



17 Following SUI

Move with the flow, strong, natural attraction; inevitable, natural and correct; influence, guidance; hunter and prey; the spirit joyously moves in the world.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *Provide for responding to the commands of Heaven and you will soon have followers. Accept this and use the energy of Following.*

Through Following, your accumulated power and virtue (*de*) connects with the flow of events in such a way that the spirit moves into the world through you. The earliest images of this come from the mysterious identity between hunter and prey, reflected in the relation between celebrant and sacrificial victim. Through Following, a very basic and much-prized quality, you are in direct touch with the flow of the Way. You insert yourself into the universal flow of events, the river of time, and are thus able to conform effectively and spontaneously to the unfolding of the moment (*shi*). You are drawn into an ancestral line and the power of its unfolding. The root of the word shows a hill or grave mound and great abundance, growing riches, a spreading multitude. It suggests accepting the spirit's influence gladly, letting yourself be moved and drawn, being connected to the Way, one foot in the world of light, one foot in the darkness. The term also refers to following a way, a school of thought, tradition or spiritual practice and the paradoxical freedom that occurs when you submit to its discipline.

THE RESPONSE

Following. The Source of Success: Advantageous Trial. Harvesting.

This is not a mistake.

Follow, SUI: yield to a strong attraction; influence, guidance; conform to, follow a way, school or religion; move in the same direction; natural, correct, inevitable; Following the Way, in harmony with the time; the moment when you connect with the



flow of the universe. The old character shows a foot and a crossroads, curving and winding path, a banner or grave mound with three pennants, and a warrior with a raised weapon who offers a sacrifice.



SUI (10101/170) centres on (1) a foot and a crossroads, abbreviated to 1a. The left part of the character (2) is a banner or a grave mound and the right part is a hand with a weapon or metal tool (3/3a) and meat (4). It suggests sacrificial meat, willingly offered at a crossing or crossroads.

Following describes your situation in terms of been drawn forward. The way to deal with it is to follow the inevitable course of events. Yield to the path set out in front of you. Be guided by the way things are moving. You are involved in a series of events that are firmly connected. Don't fight it, move with it. It opens a whole new cycle of time. This is not a mistake. The situation cannot harm you. This is pleasing to the spirits. Through it they will give you success, effective power and the capacity to bring the situation to maturity.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows an outer stimulus rousing inner energy. In the middle of the mists there is thunder. Proceed step by step. When you have provided for the call, it comes. Let go of what is past, all the old quarrels and sorrows that led up to this situation. Dim your discriminating power so old mental habits can dissolve. A firm new focus is emerging, called up by an outer stimulus. This great new idea is pleasing to the spirits. Through it they will give you success, effective power and the ability to bring the situation to maturity. This is not a mistake. Put it to the trial. The whole human world must follow the times and the seasons. What you are actually following is a righteous idea inherent in the time.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Thunder in the centre of Mists. Following.

A time when Noble One turns towards inner darkness to enter a reposing pause.

Spirit that manifests in quake and thunder speaks and spreads joy through the Intermediaries. These are the Operators, the ones who work with the spirits. Rising Mists above stimulate and fertilize, while Thunder rouses new potential, sprouting energies that thrust up from below. It is Metal over Wood: stimulating words from without that stir up a deep inner impulse to follow. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by turning to his own fertile inner darkness, allowing the old to dissolve so he can follow the new. Work through subtle penetration. This involves fate. If you let yourself be led, you can realise hidden potential.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL NINE

Following. If you have an office, deny it.

'There will be Changes.' Trial: Wise Words! The Way is open.

Issue forth from the gate and mingle with others.

There will be achievements.

This means adhere to correcting things. Don't let go of the Way. Leave your old life behind. Let following this influence transform you. Walk out of your old thoughts and mix with new people. This will definitely produce new achievements. The Way has opened to you. Direction: Gather resources for a great new project. Re-imagine the situation. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

SIX AT SECOND

Following. Tied to the Small Son,

Letting go the Experienced Husbandman.

This means having nowhere to join helpful companions. This is a mistake. You have picked the wrong influence to follow. You will end up alone, without anyone to trust. All you can do then is adapt to whatever crosses your path.

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

SIX AT THIRD

Tied to the Experienced Husbandman,

Letting the Small Son go.

Through Following, you seek and acquire what you desire.

Trial: advantageous for a residence. Harvesting.

This means what is below realises its purpose. You have made the right choice. You are following the right influence. You will get everything you desire from this connection. Staying right where you are brings you profit and insight.

Direction: Change the way you present yourself. It will couple you with a creative force.

NINE AT FOURTH

Following to hunt and to catch.

Trial: Trap! The Way closes.

Connect to the spirits and locate yourself in the Way,

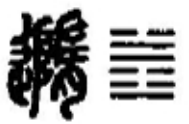
Make a covenant. Use the Mandate given you.

Your understanding will then be brightened.

How could this be a mistake?

Your righteousness is a trap. Brightening your understanding brings achievement. You have turned Following and influence into a kind of hunt. This will trap you and cut you off from the spirit. However, you can change things easily if you want to. Connect with the flow of events rather than your will and put yourself in harmony with the Way. Use what you have been given by Heaven. Then things will come of themselves. You will understand what it is to follow rather than pursue.

Direction: This is an important new beginning. Strip away old ideas. Be open to the new. Provide what is needed.



NINE AT FIFTH

Following. A triumph.

A connection to the spirits that leads to excellence.

Wise Words! The Way opens.

The situation is centred and correct. You have made the connection. This works. It will lead you on to real achievements. Have no doubts. Follow it. The Way is open to you.

Direction: Stir things up and act. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

SIX ABOVE

Following. Grappled and tied, they are held fast.

The King sacrifices and receives blessings on the Western Mountain.

Here the above is exhausted. You are firmly attached to the person you follow. Others are held fast through your devotion. The King makes the great sacrifice. Offer up what you know and let go of the old. You will be enshrined in the hall of ancestors. You help in the flow of blessings. You can go no farther than this.

Direction: Disentangle yourself from the past and re-imagine the situation. Gather energy for a decisive new move.