

7 Legions/Leader SHI

Organize, mobilize, lead; armies and soldiers; master craftsman, martial arts master; discipline, power; appearance of King Wu and his War Leader, the Duke of Zhou; site of creative transformation.



LEGIONS

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *When there are disputes, the crowds rise up. Offer service. Accept this and use the energy of Legions. Legions and Leaders mean the crowds rise up.*

Legions is war and battle through which unity arises. It is the power of the world of the dead focused as a weapon, and the unity of spirit necessary to make war, imaged in the experienced people who, by offering themselves to death, can effectively wield and direct this power. The root of the term shows a banner, a central symbol and sign of hidden power that suggests the banners of plain white, sign of mourning and purity, used by King Wu in the Battle of the Mu wilderness. War was fought 'in the spirit'. It was used not only to gain territory, but to redress wrongs and carry out Heaven's Mandate. Captives taken in battle were sacrificed to the Ancestor, feeding him and assuring a continuing flow of blessing to the people.

This figure also suggests a particular campaign central to the founding of the Zhou state. When King Wu was in the Mourning Hut in the military capital of Feng, beginning three years of prescribed isolation for the death of his noble parent, he was given a great omen, a solar eclipse, indicating that he had indeed received the Mandate to overthrow the Shang. But he was bound by the rituals of mourning and desperately needed to know if this was truly the right moment (*shi*) to begin. He asked the turtle oracle about continuing the three years of prescribed mourning for his royal father, or immediately stepping into the Great Stream, launching his armies across the Fords of Meng. The Numinous Turtle gave a clear answer: 'Perhaps stay in mourning? Trap! The Way closes.' King Wu came out of the hut, performed a ritual announcement of war at the

Earth Altar and empowered his War Leader, the Duke of Zhou, to set the armies marching. They carried the corpse of King Wen, the spiritual father of the Zhou nation 'withered and drained in the service of the spirit', into battle in a litter, tossing him about to invoke the tremendous power of Heaven. All of these actions – making war against one's legal lord, breaking out of prescribed mourning and literally carrying a corpse, rather than the ancestor's spirit tablet, into battle – were profoundly shocking. They only could have been performed with the absolute assurance, founded in oracular response, that Heaven had indeed conferred the Mandate to renew the time and that the power of the spirits would 'carry us through'.

THE RESPONSE

Legions. Trial: Wise Words! Using experienced people opens the Way.

This is not a mistake.

Legions/leading, SHI: troops, part of an army composed of three wings or SHI, right, middle, and left; master, leader, general; Master of the Four Winds, master of martial arts, skilled artisan, sage, 'experienced person'; organize, make functional, mobilize, raise the troops; educate, order, discipline, attack; announce the opening of a campaign at the Earth Altar, invoke the dead; imitate, take as a model. The old character shows a pivot or banner and the sign for circling or going around, joining paths on the way from the Outskirts Altar.



SHI¹ (9741/50): The left part (1) is rolling, waving, circling; the part at right (2) is a banner, ZA¹, an ox tail attached to a standard, used to give signals to the army. 3–6 are alternate forms of the character.

Legions/Leading describes your situation in terms of organizing a confused heap of things into functional units so you can take effective action. The way to deal with it is to organize yourself and put yourself in order. Develop the capacity to lead. Look at the people

you respect, and use them as models. Find who and what you need. This generates meaning and good fortune by releasing transformative energy. The ideal of this army is not just to fight. It brings order, and protects people who cannot protect themselves. It founds cities and defends what is necessary for people to live their lives. It is not a mistake to use force in this way.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows serving through an inner willingness to take risks. In the middle of the Earth there is the stream. Something significant is returning. Be open to it. A confused crowd of things, all arguing with each other, surrounds you. This is not a pleasant situation. It will take concern and care to correct it. Try to give each thing its proper place. Support and sustain what is beneath or outside your normal value structure. It contains a great undeveloped potential you can accumulate and nourish. Don't simply impose your will. Find what you need by taking risks and confronting obstacles through a desire to serve. This activates a central ruling principle that people will spontaneously adhere to. It generates meaning and good fortune by releasing transformative energy. It is exactly what is needed in the present situation. How could it be a mistake?

