

52 Bound/Stilling

GEN



Calm, still, stabilize; bind, fix, come to the limit or boundary; articulating your experiences; becoming individual; the Sacrificer.

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BOUND

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *Things cannot be stirred up without finding an end, stilling desire and fixing the limits. Use this spirit helper. Accept this and use the energy of Bound. This means stopping.*

Bound is the active agent that fixes the omens and binds the fates. It is the guard and protector, the spirit of the 'inner work', the mountain temple filled with images of the spirits and the Mountain Men, the sages and diviners who soar like birds beyond the ordinary limits of life. Bound stands at the limit and makes limits, like the mountains that limit the fertile plains roused to life by Shake. It is the limit of Heaven and Earth, the limit of old and new. The power of Earth works through Bound. It acts as the culmination and articulation of things. The old time or the cycle that is ending is bound and opened, offered to the spirits. This is seen in the sacrifice of the Old King, who is sent out to the edge of the world to mark the limits. From this comes renewal, just as Shake follows Bound in the cycle of Eight Helpers.

The term parallels the binding and opening of a sacrificial victim and the stilling of the body, the release of inner awareness through meditative practices. Stilled, the body becomes the source of holy omens, footprints of the spirits. It invokes the image of Tang the Completer and the Duke of Zhou, who offered themselves in sacrifice to Heaven when their people were suffering.

The word with other roots shows a cluster of related images: the buffoons and exorcists who dance at spring beginning, driving out the old; the sacred tree at the Earth Altar, source and root; a deadly poison; a stand or stance; footprints, traces and subtle perceptions; skin, leather and protection. What is sacrificed through Bound stands at the limit of the world and guarantees the birth of new life. Through Bound we read the

subtle signs and make the proper offerings within ourselves. Bound opens the subtle body.

As a spirit guide, Bound is the Sacrificer, who leads through perceived limits. He is nemesis. He articulates fate. He is the still point in all turning, the refuge of distant mountains. He is a dog; guarding, watching and finding. In the body, Bound acts through the spleen and stomach, stabilizing and transforming nourishment. It rots and ripens, governs the free flow of ideas, control and protects central energy.

THE RESPONSE

Bind its back. Still the personality so it does not catch on things.

Move through the chamber to the altar without seeing your people.

This is not a mistake.

Bound/Stilling, GEN: Limit, boundary, obstacle; still, quiet, calm, refuse to advance; enclose, mark off, confine; finish, complete; reflect on what has come before; firm, solid, simple, straightforward; the mountain as a limit and a refuge; root, base, cause, beginning; stop, bring to a standstill, stubborn; becoming an individual. The old character shows the eye of the ancestor and a person turning back, focused on the past.



GÈN (6015/138) shows a person (1) turned backwards and the big eye (1 and 3) of the ancestor or spirit.

Bound/Stilling describes your situation in terms of recognizing a limit, or coming to the end of a cycle. The way to deal with it is to calm and stabilize your desire to act in order to understand what has been accomplished. Calm yourself. Don't try to advance. See through your desire. By doing this you stabilize yourself in the world of the spirits and allow them to emerge. Quiet your body. Calm and stabilize your back. This stills your personality so it is not caught up in compulsive actions. Move through your life as if the

people you normally recognize were not there. This is not a mistake. It allows you to stabilize and articulate yourself.

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BOUND

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows the limit of things. Joining mountains. Recognizing this limit releases you from compulsive action. You can't stir things up forever. You must also stop them. Bound means stopping. Think over things deeply and don't leave your current situation. Stopping means stabilizing. When the time comes to an end, stop. When the time moves, move. Stir things up or quiet things down without letting go of the right time to move. Then your Way will shine brightly. Bound means stopping yourself. Stopping means staying in your place. What is above and what is below in this situation are connected only through antagonism. They do not meet and associate. Don't get your personality entangled in things. By moving through your life as if people were not there, you will free yourself from error and make no further mistakes.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Joining Mountains. Bound.

This is a time when Noble One ponders and does not issue forth from his hidden place.

Spirit words bind us and accomplish fate. This is the Sacrificer. Mountain limits and articulates what is complete to suggest what is beginning, closing the cycle of seasons. This is the Earth Moment: Bound fixes the final form. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by staying within and pondering his own nature and the nature of fate and spirit. Work through joyous words to bring spirit to expression.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL SIX

Stilling. Bind and open his feet. Offering it.

This is not a mistake

An ever-flowing and advantageous Trial. Harvesting.

Not letting go of what is correct. When an impulse to action comes, try to hold back before it leads you into compulsive entanglements. This is not a mistake. It can change your whole life for the better.
Direction: Beautify things. Release tensions. The situation is already changing.

SIX AT SECOND

Stilling. Bind and open his calves. Offering it.

Cannot rescue his following.

'My heart is not glad.'

You can still listen and respond. Though you can take this opportunity to stop running after impossible desires, you cannot help others who are on the same course. Though this makes your heart ache, still yourself. Do not fail to heed this call.

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

NINE AT THIRD

Stilling. Binding the loins, separating the spine.

Adversity, hungry souls and angry ghosts.

Acrid smoke smothers the heart.

Exposed to danger, the heart smothered. You are cutting yourself in two, separating yourself from real and legitimate desires. The acrid smoke from this repression smothers your heart. You don't have to make this sacrifice. It won't help anyone, least of all you.

Direction: Strip away old ideas. Be open and provide what is needed.

SIX AT FOURTH

Stilling. Binding and opening his trunk. Offering it.

This is not a mistake.

This means stopping the body's drives. Still your compulsive actions, emotions and desires. This frees you from mistakes and lets you see where your real motivations lie. It calms and stabilizes the heart.

Direction: Search outside the norms. Don't be afraid to act alone. You are connected to a creative force.

SIX AT FIFTH

Stilling. Binding his jaws. Offering it.

His words have order.

The cause for sorrow disappears.

This is centred and correct. If you reflect and restrain your speech, what you say will have order and elegance. When you can communicate like this, your sorrows will vanish.

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



BOUND

NINE ABOVE

Stilling. Generous at the Boundary. Offering it.

Wise Words! The Way is open.

This is munificent completion. Meet people with generosity, honesty and care and you will receive it in return. This is the end of your isolation. You have learned what you need to face your new life. The Way is open.

Direction: Release bound energy. The situation is already changing.