

## 54 Marrying the Maiden GUI MEI



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MARRYING THE MAIDEN

The marriage of the younger daughter; change over which you have no control; realise your destiny or hidden potential; radical change of state; passionate, irregular relationship, desire, compulsion; a seed figure.

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

**Charge to the Oracle:** *When you advance you must find a place to marry and change, returning to the place you belong. Accept this and use the energy of Marrying the Maiden.*

Marrying the Maiden is a model of a kind of change imaged by the marriage of the Younger Sister and a particular historic incident. It is a sudden change of state, a transformation that occurs outside of your control and leads to fulfilling your innate destiny or virtue. The root of the word suggests both calming or tranquillizing and arriving at the fulfilment.

Marrying the Maiden is based on an historical incident in the story of the Change in the Mandate of Heaven. Di Yi, the 'Great Ancestor' and Shang Ruler, gave one of his daughters in marriage to King Wen, spiritual father of the Zhou Dynasty, when the Zhou were just emerging as major vassals to the Shang. She went to the marriage as principal wife, followed by her younger sisters. When the marriage to the Leading Wife produced no offspring, however, one of the sororal brides, the Lady of Shu, was raised to be principal wife. She is the 'marrying maiden' who became mother of King Wu and the Duke of Zhou, the great heroes who obtained the Mandate of Heaven, established the Zhou as a ruling dynasty and renewed the time, creating a new Golden Age.

The name of this figure combines the image of a girl sent to her husband's house to marry with the idea of returning to your own country, returning to yourself or your home, the spontaneous movement of a being who, by yielding to its innate nature, fulfils its destiny. The term also suggested a goal, intention or destination. It was used to describe the Three Refuges (*Buddha, Dharma* and *Sangha*) and the return to the Source in death. It was further used to

denote relations outside the mainstream, illicit or irregular unions outside the norms and based on passion that lead to major changes.

## THE RESPONSE

**Marrying the Maiden.** Chastising closes the Way and leaves no advantageous direction.

**Marry/convert, GUI:** give a young woman in marriage; transform, reveal hidden potential; return to where you belong; restore, revert; loyal. The old character shows a marriage procession with pennants with tassels at the top and the signs for the great and a broom held in the hand.

**Maiden, MEI:** young girl who is not yet nubile; younger sister; daughter of a secondary wife; person in a servile position. The old character shows a maiden with blossoming breasts.



**GUI:** (6369/77) is composed of (1) a rolling, waving movement, with a variant (2) meaning pursue vigorously, and a broom held in the hand (3) as a banner or standard. 6 below shows variants. **MEI** (7660/38) shows a luxuriant tree (4) meaning abundant, late summer and a kneeling woman (5) with her head filled with spirit (6 above). 7 shows two variants with the knife of sacrifice.

Marrying the Maiden describes your situation in terms of a change you must go through which is beyond your control. You are not the one who has chosen. The force involved is larger than you are. The way to deal with it is to accept it and let yourself be led. You cannot escape the situation. It reflects a deep and unacknowledged need. It is moving you towards a new field of activity, the place where you belong. Don't try to discipline people or take control of the situation. That will cut you off from the spirits and leave you open to danger. Don't impose your will, have a plan or a place to go. Being free of such plans will bring you profit and insight. This is a very special situation that, in the long run, can lead to great success.



## MARRYING THE MAIDEN

## THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows self-expression cheerfully following rousing new energy. Above the mists there is thunder. The situation is already changing. In order to advance you must have a way to convert your hidden potential. Bring this potential to completion through the woman and the yin. Don't try to dominate the situation. Adapt and provide what is needed. By bringing everything to completion you will understand what is unfit to be used. Converting the Maiden is the great righteousness of Heaven and Earth. If Heaven and Earth did not mingle like this, the Myriad Beings would never emerge. For the Maiden, this is both an end and a beginning. Stir up expression and pleasure. This is the way to Convert the Maiden. Punishing people or imposing your will cuts you off from the spirits and leaves you open to danger. It is not the right situation to do that. Don't make plans or impose directions. Be supple and adaptable and ride on the strong, solid force.

## THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

**Thunder above Mists. Marrying the Maiden.**

**This is a time when Noble One uses what is enduring and complete in order to determine what is flawed.**

*Spirit speaks and spreads joy through the Intermediaries, manifesting in quake and thunder. These are the Operators, the Rouser and the Joyous Dancer. Thunder rouses above and germinates new potential, while Rising Mists from below stimulate and fertilize, joyous words cheer and inspire. This is Wood over Metal: rousing outer energy that converts the Maiden's potential to stimulate, inspire and call the spirit. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by meditating on what is whole and enduring, thus understanding the flaws in himself and others. Work through subtle penetration. This involves fate. Follow the spirit.*

## TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL NINE

**The Marrying Maiden with her sister-brides.**

**She marries as a junior sister.**



**A halting gait lets you tread.**

**Wise Words! Chastising opens the Way.**

*Fix the omen. You receive gifts and mutual support. You are in the position of the junior wife and have no overt power. That does not mean you can't influence things and achieve your desire. This situation suggests Yu the Great and his ceaseless work from the shadows. Put yourself in order and do what you have to do.*

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

**NINE AT SECOND**

**The Marrying Maiden.**

**Those who squint can see.**

**Trial: the Way is open for the Mountain People, hidden in the shadow.**

**Harvesting.**

*The rules have not changed yet. The place of the hidden spirit-workers. The junior wife keeps a low profile. Stay out of sight for now. Don't get involved in struggles for power. Look at things from an independent perspective. You will learn a lot this way, and be able to unfold your plans.*

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

**SIX AT THIRD**

**The Marrying Maiden as a servant, given with her elder sister.**

**'Watching her hair grow.'**

**She reverses this and marries as a companion bride.**

*This is not appropriate yet. The junior wife is in the subservient position of a serving maid. Have patience, ease and courage. In the end you will reverse things and gain a strategic position. Be ready. You will sabotage everything if you simply become a sycophant.*

*Direction: Contain your great strength. Be resolute. You are connected to a creative force.*



## NINE AT FOURTH

**The Marrying Maiden draws out the time.**

**Delaying the marriage lets her find the right time.**

*There is both waiting and moving.* The junior wife must know how to wait and when to act. Let things go. Forget about deadlines. This will increase your worth. You will know when it is the right time to act.  
**Direction:** A significant connection is approaching. Something important returns. Be open and provide what is needed.

## SIX AT FIFTH

**Great Ancestor Di Yi gives the Maidens in Marriage.**

**The leading wife's sleeves were not as fine as her junior sister's sleeves.**

**'Changes are coming': the Moon Almost Full.**

**Wise Words! The Way opens.**

*Your situation is at the centre. This is using value to move.* An omen of great future happiness, fertility and power. The moon is almost full. There will be changes. Accept the secondary position willingly for now. It carries great power. The junior wife will be queen. Your success is assured.

**Direction:** Express yourself. Find supportive friends. Gather energy for an important new move.

## SIX ABOVE

**The Marrying Maiden.**

**This woman carried a basket with nothing in it.**

**This noble sacrificed a goat with no blood.**

**There is no advantageous direction.**

*At the top with nothing in it. This is receiving an empty basket.* This is the barren womb of the senior wife. No substance, no blood and no passion. An empty and fraudulent sacrifice. Nothing you can do will help. The time has passed it by. Don't make any more plans. Just leave.

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