

The Power of Change
Daodejing and the Classic of Change

II: Realizations



Stephen Karcher Ph.D.

38 *The highest power doesn't show itself*

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 beings.

*The highest power doesn't show itself,
thus it possesses the Power of Dao.*

*The lowest power doesn't forget itself,
thus it loses the Power of Dao.*

The highest power doesn't act, thus it brings about action.

The lowest power acts by itself, thus it has intentions.

The highest compassion acts without intentions.

The highest virtue acts and has intentions.

*The highest propriety acts and no one listens,
so it rolls up its sleeves and enforces the laws.*

Now listen: Lose Dao and power arises.

Then come the rules of human kindness.

When these rules are lost, then comes righteousness.

When this righteousness is lost, then comes propriety.

*This propriety is the empty husk of loyalty and sincerity,
the beginning of discord and war.*

*When predicting the future is seen as the flower of Dao,
delusion and stupidity arise.*

This is why Great Masters abide in the kernel, not the husk.

Abide in the fruit, not the flower.

Leave That-there and take hold

of This-here.

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.

39 *In ancient times these held to the One*

Spirit reveals the Bright Omens



Li/Radiance: Bright Omens/Visionary

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

*In ancient times these held to the One:
Heaven held fast to the One and became transparent.
Earth held fast to the One and became whole.
The Valley Spirits held fast to the One
and were filled with the numinous.
The Ten Thousand Things held fast to the One and engendered life.
Kings and Lords held fast to the One
and cleansed the All-Under-Heaven.
If Heaven were not transparent, I fear it would split into halves.
If Earth were not whole, I fear it would explode.
If the Bright Spirits were not full filled,
I fear they would be exhausted.
If the Ten Thousand Things were not engendering,
I fear life itself would be destroyed.
If Kings and Lords do not esteem the noble, I fear they will topple.
Now listen: Noble has its root in the humble.
High has its foundation in the low.
This is why Kings are called Orphan, Lonely One, Destitute.
Isn't this having the humble as root?
The highest count their carriages without wheels
because they do not wish to shine,
to shine like jingling jade
but to resound, resound
like rocks.*

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

40 *Returning! Dao moving.*

Spirit is offered service at the Earth Altar.



Kun/Field: Earth/Midwife

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

Returning: Dao moving.

Yielding: Dao working.

*The All-under-Heaven
and the Ten Thousand Things
are born from what is.*

Dao is born

from what is not.

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

41 *When the superior man of learning hears the Dao*

At the Empty Center



*When the superior man of learning hears the Dao,
he diligently works at it.*

*When the middling man of learning hears the Dao,
sometimes he believes it, sometimes he disbelieves it.*

When the worthless man of learning hears the Dao, he laughs.

Without his laughter Dao could not be Dao.

Thus the saying:

One who follows Dao? Dull! Obscure!

Now listen: Advancing Dao goes backwards.

Retreating Dao twists and turns.

*Dao's highest Power looks like a ravine
while perfect white looks sullied and spotted.*

Dao's vast Power looks flimsy.

Dao's vigorous Power looks shabby.

Simple truth looks fickle.

The Great Square has no corners.

The Great Vessel is never finished.

Great music has no sound.

Great symbols have no shape.

Hidden Dao has no name

*and only because of this can support
and full fill*

all knowing.

42 Dao gives birth to the One

Spirit speaks and spreads joy to all



Dui/Open: Lake/Mists/Mediator

The character shows a person with an upturned face and inspiring words rising from her mouth.

*Dao gives birth to the One.
The One gives birth to the Two.
The Two gives birth to the Three.
The Three gives birth to the Ten Thousand Things.
The Ten Thousand Things bear dark yin on their backs,
carry bright yang in their arms.
By merging these winds they create harmony.
Now listen: All people hate to be orphaned.
Hate to be alone. Hate to be destitute.
Yet Kings and Lords call themselves this.
Could it be that beings lose their selves and gain?
Gain their selves and lose?
What others taught I teach too:
The violent and aggressive
do not die a peaceful death.
I take this up

and ring the wooden bell.*

Transformative Cycle: After the common labor of the Midwife, the joy of harvest breaks forth through the stimulating words of the Mediator. Her function is to bring people together by expressing the spirit in the human community, giving answers that cheer and inspire.

43 *The most tender thing in the All-under-Heaven*

Spirit awes and wars in the Heavens



Qian/ Inspiring Force: Heaven/Dragon/Creator

The character shows the sun at dawn, a three-leaved sprout and vapors, rain, and breath, the energy flowing from Heaven.

*The most tender thing in the All-under-Heaven
overcomes the hardest thing in the All-under-Heaven.*

*Non-being penetrates being
without a track or a trace.*

*Thus I know the bounty of not-acting,
of teaching without words.*

Not-acting increases this bounty.

Few can practice this.

Transformative Cycle: After the stimulating words of the Mediator bring people together, the Creator challenges them to grapple with their creative spirit. His function is to be a source of tireless transformative power and dynamic, inspiring images.

