



57 Subtle Penetration/ Spreading the Fates SUN



LADY OF FATES

Gently penetrate to the heart; supple, flexible, subtle, determined; enter from below; support, nourish, the base or ground; an Intermediary, the Lady of Fates who lays out the offerings; a seed figure.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *The Sojourner finds no place to be accepted and rest. Accept this and use the energy of Subtle Penetration. This means entering.*

Subtle Penetration, the Elegant Dancer who also manifests as the Royal Bride, lays out the offerings on the low altar and carries the fates to the beings. She presents things in offering, crosses thresholds and transmits orders from Heaven. Her wrapped food offerings are an image of the Myriad Creatures toiling and labouring on the field of Earth, for life is brought and carried by her winds. She is connected to the Central Palace where fates are consigned and represents a profound penetration of the above into the below which can lead to the awakening of wisdom. She prepares the food and drink for the great meal shared by humans and spirits and nourishes the people on ancient virtue. She is a spirit-caller and healer, offering the virtue or *de* that actualizes an individual being. Subtle Penetration works through hidden influences. She is the silent power of wind and wood in the Earth. She regulates power and virtue, controls the omens, works and plans from hiding and knows the right moment.

As a spirit guide, Subtle Penetration is the Lady of Fates, the one who lays out the offerings and penetrates to hidden influences. She penetrates to the core, elegant and powerful, moving like wind and wood in the earth. She is a healer, a matchmaker, brings each thing to its fate. She is a bright strutting cock, strong-scented. In the body, Subtle Penetration operates through the liver, governing

the free flow of energy and emotion. It stimulates everything that moves in the body, purifies the blood, links eyes and sexual organs, desire and anger, vision and motivation, giving the capacity to act decisively.

THE RESPONSE

Subtle Penetration through the Small.

Make an offering and you will succeed.

Advantageous to have a direction to go.

Advantageous to see the Great Person. Harvesting.

Subtle Penetration, SUN: enter into, put into, permeate, infiltrate; mild, subtle, docile; submit freely, be shaped by; penetrate to the core; dispose, arrange; food, lay out food offerings; confer an honour; choose or be chosen support, the ground from which things grow; approach the Earth Altar; foundation, base, nourish from below; wind, weather; wood, trees; the Lady of Fates who lays out the offerings and penetrates to hidden influences. The old character shows wrapped offerings laid out on an altar.



XUN (4767/49, see also 4730) represents an altar stand (3) with wrapped meat offerings or seals on it (1) and a pair of hands presenting the offering (2).

Subtle Penetration describes your situation in terms of the penetrating influence of the one who carries out the fates. The way to deal with it is to penetrate to the core of the problem by being supple and adaptable. Enter from below. Let the situation shape you. Be humble and compliant; adapt to whatever crosses your path. Take the pervasive action of the wind, or growing plants extending their roots and branches as your model. This is pleasing to the spirits. Through it they will give you success, effective power and the capacity to bring the situation to maturity. Hold on to your purpose. Have a place to go. Impose a direction on things. See great people. Seek out those who can help and advise

you. Think about the great in yourself and how you organize your thoughts. All these things bring profit and insight.

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LADY OF FATES

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows Subtle Penetration over time. Following winds. Turn potential conflict into creative tension. If you are travelling and don't have a place of your own, this means Subtly Penetrating from outside. It means being humble and hiding your virtues. Subtle Penetration pares away in order to realise the Way. Evaluate things in private. Balance and equalize opposing forces. Carry out what you have been told to do. What is solid and strong has reached the centre. It is correcting things and its purpose is moving. Be supple and adaptable in order to yield and work with the strong. That is why adapting to what crosses your path is pleasing to the spirits. Plan things by thinking of what is truly great. That is what will help you.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Following Winds. Subtle Penetration.

This is a time when Noble One spreads the mandates to move us to service.

Spirit works through those who lay out the offerings. This is the Lady of Fates. Wind and Wood enter subtly, penetrating, pervading and coupling. This is the Woody Moment: Subtle Penetration spreads the fates and awakens the inner seed of a new generation. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by involving the directives of Heaven in all that he does. Work through rousing and inspiring. A cycle is beginning.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL SIX

Subtle Penetration. Advancing and withdrawing, act like a warrior.

Advantageous Trial. Harvesting.

Doubting your purpose, then regulating it. Subtle Penetration is not vacillating or timidity. Make decisions firmly and aggressively. Change directions as many times as you need to. Be decisive. If you

hesitate you will undermine your real purpose. This is not a time to be timid. Be like King Wu when he set the armies marching into Shang. *Direction:* Accumulate the Small to achieve the Great. Turn conflict into creative tension. The situation is already changing.

NINE AT SECOND

Subtle Penetration beneath the bed. Offerings on the altar.

Use diviners and Intermediaries in great number.

Wise Words! The Way opens.

This is not a mistake.

This means acquiring the centre. Subtle Penetration is also a healing ritual. You must penetrate to the core of this old story, full of sexual intrigue and dark ancestors. Use intermediaries, who can see and call the spirits, and diviners, who know the past. Get to the bottom of it and free yourself from its grasp. This is not a mistake.

Direction: Proceed step by step. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

NINE AT THIRD

Repeating Penetration, urgent and pressing.

Distress.

This exhausts your purpose. Here Penetration is forcing the issue. You are pushing too hard. This only produces confusion. You won't accomplish your desires like this.

Direction: Dispel obstacles to understanding. Take things in. Be open and provide what is needed.

SIX AT FOURTH

Subtle Penetration. Lay out the offerings.

The cause for sorrow disappears.

In the fields the King catches three kinds of game.

This means there is achievement. Through Subtle Penetration you have arrived at a position to influence things. You have the information and recognition you need. This is the royal hunt. Act through Subtle Penetration and you will achieve everything you desire.

Direction: You are coupled with a creative force.

Subtle Penetration. Trial: Wise Words! The Way is open.

Lay out the offerings. The cause for sorrow disappears.

There is nothing that is not advantageous.

'If you initiate something, it will not be completed.'

Ancestors and descendants. Threshing the grain.

Your work will be reworked.

The situation is centred and correct. Act now. Everything will benefit. Go through with what you have been planning. Act through Subtle Penetration. Watch the process carefully before it is unveiled, and after it has begun. This is a very favourable time. Set the stage for action, like King Wu waiting at the Fords.

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



LADY OF FATES

NINE ABOVE

Subtle Penetration beneath the bed.

He loses his goods and emblem axe.

Trial: Trap! the Way closes.

The above is exhausted. Correcting things is a trap. This is not the time to penetrate the past. You will lose your possessions and your position. Leave it alone and be happy with what you have. If you start digging all over again, the Way will close.

Direction: Connect with commons needs and strengths. Turn conflict into creative tension.