

56 Sojourning at the Borders/Quest LU



SOJOURNING

Journeys, voyages outside the norm; wandering, exile; soldiers
on a mission; quest, searcher, wandering sage or minister of
the King, relations with the shadow lands;
site of creative transformation.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

*Bringing something to an end means letting go of the old residence.
Accept this and use the energy of Sojourning.*

The root of Sojourning is *fang*, direction, the Four Sides, thus wandering in all directions to the four Hidden Lands. It is travelling in both literal and spiritual realms. The word connects with *Lu*, Treading, and the dance of the *wu*-Intermediaries, for the *wu* are the spiritual wanderers who travel in the Hidden Lands. It means an army unit (500–1000 men) on campaign, a banner or standard, and a ritual vessel for offering food and wine, a *lu-ting*. It is also a rest house or an inn, making a halt on a journey or a breathing space.

Sojourning suggests wanderers, herdsmen, hermits, knights errant and wandering diviner/magicians, the *fang-shi* – all those who ‘travel on the roads’, sojourning in the All-Under-Heaven. It is the King’s dark brother, the wandering sage, on the ritual tour of the borders that was held immediately after the *heng*-ritual of fixing abundance at high summer. The good sojourner is King Wu himself, inspecting the boundaries of the new kingdom and ‘connecting the few’ after the victory over the Shang and the execution of the Shang tyrant. The careless sojourner is the nomad war god Wang Hai, Shang ancestor and son of the moon goddess. A herdsman, metal-worker and warrior-magician, he danced for the King of Yi and so inflamed his wife that she succumbed to passion. He ‘lost his flocks in Yi’ and was sacrificed by her husband the King.

THE RESPONSE

Sojourning. The Small. Make an offering and you will succeed.

Sojourning. Advantageous Trial. Harvesting.

Sojourn/Quest, *LU*: travel, journey, voyage; stay in places other than your home; visitor, lodger, temporary guest; way, passage, seeking support; wild plants, uncultivated; lower officials, barbarians, outside the frontiers; live in exile, search for your own way; small group with a common goal; soldiers on a mission, army group of 500–1000 men; sacrifice on a mountain or to the spirits of a mountain; spine, force in the back, stilling desire. The old character shows two soldiers following a banner.



*LÜ*³ (7489/70) shows two men (2) under a flag (1). 3–5 are variants.

Sojourning/Quest describes your situation in terms of wandering, journeys and living apart. The way to deal with it is to mingle with others as a stranger whose identity and mission come from a distant centre. You are outside the normal network, on a quest of your own. Be small and flexible. Adapt to whatever crosses your path. This is pleasing to the spirits. Through it they will give you success, effective power and the capacity to bring the situation to maturity. Be willing to travel and search alone. Put your ideas to the trial. This generates meaning and good fortune by releasing transformative energy.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows an inner limit that stabilizes changing awareness. Above the mountain, there is fire. Don't be afraid to act alone. If your ruling idea is exhausted, you must let go of where you live. Use your travels to connect solitary individuals. Brighten and consider things. Don't be held up by complications. Make clear decisions even if they are painful. Being small and adapting to what crosses your path is pleasing to the spirits. What is supple and flexible is moving to the centre in the outer world. By yielding and working with it, you connect with what is solid and strong. Limit



and stabilize your desire when you join with others. This makes you aware of things. It is why being small is pleasing to the spirits. Be willing to travel and search alone. Put your ideas to the trial. The time of sojourning is truly and righteously great.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Fire above Mountain. Sojourning.

This is a time when Noble One uses brightness and consideration in punishing but does not relax the rules.

Spirit words bind us and accomplish fate, revealing the Bright Omens. The Sacrificer is working with the Bright Omens. Fire and brightness above radiate light and warmth and people experience the Bright Presence of things, while Mountain below limits and articulates what is complete to suggest what is beginning. This is Fire over Earth: the inner field supports a continually changing awareness of the outer world. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by supporting what is correct through consideration and clarity. A cycle is ending. Bring home the bride.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL SIX

Sojourning. The journey in fragments, Cling! Clang!

He is split off from his place and grasps disaster.

The purpose is exhausted, a disaster. The journey is falling apart before it has begun. You grasp at fragments. People can't understand you. You are in imminent danger. Stop! Do you really want to act like this?

Direction: Become aware of yourself! Don't be afraid to act on your own. You can be connected to a creative force.

SIX AT SECOND

Sojourning. Approaching a rest house.

Take care of your goods.

You acquire a young vassal.

Advantageous Trial. Harvesting.

Complete this without being excessive. On the journey, you come together with others, though you must still take care. You have also made a friend who is willing to help you.

Direction: You can establish something significant. Be resolute. You are connected to a creative force.

NINE AT THIRD

Sojourning. Burning down the rest house.

You lose your young vassal.

Trial: adversity, hungry souls and angry ghosts.

This truly uses injuring. His righteousness is lost. On the journey, at the rest house. You destroy what you have found through violent passions and you frighten your friend away. Try to understand where this comes from. You are confronting danger that has its roots in the past. If you understand its inner meaning, this seeming disaster could mark a profound change to a new state of being.

Direction: You will emerge and be recognized. Re-imagine the situation. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

NINE AT FOURTH

Sojourning. He finds a place to abide.

Acquiring goods and an emblem axe:

'My heart is not glad.'

Not acquiring the right situation, his heart is not yet gladdened. A stop on the journey. You have found a place, with responsibility and power to go with it. But these things bring sorrow, not happiness, for deep in your heart you know that you have forsaken what you really set out for.

Direction: Stabilize your desires. Release bound energy. The situation is already changing.

SIX AT FIFTH

The Sojourner shoots a pheasant, with one arrow it disappears.

Bringing this to completion brings praise and a mandate.

This reaches up to what is above. You can complete your connection, the purpose of the journey, with one try. Your friends will support

you. You will receive a mandate from above. This will bring you praise and much increased responsibility.

Direction: Retire from old involvement. You are coupled with a creative force.

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SOJOURNING

NINE ABOVE

Sojourning. The bird burns down its nest.

The Sojourner first laughs, then cries out and sobs.

‘He loses his cattle in Yi.’

Trap! The Way closes.

Righteousness burns it down. If he could hear he would do absolutely nothing. You think you can take things lightly, but you may soon have cause to lament. Everything you care about will vanish. You will soon be crying, not laughing. Consider your attitudes and change your heart or the Way will close to you.

Direction: Be Small and be careful. Don’t be afraid to act on your own. You are connected to a creative force.