44 *Name or body?*

Spirit rewards those suffering in the Pit



Kan/Pit: Rushing Water/Ghost River/Navigator

The old character shows the Tree on the Earth Altar and a person kneeling, surrounded by the vapors of the Ghost River.

*Name or body -
which is dearer?
Body or wealth -
which is worth more?
Gain or loss -
which is more harmful?*

Now listen: Excessive love pays a great price.

Great hoarding brings great loss.

One who is content is immune to disgrace.

Knowing when to stop, you know no danger.

*Thus you can live
and endure*

as of old.

Transformative Cycle: The struggle with creative power brought on by the Creator leads to the heavy labor of the Navigator. His function is to control the flow of life and time, inspiring the courage and labor necessary at a critical time.

45 *Great perfection appears imperfect*

Spirit binds us through words that accomplish fate



Gen/Stillness: Mountain/Bound/Gatekeeper

The old character shows a person turning back, illuminated by the past.

*Great perfection appears imperfect
but its use is never exhausted.
Great abundance seems empty
but its use is never exhausted.
Great virtue seems crooked.
Great skill seems clumsy.
Great speech seems tongue-tied.
Still and cold overcomes hot.
Calm and serene
puts the All-under-Heaven*

in order.

Transformative Cycle: The Gatekeeper brings the cycle to an end through accomplishing words, the still point in all turning. His function is to set limits that still and stabilize, reflecting on the past to envision the future.

46 *When the All-under-Heaven is in Dao*



33 Retiring Pig DUN



This is Heaven over the Mountain, a time to retreat from normal activities to gather power for a later advance. Keep what is small at a distance. Inner self-restraint now gives you the ability to connect your actions with the spirit.

*When the All-under-Heaven is in Dao,
stabled horses fertilize the fields.
When the All-under-Heaven is out of Dao,
war horses thrive at the borders.
No calamity is greater
than not knowing what is enough.
No calamity is greater
than longing for power.
Knowing how to be content
with what you have?*

That is always enough.

The Pair 33:34 *Retiring and Great Invigorating* is the Approach to the Centers of Power in the Fourth Decade of the Symbolic Life, the struggle to found a dwelling, family and career. The images center on the experience of the spirit, preparing us to be charged with a higher level of energy.

47 *Not opening the door*



34 Great Invigorating DA ZHUANG



This is Thunder over Heaven, the time for a vigorous advance that develops from a great central idea. Step outside the rules and press forward. Inner perseverance now brings you a liberating awareness of the whole.

*Not opening the door
you can know the All-under-Heaven.
Not looking out the window
you can see Heaven's Dao.
Venture further and further
and your knowing diminishes
more and more.
This is why the One who Hears
knows without traveling,
sees without naming,
acts without acting
and always
succeeds.*

The Pair 33:34 *Retiring and Great Invigorating* is the Approach to the Centers of Power in Fourth Decade of the Symbolic Life, the struggle to found a dwelling, family and career. The images center on the experience of the spirit, preparing us to be charged with a higher level of energy.

48 *Seeking knowledge?*



35 *Flourishing JIN* 

This is Fire over Heaven, the time when you can emerge into the light and take effective action. Use the strength of the origins to brighten your power and virtue. Inner devotion now leads to finding real directions in life.

*Seeking knowledge?
Find something every day.
Seeking Dao?
Lose something every day.
Lose your self again and again
and you can reach not-acting.
Do not act
and nothing is undone.
Hold the All-under-Heaven without meddling.
For if you never meddle
with the All-under-Heaven
your rule can be
Unceasing!*

The Pair 35:36 *Flourishing and Brightness Hiding* is the Center of Power in the Fourth Decade of the Symbolic Life, the struggle to found a dwelling, family and career. The images center on the struggle to reform existing institutions in order to reveal numinous things.

49 The One who Hears



36 *Brightness Hiding* MING YI



This is Fire below the Earth, a time to hide your light, protect yourself and accept the difficult journey that lies ahead. Use both darkening and brightening to supervise things from hiding. Accepting inner guidance now brings a deep faith in the overall processes of life.

*The One who Hears
does not fix her heart on anything.
Thus the hearts of the hundred families
become her heart.
I approve of the good people and treat them well.
I approve of the bad people and treat them well.
I trust the Power of Dao.
I trust the loyal. I trust the disloyal.
I trust the Power of Dao.
Now listen: The One who Hears unites the All-under-Heaven,
unites her heart with the All-under-Heaven,
undifferentiated, cloudy and whole.
The One who Hears treats all as her children
and so becomes
the child
of All.*

The Pair 35:36 *Flourishing and Brightness Hiding* is the Center of Power in the Fourth Decade of the Symbolic Life, the struggle to found a dwelling, family and career. The images center on the struggle to reform existing institutions in order to reveal numinous things.

50 *Go out and live. Come back and die*

Spirit speaks and spreads joy to all



Dui/Open: Lake/Mists/Mediator

The character shows a person with upturned face and inspiring words rising from her mouth.

