

16 Providing for/ Riding the Elephant YU



Spontaneous, direct response; enjoy, take pleasure; collect what you need to meet the future; omen animal indicating great available reserves of grace and power; site of creative transformation.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *A Great Being who can be humble responds to the commands of Heaven. Ride the Elephant. Accept this and use the energy of Providing for.*

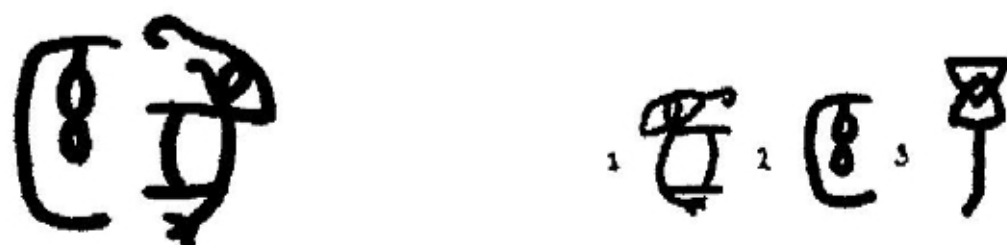
Activating unconscious creative powers builds the strength for spontaneous response. The name of this figure, which evokes Yu the Great, centres around building up the ability to respond directly, joyously, spontaneously and effectively to any situation, a quality highly valued in the ancient world. It depicts gathering reserves of energy and grace into a store of power and virtue (*de*) from which you can respond without thought. This is the sort of training involved in the martial arts and many performing arts, a kind of sub-cortical patterning whereby a corrected or straightened response becomes almost simultaneous with stimulus, bypassing cerebral systems of rational choice. This ability to respond directly and correctly allows you to enjoy the moment, to take pleasure in life. The process is imaged by a child riding on an elephant, combining spontaneity with great power and grace in an emblem of a paradise state prior to the restrictions of culture. The elephant was an omen animal widespread in ancient China, used in war and sacrifice. It was also used to mean 'symbol' (*xiang*), the term that describes the divinatory figures of Change and their power of storing and discharging spirit that enables you to move effectively with the stream of experience. Joyous Response is a response to life. It indicates smooth moving, moving with the flow or current, the moment when a spirit power spontaneously triggers other forces into action.

Providing for a Joyous Response. Ride the Elephant.

Advantageous to install the lords to move the legions.

Harvesting.

Provide for, YU: take precautions, arrange for, make ready; happy, content, prepared for; joyous, pleasure, delight; spontaneous response, enthusiasm, carried away; one of the nine provinces established by Yu the Great. The old character shows a hand holding the shuttle of a loom and an elephant, sign of grace, strength and the hidden power of the great symbols.



YU⁴ (13190/152) shows an elephant, XIANG⁴, (1) and a shuttle, YU⁴, (2): weaving big images. In later characters this becomes two hands, passing something on or handing over power (3).

Providing for describes your situation in terms of gathering what is needed to meet and enjoy the future. You can deal with it by accumulating strength and resources so you can respond spontaneously and fully when the time comes. Prepare things. Take precautions. Think things through so you can move smoothly with the flow of events. It is like riding an elephant that you have previously tamed, a creature of great grace and power. Establish and empower helpers, so your forces can be easily mobilized to respond to any situation. That brings profit and insight.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows accumulated energy bounding forth at a sudden call to action. Thunder comes from Earth impetuously. Re-imagine the situation. Humbly amass a great store of things to provide for what comes. Then you don't have to worry. Double the gates and establish the watch so you are ready for violent visitors. That way you understand what the situation means. When thunder came bursting forth from the Earth, the rulers of earlier times were ready. They aroused delight, made music and thus honoured the power to realise the Way. They exalted the highest spirit and



thus became very wise. Have a firm purpose and act on it. Yield and build up the capacity to spontaneously respond to a stimulus. This is why the old world worked so well. This is why you should establish helpers to mobilize your forces. This is the way Heaven and Earth work together, how they create time and order the seasons. The old wise people acted like this. They could respond immediately from their store of power to punish what was clearly wrong and thus the people accepted them. The time of providing for a spontaneous response is both righteous and great.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Thunder comes out of Earth impetuously, providing a Joyous Response.

Early Kings used this to arouse people's delight and honour power and virtue.

They exalted the worship of the Lord on High to equal the Ancient Fathers.

The spirit that manifests in quake and thunder is offered service at the Earth Altar. The Rouser is working with the Field. Thunder above rouses and germinates new potential, while Earth below yields and sustains. This is Wood over Earth: the inner gathering of energy allows immediate response to an outer call to action. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by emulating the practices of the Early Kings, delighting in actualizing power and connecting his personal desires with the High Lord and the Great Ancestors. Persist and work through inner inspiration. The Spirit is returning.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL SIX

Trumpeting Elephant.

Calling out for a response.

Trap! The Way closes.

Purpose exhausted, this is a real trap. You are trying to get others to take care of you. You have to provide for yourself now. If you keep calling for help you will exhaust all your strength.



Direction: A fertile shock! Re-imagine the situation. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

SIX AT SECOND

Bound Elephant. Provide for it.

The limits are turning to stone. Don't even complete the day.

Trial: Wise Words! The Way opens.

Use centring and correcting. The limits have become so rigid they are turning you to stone. Don't wait. Let go of them now. The Way is open to you. Correct yourself.

Direction: Release bound energy. The situation is already changing.

SIX AT THIRD

Elephant watching and staring. Provide for it.

Skeptical response brings cause for sorrow.

Holding back brings cause for sorrow.

This is not an appropriate situation. Don't be skeptical about this connection and don't hold back. This is real. Doubting and equivocating will only bring you sorrow. Provide what is needed, simply and directly. You won't be sorry about that.

Direction: Be very careful of details. Don't be afraid to act alone. You are connected to a creative force.

NINE AT FOURTH

Hesitating Elephant. Provide for it.

Do not doubt! This source provides for a joyous response.

Great acquisitions.

'You join friends together like a string of cowries, as a hair clasp gathers the hair.'

A great purpose is moving here. This undertaking is sent from Heaven. It gives you everything you need. Have no doubts. Partners join together in this, gathered in by your accumulated power and virtue. Together your purpose can move mountains.

Direction: Be open and provide what is needed.

SIX AT FIFTH

Troubled Elephant. Provide for it.

Trial: affliction.

Fix the omen and he will not die.

Riding a strong line, the centre is not exhausted. This is a hard time – sickness, hostility, isolation, disorder – but don't give up. It and you will certainly survive. Give things an image. The wisdom you gather will provide for you.

Direction: Gather resources for a great new project. Proceed step by step. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

SIX ABOVE

Elephant in the shadow world. The waning moon.

Provide for new accomplishments. 'There will be Changes.'

This is not a mistake.

Why let this last? You are working in the dark to provide for the future. Though the situation will deteriorate, this is not a mistake. Deny the past. Find what you need and climb out of the cave. Everything will be better in the end.

Direction: Emerge into the light. Re-imagine the situation. Gather energy for a decisive new move.