

41 *Diminishing/* *The Offering* SUN

Decrease, sacrifice, loss; concentrate, diminish your involvement, decrease your desire; aim at a higher goal, see the significant pattern of things; site of creative transformation.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *Relaxing the bonds we must find a place to let go of things. Make the Offering. Accept this and use the energy of Diminishing.*

Diminishing and Augmenting offer a paradigm of sacrifice and its results. Diminishing is the offering: 'What is below gives to what is above.' The root is hand and a sacrificial vessel, pouring out the libation. It is the food and wine, the cooked grains in the vessel, the objects and victims offered in sacrifice or put into the tomb. It suggests making a reverence, a full ritual prostration. Others meanings include to lessen, harm, destroy, lose or weaken, for the things offered are truly destroyed. It includes biting or mordant speech, criticism and self-reproach. It is a gift that costs much effort. Philosophically, it is the cultivation of power and virtue, what keeps harm away. It reduces things to the essential, eliminating the useless or outmoded, and thus reveals the Way. It is the waning moon, the victim, the old King, what is offered.

THE RESPONSE

Diminishing. The Offering.

A connection to the spirits will carry you through.

Wise Words! The Way to the Source is open.

This is not a mistake.

This is an Enabling Trial.

Advantageous to have a direction to go. Harvesting.

You ask how to make use of this?

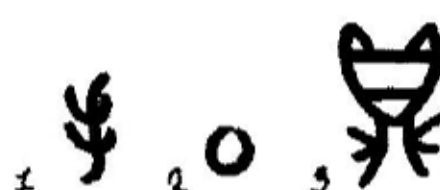
Two vessels allow you to make the presentation.

Diminish, *SUN*: lessen, take away, make smaller, weaken, damage; minus, a debt; lose, spoil, hurt, blame; criticize, reproach, biting; offer in sacrifice, give up, give away; concentrate, aim at a higher goal; diminish the unnecessary, reduce to the essence. The old character shows an empty vessel and an offering hand.

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DIMINISHING



*SUN*³ (10109/64) shows the palm of a hand, *SHOU*³ (1) and *YUAN*², made up of a cauldron *DING*³ (3) and a circle *LING*² (2), indicating empty, hollow, nothing, zero. The hand is a special form meaning to join the hands and bow reverentially.

Diminishing describes your situation in terms of loss, sacrifice and the need for concentration. The way to deal with it is to decrease your involvements and free yourself from emotional entanglements. This makes energy available for new developments. Act this way with confidence, for you are connected to the spirits and they will carry you through. This is the origin of great good fortune and meaningful events. It is not a mistake. This is an enabling divination. Put your ideas to the trial. Have a place to go. Impose a direction on things. That brings profit and insight. Inquire into motivations; ask yourself why you are doing things. Use two ceremonial vessels to present your results to the spirits.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows an outer limit that brings inner development to expression. Below the mountain there are the mists. Go back and start over. Something significant is returning. To release blocked energy, you must have a way to let things go. Diminishing is the way, for decreasing is the beginning of increasing. This is the way you adjust and repair your power to realise the Way. Diminishing is heavy and arduous at first, but it lets you be versatile and change with the time. It keeps harm at a distance. Curb your anger and resentment in order to block passions and desires. This changes the flow of energy. Diminish what is below and augment what is above. Your Way is moving in what is above.

Diminish things with confidence, for you are connected to the spirits and they will carry you through. This is the origin of great good fortune and meaningful events. It is not a mistake. This is an enabling divination, so put your ideas to the trial. Inquire into motivations, particularly your own. Two ceremonial vessels correspond to the time. They signify diminishing what is strong and solid and augmenting what is supple and adaptable. This fills what is empty. It connects you to the time. Accompany it as it moves.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Mists below Mountain. Diminishing.

This is a time when Noble One curbs anger and restrains passions.

Spirit speaks and spreads joy through the Intermediaries; its words bind us and accomplish fate. These are the Operators, those who work with the spirit. Mountain above limits and articulates what is complete to suggest what is beginning, while Mists rising from below stimulate and fertilize, joyous words cheer and inspire. It is Earth over Metal: the outer field that diminishes involvement, stimulating inner growth and giving voice to the spirit. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by freeing himself from compulsive, unreflected emotions. Make the sacrifice. A cycle is ending. Be open to the influx of the spirit.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL NINE

Diminishing. The Offering.

Bring it to an end and go swiftly.

This is not a mistake. Discussing diminishes it.

This is honouring and uniting purposes with the above. This involvement is a mistake. Leave now, quickly. Talk about how you can get out of the way, but don't let it diminish your resolve.

Direction: There are hidden forces at work. This is the return of something significant. Be open and provide what is needed.

NINE AT SECOND

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Diminishing. The Offering.

Advantageous Trial. Harvesting.

Chastising closes the Way. Trap!

This Diminishes nothing, it augments it.

This is centring and activating the purpose. This is a very advantageous connection. Everyone will benefit. It won't help if you try to discipline people and it is not the time to set out on an expedition. This connection won't diminish things, it will augment them.

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



DIMINISHING

SIX AT THIRD

Diminishing. The Offering.

'When there are three people moving, they will be diminished by one.'

When one person is moving, he will acquire a friend.'

This means the three are doubtful. If you are involved in a triangle, it will soon become a couple. If you are alone, you will soon have a friend. You acquire the Inner Companion.

Direction: A time for a great endeavour. Let yourself be led. You can realise hidden potential. The situation is already changing.

SIX AT FOURTH

Diminishing his affliction. The Offering.

Commission someone to carry it swiftly.

There will be rejoicing. This is not a mistake.

This truly allows rejoicing. This connection is seriously harming you. Diminish your involvement. Send someone quickly to give the message. Then you will have cause to rejoice. Have no doubts, this is not a mistake.

Direction: Turn conflict into creative tension. The situation is already changing.

SIX AT FIFTH

Diminishing. The Offering.

'Someone' augments him.

Ten pairs of tortoise divinations cannot control or contradict this!

Wise Words! The Way to the Source is open.

This originates in protection from above. A blessing and a Mandate from Heaven. The Way is fundamentally open. Nothing can get in the way of your plans and your desires. You will be showered with blessings. Enjoy it!

Direction: Bring your inner and outer lives together. Take things in. Be open and provide what is needed.

NINE ABOVE

Diminishing. The Offering.

Does not Diminish it, augments it.

This is not a mistake. Wise Words! Trial: The Way is open.

Advantageous to have a direction to go. Harvesting.

You acquire servants, not dwellings.

This is acquiring a Great purpose. You will not be diminished but augmented by this. It will bring good things to everyone involved. The feelings you have now are not a mistake. They actually open the Way. Draw up a plan. Be sure of yourself. You will get considerable help, but this will not be a sedentary affair.

Direction: An important connection approaches. Something significant returns. Be open and provide what is needed.