*Go out and live. Come back and die.
Life's companions are the Ten and the Three,
whole and transforming.
Death's companions are the Three and the Ten,
transforming and whole.
People move towards the realm of Death
through the Ten and the Three,
the Thirteen Corpses we carry with us.
What is the reason for this?
Because they live their lives only to live.
I have, however, heard of those who can preserve their lives.
They meet rhinos and tigers,
enter battles without armor or weapons.
The rhino finds no mortal spot to gore them.
The tiger finds no mortal spot to sink his claws.
The soldier finds no mortal spot to thrust his blade.
Now what is the reason for this?
It is because they have no mortal spots, no corpses
they carry with them.*

Transformative Cycle: After the common labor of the Midwife, the joy of harvest breaks forth through the stimulating words of the Mediator. Her function is to join people by expressing the spirit in the human community, giving answers that cheer and inspire.

51 *Dao gives them life*



37 Dwelling People JIA REN



Wind/Wood over Fire, a time to establish the security of people who live and work together. Use your words to persevere on the path and your movements to connect them. Accepting inner guidance lets you acquire a place where you can influence the world you live in.

*Dao gives them life.
Dao's Power rears them,
shapes their fates,
full fills their talents.
Thus none of the Ten Thousand Things
do not honor Dao and respect its Power.
Dao is honored and its Power is respected
because they give no orders.
They are Unceasing and Self-so.
Thus Dao gives them life
then Dao's Power rears them,
raises them,
educates them,
ripens them,
supports them,
guards them,
gives them life but does not own them,
benefits them and asks nothing in return,
develops them and does not rule them.
This is called the Power
of the Source.*

The Pair 37:38 *Dwelling People and Diverging* is the Mission of the Fourth Decade of the Symbolic Life, the struggle to found a dwelling, family and career. The images center on the struggle to find a true social identity, releasing stored energy into action that effects change.

52 *Heaven-and-Earth has a beginning*



This is Fire over the Lake, a time to step outside the norms and change conflict to creative tension through dealing with the shadow. Bring things together and separate them actively, do not just let them come and go. Inner self-reflection now leads to finding real directions in life.

*Heaven-and-Earth has a beginning.
You can call it the Mother of the All-under-Heaven.
Know the Mother and you will know the children.
Know the children but abide in the Mother
and you will have no danger when the body dies.
So block the passages,
bolt the gates,
and all your life you will not strive.
Open the passages,
multiply your affairs
and at the end of life there will be no rescue.*

*Seeing through the small is called illumination.
Holding to the weak is called strength.
Using your light to return to illumination
without giving in to misfortune and distress -
this is called*

the unceasing practice.

The Pair 37:38 *Dwelling People and Diverging* is the Mission of the Fourth Decade of the Symbolic Life, the struggle to found a dwelling, family and career. The images center on the struggle to find a true social identity, releasing stored energy into action that effects change.

53 *If I have the smallest scrap of knowledge*



39 Limping/Difficulties JIAN



This is the Mountain below the Ghost River, a time to let go of lonely striving, re-imagine the situation and join with others. Reverse your personality to renovate your power and virtue. Inner self-restraint now brings you the ability to manage the flow and flux of life.

*If I have the smallest scrap of knowledge
walking the Great Way
I will fall into fear.
For the Great Way is smooth and level
but people prefer the devious paths
of their thoughts.*

*When the Royal Court is splendid
the fields are full of weeds.
When the granaries are empty
people wear gorgeous clothes
and carry sharp swords.
Gorging on food and drink,
owning things -
this is called the pride of thieves.
Absolutely*

not-Dao!

The Pair 39:40 *Limping and Deliverance* is the Transition from the Fourth Decade of the Symbolic Life, the struggle to found a dwelling, family and career. The images point towards emergence into a new status or state of being, dissolving the old and releasing the potential of the new.

54 *Plant it well and it cannot be uprooted*



40 Deliverance JIE



This is Thunder over the Ghost River, a time to solve problems, untie knots, dispel sorrows and liberate blocked energy. Forgive the excesses and offences of others. Containing your fear and impulse now brings you a liberating awareness of the whole.

*Plant it well and it cannot be uprooted.
Hold it fast and it cannot slip away. Unceasing!
Children and grandchildren honoring the ancestors.
Cultivate Dao in your self
and its Power becomes real.
Cultivate Dao in your family
and its Power overflows.
Cultivate Dao in your community
and its Power is unceasing.
Cultivate Dao in the state
and its Power is abounding.
Cultivate Dao in the All-under-Heaven
and its Power is all-pervading.
Now listen: See yourself through your self.
See the family through your family.
See the community through your community.
See All-under-Heaven through the All-under-Heaven.
So how can you know the All-under-Heaven?
Through This-here*

not That-there.

The Pair 39:40 *Limping and Deliverance* is the Transition from the Fourth Decade of the Symbolic Life, the struggle to found a dwelling, family and career. The images point towards emergence into a new status or state of being, dissolving the old and releasing the potential of the new.

55 *Let the Power of Dao fill you like a newborn child*



41 Diminishing SUN



Mountain over Lake, is a time to diminish passions, decrease desires and aim at a higher goal. Curb your anger and restrain your passion. Inner self-reflection reveals the patterns that mark real ends and beginnings.