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

In the centre of Earth, the Stream. Legions.

A time when Noble One supports the commoners to accumulate the crowds.

Spirit rewards those toiling in the Pit. Offer service at the Earth Altar. This is the Earth Altar and the Ghost River. Field above carries and sustains, while Rushing Water below dissolves direction and shape. It is Earth over Water: an inner willingness to confront danger that supports true service on the wide fields of earth. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by accumulating support through toiling for the common good, carried by the Bright Omens.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL SIX

Legions issue forth using pan pipes and orders.

Obstructing their power: Trap! The Way closes.

Letting go of real order closes the Way. Everything needs rules and regulations. Without them, energy and enthusiasm will disintegrate and you will accomplish nothing. But be sure the rules you set and the signals you give are not obstructing your real power. By being too regular, you lose spontaneity and the enemy can read your moves. Your power is blocked and you fall into the trap.

Direction: A stimulating influence approaches. Something important returns. Be open and provide what is needed.

NINE AT SECOND

Located in the centre of the Legions.

Wise Words! The Way is open. This is not a mistake.

The King bestows a mandate three times.

This is receiving Heaven's favour and cherishing the many regions. This is the line of the great War Leader, the Duke of Zhou. You are in the leader's position, at the centre of a well-organized force. The Way is open to you. You have corrected your faults. Now you receive a mandate to act and you are in a position to carry out your plans and desires. This is an honour, not a mistake. Carrying this through will change your life.

Direction: Be open. Provide what is needed.

SIX AT THIRD

The Legions are carting the corpse.

'Perhaps stay in mourning?' Trap! The Way closes.

This means the Great is without achievement. Dead bodies, old memories, useless ideas and false images, the isolation of mourning the past will defeat you. Step out of the Mourning Hut. This is the moment to emerge. Carry your inspiration with you and trust in the spirit. Set your forces in order. Do it now.



Direction: Make the effort. If you let yourself be led, you can realise hidden potential. The situation is already changing.

SIX AT FOURTH

Legions retreat. Rest on the left.

This is not a mistake.

This is not letting go of order. A tactical move into non-action. Your conflict may be ending or you may be preparing for a new offensive. In any case, value this time of rest and reorganization. It is not a mistake.

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

SIX AT FIFTH

Legions. The birds of prey take to the fields.

Advantageous to seize them and put them to the question.

Harvesting.

This is not a mistake.

Elder Son conducts the Legions, Younger Son carts the corpse.

'Perhaps stay in mourning?' Trap! The Way closes.

Use moving to the centre. Commissioning others is not appropriate. King Wu and the Duke of Zhou emerge from the Mourning Hut and enter the decisive battle. Conflict has broken out and you must engage whether you like it or not. Seize the enemy to be questioned and offered in sacrifice. Be aggressive. Do not leave the dirty work to others. Take responsibility yourself. Get rid of old ideas, irrelevant images and bad memories. Carry your inspiration with you and trust in the spirit. Do it now.

Direction: Take decisive action. Take risks. Be open and provide what is needed.

SIX ABOVE

Legions. The Great Leader receives the Mandate:

'Lay out the city and receive the dwellers.'

Do not use Small People.

Correcting and achieving necessarily disturbs the old order of things. The great War Leader receives a Mandate to found a new capital

after the successful battle. You have succeeded in more ways than one. You have turned yourself into a leader and you have been empowered to found the new order. Use all your powers to create a beautiful place. Don't simply adapt. Though you must disturb things, have no fear. Simply carry out the Mandate.

Direction: The situation contains hidden possibilities. Something important is returning. Be open and provide what is needed.