



## 49 Skinning/ Revolution GE

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SKINNING

Strip away the old; let the new life emerge; revolt and renew; moulting, melting metals; animal transformation, calling the Bright Spirits; site of creative transformation.

### MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

**Charge to the Oracle:** *The Way welling up from below calls out for revolution. Accept this and use the energy of Skinning.*

Skinning shows a time of Revolution: 'Fire in the Lake: Change Heaven's Mandates.' It includes animal transformations, such as a snake changing its skin or the annual changes of form all animals were thought to undergo, symbolized as the change from bird to fish. It focuses on ritual transformations that occur as the *wu*, the technicians of the sacred, put on the animal mask to call the spirits and change the time. These sorts of dances occurred at Spring's Beginning (New Year), when the *fang xiang* or exorcists, dressed in bearskins and wearing a bear mask with four golden metal eyes, would drive out the old year animals, pushing them over the edge of the world into renewal and change. At this time, the people, too, wore animal masks, men dressed as women, men and woman came together and the things of the old year were destroyed. Everything moves into the liminal state, the fertile chaos called Change. The Queen Mother, Lady of the Beasts, and the moon goddesses are called for the transformations. Perhaps the most dramatic and secret of these rituals are the dances and ceremonies that lead up to melting the metals to cast a new vessel or *ding*, seen in the following figure. The Vessel is a ruling image, a sort of grail that establishes the time and the connection to all the various spirits. It is also the founding sign of a king and a dynasty.

The time of Skinning is great indeed. It is a time when the basic images of our lives go into flux and renewal through that mysterious quality called Change, a time when the world we experience is renewing itself. We co-operate with this by making the time, going through the imaginative preparations. We call on the animal powers and put on the mask, moving into their

powerful, creative state. We skin away what is past and done with, challenge our old ideas and experiences. We go into solution, into the liminal zone. When Change occurs, we accept the transformation and welcome the new time.

## THE RESPONSE

**Skinning.** Your own day.

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

Source of Success: Advantageous Trial.

The cause for sorrow disappears.

**Skin/Revolution, GE:** Take off or change the skin, moulting; smelting, melt and cast bronze; revolt, overthrow, change, renew; radical change of state; prepare hides; skin, leather and bronze armour, soldiers; eliminate, repeal, cut off, cut away; plumage, feathers used in ritual dances that invoke the Bright Spirits; human skin, change the skin, shaman and masked dances; renewing the generations, a generation during which the Way transforms itself and the law of nature evolves; change Heaven's Mandates, reject the decadent and renew the Way.' The old character shows an animal skin with horns, body and tail stretched on a frame of three branches.



GE (5953/177) represents animal skin, with ram's horns (1) on a frame of tied-together branches.

Skinning/Revolution describes your situation in terms of stripping away the protective cover. The way to deal with it is to radically change and renew the way things are presented. Eliminate what has grown old and useless so that the new can be seen. You must wait for the right moment to act, when the snake is ready to shed its skin and the sun is approaching the zenith. When the right moment arrives, act with confidence. You will be linked to the spirits and they will carry you through. This begins a whole new cycle of time. All your doubts and sorrows will be extinguished.



SKINNING

### THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows changing awareness coming to expression. In the middle of the mists there is fire. You are coupled with a creative force. The Way of the Well and its deep waters has forced you to skin away the old. Skinning means to reject old motives, sorrows, memories and quarrels. Regulate the way you understand time in order to clarify when the right moment comes. Stream and fire come together for a moment. They are like two women who live together but have different purposes and desires. This is called Skinning. Wait for the right moment. Act and trust what you are doing. Brighten the inner pattern by expressing it. You can promote great growth by correcting the situation. This is pleasing to the spirits. Skin and renew things. Your doubts and sorrows will be extinguished. Heaven and Earth renew themselves and the four seasons accomplish things. Great People change and renew the Mandate of Heaven. Let yielding and serving connect you to Heaven and mutual resonance connect you to the people. The time of Skinning is truly great.

### THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

**Fire in the centre of Mists. Skinning.**

**This is a time when Noble One regulates the measures of time to clarify the new seasons.**

*Spirit reveals itself in the Bright Omens, speaks and spreads joy through the Intermediaries. Joyous Dancer is working with the Bright Omens. Rising Mists above stimulate and fertilize, joyous words cheer and inspire, while Fire below radiates light and warmth and people experience the Bright Presence of things. This is Metal over Fire: a changing inner awareness that melts away obsolete outer form. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by establishing the rites and rituals that elaborate and clarify the new time. Work through joyous words to bring spirit to expression. Confront the ghosts and shadows.*

### TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL NINE

**Tightly secured in the yellow bull's skin.**



*Not allowed to act.* Like a shaman in the skin mask, you begin the change of awareness. You can not act yet, but nothing can tear you away from this connection. Be open to the influence when it comes. The metals are melting.

*Direction:* This is an influx of spirit. Don't be afraid to act alone, you are coupled to a creative force.

#### SIX AT SECOND

**This is your own day, Skin it!**

**Wise Words! Chastising opens the Way. This is not a mistake.**

*There is excellence in moving now.* This is your time. Move into the dance. You can change the world. Put everything into solution. Don't be shy. Be a hero. Vigorous action opens the Way. This is definitely not a mistake.

*Direction:* Be resolute. You are connected to a creative force.

#### NINE AT THIRD

**Skinning. Chastising closes the Way. Trap!**

**Trial:** adversity, hungry souls and angry ghosts.

**When the Skinning words pass round three times,**

**You will be connected to the spirits.**

*This means you will really have it.* Discipline and expeditions won't work now. Danger. The ghosts of the past have arrived. The ritual chant builds the energy to deal with them. Let the call to action go around three times, then act decisively. You can renew the time. The spirits will help you.

*Direction:* Follow the stream of events. Proceed step by step. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

#### NINE AT FOURTH

**Skinning. The cause for sorrows disappears.**

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

**'Change Heaven's Mandates.'**

**Wise Words! The Way is open.**



*This is the trustworthy purpose.* The great Change. The metals have melted. Act and have no doubts. All your sorrows will vanish. The spirits are helping you. You are in a position to change the imaginative basis of your world. The Way is open.

*Direction:* The situation is already changing.

#### NINE AT FIFTH

**Skinning.** The Great Person makes a tiger transformation.

Even before the omens are cast, he is connected to the spirits.

*Its pattern is luminous.* When the time comes to change, you must change with it. This is transformation at the core of your being. Take a quantum leap. Let your great creative strength be seen. Pursue what you desire. Even before there is an oracle, people will know you are connected to the spirits. Have no fear. Your inner pattern can brighten events.

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

#### SIX ABOVE

**Skinning.** The Noble One makes a leopard transformation.

Small People wear a skin mask.

**Trap!** Chastising closes the Way.

Stay where you are now. Wise Words! Trial: the Way is open.

*Its pattern is beautiful.* Change your life with grace and elegance. This is a transformation that can realise things and ground change in the life around you. Don't simply put on another mask. Stay right where you are for now, and the changes will fall into your hands.

*Direction:* Give people a common purpose. This will couple you with a creative force.