*Let the Power of Dao fill you
like a newborn child.
Wasps, scorpions and vipers will not sting you.
Wild beasts will not attack you.
Birds of prey will not pounce on you.
Weak bones, soft muscles, but a firm grip!
Not knowing how male and female mate, yet fully formed.
This is vital force at zenith.
It can wail all day and not be hoarse.
Perfect harmony indeed!
Knowing this harmony is called the unceasing.
Knowing the unceasing is called illumination.
Living life to the brim calls up the hungry ghosts.
The heart-mind directing the life-force is called strength.
Things flourishing and decaying is called not-Dao.
Not-Dao
soon ends.*

The Pair 41:42 *Diminishing and Augmenting* is the Gate to the Fifth Decade of the Symbolic Life, emergence into higher levels of empowerment. The images vitalize the struggle to emerge into a greater vision, opening a new world and changing the orientation of the heart.

56 *Those who know don't talk*



42 Augmenting Yi



This is Wind and Wood over Thunder, a time to increase, expand and develop potential. Visualize improvement, shift your position and alter what is excessive. Accepting the shock of inner enlightenment now lets you acquire a place where you can influence the world you live in.

*Those who know don't talk.
Those who talk don't know.
So block the passages,
bar the gates,
blunt the sharpened,
loosen the tangles,
temper the glare,
and blend with the dust.
This is called identifying with the Mystery.
It cannot be embraced.
It cannot be harmed.
It cannot be helped.
It cannot be hated.
It cannot be won.
It cannot be lost.
It cannot be honored.
It cannot be demeaned.
Thus it is the treasure
of the All-under-Heaven.*

The Pair 41:42 *Diminishing and Augmenting* is the Gate to the Fifth Decade of the Symbolic Life, emergence into higher levels of empowerment. The images empower the struggle to emerge into a greater vision, opening a new world and changing the orientation of the heart.

57 *Keep to the rules to govern a state*



43 *Deciding/Breakthrough* **GUAI**



This is Lake over Heaven, the time to make a decision and announce it. Reside in your power and virtue to spread the benefits to all below. Inner perseverance now brings you the ability to express the spirit in the human community.

*Keep to the rules to govern a state.
Break the rules to wage a war.
Meddle with nothing
to win over the All-under-Heaven.
How do I know this is so?
By This-here!*

*In the All-under-Heaven the more rules and prohibitions,
the poorer the people will be.
The more profit-seeking and sharp weapons,
the more the country falls apart.
The more crafty and tricky the people,
the more vicious schemes arise.
The more laws that are enforced,
the more thieves and robbers appear.
Thus the One who Hears says:
I act without acting and people are transformed.
I love stillness and people are honest.
I do not meddle and people are rich.
I have no desires
and people return to the simple:

themselves.*

The Pair 43:44 *Breakthrough and Coupling* is the Approach to the Centers of Power in the Fifth Decade of the Symbolic Life, emergence into higher levels of empowerment. The images focus on connecting your actions with the spirit, preparing you to be charged with a higher level of energy.

58 *When the Ruler is dull*



This is Wind and Wood below Heaven, a time to embrace new ideas, welcome new encounters and spread the word to all the hidden lands. Inner self-cultivation lets you connect your action with the spirit.

*When the Ruler is Dull! oh so Dull!
The people are Whole! oh so Whole!
When the Ruler is Alert! oh so Alert!
The people are Needy! oh so Needy!
Thus the old saying goes: Misfortune leans on good fortune.
Good fortune leans on misfortune.
Only the hidden few know:
There is no right! There is no wrong!
Right returns to wrong just as good returns to evil.
People have been confused for so long.
This is why the One who Hears is sharp but never cuts,
is acute but never harms,
is straight but never strains,
is bright

but never shines.*

The Pair 43:44 *Breakthrough and Coupling* is the Approach to the Centers of Power in the Fifth Decade of the Symbolic Life, emergence into higher levels of empowerment. The images focus on connecting action with the spirit, preparing you to be charged with a higher level of energy.

59 *To rule the people and serve Heaven*

Spirit awes and wars in the Heavens



Qian/Inspiring Force: Heaven/Dragon/Creator

The character shows the sun at dawn, a three-leaved sprout and vapors, rain, breath, the energy flowing from Heaven.

*To rule the people by serving Heaven
nothing works better than storing the harvest.*

*Truly, only by storing the crops
can you respond quickly to need.*

*Responding quickly
depends on gathering the Power of Dao.*

*Gathering and storing Dao's Power
means there is nothing you cannot overcome.*

Nothing you cannot overcome? This knows no end.

Knowing no end means you are fit to guard the All-under-Heaven.

*If you guard the country
by becoming its Mother
you can endure.*

Unceasing!

This is the Dao of long-living

and far-seeing.

Transformative Cycle: After the joy and stimulating words of the Mediator bring people together, the Creator challenges them to grapple with their creative spirit. His function is to be a source of tireless transformative power and dynamic, inspiring images.

60 *Ruling a country is like cooking small fish*



This is Lake over the Earth, a time to collect resources and inspire fellow feeling in view of a great new project. Take precautions and eliminate the causes of conflict. Inner devotion now gives you the ability to express the spirit in the human community.

