

## 6 *Dispute/Pleading/* *Council* SONG



Conflict, quarrels, arguments; plead your case before an authority, express what you feel; retreat from conflict, affirm loyalty; a lover's complaint.

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

**Charge to the Oracle:** *Eating and drinking at the shared meal necessarily brings out disputes. Resolve them. Accept this and use the energy of Arguing.*

With Dispute we enter the legal world of duties and laws designed to prevent personal conflict from becoming destructive of society, to establish loyalties and to create the union that enables people to use force collectively. Its root is words, a ritual announcement, a response from the oracle. It means to express, speak, swear, give and take orders. It is language charged with meaning that also suggests the pipes or flute used to set armies marching and send signals. Arguing is all forms of accusation and complaint, making a complaint against someone and contesting it before authority. It means to seek justice, plead a case, a lover's complaint, quarrels between the lords that are judged by the prince. It revolves around questions of loyalty and duty, bonds and struggles, oaths taken, fulfilled or neglected. It involves praise, persuasive speaking, and the necessity to submit personal matters to the authority of King and Heaven. Arguing also represents a council of war, and the ability to make war depends on the inner loyalties of the powers involved in the preparation. Connection to the spirits is necessary to any great endeavour and dissention, conflict or disloyalty blocks it. So the arguing words suggest both pleading a case and taking an oath. This may be the council in which the conflict between the Zhou and their overlords first emerged, leading King Wu to retreat and gather his vassals and allies preparatory to raising the armies to invade Shang.

## THE RESPONSE

**Dispute.** The connection to the spirits is blocked. Be wary.

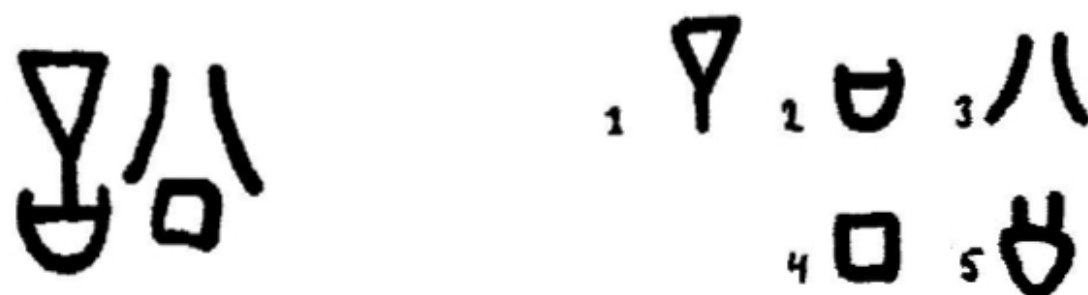
**Wise Words!** Staying in the centre opens the Way.

**Completing the conflict closes the Way. Trap!**

**Advantageous to see the Great People. Harvesting.**

**Not advantageous to step into the Great Stream.**

**Dispute/Pleading, SONG:** quarrels, wrangles, controversy, disagreement that could develop into violence, struggle for power; dispute, plead your case, state your position; accuse, regret, blame; lodge a complaint, litigate, reprimand, contend in front of a judge, arrive at a judgement, resolve a conflict, encounter opposition and choose to use diplomacy; oaths and duties, loyalties; council of war; oppression. The old character shows a person's face with open mouth, meaning words, and sign for a high feudal lord.



SONG<sup>4</sup> (10136/149) is composed of a mouth (2) KOU<sup>3</sup> making a sound YAN<sup>2</sup> (1), and GONG<sup>1</sup>, a high feudal lord, made up of BA<sup>1</sup> (3), divide, and private, SI<sup>1</sup> (4). It indicates the power to divide property and rights, also represented by a phallus (5).

Dispute describes your situation in terms of an argument. The way to deal with it is to clarify and actively express your viewpoint without trying to escalate the conflict. Act this way with confidence. You are linked to the spirits and they will carry you through. Present your case. Plead in court. Demand justice. Don't be afraid or intimidated. Be wary. Restrain your fear of authority. Don't give in, but don't exaggerate or get involved in petty wrangles. Staying in the centre will generate meaning and good fortune by releasing transformative energy. It is advantageous to see Great People. Visit those who are important and can give you advice. Try to become aware of the real purpose behind your desire. This will bring profit and insight. Don't try to bring your plans to completion. You would be cut off from the spirits and left open to danger. It is not the right time to embark on a significant enterprise or enter the stream of life with a purpose.



