



13 Harmonizing People TONG REN

Bring people together, concord, harmony; share an idea or goal; welcome others, co-operate; great sacrifice to welcome the season and open the fields; emergence of a common purpose; making love, making war; site of creative transformation.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *The gathering beings cannot be forever obstructed. Procession to the Outskirts Altar. Accept this and use the energy of Harmonizing People.*

The basis of Harmonizing People is words: oracular pronouncements on the time, ritual announcements at the Earth Altar informing the ancestors of the opening of the fields, of war, or the spring festival, and the joyous songs of the *wu* who lead out to the Altar at the edge of the fields. Common people and nobles gathered at the Outskirts Altar for these great ceremonies, first among them the spring festivals and sacrifices that united all after the winter isolation through joy, music, wine and sexual contact. This may portray the first spring festival after the conquest of the Shang. The great sacrifices on *Tai-shan* established the axis; now the people move together and the blessings flow. All step into the Great Stream, an image of the primitive and original great unity of humans and spirits, what the Daoists call a return to the original harmony, the original chaos, in the festival or paradise time. As people join together in great number, the rituals establish fellow feeling and common intent. The people come together in harmony and joy, united through the bright presence of the spirits. From this place the united armies were gathered to fight the great battle of Muye through which King Wu renewed the time.

THE RESPONSE

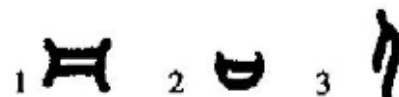
Harmonizing People moving toward the countryside.
Make an offering and you will succeed.

Advantageous to step into the Great Stream. Harvesting.

Trial: advantageous for the Noble One. A leader emerges.

Harmonize, TONG: unite, share, agree, bring together; concord, recognize common identity; compassion, union, joy, excitement; equalize, assemble, share; things held in common, the same time and place; flow together, gathering and audience of feudatory lords every 12 years, the female musical tones. The old character shows a door, the sign for one and a mouth, speaking with one voice.

People, REN: human beings, an individual and humanity as a whole, the original unity. The old character suggests a person kneeling in prayer or submission.



TONG² (11856/30) is composed of a door, gate or box (1) and mouth or opening KOU³ (2), perhaps an opening and a cover, to fit together. REN² (3) is person or people, here probably a woman.

Harmonizing People describes your situation in terms of sharing something with others. The way to deal with it is to find ways to unite the people involved. This is the kind of task that can best be done together and brings mutual advantage in the end. Find places of agreement where goals can be shared. Develop group spirit and a bond of common understanding. This is pleasing to the spirits. Through it they will give you success, effective power and the ability to bring the situation to maturity. This is the right time to embark on a significant enterprise or enter the Stream of Life with a goal. Use the oracle and put your ideas to the trial.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows warmth and understanding that help people in their struggles. Heaven united with fire. You are connected to a creative force. People should not remain isolated from one another. Think about the ways to connect them. Sort people out by giving them rallying points and finding common ancestors. You can succeed in this situation by being flexible and adaptable.

This leads you to the centre and puts you in contact with the creative force moving there. Say it like this: Bring people together, for creative force is moving in the situation. Persist in your efforts to illuminate the inherent beauty of things. Put central emphasis on not going to one extreme or the other. This enables you to connect with the deep purposes that influence and move the human world.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Heaven associates with Fire. Harmonizing People.

A time when Noble One sorts the clans to differentiate and brighten the beings.

Spirit reveals itself in the Bright Omens as it wars above in Heaven. This is an omen site, the Bright Presence among the people. Heaven above struggles on, persistent and unwearied, while Fire and brightness below radiate light and warmth. It is Metal over Fire: A Bright Presence lights up the inner world, born through people's struggle to harmonize with the great spirits. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by helping us realise how we are different and how we unite. Hold the heart fast and take the risk.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL NINE

Harmonizing people gathering at the gates.

This is not a mistake.

How could this be a fault? You are poised on the threshold. Join with others and take the first step. This is certainly not a mistake.

Direction: Retire from other engagements. You are coupled with a creative force.

SIX AT SECOND

Harmonizing people in the Ancestral Hall.

Distress.

Distress is the Way. Announcing the new. A source of anxiety. You stand before the ancestor images in the temple. You are exposed to their power and are distressed. This is exactly the



right feeling to have. As you think about it you will see the right way to act. It will reorganize your connection to the Way.
Direction: Take action. You are coupled to a creative force.

NINE AT THIRD

Harmonizing People hide arms in the thickets

Ascend your high grave mound.

For three years' time you won't rise up.

This is a strong enemy that quiets your movements. The people at war; a time to retreat and prepare a counter movement. Be careful of resentment. This may keep you isolated for quite a while, though in the end you will succeed.

Direction: Disentangle yourself. Proceed step by step. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

NINE AT FOURTH

Harmonizing People. Riding your city ramparts.

Nothing can control or attack you.

Wise Words! The Way is open.

Nothing limits your uprightness, so confinement is then reversed. You stand in your own city, on the harmony of its people, deeply engaged and fully committed. Have no doubts. Trust your purpose. Let it give you the courage to go on. Nothing can stop you. This will reverse what feels like an oppressive situation.

Direction: Stay in your family and dwelling. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

NINE AT FIFTH

Harmonizing People first cry and sob and then they laugh.

Great leaders meet and mutualize their power.

Straighten the centre. Use words to mutualize your purposes. This portrays crossing to the spring festival, a real connection between men and women. There is often loneliness and separation involved, but when you work your way through the tears, the joy will soon be there. Everything you encounter will conspire to help you. 'Sweet as the fragrance of orchids, it shatters the strength of

iron.' This is the time when great leaders come together in friendship and pool their powers for the good of all.

Direction: Spread warmth and awareness. Don't be afraid to act alone. You are connected to a creative force.

NINE ABOVE

Harmonizing People at the Outskirts Altar.

Without a cause for sorrow.

The purpose is not yet acquired. The sorrow of winter is past. The people reach the altar to welcome the spirit and open the fields. This is a culmination that points at the emergence of a new leader and freedom from past sorrow. The sun rises in the sky. It presages a great victory. Commit yourself to this. Enjoy it with others. You won't have any cause to regret.

Direction: Take off the dead skin and take action. You are coupled to a creative force.