*Ruling a country is like cooking small fish – let them be!
Use Dao to govern the All-under-Heaven.
Your Dark Spirits will have no power to injure others.
Not only will your Dark Spirits have no power to injure others
but your Bright Spirit will not harm the people.
It will not harm
the One who Hears
within you.
Truly, if these two have no power to harm,
Dao's Power will flow out
and return.*

The Pair 45:46 *Gathering and Ascending* is the Centers of Power in the Fifth Decade of the Symbolic Life, emergence into higher levels of empowerment. The images connect inner vision with the emergence of a new order, revealing numinous things.

61 *A great country must flow downwards*



46 Ascending SHENG



Wind/Wood below Earth, a time to rise to a higher level through your own effort, to fulfill potential step by step. Yield and gather power and virtue. Amass the small to attain the great. Inner self-cultivation brings you a deep faith in the overall processes of life.

*A great country must flow downwards
to merge with the Mother
of the All-under-Heaven.*

*For the All-under-Heaven is female. Unceasing!
This female overcomes the male through stillness
and taking the lower position.*

*Now listen: A great country puts itself below a small country
and wins it over.*

*A small country gives way to a great country
and wins it over.*

*Some win by lowering themselves.
Some win by staying low.*

*A great country wants to expand its boundaries
and feed more people.*

*A small country wants to serve its people.
Truly both get what they want
when the great
puts itself*

below.

The Pair 45:46 *Gathering and Ascending* is the Center of Power in the Fifth Decade of the Symbolic Life, emergence into higher levels of empowerment. The images connect inner vision with the emergence of a new order, revealing numinous things.

62 *Dao is the storehouse and shrine*



47 Confining/Oppression KUN



This is the Lake over the Ghost River, a time of oppression, restriction and exhaustion. This is the moment of truth. Confront your fate and release its purpose. Containing your fear and impulse now gives you the ability to express the spirit in the human community.

Dao is the storehouse and shrine of the Ten Thousand Things.

It is the good person's treasure, the bad person's refuge.

Pleasant words are traded on the market.

Virtuous actions embellish reputations.

People who lack them – why throw them away?

Now listen: When the Son of Heaven is enthroned

the Three Ministers offer him the Jade Discs,

portals to Heaven,

and a team of four war-horses.

How could this be as good

as offering stillness to Dao?

The Ancient Ones honored this Dao.

Didn't they say those who seek it, find it?

Are freed from their crimes and their faults?

Isn't this precisely why

it is the All-under-Heaven's

real treasure?

The Pair 47:48 *Oppression and the Well* is the Mission of the Fifth Decade of the Symbolic Life, emergence into higher levels of empowerment. The images focus on emergence from the past as key to a greater vision of society and culture, releasing stored energy into action that effects change.

63 *Act without acting*



48 *The Well* JING



This is Wood and Wind below the Ghost River, a time to communicate, interact and return to common needs and strengths. Toil for the common good and mutualize purposes. Inner self-cultivation now gives you the ability to manage the flow and flux of life.

*Act without acting.
Serve without serving.
Taste without tasting.
Make the great small.
Make the many few.
Respond to hatred with the Power of Dao.
Manage difficult with easy.
Manage the great by being small.
In the All-under-Heaven
difficult is transformed through easy.
In the All-under-Heaven
great undertakings rise from small deeds.
This is why the One who Hears never attempts great things
and thus becomes great.
Rash promises cannot be trusted.
Taking things lightly encounters great difficulty.
This is why the One who Hears accepts difficult things
and in the end encounters
no difficulty.*

The Pair 47:48 *Oppression and the Well* is the Mission of the Fifth Decade of the Symbolic Life, emergence into higher levels of empowerment. The images focus on emergence from the past as key to a greater vision of society and culture, releasing stored energy into action that effects change.

64 *What is still is easy to grasp*



49 Skinning/Revolution GE



This is Fire below the Lake, a time to peel away the old and let new life emerge. Regulate the measures of time to clarify the new season. Accepting inner guidance now gives you the ability to express the spirit in the human community.

*What is still is easy to grasp.
What hasn't begun is easy to plan.
What is fragile is easy to break.
What is small is easy to scatter.
So create things before they exist.
Create order before there is disorder.
A tree your arms can't go round springs from the smallest seed.
A nine-story temple rises from a pile of earth.
A thousand mile journey begins beneath your feet.
Act and you destroy it. Grasp it and you lose it.
This is why the One who Hears takes no action and does not fail.
Does not grasp it and thus does not lose it.
People are so busy pursuing their affairs,
they always fail at the verge of success.
Be as careful at the end as at the beginning
and there will be no failure.
This is why One who Hears wants nothing,
does not esteem what is hard to obtain,
learns without learning,
returns to what others have missed,
restores the Ten Thousand Things to their natural state,
yet does not dare
to act.*

The Pair 49:50 *Skinning and the Vessel* is the Transition from the Fifth Decade of the Symbolic Life, emergence into higher levels of empowerment. The images connect the experience of spirit with inner pressure to change the way we live life, dissolving the old and releasing the potential of the new.

