



25 *Disentangling*

WU WANG

Disentangle yourself; spontaneous, unplanned, unexpected;
free from confusion, pure; exorcism, purification from plague
or miasma; waning moon, don't give up hope;
demons of the past.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *The spirit returning can disentangle you from affliction. Accept this and use the energy of Disentangling.*

Entanglement means letting yourself go, succumbing to perverse influence or disease, being without order or rule, crazy, vain, the compulsive or afflictive emotions, something twisted, perverse, abusive and cruel. Being released from entanglement results in a state of balance and purity, the image of an original and originating connection with Heaven. Disentangling suggests the ways to maintain that purity and freedom from affliction. It enables you to act spontaneously, to deal successfully with what comes on the stream of time, to attract and welcome the unexpected. It suggests the *wang* demon who carries contagious disease, plague, miasma and drought, and the purification, exorcism and rituals used by *wu*-Intermediaries to drive out these diseases and demons. It is particularly concerned with the *nei ye* or inner way and the sage person or sage-mind. The meditative practices of the inner way centre on 'correcting', which calms, tranquillizes, rectifies and frees the body in order to restore a state of neutrality and align with Heaven. This allows energy and breath to circulate freely and transform awareness. It enables a person to collect great energy and move with or be blessed by Heaven, disentangled from the afflictive emotions of greed, anger, desire and ignorance.

THE RESPONSE

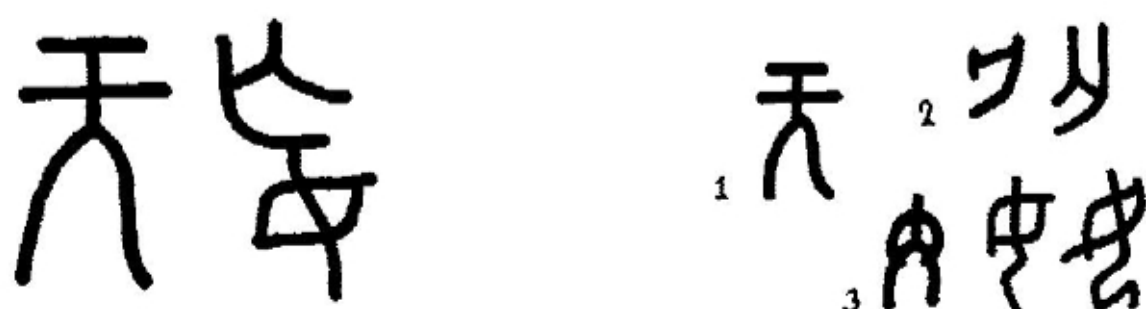
Disentangling. Source of Success: Advantageous Trial.
Harvesting.

If you do not correct yourself there will be blunders.

Then it will not be advantageous to have a direction to go.

Dis-/Without, WU: not having any, devoid of, become free of. The old character shows a person exerting himself in vain and suggests the demons that haunt old tombs.

Entangled, WANG: embroiled, caught up in, succumb to; entangled, trapped, deeply involved; vain, rash, reckless, brutal behaviour; lie, deceive; idle, foolish, futile, without foundation; disordered, insane; plague or disease demons, drought, sickness; forget, lose sight of; waning moon. The old character shows the Wang plague demon that spreads physical and spirit disorders, a barren woman and a hidden place.



WU² (12345/71) is a man exerting himself in vain against an obstacle (1). It is a demon of old abandoned tombs. WANG⁴ (12091/38) is composed of NÜ³ (3), a woman, and WANG² (2), a broken sickle or entering a hidden place. It suggests a yin disorder or affliction by ghosts, an empty womb, a barren, poisonous woman.

