

38 Diverging/The Shadow Lands GUI



Opposition, discord, conflicting purposes; outside the norm,
cast out; strange meetings with hidden spirits, the ghost world;
change conflict to creative tension through awareness;
a seed figure.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *When the Way of the dwelling comes to an end, you must turn away. Accept this and use the energy of Diverging. This means turning away.*

Outside the dwelling, exposed to the night, Diverging points at a Bright Presence in the night sky, the star mansions of the Ghost Cart (*Yugui*) that presides over punishments, executions and dire fates. It includes others: the Heavenly Horse, the Heavenly Swine, the Man leading the Ox, the Bow and Arrow, the Orphan or Fox. It suggests autumn, for the rains are here and the gates of winter are closing. This is the sun and moon in opposition and, metaphorically, the minister cut off and exiled from the royal presence. It suggests the *Li sao*, the Nine Songs, an intense and shamanic lament of the virtuous minister betrayed by schemers and cast out by his prince. It is all things outside, *wai*: isolation, danger, foreigners, wilderness, punishments, the Demon Country. It suggests strange visions, alternate realities and chance meetings with important spirit beings: the Primal Father, Yi the Archer and the Dark Lord or Hidden Master. It combines the themes of discord, punishment and exile with the difficult voyage, travelling in alternate realities.

This is the world of the *wugui*, the shamans or Intermediaries who deal with angry ghosts and spirit presence outside the normal and of the border regions, beyond the frontiers. Phonetically and thematically, this links with the cyclic character marking the last day of the ten-day week, a day on which divinations were performed for ghost signs and demons coming from the Four Hidden Lands, angry ancestors and ghosts who could bring misfortune upon the living. A related character portrays waters running from the Four Directions or Hidden Lands into the centre, the Earth Pit

and its underworld or Ghost River. It represents the yin aspect of water, linked with the ghost world and the appearance of a certain set of star clusters or mansions.

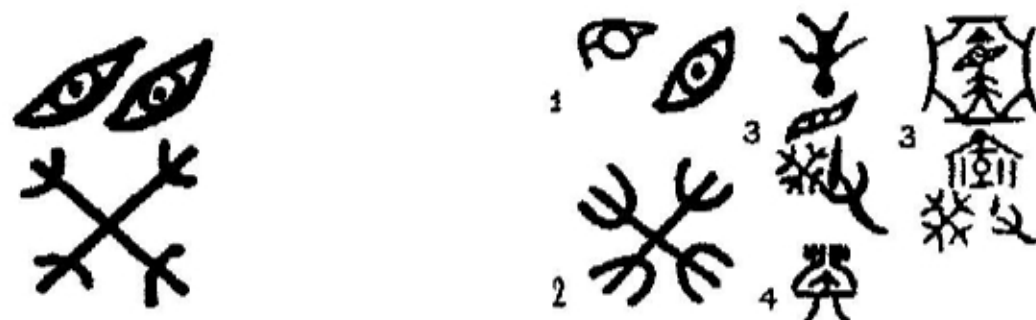
The lines centre on the terms 'see' (*jian*) and 'meet' (*yu*), carrying through the sense of perceiving the strange suggested by the Name. The figure as a whole is an extended pun on *gui*, ghost, which describes spirits of the newly dead. 'When a spirit returns (*gui*) he first becomes a ghost (*gui*), a human with a demon head; the breath of the *gui* is insidious and harmful.' Daoists call these souls who are continuing rebirth as slaves of passion. The word is a curse, directly linked to the Hidden Lands and to all who are outside and foreign. Dealing with these spirits, transforming the negative power of the ghost world into a creative tension with the living is essential to the continuation of human life and culture. This is the job of the wandering sage, the one who voyages outside the norms, the *wugui*.

THE RESPONSE

Diverging. The Shadow Lands.

Wise Words! Small's affairs open the Way.

Diverge, GUI: opposition, discord; change conflict into creative tension; separate, oppose, move in opposite directions; distant, remote from each other; animosity, anger; astronomical opposition; ghosts and the ghost world; exile, cast out. The old character shows a sacrificial mat and the eyes of the Ancestor.



KUI²: (6435/109) consists of an offering mat for oblations **GUI³** (2) and two eyes **MU⁴** (1) that indicate the presence of the Ancestor. The offering mat is a cyclical character indicating the last day of the ten-day week – (3) shows descriptions of offerings to ancestors. The first shows the ancestor descending, his big eye upon the living, a hand with the offering knife of the sacrificing son and the bundle of grass for the libation. The second shows the ancestor in the sacred niche from whence his influence emanates the temple or a box with gifts and the hand and libation mat.