65 *The Old Ones who excelled at the practice of Dao*



50 The Vessel DING



This is Wood and Wind below Fire, a major spiritual shift that transforms things through symbolic imagination. Correct your situation to solidify your fate. Inner self-cultivation now lets you find real directions in life.

*The Old Ones who excelled at the practice of Dao
did not seek to enlighten the people
but to make them simple.*

*Now listen: People are difficult to care for
when they are too clever.*

*Thus being clever when ruling a country
is the country's ruin.*

*Ruling a country without trying to be clever
is the country's treasure.*

*Knowing and applying these two things
is called the Dark Power of Dao.*

Deep! oh so Deep!

It leads all things back

to the Source.

The Pair 49:50 *Skinning and the Vessel* is the Transition from the Fifth Decade of the Symbolic Life, emergence into higher levels of empowerment. The images connect the experience of spirit with inner pressure to change the way we live life, dissolving the old and releasing the potential of the new.

66 *Rivers and seas rule the thousand valleys*



This is Thunder doubling, a fertilizing shock that eliminates old patterns and rouses new energy. Transform your fear and anxiety by inspecting and adjusting yourself. Accepting the shock of inner enlightenment now leads to a liberating awareness of the whole.

*Rivers and seas rule the thousand valleys
because they are skilled at flowing down.
This is how they can rule the thousand valleys.
Now listen: If you want to rule the people,
you surely must humble your words.
If you want to rule the people,
you surely must follow their lead.
The One who Hears dwells above
yet the people below are never weighed down.
She walks in front yet causes the people no harm
so the All-under-Heaven rejoices and praises her
without being wearied.
And because she does not contend or compete
nothing in the All-under-Heaven
can contend or compete
with her.*

The Pair 51:52 *Shake and Bound* is the Gate to the Sixth Decade of the Symbolic Life, when we must deal with power and our responsibilities to the human community. Its images focus on emergence into higher levels of service that change the orientation of the heart.

67 All under Heaven call my Dao great



52 Bound/Stilling GEN



Mountain doubled, a time to finish things, articulating the lessons of past experience. Ponder deeply and do not come out of your hidden place. This inner self-restraint reveals the patterns that mark real ends and beginnings.

*All under Heaven call my Dao great
because it resembles nothing.
Truly, it is great just because it resembles nothing.
It resembles the nothing before the beginning.
Indeed, it disappears.
I have three treasures.
I hold fast to them and keep them safe.
One is called compassion.
The second is called frugality.
The third is called never daring to come first in the All-under-Heaven.
Compassion can be fearless.
Frugality can be generous.
Not daring to come first in the All-under-Heaven
lets the Vessel endure. Unceasing!
Nowadays people discard compassion and strive to be brave.
Discard frugality and strive to be giving.
If they discard following and strive to lead
death will surely follow.
Now listen: With compassion you can attack and win.
Your defense is impregnable.
Heaven will come to your rescue
and protect you
with compassion.*

The Pair 51:52 *Shake and Bound* is the Gate to the Sixth Decade of the Symbolic Life, when we must deal with power and our responsibilities to the human community. Its images focus on emergence into higher levels of service that change the orientation of the heart.

68 *The skillful leader is not aggressive*

Spirit rewards those suffering in the Pit



Kan/Pit: Rushing Water/Ghost River/Navigator

The old character shows the Tree on the Earth Altar and a kneeling person surrounded by the vapors of the Ghost River.

The skillful leader is not aggressive.

The skillful warrior is not angry.

The skillful winner does not fight.

*The skillful guide of all the people
puts herself below them.*

This is called not-contending.

This is Dao's Power.

*Call it using the people's strength
to mate with the Heaven*

of the Old Ones.

Transformative Cycle: The individual struggle with creative power brought by the Creator leads to the heavy labor of the Navigator. His function is to control the flow, inspiring the courage and labor necessary at a critical time.

69 *The old strategists had a saying*



53 *Gradual Advance* JIAN



This is Wind and Wood over the Mountain, a time to advance step by step. Penetrate to the core of the situation. Reside in your power and virtue to improve the vulgar. Inner self-restraint now leads you to a position where you can influence the world you live in.

*The old strategists had a saying:
I don't dare to be the master
but would rather welcome the guest.
I don't dare to advance an inch
but would rather retreat a foot.
This is called advance without advancing.
Stepping out by stepping back.
Rolling up your sleeves without bearing arms.
Attacking without an enemy.
Taking arms without weapons.*

*Now listen! There is no greater calamity
than contempt for your enemy.
Contempt for your enemy?
What a treasure is lost!
Indeed, when two armies join in battle
the one who grieves*

will win.

The Pair 53:54 *Gradual Progress and Marrying Maiden* is the Approach to the Centers of Power in the Sixth Decade of the Symbolic Life, when we must deal with power and our responsibilities to the human community. The images here center on emerging into culture, preparing you to be charged with a higher level of energy.

70 *My words are very easy to understand*



54 Marrying Maiden GUI MEI



This is Lake below Thunder, a radical change over which you have no control that returns you to where you belong. Use what is enduring and complete to determine what is flawed. Inner self-reflection now brings you a liberating awareness of the whole.

