

62 *Small Traverses/ The Flying Bird* XIAO GUO



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SMALL TRAVERSES

A transition; adapt to each thing; very careful, very Small;
spread the word, stay in the process; major site
of initiation and creative transformation.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *Possessing it and traversing necessarily means you are making a crossing. Accept this and use the energy of Already Crossing.*

This is a transition or passage to a new time, a passage that must be realised through the Small and the power of the yin. It suggests enlisting the aid of the Small People, nobles without patrimony who acted as scribes, diviners, ministers, attendants, soldiers and cooks, dependent on the changing whims of a ruler who employed or dismissed them. It presents the image of a bird in danger of being caught by hunters, a bird who must fly low, moving towards autumn and the festivals of harvest and realization, and the Flying Bird, the words that will cross the river of life and death. It is concerned with making actions and the words of omen coincide through very scrupulous attention, a ritual in which every detail counts and every step is carefully measured. It is a bird of omen, a dance that calls the spirit and houses it in an image or tablet.

This time of transition is a journey through liminal space where rules dissolve and borders are crossed, imaged as the hunter and the prey, the bird taken or not taken in the net. It is a quality of the Way, the 'littlest possible thing (ji)', something hardly visible that is the precise place where things turn and change. It is a time for great care with an expectation of great results, the penultimate step. Remember, in this time you are the bird, not the hunter. Motto: 'Keep a Small heart.'

THE RESPONSE

Small Traverses. Make an offering and you will succeed.

Advantageous Trial. Harvesting.

This allows Small affairs, it does not allow Great affairs.

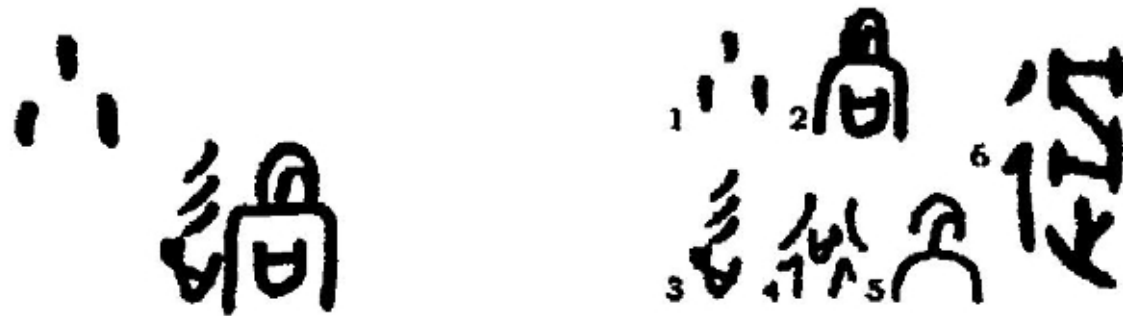
The flying bird brings the omen as it leaves. Spread the word.

‘Above is not the proper place, below is the proper place.’

The Great Way is open.

Small, XIAO: little, flexible, adaptable; humility, what is common to all; adapt to whatever happens; make things smaller, lessen, yin energy. The old character shows a river dividing two banks, the undifferentiated flow of life connecting the Small things.

Traverse/Exceed, GUO: go across, go beyond, surpass, overtake, overgo; get clear of, get over; cross the threshold, surmount difficulties; transgress the norm, outside the limits; anomaly, unique, different. The old character shows three footprints, the sign for stop and a dwelling with a mouth inside. Outside it, a hand makes an offering to the spirit.



XIAO³ shows three grains of rice or sand or a river between two banks. 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 and a mountain-ridge (5), a crossroads (6) with a foot (3).

Small Traverses describes your situation in terms of a seemingly overwhelming variety of details. The way to deal with it is to carefully adapt to each thing in turn. Be very careful and meticulous. Adapt conscientiously to whatever comes. This is pleasing to the spirits. Through it they will give you success, effective power and the capacity to bring the situation to maturity. Put your ideas to the trial. That brings profit and insight. The time allows you to do Small things. It does not allow you to do Great things. The flying bird leaves this message behind: the above is not suitable, the below is suitable. Don't go up, go down. This generates great good fortune and meaningful events by releasing transformative energy. Keep your sense of purpose. Don't look to others to solve your problems.



THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows an inner limit restricting new energy. Above the mountain there is thunder. Don't be afraid to act alone. If you have found something to trust you must move it. Through being very small you can move beyond. When you are active, be excessively polite. When you are mourning, be excessively compassionate. When you are paying, be excessively frugal. Being small is pleasing to the spirits. Through it they will give you success, effective power and the capacity to bring the situation to maturity. Putting your ideas to the trial brings profit and insight. The flexible and adaptable acquires the centre. Small matters generate meaning and good fortune by releasing transformative energy. What is strong and solid has lost its central position. Great matters are not allowed. This is truly the symbol of a flying bird who leaves a message behind: the above is not suitable, the below is suitable. Above you will be thwarted. Staying below will yield results.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Above Mountain there is Thunder. Small Traverses.

This is a time when Noble One uses excessive courtesy in moving,

Excessive mourning in loss,

Excessive frugality in availing of things.

Spirit words bind us and accomplish fate, manifesting through quake and thunder. These are the Operators. Thunder above rouses and germinates new potential, while Mountain below limits and articulates what is complete to suggest what is beginning. It is Wood over Earth: an inner field that restrains and protects new growth through an excessive concern with being Small. The ideal Realising Person reflects this transition through his concern with the fitting and the sincere. He is carried by the Bright Omens through the Tiger's Mouth.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL SIX

Small Traverses. He acts like a flying bird.

Trap! The Way closes.

This is why it is not allowed. Stay low, stay humble and stay grounded. Don't try to impress people. Don't fly away. If you do you will surely regret it.

Direction: A time of abundance is coming. Continue on. You are connected to a creative force.

SIX AT SECOND

Small Traverses. He passes by his grandfather spirit,

Meets his grandmother spirit.

He does not extend to the Leader, he meets the servant.

This is not a mistake.

The servant is not allowed to exceed and pass by. Identify with people in secondary roles. Don't push yourself forward. Gladly accept the supporting position. Don't try to dominate. Embrace the yin. You will see all your wishes fulfilled. The connections will have deep, enduring value.

Direction: This has enduring value. Be resolute. It connects you to a creative force.

NINE AT THIRD

Small Traverses. You can not exceed defending yourself against this.

If you carry on, you may be killed.

Trap! The Way closes.

Carry on and be killed. This is why the Way closes. You over-extend yourself in an impossible situation. If you are lucky, you can fend off harm. You are in real danger. You must stop acting like this. You are over-reaching when you should be Small.

Direction: Gather resources so you can respond when the real call comes. Re-imagine the situation. Gather energy for a decisive new move.



NINE AT FOURTH

Small Transverses. This is not a mistake.

He does not pass it by, he meets it.

Let the adversity that is going be a necessary warning.

Don't use this in a long-term Trial.

This is not an appropriate situation. If you complete it, it will not last long. The transition is made. The Small has found the connection. This is not a mistake. Take a look at the dangers you have just passed through, the memories and ghosts. Let them be a warning. Don't go back!

Direction: Stay humble and connected to the facts. Release bound energy. The situation is already changing.

SIX AT FIFTH

Small Traverses. Shrouding clouds bring no rain yet.

'It comes from our western outskirts.'

A prince with a string-arrow grasps another in a cave.

This is the climax above. The culmination is coming, the autumn rains and the harvest. You make an enduring connection with someone who is in retreat. This will open up a whole new life.

Direction: A stimulating influence. It connects you with a creative force.

SIX ABOVE

Small Traverses. You don't meet it, you pass it by.

The flying birds scatter and are trapped. The Way closes.

This is called a disaster and a blunder.

This is overbearing at the climax. Danger and arrogance. You overreach yourself, flying higher and higher. This won't accomplish anything. A disaster from within and without. Change now!

Direction: Step outside of the situation. Don't be afraid to act on your own. This will connect you to a creative force.