Disentangling describes your situation in terms of acquiring the capacity to act spontaneously and confidently. The way to deal with it is to free yourself from disorder. Disentangle yourself from compulsive ideas, confusion, vanity, anger, lust, hatred and the desire for revenge. By freeing your awareness from these entanglements, you gain the capacity to act directly. This opens up a whole new cycle of time. If you do not correct yourself, you will consistently make mistakes through ignorance and faulty perception. Your sight will be clouded. Imposing a direction on things or having a place to go will bring you no advantage.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows new actions inspired by the spirit above. Below Heaven, thunder is moving. Proceed step by step. The spirit has really returned. If you return to it, you will not be the source of disaster. Associate with others without getting caught up in disorder. The early rulers, whose virtue was strong, used this flourishing time to nourish the Myriad Beings. Firmness and

strength have come from the outside to activate a central principle within you. Respond and persist in this connection. This solid purpose is central and links you with the spirits. By staying in touch with it and continually correcting yourself, you can begin a great period of growth, effective power and enjoyment. Heaven will bestow it as fate. You must continually correct yourself, for if you lose the capacity to act in accord with the spirits, how can you do anything right? Heaven will not protect you. Disentangle yourself. Do it now!

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Thunder moves below Heaven. Beings associate through Disentangling.

This is a time when Early Kings used the luxuriance of this season to nurture the Myriad Beings.

The spirit that wars in Heaven manifests in quake and thunder. The Rouser is working with the Force. Heaven above struggles on, persistent and unwearied, while Thunder below rouses new potential, sprouting energies that thrust up from beneath. This is Metal over Wood: rousing inner potential that disentangles itself from affliction through its connection to Heaven. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by emulating the early Kings, using the generosity of a time inspired by Heaven to nurture and inspire all things. Persist and work through inner inspiration. It is time to advance.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL NINE

Disentangling. Waning moon. An unexpected encounter.

Wise Words! Go on, the Way is open.

Here you acquire the purpose. Disentangle yourself, then go forward. You can do what you wish to do now, counting on the fact that you will not get tied up in negative emotions. The coast is clear. The Way is open.

Direction: Communication may be blocked. Proceed step by step. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

SIX AT SECOND

Disentangling. Waning moon.

'They don't till, but have a harvest. They don't clear the land, but have fields to plant.'

Advantageous to have a place to go. Harvesting.

This means you are not affluent yet. Unexpected success, but this is not the time or place to start something. If you realise what this means, your plans will bring you success. Move on. Empty your mind of immediate goals. What you want is around the corner.

Direction: Proceed step by step. Go your own way. Find supportive friends. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

SIX AT THIRD

Disentangling. Waning moon.

There is an unexpected disaster.

Someone has tethered cattle.

If the moving people take them,

It is the capital people's disaster.

This is the capital people's disaster. Even though you are without blame, you have lost something you care about. Understand that you can see your loss two ways. If you identify with the capital people, if you stay where you are, it is a disaster. If you identify with the moving people, who are on their way to a new place, you actually acquire new strength. This may rid you of an old affliction.

Direction: Unite for a common goal. You are coupled with a creative force.

NINE AT FOURTH

Disentangling. An Enabling Trial.

This is not a mistake.

You possess it firmly. Whatever you are contemplating, go through with your plan. This is an enabling divination. You disentangle yourself and are freed of mistakes.

Direction: Increase your efforts, pour in more energy. Strip away old ideas. Be open and provide what is needed.

NINE AT FIFTH

Waning moon. Disentangling from an unexpected affliction.

If you don't use medicine, you will soon rejoice.

This does not allow testing things. You are suffering from sickness, anger or negative emotion. Though you may be in pain, don't treat it as a medical or a literal problem. See it imaginatively and spiritually. It will soon clear up and you will have cause to rejoice.

Direction: Bite through the obstacles. Re-imagine the situation. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

NINE ABOVE

Disentangling. Waning moon.

It is a blunder to make a move.

No advantageous direction.

This means disaster and exhaustion if you move. Even though you are not caught up in negative emotions, there is nothing you can do for now. The time is wrong. Leave things alone. No plan you could make will help you. Empty your mind of immediate goals.

Direction: Follow the flow of events. Proceed step by step. Gather energy for a decisive new move.