*My words are very easy to understand,
very easy to practice.
But in the All-under-Heaven
no one can understand them,
no one can practice them.*

*My words have ancestors.
My deeds have masters.
Truly, if you do not know this
you will not understand.*

*Those who know me are few.
That is why following my words
leads to the treasure.
That is why the One who Hears
wears shabby clothes*

that hide jade.

The Pair 53:54 *Gradual Advance and Marrying Maiden* is the Approach to the Centers of Power in Sixth Decade of the Symbolic Life, when we must deal with power and our responsibilities to the human community. The images center on the struggle to emerge into culture, preparing you to be charged with a higher level of energy.

71 *Knowing not-knowing is best*



55 *Abounding* FENG 

This is Thunder above Fire, a culminating point that activates creative energy. Use severe measures to correct the mistakes of the past so you can spread the wealth to all. Accepting inner guidance now brings a liberating awareness of the whole.

*Knowing not-knowing is best.
Not knowing you know is sickness.
Truly, one who knows they are sick
is freed of sickness.
The One who Hears is not sick
because she recognizes sickness
as sickness. Only thus
is she not sick.*

The Pair 55:56 *Abounding and Sojourning* is the Center of Power in the Sixth Decade of the Symbolic Life, when we must deal with power and responsibilities to the human community. The images focus on the struggle to connect with a new vision of culture, revealing numinous things.

72 *Only when people do not fear*



56 Sojourning LU



This is Fire over the Mountain, a time to spread the good word to all like a seeker on a quest. Be aware and considerate without relaxing the rules. Inner self-restraint now leads to finding real directions in life.

*When people do not fear threats and punishments
a greater power appears.*

*Don't squeeze them dry in their houses.
Don't burden the way they live their lives.
Truly, only when you do not oppress them
will they cease to turn away from you.*

*Remember: The One who Hears
knows her self
but does not display herself.
Loves her self
but does not display herself.
Lets go of That-there*

and embraces This-here.

The Pair 55:56 *Abounding and Sojourning* is the Center of Power in the Sixth Decade of the Symbolic Life, when we must deal with power and responsibilities to the human community. The images focus on the struggle to connect with a new vision of culture, revealing numinous things.

73 *Courage to dare leads to killing*



57 Subtle Penetration SUN



This is Wind and Wood doubling, a time to gently penetrate to the base or ground from which things grow. Spread the mandate to move the people to service. Inner self-cultivation now lets you acquire a place where you can influence the world you live in.

*Courage to dare leads to killing.
Courage not to dare leads to life.
Both sometimes lead to profit, sometimes lead to loss.
Heaven hates what it hates - who knows the reason?
The One who Hears
remains unsure.*

*Heaven's Dao does not contend yet conquers all,
does not speak yet always responds,
is not called but always appears.
Slow and aimless, it plans all things.
Heaven's net is Wide! oh so Wide!
Its meshes are wide,
yet nothing
slips through.*

The Pair 57:58 *Subtle Penetration and Opening* is the Mission of the Sixth Decade of the Symbolic Life, when we must deal with power and responsibilities to the human community. The images focus on connection with a vision of the spirit, releasing stored energy into action that effects change.

74 *If people don't fear death*



58 Opening DUI



This is Lake doubling, a time to spread joyous words to all. Talk with others, explaining and repeating. Inner self-reflection now gives you the ability to express the spirit in the human community.

*If people don't fear death
how can you threaten them?
If the people do fear death, but break the laws
you could seize them and kill them –
but who would dare?
Truly, there is always an executioner.
But trying to take his place
is like trying to take the place of a master
who carves the virgin wood.
Who would not slice off
his own hands?*

The Pair 57:58 *Subtle Penetration and Opening* is the Mission of the Sixth Decade of the Symbolic Life when we must deal with power and responsibilities to the human community. The images focus on connection with a vision of the spirit that releases stored energy into action that effects change.

75 *People starve because their rulers*



59 *Dispensing* HUAN



Wind/Wood over Ghost River, a time to clear away obstacles and resistance. Dissolve old structures and dispel old illusions. Containing your fear and impulse lets you acquire a place where you can influence the world you live in.

*People starve because their rulers
eat up the grain in taxes.
This is why people starve.
People are difficult to manage because their superiors
are so fond of meddling for profit.
This is why they are hard to rule.
People take death lightly
because they strive for too much life.
This is why they take death lightly.
Only those who do not pursue life
can truly know
its value.*

The Pair 59:60 *Dispensing and Articulating* is the Transition from the Sixth Decade of the Symbolic Life when we must deal with power and responsibilities to the human community. The images focus on the need to dissolve our old identity and connect with a vision of spiritual renewal.

76 *People are born tender and supple*



60 *Articulating JIE*



This is the Lake below the Ghost River. It is a time to set measures and limits, to distinguish and join things together. Deliberate and measure things carefully. Use your power and virtue to move them. Inner self-reflection now gives you the ability to manage the flow and flux of life.

