



47 *Confining* *Oppression* KUN

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CONFINING

Oppressed, restricted, exhausted, cut off; at the end of your resources; the moment of truth; an oppressed noble; search within to find the way out; site of creative transformation.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *Ascending to the end has brought on oppression. The Noble One is oppressed and confined. Accept this and use the energy of Confining.*

Confining shows an old, dilapidated house or a great open mouth in which a tree is confined. It suggests a tight, oppressive, devouring structure and evokes penal codes and punishments, onerous duties, oppression by authority and the inherent emotional distress. It mentions several of the major punishments, which included nose-cutting, foot-cutting, branding, castration, imprisonment, exile and death in various forms, becoming an 'offering to the ancestors'. It also suggests the war duties that were laid upon the feudal lord. This is the oppression of a noble person who is exiled or cut off from others, confined or oppressed by his duties and his precarious position under a tyrannical and exploitative lord. It represents being cut off and isolated as much mentally as physically, alienated from those around you. It implies the threat of poverty, exhaustion, being at the end of available resources, unable to meet the challenges presenting themselves. Communication is blocked, indeed deceptive or deceitful. You do not know who your friends are and words are not to be trusted. Philosophically, however, this oppression is exactly what teaches you about *de*, power and virtue, the power to find what is Great and rely on it. It exhausts the old and awakens you from its collective dream. This oppression also teaches the futility of anger and hatred and shows how the Way opens.

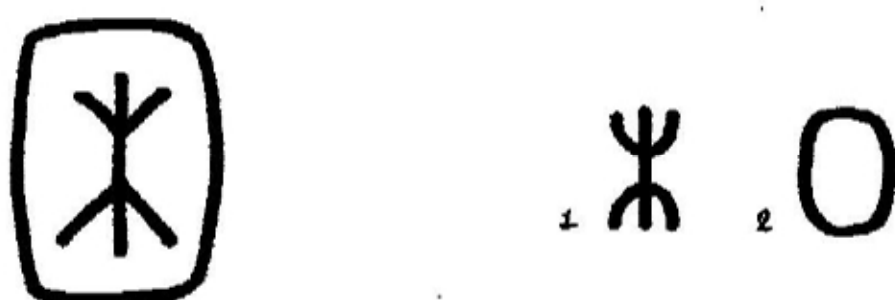
THE RESPONSE

Confined and Oppressed. Make an offering and you will succeed.

Wise Words! Trial: the Great Person opens the Way. This is not a mistake.

'If there are words, don't trust them.'

Confine, KUN: enclosed, restricted, persecuted, surrounded, hard-pressed, stranded; punishment, penal codes, prison; worry, fear, anxiety; fatigue, exhausted, poor, at the end of your resources; disheartened, weary, afflicted, worried. The old character shows a tree inside an enclosure, a big mouth or ramshackle house that threatens to engulf it.



KUN⁴ shows a tree MU⁴ (1) in an enclosure WEI² (2) or old house.

Confined and Oppressed describes your situation in terms of being cut off, oppressed and exhausted. The way to deal with it is to collect the energy to break out of the enclosure and re-establish communication. 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 great and master the situation from within. Find what is truly important to you. Seek those who can help and advise you. This generates meaning and good fortune by releasing transformative energy. The situation is not your fault. Words are not to be trusted. There is a breakdown of communication and you are being isolated by it. You are not believed when you speak. Don't believe what others are telling you to do.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows outer relations disconnected from the inner flow. The mists are outside the stream. Find supportive people. Ascending without stopping has brought on Confining. Hidden within the situation is the possibility of meeting unexpected help and encouragement. Use Confining to separate your own power to realise the Way from the collective values that are oppressing you. Bring old relationships to an end and move toward new connections. Don't be bound by grudges or bitter feelings. Find the mandate for change hidden in this situation and use it to release a sense of your purpose. What is strong and solid is covered and hidden. It is dangerous to express yourself. Being confined



and not letting go of yourself is pleasing to the spirits. Through it they will give you success, effective power and the capacity to bring the situation to maturity. This situation activates your connection to the Way. It can generate meaning and good fortune by releasing transformative energy. Seek those who can help you. Find what is great in yourself, your solid centre. You will not be believed when you speak. Finding value in what your oppressors tell you to do will only exhaust you.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Mists outside the Stream. Confined and Oppressed.

