

3 Sprouting/The World Tree ZHUN

**Begin, establish, found; seek a bride; birth pains, massing
soldiers; gather your strength to surmount difficulties;
the World Tree.**

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *First there is Heaven and Earth, then the Myriad Beings truly give birth, overfilling the space between Heaven and Earth. This truly means the Myriad Beings. Accept this and use the energy of Sprouting. Sprouting means that the beginning is truly giving birth.*

Sprouting is the beginning of new being, the renewal of the time. It is the dusk before dawn, and the dusky light is full of the burgeoning grasses. Sprouting suggests the World Tree. It is the Mulberry or Sun Tree (*Fu Sang*) from which the suns rise each day after being bathed by their mother, and its shadow, the Moon Tree, where they rest and begin their underwater journey of return. Each tree has a bathing pool, an abyss, at its root that is connected to the Ghost River. Together they form The Tree, the axis and centre of the world that connects Heaven, Earth and the watery underworld, the Yellow Springs. This *axis mundi* and tree of kings is also imaged as a procession of riders going to fetch brides called 'sprouts' and the massing of soldiers, a gathering force in the Kingdom of Zhou to receive the Mandate of Heaven and establish a new world order. All these things are in their beginnings, the beginning of a new world and a new time.

THE RESPONSE

Sprouting and Massing.

The Source of Success: an Advantageous Trial.

Make an offering and you will succeed.

Do not use having a direction to go.

Advantageous to install lords as helpers. Harvesting.



Sprout, ZHUN: Begin or cause to grow; assemble, accumulate, amass, hoard; establish a base of operations, establish troops at the borders, military camp, garrison, troop; difficult, painful, arduous; to become manifest, the difficulties at the beginning of an endeavour; sacred turtle divination: 'great protection', 'great happiness', the ancestors extend their blessings; riders bunching and gathering, the procession to fetch the bride; *also*: spring, vitality, the internal river of strength, the spark of life, water containing creative force; the murmuring dragon, thunder in the waters, the beginning of spring. The old character shows a deeply rooted sprout that is emerging through the surface of earth.



ZHUN¹ (11813/45) is a picture of a sprouting seedling. (1) shows other forms of the same character that also suggest a child.

Sprouting and Massing describes your situation in terms of beginning growth. The way to deal with it is to assemble things and accumulate energy for a difficult yet exciting task. Like young plants breaking through the covering earth, this will open an entire new cycle of time. It is the tenderness of the sprout, so easy to crush yet capable of pushing through rock-hard ground, the inexorable power of the yielding path that reaches out towards Heaven. Don't try to impose your ideas or direct things. There are many new possibilities emerging. Take advantage of them by installing helpers and delegating responsibilities. Stake out your territory, establish bases of operation, assemble the troops, and collect your possessions. That brings profit and insight.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows arousing new energy confronting unknown risks. Clouds and thunder. Strip away old ideas. Abundant new possibilities are being born. Stay where you are and let everything come into view. Set up structures and ideas that can weave things together. This is a stirring time. There is heavy work to be done. Things are full to overflowing. The atmosphere is



the dusky light before daybreak. Things are coming at you from all sides. Don't try to soothe and pacify them. Install your helpers and give everything a place. This chaotic profusion is in accord with the time. It is the beginning of a new world.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Clouds and Thunder. Sprouting and Massing.

A time when Noble One uses the clan banners to group the kindred.

The spirit that manifests in shake and thunder rewards those toiling in the Pit. The Rouser works in the Ghost River. Rushing Water above dissolves direction and shape, while Thunder rouses new potential. This is Water over Wood: a cycle ends in the outer world while new growth sprouts within. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by setting out the standards that give each kind a place in the new world. Work through rousing and inspiring. A cycle is beginning. It will deliver you from past sorrows.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL NINE

Sprouting. A stone pillar.

The riders wheel and turn.

Trial: advantageous for a residence. Harvesting.

Advantageous to install lords as helpers.

Your purpose is moving correctly. Value what is below. The Great acquires support of the common people. This is the standing stone in front of an ancestral temple, sprouted from the Earth. Stop and establish your foundations. Connect this experience to your own deep roots. Involve other people. Don't be secretive about your plans. You are on the right track.

Direction: Find the new group. Strip away old ideas. Provide what is needed.

SIX AT SECOND

**Sprouting then quitting, bunching and turning,
riding the horses in full array.**

Those you confront are not outlaws, seek a marriage alliance.

Trial: the woman will not yet nurse a child.

Ten years, then she will nurse one.

The hardship of riding a strong line. This will reverse the rules. You reach out to people, then turn away from them. You are all prepared for an emotional encounter then see your partner as an outlaw. Drop the hostility. Seek a permanent connection. It will be a while before this connection bears fruit, but in the end all will come right.

Direction: Articulate your needs and desires. Take in the past. Provide what is needed.

SIX AT THIRD

**Sprouting. 'Chasing the deer' without precaution or guide,
You wander alone into the forest centre.**

**Noble One almost fails to realise that going on like this brings
distress.**

Following the wild birds, the young girls. This means distress and exhaustion. 'Chasing the deer' has definite sexual implications. You are losing yourself, following your impulses and desires without a second thought. You are right on the edge of disaster. Stop now before you lose sight of what is really worthwhile.

Direction: The situation is already changing.

SIX AT FOURTH

**Sprouting. Bunching and turning,
Riding the horses in full array.**

Seek a marriage alliance.

Wise Words! Going on opens the Way.

Nothing not advantageous. Harvesting.



Going and seeking. This is brightening! The time is right. The difficulties are over. Those you confront are not outlaws. Make the connection. This will be of great benefit to everyone concerned.

Direction: Follow this flow of events. Proceed step by step. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

NINE AT FIFTH

Sprouting: its juice.

Reward of food for the soldiers.

Trial for the Small: Wise Words! The Way is open.

Trial for the Great: Trap! The Way closes.

This is spreading out but not yet shining. This is the essence of growth, the flowing sap or juice of the World Tree. It brings things to life and spreads the wealth. You have found this source of vital growth but you must be careful. Make no great moves. Adapt to what happens. Make sure everything gets what it needs. Don't impose your will on things.

Direction: Something important is returning. Be open to it. Provide what is needed.

SIX ABOVE

Sprouting. Turning and bunching.

Riding the horses in full array,

While weeping blood is coursing down.

Why let this last? This is a disastrous way to proceed. It is a fixation that is doing you real harm, bleeding you in literal and emotional ways. Don't think you can simply fix it. Free yourself from the situation now before it gets worse.

Direction: A better time is coming. Strip away your old ideas and be open to new ones. Provide what is needed.