

## 24 Returning FU



Love and spirit return after a difficult time; renewal, re-birth, re-establish the relationship; go back to the beginning; leave the complicated and return to the simple; death as a return to the Source; site of creative transformation; new hope; a seed figure.

### MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

*Charge to the Oracle: Being cannot be completely exhausted. What is above is stripped away, what is below reverses and returns. Accept this and use the energy of Returning.*

Return is one of the fundamental motifs in all the myths and philosophies of Change, the Return to and of the Way and the eternal Return of all things. It is the Return of spirit after the first burial and stripping away the old. It is the emergence from death and the underworld Ghost River, the incessant Return of life and spirit. It is the root of power and virtue, the power to become who you are meant to be. It discriminates the beings and gives birth to self-knowledge. This root is a footstep, one step on the Way. It is starting at daybreak to cross the river to the spring festival and a renewal of spirit, joy and human community in the paradise place. It suggests the souls that return and the rituals to call them, the ritual return to an original paradise time, and death through which we all return to the Source. Return is the 'coming and going' on the river of time and the flow of symbols that unfold the Way.

### THE RESPONSE

**Returning.** Make an offering and you will succeed.

**'Going and coming'** on the stream of time without affliction.

**Friends are coming.** This is not a mistake.

**The Way reverses and returns.** Return comes on the seventh day.

**Advantageous to have a direction to go.** Harvesting.

**Return, FU:** go back, turn back, come back; return to the starting point; resurgence, renaissance, rebirth; renew, renovate, restore;

again, anew; the beginning of a new time; turn from the city to the countryside; recover, take back, call back spirit of deceased; return of the ancient past and the time of the great sages. The old character shows footsteps leaving the city.



FU (3594/69) shows a foot (2) leaving a town (1). In later characters the element for 'road' was added.

Returning describes your situation in terms of re-emergence and rebirth. The way to deal with it is to go back to meet the Returning energy in order to begin anew. Retrace your path, Return to the Source, re-establish what is important, restore the Way. Find the intensity of the earlier time and the purity of the original feeling. This is pleasing to the spirits. Through it they will give you success, effective power and the capacity to bring the situation to maturity. Let things emerge and come back without pressure or upset. People will suggest mutually profitable projects. It is not a mistake to join them. Turning and moving in the opposite direction from your former path will return you to the Way on the seventh day. Have a place to go. Impose a direction on things. That brings profit and insight.

### THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows inner energy returning to the field of activity. Thunder in the Earth. Be open to new ideas and provide what is needed. The old situation has been stripped away. Turn in your tracks and go back to meet what is re-emerging. This Return to the Way is the root of your power to realise the Way in action. Be small, adaptable and differentiate yourself from others. Use your own knowledge of the source of things. To nurture this Returning energy, early rulers would close the frontiers and the markets at the time of the solstice. Merchants and sojourners would not move. The prince would not go on tours of inspection. This kind of attention is pleasing to the spirits. Through it they will give you success, effective power and the capacity to bring the situation to maturity.

What is strong and firm is reversing it. Stir things up and work with the movement. Let things emerge and come back without pressure or upset. People will suggest mutually profitable projects. It is not a mistake to join them. Turning and moving in the opposite direction from your former path will Return you to the Way. On the seventh day, after the cycle of the six places of a hexagram, the Return will come from below. Heaven is moving here. Impose a direction, have a place to go, for the strong and firm will endure. By returning, you see the heart of the union of Heaven and Earth.

### THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

**Thunder located in Earth centre. Returning.**

**A time when Early Kings used the solstice to bar the passages.**

**At this command, sojourning merchants did not move.**

**The Crown Prince did not inspect the Four Hidden Lands.**

*Spirit manifests in quake and thunder. Offer service at the Earth Altar. The Rouser is working with the Field. Earth above yields and sustains, while Thunder below rouses and germinates new potential, sprouting energies that thrust up from beneath. This is Earth over Wood: rousing energy returning within that opens a new field of activity. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by emulating the early Kings, who closed the boundaries and the gates to nurture the returning spirit. Work through rousing and inspiring. A cycle is beginning. Prepare the joyous response.*

### TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

**INITIAL NINE**

**Not distancing the Return.**

**No harm or cause for sorrow.**

**The Way to the Source is open.**

*This means adjusting the total personality. You have been keeping at a distance, probably because of pain or isolation. Now is the time to let it go. Return to the Way. The spirit is emerging. Don't just think about. Do something. The Way is fundamentally open.*

*Direction: Be open and provide what is needed.*



#### SIX AT SECOND

**Released and Returning. Let it go!**

**Wise Words! The Way is open.**

*Using humanity to connect with the below.* Relax your grip. Let things rest. The spirit is emerging. Be unselfish and benevolent. The Way is open to you.

*Direction:* An important connection is approaching. Be open and provide what is needed.

#### SIX AT THIRD

**Returning from the brink. Pressing and urgent.**

**Adversity, hungry souls and angry ghosts.**

**This is not a mistake.**

*This is righteous and not a mistake.* Pulling back from a crisis, you return to yourself. You confront danger with its roots in the past. Difficult though this may be, it is not a mistake.

*Direction:* Accept the difficult task. Release bound energy. The situation is already changing.

#### SIX AT FOURTH

**The centre is moving. Return alone.**

*This means adhering to the Way.* Moving the capital city. The centre of life is shifting. Move with it even if it involves going on alone. This returns you to yourself. You won't be sorry. You are following the Way.

*Direction:* A fertilizing shock is coming. Re-imagine the situation. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

#### SIX AT FIFTH

**Generous Return. Returning from a triumph.**

**No cause for sorrow.**

*Centred and originating in the omens.* A victory. Wealth and pleasure return. As the time renews itself, give with open arms. You will meet the same qualities in return. You will have no cause to regret what you do.

*Direction:* Give everything a place to grow. Strip away old ideas. Be open and provide what is needed.

**Delusion Returning.**

**Losing the Way.** There will be calamities and errors.

**If you try to move the legions,** it will end in great destruction.

**Trap!** The Way closes for the city and its leader.

**This will end in ten years of uncontrolled chastisement.**

*Trap! The Way of the leader is reversed.* You are returning to an old delusion, blinded by self-deception and infatuation. If you go on in this way, your hard-won growth will be destroyed. It will take at least ten years to deal with the repercussions of this catastrophe. The Way is closed. Think about where this desire comes from. Whatever you do, don't act this out.

*Direction:* Take things in. Be open and provide what is needed.



RETURNING