

11 Pervading/Great Rituals TAI



PERVADING

Expand, communicate; harmony, abundance, flowering, connection; the great spring sacrifice on Mount Tai; the first royal ritual, the New King.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *There is Treading and the flowing out of the spirit. It must be stilled and fixed. Accept this and use the energy of Pervading. Pervading definitely means connecting and flowing out.*

Tai, Pervading, a form of the character *Da*, great, represents the great sacrifices (*da xeng*) that connect Heaven and Earth and ensure harmony and blessing for all that were made through the spirit of the first of the sacred mountains, *Tai-shan*. Only the King could make these sacrifices, for they involved direct communication between the Royal Ancestors and *Di* or Heaven. These sacrifices made sure that communication between Heaven and Earth was open and flowing. They recall a time when the spirits walked among us bringing ease, joy and prospering for all. *Tai* is phonetically connected to the six stars of the Great Bear or Dipper, home of High Lord of Heaven who sends the fates. Its root is water, crossing the rivers, and its old form is *Kan*, the Underworld River. It means fishes, hidden wealth and the fertile womb. Pervading is the fluid metabolism of things, the flow, the streaming of the Way and the rising juices of sexual attraction, joy and ecstasy. It dissolves the spirit and puts it into circulation. The Great Spirit connects with the world, the joyous flow, revivifying spring.

THE RESPONSE

Pervading. Small goes, Great comes.

Wise Words! The Way is open. Make an offering and you will succeed.

Pervade, TAI: the great; peace, abundance, harmony, communion, love, prosperity, fertility; connection between Heaven and Earth, the opposites unite, things burgeon; permeate, diffuse, smooth, slippery; extreme, prodigious, extravagant; wine cup of the Emperor

Shun. Mount Tai (*Tai-shan*) was where the great sacrifices were made that connected Heaven and Earth. The old character shows the Great Person, his power to protect and shelter, and two hands offering sacrifice at the Ghost River.



TAI⁴ (10306/85): The ideogram has the shape of the great mountain *Tai-shan*, the Zhou people's most direct connection with the divine. At the top is DA⁴ (1) the character 'great', like the great peak of a mountain. Two hands, GONG³ (2), like the woods embracing its flanks, offer sacrifice to the 'water' SHUI³ (3), the brooks and rivers running down its slopes, bringing life and prosperity, symbolised by the Ghost River and the Earth Altar.

Pervading describes your situation in terms of an influx of spirit that brings flowering and prosperity. The way to deal with it is to spread the prosperity and good feeling by communicating it. You are connected to the flow of energy. Be great, abounding and fertile. What is unimportant is departing, along with the necessity to be small and adapt to whatever crosses your path. The time that is coming offers you the chance to develop your fundamental ideas. It generates meaning and good fortune by releasing transformative energy. This is pleasing to the spirits. Through it they will give you success, effective power and the capacity to bring the situation to maturity.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows a creative force pervading the Earth. Heaven and Earth come together. This is a time of abundance. If you let yourself be led you can realise your hidden potential. Later you can be quiet and settled. Reach out and penetrate things. Sense their interconnections. Radically change your sense of yourself and whom you associate with. Put your possessions at the service of the spirit of the time. Support and encourage people. Use peace and abundance to set life in order. This is a time when the fundamental powers mingle with humans and all the beings connect with one



another. What is above and what is below come together. Your purpose is in accord with them. Be firm and focused inside and adaptable in your dealings with the world. Stay connected with the Way through using the oracle. The way of people who are continually adapting to whatever brings them advantage is now dissolving. The great Way will endure.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Heaven and Earth mingle. Pervading. The Great Sacrifice.

A time when the New King uses his property to accomplish the Way of Heaven and Earth,

to brace and mutualize the rituals of Heaven and Earth.

He uses the left to right the common good.

The Spirit that wars in Heaven is offered service at the Earth Altar. This is a conjunction of the Primal Powers. Earth above yields and sustains, while Heaven below struggles on, persistent and unwearied. It is Earth over Metal: an enduring inspiration from within that pervades the field of Earth. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by emulating the ancient nobles, who offered their property and service to further the Way of Heaven and aid the common good. Persist and work through inner inspiration.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL NINE

Pervading. The Great Ritual.

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

Wise Words! Chastising opens the Way.

Locate your purpose outside yourself. Weaving the sacrificial mat. It is time this great endeavour got off the ground. Take vigorous action to get out of this lowly place and find the people you really belong with. Be firm. Put things in order and set out. The Way is open.

Direction: Make the effort. Turn conflict into creative tension. The situation is already changing.

NINE AT SECOND

Pervading. The Great Ritual.

Put on the hollow gourds and cross the River.

Don't put off leaving. Your partners disappear.

You acquire honour by moving to the centre.

This is moving toward the centre, using the shining Great. Alone, you are surrounded by a wasteland. Get out of this situation. Cross the river to the magic landscape of the spring festival. Move toward that vibrant centre. The people you now identify with will disappear, but there is no other choice. Your integrity will be honoured and your desire fulfilled.

Direction: Accept the hardship. In the end your light will shine. Release bound energy. The situation is already changing.

NINE AT THIRD

Pervading. The Great Ritual.

'No level that does not slope. No going without a return.'

Trial: this hardship and drudgery is not a mistake.

Have no cares. You are connected to the spirits.

You will share the great meal and find Heaven's blessing.

This is the border of Heaven and Earth. You are facing a difficult time. Remember, after a level road there is always a difficult climb. But if you don't let go of where you are now and your present connections, the spirit cannot return. This difficulty is not a mistake. It is a transition. Don't worry, it has a real spiritual and emotional meaning. Going through the hardship will lead to the meal shared with spirits. It draws the blessing down. You will join with others in this new and loving spirit.

Direction: An important connection approaches. Something significant returns. Be open. Provide what is needed.

SIX AT FOURTH

Pervading. The Great Ritual.

'Fluttering, fluttering, like a young bird leaving the nest.'

If you are not affluent, use your neighbour.

This is not a warning.

Use your connection to the spirits. It will carry you through.



Let go of possessions and centre the heart's desire. You are afraid to leave the nest. Don't worry, come out and live in the great world. If you need help, then ask for it. It will be there. There is nothing to feel badly about. Use your basic connection to people who are your spiritual kin. Act on your heart's desire. You have something important to give.

Direction: Fill yourself with invigorating strength. Be resolute. You are connected to a creative force.

SIX AT FIFTH

Pervading. The Great Ritual.

The Great Ancestor offers the maidens in marriage.

Use this happiness and satisfaction. It is the footstep of the spirit.

Wise Words! The Way to the Source is open.

The centre moves by using desire. Di Yi, the Great Shang King, gave his daughters in marriage to King Wen, ennobling the Zhou people. This is a great ritual union that will have repercussions through the generations. It is an omen of future happiness that, in time, will gratify your desires and realise all your aims. Take joy in this connection. The footsteps of the spirits are here. The Way is fundamentally open.

Direction: Wait for the right moment to act. Turn conflict into creative tension. The situation is already changing.

SIX ABOVE

Pervading. The Great Ritual.

The city walls dissolve and return to the moat.

Don't use the legions now.

This oracle originates from the capital.

Trial: distress.

Your fate is in disarray. The structure of things is collapsing. Don't try to force a change by acting aggressively. This dissolution has fate behind it. You may feel confused, but you are in the right position to change your thinking. Take your time. Be of good cheer. Collect the energy and insight to try again.

Direction: Find a new central idea. Turn conflict into creative tension. The situation is already changing.