

43 Deciding and Parting GUAI



DECIDING/PARTING

Resolution, act clearly; make a decision and announce it, carry the message; move quickly; breakthrough; part from the past, separate; clean it out and bring it to light; site of creative transformation; a seed figure.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *Augmenting without end will necessarily break up the obstacle. Accept this and use the energy of Deciding. This means breaking up the obstacle.*

Deciding and Parting refers to making known an oracular message or pronouncement or notifying the ancestor at the Earth Altar of an important move: war, challenge or the arrival of an important spirit who carries fate. It includes the idea of parting with the past through the image of rivers separating, and a decisive moment, a critical time for a breakthrough. The root shows a thimble worn by archers who shoot through openings in armour or formations in battle. It includes a loan word for skipping, running, galloping animals and suggests moving quickly from one place or state of mind to another. The figure is centred on signals and words, a messenger announcing the results of an oracle, raising a banner or war axe. It further suggests bringing something dangerous to light, opening and cleansing a wound, a critical announcement in the King's court. This is the arrival of a message from Heaven, a fate or mandate. It challenges us to respond fully, quickly and decisively to make the spirit known.

THE RESPONSE

Deciding and Parting. Bring it to light. Display it in the King's Chambers.

There is a connection to the spirits that will carry you through.

Cry out even in adversity, the hungry souls and angry ghosts.

This decree comes from the capital city.

Not advantageous to approach them under arms.

Advantageous to have a direction to go. Harvesting.

Decide, GUAI: choose; resolute, decisive, act clearly; breakthrough, critical moment; jade objects giving the right to speak; prompt, certain, clear; clean out a wound, bring something to light; separate, divide, cut off, divide in two; parting of two rivers, parting of the ways. The old character shows a hand holding a jade object that gives the right to speak.



GUÀI (6232/37) shows a hand holding up an object, probably a jade baton or jade ring, a token of identity and rank that confers the right to speak.

Deciding/Parting describes your situation in terms of resolutely confronting difficulties. The way to deal with it is to clarify what you must do and act on it, even if you must leave something behind. Move quickly. Display your decision resolutely at the centre of effective power. Have confidence in proclaiming it, for you are connected to the spirits and they will carry you through. You will confront difficulties. There is an angry old ghost in the situation that has returned to take revenge for past mistreatment. Notify those who love, trust and depend on you. Don't resort to arms, attack or build up defences. Have a place to go. Impose a direction on things. That brings profit and insight.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows inner force coming to expression. The mists rise above Heaven. Act with drive and persistence. By continually augmenting things you break through obstacles. Resolution implies breaking through. What is solid and strong breaks through and breaks up what is supple and adaptable. Spread your wealth so you can depend on what is below you. Concern yourself with realising the Way and keep out of other activities. This is a time to break through. Persist in your efforts to express things. Break through the obstacles to harmony. Display your resolution in the centre of power. Though you may be small, five strong forces are behind you. Have confidence. The spirits will



give you the power to express yourself. Although you must confront difficulties, this exposure to danger will make you shine. Notify those who depend on you. Don't resort to arms. If you do you will exhaust all chance of honour and eminence. What is strong and solid endures, so you can bring your plans to completion.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Mists above Heaven. Deciding and Parting.

This is a time when Noble One spreads benefits to extend to those below,

By residing in power and virtue, he keeps away harm.

The spirit that awes and wars in Heaven speaks and spreads joy through the Intermediaries. The Joyous Dancer is working with the Force. Rising Mists above stimulate and fertilize, joyous words cheer and inspire, while Heaven below struggles on, persistent and unwearyed. This is the Metal Moment: an inner struggle breaks through into decisive words, clearing out old problems. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by extending his strength and support to all below. He resides in his power to actualize the Way and thus keeps us from harm. Work through joyous words to bring spirit to expression. You are confronting the Tiger.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL NINE

Deciding and Parting. Invigorating the leading foot.

Going without overcoming them. Acting now is a mistake.

This is a fault. If you try to take the lead, you will most certainly fail. You simply aren't prepared for it yet. This is not the way to go about things.

Direction: Don't be afraid to be alone. You are coupled to a creative force.

NINE AT SECOND

Deciding and Parting. Alarms and outcries. Bring it out.

'No rest at night.'

Stay under arms. Have no cares.

Stay armed and have no cares. You acquire the centre and the Way. A tense and invigorating situation, with things coming from all sides. Don't worry, but stay alert. Let past sorrows go. Bring out what is hidden. You will obtain what you want. This can renew your creative life.

Direction: Revolution and renewal. You will be coupled with a creative force.

NINE AT THIRD

Deciding and Parting. Strong in their cheekbones.

This is a Trap! The Way closes for them.

Noble One: Parting! Parting!

He goes on alone and meets the rain, feeling soiled and indignant.

This is not a mistake.

Parting, completing this is not a mistake. You are involved with cruel people intent on their mastery. This Way will close for them. See this clearly and leave now. You will be caught in a flood of unfair insults and abuse that deeply anger you. This is not a mistake. Announce your decision. Be very clear and leave now.

Direction: Express your feelings. Find supportive friends. The situation is already changing.

NINE AT FOURTH

Deciding and Parting. Buttocks without flesh.

Like Yu he moves haltingly,

Like an animal led to sacrifice on a leash.

The cause for sorrow disappears.

'When you hear people's words, do not trust them.'

This is not an appropriate situation Words won't brighten you now. You have been punished or hurt and are isolated. You must move to a new location. Stay adaptable. See this as a gift from fate. Yield to



the spirit of Yu the Great. Don't get caught up in negative emotions. Don't believe what people tell you right now, and keep your own speech guarded. Your sorrows will soon disappear.

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

NINE AT FIFTH

Deciding and Parting. Bring it out!

The mountain goat runs Quickly! Quickly!
down the centre of the road.

This is not a mistake.

The centre is not shining yet. You have to choose between two alternatives and decide quickly. Don't be afraid of radical change. There is a creative force at work. Move decisively. Do it now!

Direction: Invigorate your ruling idea. Be resolute. You are connected to a creative force.

SIX ABOVE

Deciding and Parting. Not announcing the oracle.

Trap! Completing this closes the Way.

Completing this will not allow lasting. If you don't communicate your important message, you will be cut off and isolated. Call out. Tell us now. Now.

Direction: Take action. You are connected to a creative force.