DISPUTE

### THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows a struggle that lacks a solid base for action. Heaven combined with stream contradicts movement. Something new is being prepared. Stay inside your group. When many people eat and drink together, arguing will break out. This is not a harmonious time. It is full of people and ideas contradicting each other. Don't try to overcome all these things. Use the contradictions to stimulate and stir things up in order to plan the beginning of new activities. Go on arguing and see what it reveals. You are connected to the spirits and they will carry you through. Don't be afraid. By staying in the centre you will encounter what is strong and solid. Don't try to bring your plans to completion. The time is against it. Seeing Great People will help you clarify your own idea, but embarking on a significant enterprise now would be like jumping into an abyss. The great Stream of Life would become a whirlpool that drowns you.

### THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

**Heaven associates with Stream, contradictory movements.  
Dispute.**

**A time when Noble One arouses the desire to serve, planning  
new beginnings.**

*Spirit inspires those toiling in the Pit as it awes and wars in Heaven.* This is the Dragon and the Ghost River. Heaven above struggles on, a spark of yang born at the centre of the yin, while Rushing Water below dissolves direction and shape. It is Metal over Water: with no solid inner base for action, struggle expresses itself through arguing words. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by arousing people's desire to aid and serve. Work through subtle penetration. This involves fate.

### TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL SIX

**Dispute. This is not a place to prolong your service.**

**Use small words. Bring it to completion.**

**Wise Words! The Way opens.**



*Arguing is not allowed to last. This means brightening your discrimination. This is not the place for you to be of service. You will always be in conflict, discussing trivial affairs. Be done with it. Bow out gracefully and leave. The Way is open to you.*

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

#### NINE AT SECOND

**You cannot master this Dispute through pleading.**

**Change and escape to your capital,**

**To your people's three hundred doors.**

**This is not an error.**

*Change and escape, even sneak away. You reap the benefits when the distress is over. You cannot win this fight, so change your plans. Go back to your own people, where the doors are open to you. Use any means necessary to effect your escape. This is not a mistake. When the distress comes to an end, your friends will seek you out.*

*Direction:* Communication is blocked. Proceed step by step. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

#### SIX AT THIRD

**Dispute. Eat the ancient power and virtue.**

**Trial: Wise Words! Complete the adversity, hungry souls and angry ghosts. The Way is open.**

**If someone follows a king's service, it will not be accomplished now.**

*Adhering to what is above opens the Way. This is the scribe or diviner, eating his way through the ancestor's words to find the omen, the real call to action. To deal with this situation you need the power and the insight of the ancient sages. You are facing a horde of angry ghosts, things from the past that haunt you. Take heart and fight your way through, even though your social and business duties may suffer. This is the way to real union and accomplishment.*

*Direction:* This is a fated encounter. It connects you with a creative force.



## NINE AT FOURTH

Do not try to control this Dispute through pleading.

Return to the source, the Mandate is approaching.

‘There will be changes.’

**Trial:** Wise Words! You are safe and secure. The Way is open.

*This means not letting go of the return.* You cannot win this fight, so change your plans. Return to the source, disengage from the conflict. A great change of fate, a mandate, is approaching. The situation will deteriorate at first, but have no fear. You are secure. Stay quiet, accepting and peaceful. This is a crucial moment. Don't let go of this chance.

*Direction:* Clear up obstacles to understanding. Take things in. Be open to the new and provide what is needed.

## NINE AT FIFTH

**Dispute.** Wise Words! Plead your case.

The Way to the Source is open.

*This is using the centre and correcting.* Now is the time to convince people. State your case with clarity and confidence and expect positive results. This will resolve the situation and open the way to a much better time. The bonding that occurs now leads to great things.

*Direction:* Gather energy for a decisive new move.

## NINE ABOVE

**Dispute.** You plead your case.

‘Someone’ bestows a leather belt.

Complete dawn three times and you will be deprived of it.

*Arguing into acceptance and submission. This is not a respectable stance.* The vagaries of a feudal court and an ambitious lord. You are contesting for mastery, trying to conquer in this matter. Due to the situation, you simply cannot win. Anything you gain will soon vanish. It will bring you no respect at all.

*Direction:* Break out of isolation. Find supportive friends. Gather energy for a decisive new move.