Diverging describes your situation in terms of opposition and discord, being outcast. The way to deal with it is to change potential conflict into dynamic tension. Separate and clarify what is in conflict while acknowledging the essential connection. Small things are important now. Be flexible and adaptable in all your affairs. That generates meaning and good fortune by releasing transformative energy. Be open to strange occurrences, sudden visions and non-normal ways of seeing things.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows expression and awareness in conflict with each other. Fire rises, the mists descend. The solution to this conflict is inherent in the situation. When the way of dwelling together is exhausted, you must necessarily turn away. Diverging implies turning away. It is what is outside, what is unfamiliar, foreign and strange. You must be able both to join things together and to separate them. Fire stirs things up and rises. The mists stir things up and descend. They are like two women who agree to live together while their purposes move apart. These two things, individual expression and holding together, can be connected through brightness and awareness. Use what is flexible and adaptable to move to the position above. You can acquire the centre and connect with what is strong and solid. That is why being concerned with small things generates meaning and good fortune by releasing transformative energy. Heaven and Earth are polarized, but in their work they come together. Man and woman are polarized, but their purposes interpenetrate. The Myriad Beings are polarized, but they all are busy with the same things. Examine what separates and what connects people. Diverging is a time when you connect with what is truly great.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Fire above, Mists below. Diverging.

A time when Noble One uses both concording and dividing.

Spirit speaks through the Intermediaries, revealing itself in the Bright Omens. The Joyous Dancer is working with the Bright Omens. Fire above seeks to rise, while Mists hold joyous words within. This is Fire over Metal: the conflict between inner form and



outer radiance that creates a polarizing tension. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by mobilizing his ability both to accept and reject. Hold the heart fast and take the risk. Change the Mandate of Heaven.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL NINE

Diverging. The Shadow Lands.

The cause for sorrow disappears.

If you lose your horse, do not pursue it.

It will return to its origin of itself.

You see the Hateful People. This is not a mistake.

This means using casting out faults. Meeting the Heavenly Horse. Don't worry over what seems gone. Harmony, strength and love will return by themselves. The pain and sorrow and disconnection you feel will vanish. You will see the angry ghosts. It is vital that you don't let them poison your mind. Keep your thoughts warm and clear and you will make no mistakes.

Direction: Gather energy for a decisive new move.

NINE AT SECOND

Diverging. The Shadow Lands.

Meeting the Hidden Lord of the Crooked Path.

This is not a mistake.

This is not letting go of the Way. In an unexpected way, in an unexpected place, you meet a spirit power of great importance. This is the meaning of being outside the norms. This influence enters your heart and makes everything clear. Don't be afraid. This is not a mistake.

Direction: Bite through the obstacles! Gather energy for a decisive new move.

SIX AT THIRD

Diverging. The Shadow Lands.

You see your cart pulled back and your cattle hobbled.

The Branded Man with his nose cut off.

'What you initiate will not be completed.'

Not an appropriate situation. You meet a strong line. These are punishments and obstacles. A serious setback, the end of your plans. You have tried to force your way through and have met unexpectedly strong opposition. Nothing can come to fruition now. Do not identify yourself with these people and their violent passions.
Direction: Clarify and brighten your central idea. Be resolute. You are connected to a creative force.

NINE AT FOURTH

Diverging alone. The Orphan and the Fox.

You meet the Primal Father, mingle and connect to the spirits.

Adversity, hungry souls and angry ghosts.

This is not a mistake.

Mingling and connecting without fault. Your purpose is moving indeed. Alone and isolated, you encounter something or someone inspiring, a primal source. Though there may seem to be danger, don't be afraid. Joining with this force will put you in touch with the spirits. Cut through past pains and sorrows. What you have in your heart will come to pass.

Direction: Diminish passion and past involvement. Make the sacrifice. This is the return of something significant. Be open and provide what is needed.

SIX AT FIFTH

Diverging. The Shadow Lands.

The cause for sorrow disappears.

You see the ancestors eating flesh.

How could going on like this be a mistake?



This means in going there will be rewards. Lost in the wilderness, you find the ancient virtue and power. You are blessed by your ancestors. They bite their way through and confer their blessings. This is the meal shared with spirits and great ones. Your sorrows will soon vanish. There is no way in which this can be a mistake.

Direction: Proceed step by step. Find supportive friends. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

NINE ABOVE

Diverging alone. The Orphan and the Fox.

You see the Heavenly Swine covered with muck,
the Chariot Carrying Dead Souls.

‘First you stretch the bow, then you loosen the bow.’

Those you are confronting are definitely not outlaws.

Seek a marriage alliance.

Going on you meet the rain. Wise Words! The Way will open.

The doubt of the flock disappears. Yi the Archer comes to your aid. Alone and isolated, you see the people around you as dirty pigs or ghosts. At first you are hostile, but then you relax. Where does this hostility come from? These people are not trying to hurt you. Reach out and seek an alliance. As you begin, the falling rain will wash the past away and the Way will open. The time of isolation is over.

Direction: If you let yourself be led, you can realise hidden potential. The situation is already changing.