

46 *Ascending the Sacred Mountain*

SHENG



+6



ASCENDING

Make the effort, don't worry; climb the mountain step by step; lift yourself, fulfil the potential; advance, rise; intervene at a crucial moment.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *Assembling and then rising to what is above is called ascending the Sacred Mountain. Accept this and use the energy of Ascending.*

Ascending shows a procession up the Sacred Mountain, specifically a journey through the old Zhou capital, the 'empty city', up to the Twin-Peaked Mountain that was the ancestral home of the Zhou ancestors. This was the King's Ancestral Temple, where spirit tablets of the Royal Ancestors were housed. A journey up this mountain meant becoming part of the founders, at one with the Great People. It connects with a very old tradition of the *wu* or Intermediaries going up to the Mountain Shrine of the Tiger or Sky Spirit, the temple hidden just below the summit, full of stone phalli sprouted from the Earth. Its meanings include presenting an offering and putting meats into a sacred vessel. It means to rise up, like the sun rising, like ripening grain, to 'climb the steps', and includes the sense of making a timely intervention. In meditation practice, it is the rising of energy from the base of the trunk to the heart centre. Making the connection between above and below involves invading and conquering the demon country of the south. You must put your house in order and free yourself from care, melancholy and compulsive desire. The root of the term means complete, a full cycle, inclusive. It was a small measure, a libation cup full of spirits. It implies that we rise to completion step by step, climbing the Sacred Mountain.

THE RESPONSE

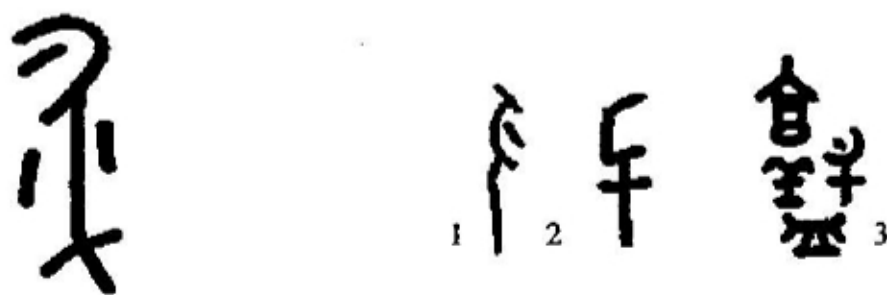
Ascending. The Intermediaries climb the Sacred Mountain.

Make an offering and you will succeed.

Use this to see the Great People. Have no cares.

Wise Words! Chastising the south opens the Way.

Ascend, SHENG: mount, go up, rise; climb step by step, advance through your own efforts; be promoted, rise in office: wages of officials were set at a certain number sheng of rice. The higher their rank, the more sheng they received; accumulate, fulfil the potential; distil liquor; a measure for grain; offer sacrifices to the gods or spirits of the dead, uninterrupted succession of sacrifices in a family. The old character shows a measure for alcohol or grain, brought and poured out in sacrifice.



SHENG¹ (9684/24) shows a measure for grain or alcohol, which is being poured out. 1 and 2 are other versions; 3 shows the character with the meaning to present offerings.

Ascending describes your situation in terms of rising to a higher level and getting something done. The way to deal with it is set a goal and work towards it step by step. Root yourself and push towards the heights. Climb the mountain and connect with the spirits. Bring out and fulfil the hidden potential. This is a very favourable situation. It is pleasing to the spirits. It is the origin of growth, effective power and the capacity to bring things to maturity. See Great People, those who can help and advise you. Look at the great in yourself and how you organize your ideas. Have no cares, fears or anxiety. Set out towards the south, the region of summer, growth, intensity and action. This generates meaning and good fortune by releasing transformative energy. Correct, discipline and put things in order.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows inner adaptability rising from its roots in the Earth. Earth's centre gives birth to the trees. If you let yourself be led, you can realise your hidden potential. When people assemble and set a higher goal, they call it Ascending. It doesn't simply come to you. Yield to the impulse and work hard to realise



the Way. Amass small things to reach what is high and great. Be supple and adaptable and use this time. Penetrate to the core. Adapt and work hard to yield results. What is strong is at the centre and things will correspond to it. This is pleasing to the great spirits. Through it they will give you success, effective power and the capacity to bring the situation to maturity. It will connect you to Great People and to the great in yourself. Have no cares. You will obtain rewards. Set out towards the south. Take action. This generates meaning and good fortune by releasing transformative energy. Make order and set out. Your purpose is indeed on the move.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Earth's centre gives birth to the Tree. Ascending the Sacred Mountain.

This is a time when Noble One yields to power and virtue, amassing the Small to attain the high and Great.

Spirit works through those who lay out the offerings. Offer service at the Earth Altar. The Lady of Fates is working with the Field. Earth above yields and sustains, while Wind and Wood enter subtly from below, penetrating, pervading and coupling. This is Earth over Wood: inner penetration that ascends the outer field of action. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by gathering in Small things, Ascending to what is Great in the world and in himself. Persist and work through inner inspiration. Watch the manifestation of spirit.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL SIX

Sincere Ascending. Climb the Sacred Mountain.

Wise Words! The Great Way opens.

This is uniting purposes with the above. You have been recognized. People have become aware of your value. Now all the doors are open to you. Climb the mountain and find what you desire.

Direction: A great and flourishing time begins. If you let yourself be led, you can realise hidden potential. The situation is already changing.

NINE AT SECOND

Ascend the Sacred Mountain.

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

Advantageous to make the summer sacrifice. Harvesting.

This is not a mistake.

There will be rejoicing. The connection is established. Make the offering and climb the Sacred Mountain. Dedicate yourself to what you believe in and make the great sacrifice to the gathered ancestors. It is all there if you want it to be.

Direction: Stay simple and connected to the facts. Release bound energy. The situation is already changing.

NINE AT THIRD

Ascending through the empty city.

This is no place to doubt. There is no resistance to your efforts. The gates are open. The ceremony is being performed. This is the old capital city that the times have left behind. Don't stop, push on.

Direction: Organize your forces. Something significant is returning. Be open and provide what is needed.

SIX AT FOURTH

Ascending.

The King sacrifices and receives blessing on the Twin-Peaked Mountain.

Wise Words! The Way is open.

This is not a mistake.

Yield to this service. You have found a powerful place in the symbolic life, part of the great sacrifices that connect us to the ancestors. Dedicate your efforts to the common good. The Way is open. This is not a mistake.

Direction: Continue in your path. Be resolute. You are connected to a creative force.

SIX AT FIFTH

Ascend the Sacred Mountain.

Wise Words! Trial: the Way is open.

Ascend the steps.

This is acquiring a Great purpose. There are no barriers to your progress. You are welcomed into the temple. Proceed step by step. The Way is open to you.

Direction: Connect to common needs and strengths. Be resolute. You are connected to a creative force.

SIX ABOVE

Ascending in a waning moon. Dim light.

‘There will be Changes.’

Trial: advantageous not to pause. Harvesting.

This means affluence is dissolving. You are climbing the Sacred Mountain in the dark as the moon begins to wane. Don't stop now. Pushing on to emergence will bring both profit and insight in the end.

Direction: Renovate a corrupt situation. If you let yourself be led, you can realise hidden potential. The situation is already changing.

