

# **29 Repeating Pit/Ghost River** XI KAN

Collect your forces, confront your fears, take the plunge; practise, repeat, rehearse; rise to the challenge; the Earth Pit and the ghost world; danger; an axis of change, prima materia.

## MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

**Charge to the Oracle:** *The Great Being cannot simply make the transition. The Ghost River. Use this as a spirit helper. Accept this and use the energy of the Pit. This means sacrificing at the Earth Altar.*

Pit is the sacrificial pit at the Earth Altar and the underworld waters that flow through it, the Ghost River that connects the Sun Tree and the Moon Tree, the axis of the world, and opens the gate of destinies through which souls enter. It alludes to religious rites where the victims were drowned and buried and to the moon goddesses who sponsored the earliest form of the Changes. Its symbols are rushing water, holes, pits and snares, tombs and graves, prisons and the Yellow Springs, the deep centre where the dead live. It evokes the north, midnight, winter and cold, dark waters. In action, it represents a critical moment that requires courage and determination in face of great fear engendered by the presence of the ghost world. It confronts and dissolves obstacles, venturing, falling and moving on.

Kan/Pit, The Ghost River or Ghost Dancer, is part of the Axis of Change, the 'burning water' or prima materia. He leads through danger. He dances with ghosts, risks all and always comes through. He exults in work and dissolves all things. He is a black pig, hidden riches. In the body, Pit works through the kidneys, conserving life and pushing the organism to actualize potential. It is the site of the essence (*jing*) or individual fate and transforms the essence into available energy. It controls the flow of emotions, particularly courage and fear.

**Repeating the Pit. Danger. The Ghost River.**

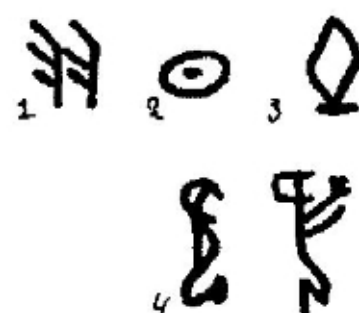
**There is a connection to the spirits that will carry you through.**

**Hold your heart fast! An offering brings you success.**

**Making a move in the face of danger brings honour.**

**Repeat, XI:** repeated pyromantic divinations; repeat, recommence; skill, routine, learning by training or exercise, dedication to study, train; repeatedly confront danger; instruct, tame; learning to fly; the sound of the east wind, gentle and continuous. The old character shows wings or feathers and the sun.

**Pit, KAN:** A dangerous place; hole, cavity, pit, hollow; steep precipice; snare, trap, grave; a critical time, a test; take risks; the underworld waters, the river in the pit; human sacrifice; pay taxes; *also:* venture and fall, take a risk without reserve at the key point of danger. The old character shows the Earth Altar and the breath of the Ghost River beneath.



XI<sup>2</sup> (4052/124) is composed of YU<sup>3</sup> – ‘wings’ or flying (1), ZI<sup>4</sup>, a nose, or RI<sup>4</sup>, the sun, (2). KAN<sup>3</sup> (5807/32) is made up of TU<sup>3</sup> – earth (3) – and QIAN<sup>4</sup> (4) exhale, vapours, breath – suggesting the Ghost River beneath the Earth Altar.

Pit/Ghost River describes your situation in terms of repeatedly confronting something dangerous and difficult. The way to deal with it is to take the risk without holding back. You cannot avoid this obstacle. Conquer your fear and faintheartedness. Jump in, like water that pours into a hole, fills it up and flows on. Practise, train, accustom yourself to danger. This is a critical point. It is a pit that could trap you and become a grave. But there is no way around it. Summon your energy and concentration. Repeatedly confront the challenge. You can act this way with confidence, for you are linked to the spirits and they will carry you forward. Hold fast to your heart and its growth. This is pleasing to the spirits. Through



it they will give you success, effective power and the capacity to bring the situation to maturity. Moving, acting, motivating things will bring you honour, so give them first place.

#### THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows water repeatedly flowing into the Pit. Streams continually reach the goal. Take in the situation. Overflowing energy from your central idea moves toward the depths. Act on your principles. When you teach and when you act, repeat things again and again. Redouble your efforts, spread your energies. Don't get caught in one place. Gather your desires and hold on to your heart's growth. Then you will have a solid centre. Moving and acting will bring honour. Push on and achieve things. Pit means danger. Heaven's dangers cannot be ascended. Earth's dangers are its mountains and rivers, its hills and mounds. Kings and their vassals set up dangers to guard their cities. A danger confronted and used is both an accomplishment and a defence. Now is the time to concentrate your forces and take risks.

#### THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Streams double, culminating. Repeating the Pit.

This is a time when Noble One uses the power of the symbols to move, repeatedly teaching and serving.

*Spirit rewards those toiling in the Pit.* This is the Ghost Dancer. Rushing Water dissolves direction and shape, flowing on through toil and danger. It is the Water Moment: structures dissolve and you must risk, fall, labour and flow on. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by entering the symbolic world, teaching and spreading its values, carried by the Bright Omens.

#### TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL SIX

Repeating the Pit.

Entering the pitfall.

Trap! The Way closes.





*This means letting go the Way and falling into a trap. The Pit as a trap. By responding in the same way again and again, you get caught in a dead end. This is the tomb of depression and melancholy. Don't get caught here. It closes the Way.*

*Direction:* Set limits. Find your voice. Take things in. Be open and provide what is needed.

#### NINE AT SECOND

**A Pit with sheer sides.**

**Seek and acquire through the Small.**

*Do not leave the inner centre. The Pit as a strategic moment. As you venture into danger, you will get what you need by being flexible and adaptable. Have modest goals, don't impose your will and you will succeed.*

*Direction:* Change whom you associate with. Strip away old ideas. Be open and provide what is needed.

#### SIX AT THIRD

**They come into the Pit again and again.**

**Steep and deep, the victims are drowning.**

**Don't get trapped in this pitfall!**

*An end without results. The Pit as a grave. Don't be a victim. Relax and pull back. What is coming is more than you can handle right now. If you push on, you will be trapped in a fatal diversion. Are you sure you know what you want? Think about your values.*

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

#### SIX AT FOURTH

**In the Pit. Wine in a flask, two sacrificial bowls.**

**Use the earthen vessels.**

**Let in the bonds that come through the window.**

**Complete this! This is not a mistake.**

*This is the border between the strong and the supple. The Pit as a prison. If you are trapped or cut off, don't fight it. Lay out an offering to the hidden spirits. Give of yourself. Open the window and let them in.*

Your rescuers are coming. You are right on the border, the liminal place where events emerge. Go through with your plans. This is not a mistake. This is the story of a Queen of Xia, pregnant with the heir, who was imprisoned in a pit when her husband was killed in an insurrection. She escaped 'through the window in the pit' with the aid of allies. Her son restored the royal power.

*Direction:* Move out of isolation. Find supportive friends. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

#### NINE AT FIFTH

**The Pit is not full. The Earth Spirit is already appeased.**

**This is not a mistake.**

*This is centred but not yet Great.* The sacrifice to the Earth Spirit is over. The danger passes. The spirits are appeased. Go on with your life and your plans. Be happy with your release.

*Direction:* Organize your forces. Something important is returning. Be open and provide what is needed.

#### SIX ABOVE

**In the Pit. Tied with stranded ropes and sent away to the dense thorn hedges.**

**For three years you will get nothing.**

**Trap! The Way closes.**

*This means losing the Way and being trapped for three years.* The Pit as a snare. If you go on like this, you will commit a serious transgression. You will be bound and judged and imprisoned. Change now or be trapped!

*Direction:* Dispel illusions! Take things in. Be open and provide what is needed.