

28 Great Traverses

DA GUO



A crisis; gather all your strength; hold on to your ideals; breaking the rules, becoming an individual; the great transition, major site of transformation; a seed figure.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *What is not nourishing cannot be rousing. A great transition. Accept this and use the energy of Great Traverses.*

This figure marks a dialogue between structure, the house and the ridgepole as the social structures that support and constrain us, and the process of becoming a true individual, a Great Being with an individual identity. This can mark the initiation of a noble child becoming a warrior and acquiring a ritual presence, the transition of marriage, the transition to a higher class, or becoming a high-ranking lord. It marks a transition time in a ritual or a life, an entry into liminal space where structures dissolve and there is a re-ordering of the fundamental principles. It is the act of standing for your ideals and stepping across the threshold, a crisis in life when you must stand by what you know to be true and find the power to exist independent of collective norms. Life and death are involved in this step. This is a letting go of the past and the emergence of the power to lead your life.

THE RESPONSE

Great Traverses. The ridgepole twists and sags under the strain.

Advantageous to have a direction to go. Harvesting.

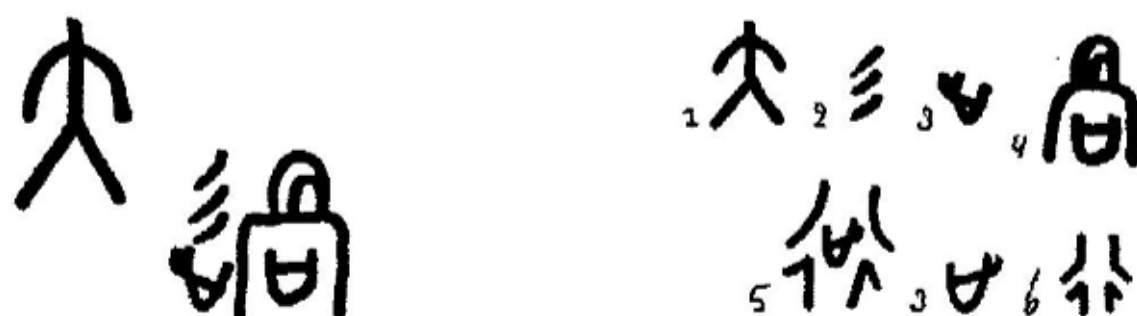
Make an offering and you will succeed.

Great, DA: big, noble, important; focus on a goal, lead or guide your life; able to protect others; yang energy. The old character shows the Great Person and his power to protect and shelter.

Traverse/Exceed, GUO: go across, go beyond, surpass, overtake, overgo; get clear of, get over; cross the threshold, surmount difficulties; transgress the norms, outside the limits; anomaly, unique,



different; an irreversible transition or a serious transgression; surpassing others through inner strength. The old character shows a mountain pass and a crossroads.



DA⁴ (10210/37) shows the Great Person and his ability to support and protect. GUO⁴ (6574/162) is a mountain pass and the completion of an action: steps (2), a foot (3) and the crossing (4). It suggests a skeleton or a mountain-ridge (5), a crossroads (6) and a foot (3).

Great Traverses describes your situation in terms of how to act in a time of crisis. The way to deal with it is to push your principles beyond ordinary limits and accept the movement it brings. Have a noble purpose. Find what is truly important and organize yourself accordingly. The ridgepole of your house is warped and sagging. The structure of your life is in danger of collapse. But there is a creative force at work in this breakdown. So impose a direction on things. Have a place to go. This is pleasing to the spirits. Through it they will give you success, effective power and the capacity to bring things to maturity.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows outer contacts overwhelming inner penetration. The mists submerge the ground. There is a creative force at work in this breakdown. If your situation doesn't nourish you, if it can't stir up new growth, push it over and leave. Don't be afraid to order things by yourself. Don't be sad about retiring from the community. Having a great idea means being excessive. The structure of your life is warped and sagging. The roots and the tips, the places where you make contact and are nourished, are fading. Let the strong force gathering in the centre penetrate and stimulate movement. Impose a direction on things. The spirits will help you. This is a very great time.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Mists submerge the trees. Great Traverses.

This is a time when Noble One establishes himself in solitude without fear,

And retires from the age without melancholy.

Spirit works in those who lay out the fates, speaking and spreading joy through the Intermediaries. This is the Joyous Dancer and the Lady of Fates. Rising Mists above stimulate and fertilize, joyous words cheer and inspire, while Wind and Wood enter subtly below, penetrating, pervading and coupling. It is Metal over Wood: outer stimulation and inner penetration that take you beyond the norms. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by standing alone without fear or sorrow. Hold the heart fast and take the risk.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL SIX

Great Traverses. Offer the sacrifice using a mat of white mao-grass.

This is not a mistake.

The supple is located below. Weaving the sacrificial mat, sign of simplicity, humility and purity of motive. Prepare your move very carefully. Think about your motives. Be clear and pure. This is not a mistake. The beginning is humble, but the result will be great. This is the ceremony through which the King installs a lord or prince. In the end you will be recognized. Prepare carefully.

Direction: Be resolute. You are connected to a creative force.

NINE AT SECOND

Great Traverses. A withered willow gives birth to a shoot.

An older husband acquires a younger consort.

Nothing not advantageous. Harvesting.

Exceeding and mutually associating. In the midst of the crisis, something happens that gives it a whole new lease on life. A new branch emerges, a new start. This will benefit everything. This is



a young woman who becomes consort of an older, high-ranking man. They enjoy one another and there are progeny. Everyone benefits.

Direction: This connects what belongs together. It couples you with a creative force.

NINE AT THIRD

Great Traverses. The ridgepole warps and buckles.

Trap! The Way closes.

You are not able to brace this. The structure of your life buckles and fails, collapsing under the weight of the transition. There is nothing you can do to brace it up. The Way closes. Accept the change. See it as a sacrifice of the old.

Direction: Don't let yourself be isolated. Find supportive friends. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

NINE AT FOURTH

Great Traverses. The ridgepole is crowned.

Wise Words! The Way is open.

If you try to add more, there will be distress.

This reaches to the below without sagging. You have come through the great transition. The structure of your life is strengthened and crowned with love and joy. The Way is open. The house is stabilized. You have all you need. If you try for more, you will only see distress and confusion and lose what you have.

Direction: Find your relation to common needs and basic order. If you let yourself be led, you can realise hidden potential. The situation is already changing.

NINE AT FIFTH

Great Traverses. A withered willow gives birth to flowers.

An older wife acquires a young noble as husband.

Without mistake, without praise.

How can it last? As the transition passes, something happens to produce a burst of beauty. There is neither blame nor praise involved. Enjoy it. It may soon be over. This is a young man who becomes

consort of a high-ranking woman. He learns and she enjoys, but there are no progeny.

Direction: Continue on. Be resolute. You are connected to a creative force.

SIX ABOVE

Great Traverses. If you exceed stepping into the water, you will be submerged to the top of your head.

Trap! The Way closes.

Do not make this mistake. The cause for sorrow will disappear.

This does not allow a mistake. These are deep and troubled waters. Be clear about how much you can become involved. If you do more than get your feet wet, chances are you will be swept away. Be careful! It is not a mistake to realise this is not the Way. When you do, the potential cause of sorrow disappears.

Direction: Be resolute and part from this. You are connected to a creative force.