. The images reveal numinous things, energizing the struggle to emerge into a new vision of culture.

30 *Use Dao to help the rulers of the people*



27 Jaws/Tiger's Mouth Yi



This is Mountain over Thunder, a time to clear and renew the inner sources of spiritual nourishment. Consider your words carefully to articulate what unites us. Accepting the shock of inner enlightenment now reveals the patterns that mark real endings and beginnings.

*Use Dao to help the rulers of the people
resist the use of weapons in the All-under-Heaven.
These ways are certain to turn against them.
Where armies camp, thorn-vines grow.
In the wake of great battles come calamity and famine.
This is why the skillful Leader
attains the goal and stops.
Does not venture further.
Attains the goal and does not flaunt it.
Attains the goal and does not boast of it.
Attains the goal and is not proud of it.
Attains the goal with great reluctance.
Attains the goal without compulsion.
Beings flourishing and then decaying?
This is called Not-Dao.
Not-Dao
is soon destroyed.*

The Pair 27:28 *Tiger's Mouth and Great Transition* is the Mission of the Third Decade of the Symbolic Life, initiation and the search for the deeper Self. The images release stored energy into action that effects change, connecting the struggle to emerge as an individual with a vision of a new world for all.

31 *Even beautiful weapons raise angry ghosts*



28 *Great Transition DA GUO*



This is Wind and Wood below the Lake, a crisis and a critical passage that lets you emerge as a true individual. Stand alone without fear. Retire from the age without melancholy. Inner self-cultivation now brings you the ability to express the spirit in the human community.

*Even beautiful weapons raise angry ghosts.
Weapons are their tools and close the Way.
All creatures seem to despise them.
Thus the one who knows Dao simply turns away.
The Realizing Person stands on the left to live,
lets those who stand on the right make war.
For weapons are the tools of the angry ghosts
not the Realizing Person's tool.
Delighting in battle is delighting in slaughter
and one who delights in slaughter
can never possess the All-under-Heaven.
Wise words esteem the left.
Baleful acts esteem the right.
Thus the Dutiful Subordinate stands on the left
while the War Leader stands on the right.
This is just like at a funeral.
Many are killed. We grieve and lament them.
Victory in battle

is just like a funeral.*

The Pair 27:28 *Tiger's Mouth and Great Transition* is the Mission of the Third Decade of the Symbolic Life, initiation and the search for the deeper Self. These images release stored energy into action that effects change, connecting the struggle to emerge as an individual with a vision of a new world for all.

32 *Dao is unceasing*

Spirit is offered service at the Earth Altar



Kun/Field: Earth/Midwife

The old character shows a tree at the Earth Altar and two hands offering sacrifice to the river of symbols beneath it.

*Dao is unceasing. Simple! Subtle!
Without a Name,
but nothing in the All-under-Heaven can harness it.
If the Kings and Lords could abide in it
the Ten Thousand Things would honor them gladly.
Heaven-and-Earth would send the Sweet Dews,
harmony spreading harmony
without coercion.
Try to order it and the Names arise,
Names and more Names.
If you know how to stop them
there will be no danger.
It is thus Dao lives in the All-under-Heaven,
like brooks and streams
flowing
into rivers and seas.*

Transformative Cycle: After the Visionary reveals the Bright Omens of collective purpose, the labor of the Midwife begins. Her function is to supply the inner security and receptivity that brings things to a good end, common labor that produces concrete results.

33 *Know others and you become wise*



This is Ghost River doubling, a time to collect your forces and take the risk that is presenting itself. Move through the hidden symbols, teaching and serving again and again. Containing your fear and impulse now gives you the ability to manage the flow and flux of life.

*Know others and you become wise.
Know yourself and you will be enlightened.
Conquering others takes power.
Conquering yourself makes you strong.
Knowing what is enough makes you rich.
This strength brings resolve.
By knowing your place you will endure.
Die without dying.*

Live on.

The Pair 29:30 *Ghost River and Bright Omens* is the Transition from the Third Decade of the Symbolic Life, initiation and the search for the deeper Self. The images dissolve the old and release the potential of the new, connecting you with the inner process that creates the future by redeeming the past.

34 Great Dao. Drifting!



30 Radiance/Bright Omens Li



This is Fire doubling, a time to illuminate, discriminate, articulate and join things in order to reveal new possibilities. Brighten and illuminate all that is hidden. Accepting inner guidance now leads to finding real directions in life.

*Great Dao. Drifting
left and right.*

*The Ten Thousand Things depend on it,
for it gives life without holding back.
It accomplishes and full fills without naming.
It feeds and clothes the Ten Thousand Things
without claiming to rule them.
Unceasing! Thoughtless!
Call it insignificant.
The Ten Thousand Things return to it,
find a home there, not a master.
Thus it can be called the Great.
And because it never strives to be great
it can accomplish*

great things.

The Pair 29:30 *Ghost River and Bright Omens* is the Transition from the Third Decade of the Symbolic Life, initiation and the search for the deeper Self. The images dissolve the old and release the potential of the new, connecting you with the inner process that creates the future by redeeming the past.

35 *Ride the elephant like a child*



31 *Conjoining* XIAN



This is the Lake above the Mountain, a time of stimulation and influence that brings together what belongs together. Empty yourself of personal goals and accept all the people. Inner self-constraint now gives you the ability to express the spirit in the human community.

*Ride the elephant like a child.
Grasp this great Symbol
and the All-below-Heaven will follow without harm,
joy and harmony abounding.
Songs and sweet foods
stop the passing travelers.
But when Dao speaks it is Tasteless! Bland!
Look!
It is not worth seeing.
Listen!
It is not worth hearing.
Use it!*

It can never end.

The Pair 31:32 *Conjoining and Persevering* is the Gate to the Fourth Decade of life, the struggle to found a dwelling, family and career. The images connect personal emergence with the ongoing process of spirit, opening a new world and changing the orientation of the heart.

36 *If you want to gather it*



32 Persevering HENG



Wind/Wood below Thunder, a time to create real goals that help everyone endure in what is right. Establish the borders without change. Inner self cultivation brings a liberating awareness of the whole.

*If you want to gather it,
surely you must first spread it.
If you want to weaken it,
surely you must first reinforce it.
If you want to abandon it,
surely you must first exalt it.
If you want to seize it,
surely you must first share it out.
This is called seeing through the obscure.
Remember: Submissive and yielding
subdues stiff and strong.
Fish cannot be taken from the deeps.
A country's most effective weapons
cannot be revealed

to the people.*

The Pair 31:32 *Conjoining and Persevering* is the Gate to the Fourth Decade of life, the struggle to found a dwelling, family and career. The images connect personal emergence to the ongoing process of spirit, opening a new world and changing the orientation of the heart.

37 *Dao never acts. Unceasing!*

Spirit manifests in quake and thunder



Zhen/Shake: Thunder/Groundbreaker

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

Dao never acts.

*Yet nothing is left undone. Unceasing!
If the Kings and the Lords hold fast to this,
the Ten Thousand Things will transform themselves.
Once transformed, if they desire to act further
quiet them with the nameless simplicity.
Without names, pure and simple,
empty their old desires.
Thus still and silent
the All-under-Heaven*

secures and anchors itself.

Transformative Cycle: Shake is the Groundbreaker and Exorcist. He begins the Transformative Cycle as rousing energy that brings things out of concealment. His function is to eliminate old patterns and open the field to new creative energy.