*People are born tender and supple.
They die hard and stiff.
The Ten Thousand Things, the grasses and the trees,
live tender and supple.
They die hard and stiff.
So hard and stiff are death's companions.
Tender and supple are life's companions.
Now listen: An unbending army cannot win.
A tree that stands firm is soon cut down.
Strong and great must dwell below
while tender and supple
dwell above.*

The Pair 59:60 *Dispersing and Articulating* is the Transition from the Sixth Decade of the Symbolic Life, when we must deal with power and responsibilities to the human community. The images focus on the need to dissolve our old identity and connect with a vision of spiritual renewal.

77 *Heaven's Dao is like drawing a bow*

Spirit binds us through words to accomplish fate



Gen/Stillness: Mountain/Bound/Gatekeeper

The old character shows a person turning back, illuminated by the past.

*Heaven's Dao is like drawing a bow.
The highest is pulled down.
The lowest is pulled up.
Too much is diminished.
Not enough is augmented.
Thus Heaven's Dao diminishes those who have too much
and augments those who don't have enough.
People's Dao is not like this.
It diminishes those who don't have enough
and augments those who have too much.
So who can give to the All-under-Heaven?
Only those who possess the Dao.
This is why the One who Hears acts
and expects nothing in return,
accomplishes her task and leaves it behind
with no desire

to do good.*

Transformative Cycle: The Gatekeeper brings the cycle to an end through accomplishing words that articulate fate, the still point in all turning. His function is to set limits that still and stabilize, reflecting on the past to envision the future.

78 *In the All-under-Heaven*



61 Opened Heart ZHONG FU



This is Wind and Wood over the Lake, a time to build bridges between inner and outer that connect your efforts to the spirit. Deliberate and use what releases people from the fear of death. Inner self-reflection now lets you acquire a place where you can influence the world you live in.

*In the All-under-Heaven
nothing is more tender and submissive than water.
Yet when it attacks the hard and strong,
nothing can conquer it,
nothing can take its place.
Weak overcomes strong. Tender overcomes rigid.
In the All-under-Heaven
no one does not understand this,
but no one is able to put it into practice.
This is why the One who Hears says:
Embrace the country's disgrace.
Call it the Master of the Earth Altar.
Embrace the country's calamities.
Call them the King of the All-under-Heaven.
These are true words
that always
seem crooked.*

The Pair 61:62 *Opened Heart and Flying Bird* are the Gate to the Crossings where the significance of a life fully lived is revealed. The images center on an experience of spirit free of all social institutions, opening a new world and changing the orientation of the heart.

79 *You may reconcile great resentments*



62 Small Traverses/Flying Bird XIAO GUO



This is Thunder over the Mountain, a dangerous and final transition. Stay in the process, adapt to each thing. Be extremely courteous, sincere and frugal. Inner self-restraint now brings a liberating awareness of the whole.

*You may reconcile great resentments
but hatred will surely remain.
How can this be good?
This is why the One who Hears
holds the left of the tally stick,
keeps the faith without blaming others.
Holding fast to the Power of Dao
she provides what is needed,
while those without Dao's Power
hold to the right
and strive to collect what is due them.
Now listen: Heaven's Dao has no favorites.
But it works, unceasing!
only through those
who are able
to give.*

The Pair 61:62 *Opened Heart and Flying Bird* is the Gate to the Crossings where the significance of a life fully lived is revealed. The images center on an experience of spirit free of all social institutions, opening a new world and changing the orientation of the heart.

80 *Small country, few people*



63 *Already Crossing Ji Ji*



This is Fire below the Ghost River, a time to rely on your preparations and proceed. Ponder what distresses people so you can defend against it. Accepting inner guidance now gives you the ability to manage the flow and flux of life.

*Small country, few people.
If they have a thousand clever machines,
they will not use them.
When people take death seriously
they have no desire to move away.
Although they have boats and carriages,
no one steps on board.
Although they have armor and weapons,
no one displays them.
Let them go back to knotted cords for counting.
Their food is already sweet.
Their clothes are already beautiful.
Their lives are already simple.
Their neighbors are so close
they can see them.
They hear their dogs and roosters
crow and bark
but they live and die
without going to out
to meet them.
This is why they have no need

to come back.*

The Pair 63:64 *Already Crossing and Not Yet Crossing* is the Approach to the Crossings where the significance of a life fully lived is revealed. The images focus on releasing identity into the vision of life's eternal round, preparing you to be charged with a higher level of energy.

81 *True words are not pleasing*



64 Not Yet Crossing WEI JI



Fire above Ghost River, a time to gather your energy and resources for a major change. Consider things carefully and mark them off. Containing your fear and impulse lets you find real directions in life.

*True words are not pleasing.
Pleasing words do no good.
Good people do not quarrel.
Quarrelsome people do no good.
Those who know do not learn.
Those who learn do not know.
This is why the One who Hears does not hoard,
gives to others and thus has more,
gives to others and thus becomes great.
Heaven's Dao benefits all and does no harm.
So the One who Hears acts
but never

competes or contends.*

The Pair 63:64 *Already Crossing and Not Yet Crossing* is the Approach to the Crossings where the significance of a life fully lived is revealed. The images focus on releasing identity into the vision of life's eternal round, preparing you to be charged with a higher level of energy.

