



## 55 *Abounding/ Receiving the Mandate* FENG

Plenty, copious, rich, generous, profusion; culminating point, overflowing; activate inner creative energy; the King receives the Mandate of Heaven, a sign of great change; site of creative transformation.



ABOUNDING

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

**Charge to the Oracle:** *Finding the place to marry necessarily means becoming Great. Accept this and use the energy of Abounding. Receiving the Mandate. This means being Great.*

Abounding suggests a *heng* or image-fixing ritual. This particular version of the *heng*-ritual was celebrated at the height of summer, when the year changes at the solstice and the dark influx begins. The King would withdraw into seclusion in the Mourning Hut to magically fix the forms of coming abundance by sacrificing to the dark forces that will bring the harvest. The character also suggests playing the war tambours for the armies that would become active in autumn after the harvest ritual. It represents offerings that bring happiness, wine-drinking feasts and the wine vessel used at the Outskirts Altar, a great vessel full of blessings. Its root is pig, combining hidden riches and facing danger.

The term *feng* is also the name of King Wu's military capital on the Feng River, just before the events of the conquest of Shang. At this time, King Wu was in mourning for his father King Wen, beginning the three years of isolation in the Mourning Hut prescribed for a Royal Ancestor. A solar eclipse occurred on or about 20 June 1070 BCE, at the solstice. King Wu took this as a direct omen from Heaven that Shang was about to fall and that he had finally received the Mandate for Change. When the sky became darker, the inhabitants of the capital saw the Dipper appear in the heavens, the palace of *Shang Di* and a powerful omen of military victory. King Wu made a turtle divination to see whether he should remain in mourning or take arms immediately. The turtle oracle works in matched pairs of positive/negative statements. Here we

have the answer to the charge ‘perhaps stay in mourning’. It says: ‘Trap! The Way closes!’ King Wu then made the yi-sacrifice at noon. His War Leader announced the results at the Earth Altar, and smeared the drums with blood and set his armies marching into the wilderness of Mu to fight the battle that ended the rule of the Shang. In a radical and shocking action he not only broke the prescribed mourning, but carried his father’s corpse, which had not been enshrined in a spirit-tablet, with him into battle to ensure the support of Heaven. This act of obedience to the Mandate that broke all the rules was to bring great abundance to all.

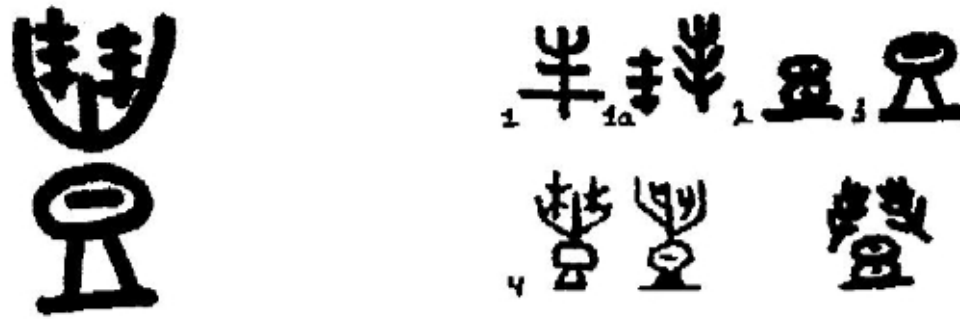
### THE RESPONSE

**Abounding. He receives the Mandate. Make an offering and you will succeed.**

**The King sacrifices at the Earth Altar: ‘No mourning!’**

**He makes the sacrifice at noon and sets the armies marching.**

**Abound, FENG:** abundant harvest; fertile, plentiful, copious, numerous; prolific, exuberant, overflowing; full, culminating, ripe, sumptuous, luxurious; have many talents, friends, riches; eclipse, omen or sign of a great change; name of King Wu’s military capital at Feng and his war leader, the Duke of Zhou; victory, renewal of the time. The old character shows a ritual cooking vessel or big war drum, ears of grain and a threshing floor.



FENG<sup>1</sup> (3541/151) is both a cooking pot and a big drum with decorations (4). Other forms show ears of grain (1), a threshing floor (2) and a ritual vessel (3) like a cornucopia.

Abounding describes your situation in terms of abundance and fertile profusion to come. There is a fundamental change preparing. The way to deal with it is to be exuberant and expansive. Overflow with good feeling, support and generosity. Give with both hands. This is pleasing to the spirits. Through it they will give you success, effective power and the capacity to bring the



situation to maturity. Imagine yourself as the King whose power bestows wealth and happiness on all. Rid yourself of sorrow, melancholy and care. Be like the sun at midday. Shed light on all and eliminate the shadows.

### THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows brightness and warmth permeating the world and stirring up growth. Thunder and lightning bring everything to culmination. Assemble all your force. Don't be afraid to act alone. Acquiring a field of activity means having a great idea. Abounding refers to your great idea. Many things have brought you to this point, among them quarrels and sorrows. Cut through legal arguments and let punishment take place. Brightness and awareness stir everything up. This is the source of abounding. Imagine yourself as a king whose power confers benefits on everyone. Honour what is great. Rid yourself of all sorrow and melancholy. Shed your light on everything below Heaven. When the sun reaches the centre, it begins to set. When the moon becomes full, it begins to wane. Heaven and Earth fill and empty all things. There is a time to associate with others and build things up, and a time to let structures dissolve so the new can emerge. This is even truer of people and of the souls and spirits that govern the world.

### THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

**Thunder and Lightning culminate. Abounding. Receiving a Mandate.**

**This is a time when Noble One uses severe litigation that involves serious punishment.**

*The spirit that manifests in quake and thunder reveals itself in the Bright Omens. The Rouser is working with the Bright Omens. Thunder above rouses and germinates new potential, while Fire and brightness below radiate light and warmth and people experience the Bright Presence of things. This is Wood over Fire: an inner brightness that permeates and rouses the outer world, opening to a new spring. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by clearly demarcating what is and what is not responsible behaviour. A cycle is beginning. Bite through the obstacles.*



## TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

### INITIAL NINE

**Abounding. Meeting his Lord as an equal.**

**The ten-day week. This is not a mistake.**

**There is honour and reward in going.**

*More than a full ceremonial week would be a disaster.* In the Mourning Hut, you encounter someone or something that will change the course of your life. It is a deep mutual recognition. Stay with this for a complete ritual period. Go through all the stages. It is not a mistake. If you hold on to the connection, it will bring you honour and reward.

*Direction:* A transition. Be very Small. Don't be afraid to act alone. You are connected to a creative force.

### SIX AT SECOND

**Abounding screens him. The great cycle is full.**

**Feng is so dark at noon we see the Dipper, constellation of fates.**

**Charge: 'If he goes forward, we will know doubts and affliction.'**

**Response: 'You have a far-reaching connection to the spirit that will carry you through.'**

**Wise Words! The Way is open.**

*Trustworthy purpose is shooting forth.* The time is full, the Mandate for Change draws near. This is the omen. Although you still feel isolated and unsure, you have a profound connection to the spirits that is working at a great distance to create connections. Fear not. The Way is opening.

*Direction:* Rouse your sense of strength and purpose. Be resolute. You are connected to a creative force.

### NINE AT THIRD

**Abounding veils him.**

**Feng is so dark at noon we see only dimly.**

**'He breaks his right arm.' This is not a mistake.**



*This does not yet allow completing Great affairs.* In the Mourning Hut, unable to move at the moment. Do not worry, the time is coming. Look at the omens rising in the sky. You see such extraordinary sights that you lose the capacity to respond. Don't worry. This is not a mistake. A new spirit is being born.

*Direction:* A fertile shock is coming. Re-imagine your situation. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

#### NINE AT FOURTH

**Abounding screens him. The great cycle is full.**

**Feng is so dark at noon we see the Dipper, constellation of fates.**

**He meets the Hidden Lord.**

**Wise Words! The Way is open.**

*Not an appropriate situation. This is shadow not brightening. Moving opens the Way. An omen and a contact with the spirit of Change. You see the Hidden Lord who is moving events and acquire the capacity to move with them. These are extraordinary things that most people can't understand. In this solitude and obscurity, you meet something that makes it all clear. The recognition is immediate. Hold on to the connection. The Way is open.*

*Direction:* Accept the difficult task. Release bound energy. The situation is already changing.

#### SIX AT FIFTH

**Abounding. He receives the Mandate.**

**The jade talisman. 'Held in this containing beauty.'**

**There will be reward and praise.**

**Wise Words! The Way opens.**

*There will be rewards. You receive the Mandate from Heaven and acquire the ability to usher in the coming abundance. The next chapter in the book of life is full of beauty, joy and love. Rewards and praise will be showered on you. The Way is opening.*

*Direction:* Revolution and renewal. You are coupled with a creative force.

SIX ABOVE

Abounding. He has the Mandate.

The roof screens the Mourning Hut.

‘Will he peep through the door, alone without people,

Not admitted to audience for three years?’

Trap! The Way closes.

*Hovering at the border of Heaven, isolation will come of concealing its birth. The time is passing you by! Do not stay in mourning for the past. Your melancholy and pain are in danger of isolating you. Break out of this trap! Don't shut yourself in. Grasp the changing time and act. If you don't, the Way will close.*

*Direction: Become aware of your situation and join with others. Don't be afraid to act on your own. You are connected to a creative force.*