



63 *Already Crossing*

Ji Ji

Begun, already underway, in progress; everything in place; proceed actively; crossing to the River-Mountain festival; prima materia, the burning water; a primal seed figure.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *Possessing it and traversing must mean we are making a Crossing. Accept this and use the energy of Already Crossing.*

Already Crossing is part of a pair that forms the 'gates' of Change. 'Crossing', which literally means to cross a river in a boat or at a ford, suggests the souls and spirits entering the Great Stream, a metaphor for experiencing the voyage of life. Ji or 'crossing' is also the name of one of the four Great Rivers and 'crossing the Ji' is a metaphor for going to the River-Mountain festival and for a bride being taken to her husband's ancestral home. The Small Fox, a crafty shape-changing animal at home in the dream world as well as symbol of a potential suitor, is common to both figures, as is a campaign into the Demon country. Crossing further suggests realising or achieving something, helping, aiding or rescuing. It adds what is lacking and represents an understanding in depth of what is useful and profitable. The Pair is made up of fire and water, the vertical elements, and suggests all the metaphors of cooking, transforming and being in a continual creative relation to the process of Change.

Already Crossing means that things are in their place, in process. We are on the voyage, crossing the stream, cooking the food. There is a correct alignment of force, a stable vessel. We are in the world of manifestation now, autumn and harvest, surrounded by danger but secure within. The situation requires care and attention, co-operating with something already underway. In terms of the martial arts, this shows an optimum arrangement of inner energies.



THE RESPONSE

Already Crossing. The Small Fox.

Make an offering and you will succeed.

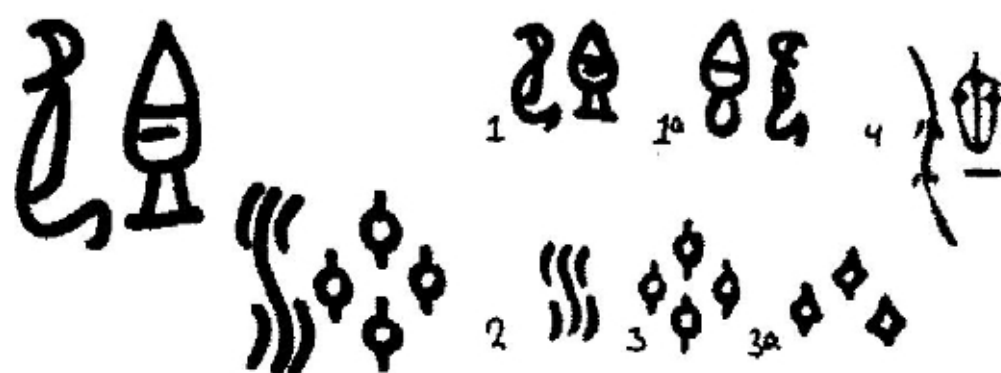
Advantageous Trial. Harvesting.

Wise Words! Initiating things opens the Way,

Completing them brings disorder.

Already, *Ji*: in progress, going on; completed, finished, mark of the past tense; thus, that being so. The old character means finishing a meal. It shows a person turning away from food cooked in a vessel.

Crossing, *Ji*: cross a river, overcome an obstacle, begin an action; bring help; succeed, bring to a conclusion; benefit, elegant and dignified. The old character shows the flowing river and a field of grain, or a boat with three people in it.



*Ji*² (768/26) shows a pot of cooked food and a man turning away from it (1). *Ji*⁴ (841/85) shows water or a river (2) and a field of grain; a shallow, uniform place or ford (3 and 3a).

Already Crossing describes your situation in terms of a crossing that is already underway. The way to deal with it is to actively go on with what you are doing. You are in the middle of fording the stream of events. Things are already in their proper places. Adapt to whatever crosses your path. Give aid and encouragement. This is pleasing to the spirits. Through it they will give you success, effective power and the capacity to bring the situation to maturity. Put your ideas to the trial. That brings profit and insight. Stay with the process. That generates meaning and good fortune by releasing transformative energy. Trying to bring things to completion creates disorder. Remain underway.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows clarity in action. The stream is above the fire. Things are cooking. Keep gathering your energy and put it at the service of the action underway. Having gone past the

midpoint, you are now fording the stream. This means setting things right. Think deeply about problems and sorrows. Prepare to defend against them. 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. Put your ideas to the trial. That brings profit and insight. You are in the right place. Correct the balance between what is supple and adaptable and what is strong and solid. Stay in the process. That generates meaning and good fortune by releasing transformative energy. Through being adaptable you acquire the central position. Completing things, and thus stopping the action, creates disorder. Your Way will be exhausted if you do that.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Stream above Fire. Already Crossing.

This is a time when Noble One ponders distress to provide a defence against it.

Spirit reveals itself in the Bright Omens, rewarding those toiling in the Pit. This is the Ghost River and the Bright Omens. Rushing Water above dissolves direction and shape, flowing on through toil and danger, while Fire below radiates light and warmth and people experience the Bright Presence of things. This is Water over Fire: inner brightness joined with outer danger represents crossing to the other shore. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by seeing into all causes that might disturb the process and providing a defence against them. He is carried by the Bright Omens.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL NINE

Already Crossing.

Braking his wheels. Trailing her cord in the water.

The Small Fox soaks its tail.

This is not a mistake.

This is righteous and not a mistake. You have a great connection, but you are starting too quickly. Hold back. Start slowly. Let yourself be lured on. This is not a mistake.

Direction: Re-imagine the situation. Gather your energy for a decisive new move.

SIX AT SECOND

Already Crossing.

A lady loses her jade hairpin. Do not pursue her.

On the seventh day she will return.

This is using the Way of the centre. The bride crossing to the River-Mountain festival. In the midst of the crossing, it seems like what you hope and care for is lost. Don't worry. Don't chase it. When the time comes, it will find you without trying. Have no cares. You will soon have what you desire.

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

NINE AT THIRD

Already Crossing.

The High Ancestor subjugates the Demon Country.

Three years go by and he controls it.

Small People should not use this.

Three years – this is weariness. The Shang King Wu Ding makes the crossing to subdue the Demon Country. You are embarked on a great enterprise. It will take time to complete. Keep a firm purpose. Don't listen to what others try to tell you. You will win in the end and realise your heart's desire.

Direction: This is a new beginning. Strip away your old ideas. Be open and provide what is needed.

SIX AT FOURTH

Already Crossing.

Clothes in tatters. The wadded silk is soaked.

'Be careful till day is done.'

This means there is a place to doubt. Things look good, but they could change in a minute. Be careful. You are in the middle of an important passage. Don't relax yet. Be vigilant.

Direction: Revolution and renewal. This couples you with a creative force.

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ALREADY CROSSING

NINE AT FIFTH

Already Crossing.

The eastern neighbours slaughtered many cattle.

The summer sacrifice of the western neighbour was not like this

When we received the great blessing.

The western neighbour's season is not like this. The Way is open and the Great is coming. When you think of the Shang tyrant who has fallen you can see how real hidden worth is blessed and recognized. Don't try to impress people. The sincerity of your feeling and your dedication to it are what count most. Be yourself. Accept your blessings. Heaven holds out its mandate.

Direction: Accept the difficult task. Release bound energy. The situation is already changing.

SIX ABOVE

Already Crossing. He soaks his head.

Adversity, hungry souls and angry ghosts.

Why let this last? You fail in the crossing. You have got yourself in too deep. You are faced with dangers you don't have the means to confront. Why go on like this?

Direction: Find supportive friends. Gather energy for a decisive new move.