This is a time when Noble One confronts his fate to release its purpose.

Spirit rewards those who suffer in the Pit, speaking and spreading joy through the Intermediaries. Joyous Dancer is working with the Ghost River. Mists rise above, while Rushing Water below dissolves direction and shape, flowing on through toil and danger. This is Metal over Water: confined and drawn into the inner stream, the capacity to express the spirit dissolves and flows on. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by yielding to fate, allowing it to release a sense of his real purpose. Hold the heart fast and take the risk. Articulate the new time.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL SIX

Confined and Oppressed. Buttocks punished with a wooden rod.

If you enter the shadowy gully,

You will encounter no one for three years.

This is shady, not brightening. You have been hurt or punished, but you are your own worst enemy now. Do not retreat into melancholy, darkness and isolation. You will completely cut yourself off.

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

NINE AT SECOND

Confined and Oppressed at food and drink.

Scarlet sashes are coming on all sides.

Advantageous to make presentations to spirits and ancestors.

Harvesting.

Chastising closes the Way. This is not a mistake.

There will be rewards in the centre. The Noble One in exile. You ostensibly have all you need, but you feel oppressed and confined by lack of recognition. Don't worry, help is on its way. It will change the way you see yourself and your relationships with others. Offer a sacrifice now to the things you believe in. Stay where you are and wait. Don't try to make others take the blame for your situation. This is not a mistake.

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

SIX AT THIRD

Confined and Oppressed by stones, he grasps at thorn-vines.

You enter your palace and do not see your consort.

Trap! The Way closes.

This is riding a strong line, not auspicious. The exile returns to a melancholy fate. You beat yourself against impossible obstacles and grasp at things that hurt you. You can't even see your friend, who is eager to support you. This kind of behaviour will get you absolutely nowhere.

Direction: A time of transition. Don't be afraid to act alone. You are connected to a creative force.

NINE AT FOURTH

Confined and Oppressed in a bronze war-chariot.

It comes slowly, slowly.

Distress. There will be completion.

The purpose is located in the below. Not an appropriate situation, but allies will come. The solution to your problems will arrive very slowly. This is partially because you are oppressed and confined by oppressive duties and thoughts. It will take a change of heart to recognize the truth, but all will turn out well in the end.

Direction: When the right moment comes, take the risk. Take things in. Be open and provide what is needed.

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CONFINING

NINE AT FIFTH

Confined and Oppressed. His nose cut, his feet cut,

Oppressed by the crimson sashes.

Slowly he will be loosened.

Advantageous to make offering to spirits and ancestors.

Harvesting.

The purpose is not acquired yet. Use centring and straightening. Acquiesce in the blessing. You are punished and oppressed by authority. This is serious, but as the bitter feelings loosen you will be set free. Until this day comes, make offerings to your ideals. What your heart feels deeply will help you through. Make the sacrifice. The spirits will help you.

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

SIX ABOVE

Confined and Oppressed by trailing creepers, he trips on tree stumps.

Say it like this: 'If we stir up the causes of sorrow, then there will be sorrowing.'

Wise Words! Chastising opens the Way.

Not yet appropriate. Making a move opens the Way. Stop indulging yourself! This seeming oppression shouldn't even bother you. If you sit around and groan all the time, all you will hear is lamentation. Take yourself in hand. Get yourself in order. That will open the Way. Don't just sit around trying to make everyone feel guilty.

Direction: Don't get involved in quarrels or wrangles. Find supportive friends. Gather energy for a decisive new move.