

12 Stop! Obstruction

P_I



Stop!; obstacles, blocked communication; cut off, closed, failure; people of no use or worth to you; punishment, execution, the sacrificial victim.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *Beings must not only interpenetrate and connect. The Victims. Accept this and use the energy of Obstruction.*

Obstruction is the dark half of the great sacrifices. It means bad words, a bad omen, and a negative pronouncement from the oracle, showing what is opposed to the current will of Heaven, the old that must be sacrificed, literally the *fei-ren*, the non-persons or victims, captives and prisoners who will be given to the Ancestor. It is the enclosure of winter: 'Heaven's breath rises, Earth's breath sinks down; shut and barred the passages, winter established.' It is the victim, the shadow, the Old King, the demon, the thing that blocks and obstructs and must be offered up. In the narrative of the Mandate, these are the Shang prisoners after the victory who will be beheaded and given to the Ancestral Spirit who brought the victory. This is what must die to make way for the new. As an oracular response it means No! Not so! Request denied! Stop! Things are closed in now, obstructed, and the expansion and development of Pervading is reversed. For the Noble One, the action befitting this time is withdrawal, silence, personal offering and atonement, waiting for the re-opening in spring.

THE RESPONSE

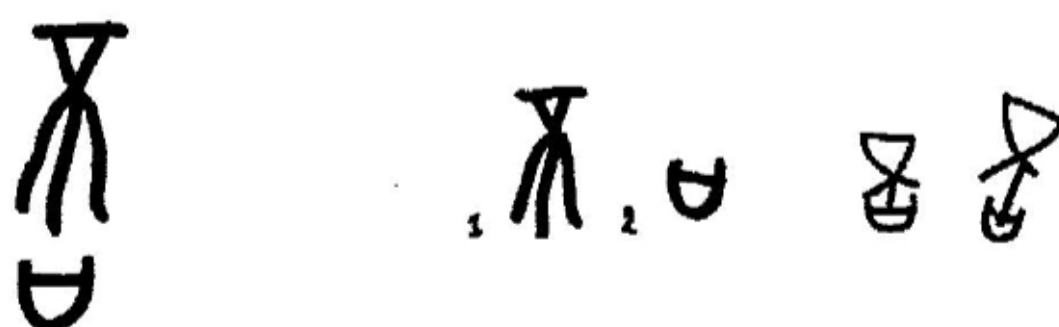
Stop! Obstruction. The victim people.

Trial: not advantageous for Noble One.

Great going, Small coming.

Obstruction, P_I: No! Stop! Bad words, bad omens; closed, stopped, blocked, bar the way; unable to advance, failure, isolated, alienated; deny, refuse, disapprove; evil, wicked, perverse, unhappy, unfortunate; punishment, chastisement, executions; sacrifice of the Old King; the old dispensation no longer supported by Heaven; opposite

of the affirmation *shi*, it is! The old character shows a mouth and growth cut off or an omen bird that flies on without landing.



PI³ (3555/30): a sprout or seedling, BU⁴, cut off at the surface of the earth, or a flying bird, (1) and a mouth KOU³ (2).



OBSTRUCTION

Obstruction describes your situation in terms of being blocked or interfered with. The way to deal with it is to stop what you are doing and accept the obstruction. Do not become the victim of the sacrifice. Communication is cut off. You are connected with the wrong people. If you try to act, you will encounter misfortune. Your proposals will be rejected. You will be personally disapproved of. There is no way for someone who wants to stay in touch with the Way to take advantage of this situation. What is important is departing, along with your ability to realise your plans. The time that is coming is small and mean. You will have to adapt to it. Don't seek to impose your ideas. Retreat and be patient.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows a struggle in the outer world that blocks expression. Heaven and Earth do not come together. Proceed step by step. You can't always be part of a group. Change your sense of yourself and those you normally associate with. Don't mingle. Be careful about what you become involved with. Avoid heavy work or responsibility. If you avoid honours and don't display yourself, you can continue to draw benefits from the situation. What is happening is not your fault. Deal with it impersonally. It is a time of disconnection and isolation in which you do not have a real field of activity. Be humble and flexible inside yourself, but erect firm barriers outside. What is worthy is being excluded from centres of power, which are currently controlled by people who seek their own advantage. Their way will endure for now. The way of those who use the oracle to stay in touch with the Way is dissolving. Use this advice and diminish your involvement in the world. It can bring you no advantage now.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Heaven and Earth do not mingle. Obstruction. Stop!

A time when Noble One uses power and virtue carefully to cast out the hardship. Not allowing splendour, he benefits from the sacrifice.

The spirit that wars in heaven must be offered sacrifice at the Earth Altar. This is a disconnection of the Primal Powers. Heaven above moves away, while Earth below folds into itself. It is Metal over Earth: outer struggle demands inner service, a time of sacrifice. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by using power and virtue carefully to eliminate ostentation and thus benefit from the great sacrifice. Work through the receptive and the power of Earth.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL SIX

Obstruction. Don't be the victim.

Pull up and weave the intertwisted thatch grass, each with its kind.

Trial: Wise Words! The Way opens.

Make an offering and you will succeed.

Locate your purpose in a leader. Weaving the mat of sacrifice. It is time to pull back. Take vigorous action together with others to get out of this place and find the people you really belong with. Be firm. Put things in order and set out. The Way will open to you. You are assured of success.

Direction: Disentangle yourself. Proceed step by step. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

SIX AT SECOND

Obstruction. Lay out the wrapped offerings.

Wise Words! For Small People the Way is open.

Great People are Obstructed.

Make an offering and you will succeed.

Do not disturb the flock. Accept that you are isolated. Make a hidden offering to the retreating spirit. Adapt to what crosses



your path. Your great idea is obstructed. Do not worry. Stay true to yourself, like a foetus in the womb, and the Way will soon open. *Direction:* Retreat from conflict. Find supportive friends. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

SIX AT THIRD

Obstruction. Don't be the victim.

Lay out the wrapped meat offerings.

This is not an appropriate situation. Do nothing. Simply wait. Stop and examine yourself. Think of your situation as an offering to the spirit. Make inner preparations. The time is not right for action. Be like the foetus in the womb.

Direction: Retire and be coupled with a creative force.

NINE AT FOURTH

In Obstruction there is a Mandate.

This is not a mistake.

'An oriole in a ploughed field.' Cultivate this in radiant satisfaction.

Your purpose is moving. In the middle of this terrible time, you experience a real connection. This is a lovely fate, an omen offered by Heaven, and it is your job to cultivate it in your withdrawal. Whatever happens, it is not a mistake. Work at it. In the end it can bring joy and satisfaction, spreading light to all.

Direction: Let everything come into view. Strip away old ideas. Be open and provide what is needed.

NINE AT FIFTH

Relinquishing the Obstruction.

Wise Words! For the Great Person the Way opens.

It disappears! It disappears!

Attach it to the thick-leafed Mulberry Tree.

Correcting the situation is appropriate. If you are fighting the Obstruction, it is time to let go. When you truly feel the connection, the Way will open. The obstacles and troubles are disappearing. Imagine that you are in a quiet rural retreat. That is

the place for you. This is the Sun Altar, the place where princes are given their mandate. It is where the World Tree grows. It will correct the whole situation.

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

NINE ABOVE

Subverting Obstruction.

First bad! then rejoicing.

Obstruction is completed. Why let this last? You see an obstruction and think you are cut off, but the very thing causing you pain is suddenly turned on its head. What used to be an obstruction becomes a cause to rejoice. Thank Heaven the bad time is over! Let it all go.

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