

## 26 Great Accumulates/ Gathering the Spirit DA CHU



Concentrate, focus on one idea; accumulate energy, support, nourish; bring everything together; great effort and great achievement.

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

**Charge to the Oracle:** *When you are disentangled from affliction, you can Accumulate the Spirit of the new. Accept this and use the energy of Great Accumulates.*

This refers to the offerings made by the King to the High Lord through the First Ancestor. They include offerings to the Four Winds and Directions, to River and Mountain and to the Five Sacrifices of the House. These were great *jiao*-sacrifices that included dances, wine drinking and celebration in which a spirit-meal was shared. These sacrifices included all the clans, bringing them out of their dwellings, and were held in a great assembly at the Outskirts Altar. They opened and closed the seasons and announced the Changes. This power to open and to close was invested in the King. Most important, he could end the isolation and restriction of winter and open the fields. To do this, he had to announce the Change to the ancestors, waking and nurturing the Great.

The King prepared the Change by offering to the Four Distant Ones at the Hidden Temple, using the *wu*-Intermediaries to invoke and call them. The victim for the main ceremony, the Red Bull, was selected and prepared long in advance. On the appointed day, all mourning or funeral practices ceased, for it was a day of rejoicing. The King dressed in the Sun and Moon robe and stepped into the chariot of Heaven, holding the Twelve Flame Standard adorned with dragons and heavenly bodies, and proceeded to the Southern Mound. Peasants lined the way, standing at the edge of the fields with torches. The Blind Musicians played as the King entered the Mound and faced east, calling the spirits down. A large pyre was lit

on top of the Mound. The Boundary Men, those who drew the limits of the fields, brought in the flawless Red Bull with a horn-board attached to his horns, leading him to the sound of gongs and singing stones. The Great Minister then invited the King to kill the victim. He shot it with arrows. The blood was collected and presented to Heaven as first offering. Then the body was placed on the pyre together with a long bolt of silk and circular pieces of blue jade, the 'holes to paradise'. The Chief Priest lit the fire with the Burning Mirror – the new fire – and recited the prayer for the good year. The Choir of the Blind sang the *Sheng-min* ode that recalled the founding rite established by *Hou Ji*, Sovereign Millet, the First Ancestor.

We fill the wooden cups with offering, cups of wood and earthen vases.

The aroma rises. The High Lord begins to eat.

How fine the aromas, how perfect the ritual moment.

Hou Ji founded this. We carry it out without error or omission  
From that first day until now.

When everything on top of the mound had been burned, it was swept and the King ascended, accompanied by the corpse-embodier, the person whose body First Ancestor inhabited, dressed in the same costume as the King. Hou Ji, who 'gave grain to all the people, a marvellous gift without equal', ascended to the court of Shang Di in the Dipper to act as intermediary to the High Lord. The ceremony ended with a great dance and celebration called the Gate of Clouds in which the King himself took part.

### THE RESPONSE

**Great Accumulates. Gather the spirit.**

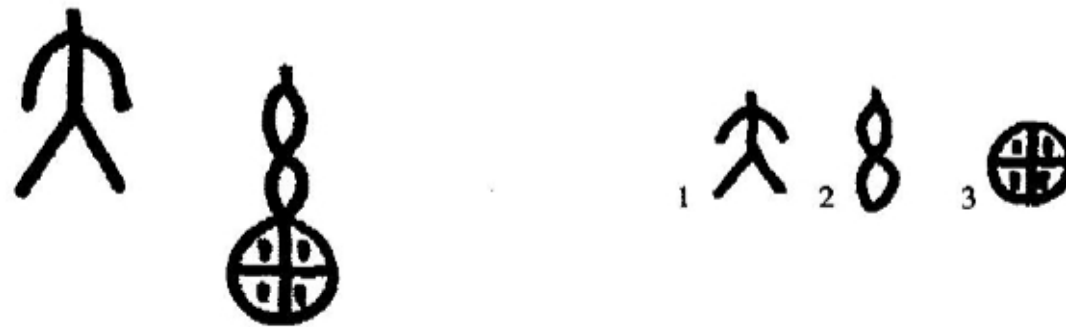
**Advantageous Trial. Harvesting.**

**Don't eat in your dwelling or clan. Wise Words! The Way is open.**

**Advantageous to step into the Great Stream.**

Great, DA: big, noble, important; able to protect others; orient your will to a self-imposed goal; venerable, powerful, ancestor; yang energy. The old character shows the Great Person and his power to protect and shelter.

**Accumulate, CHU:** take care of, support, tolerate, encourage; help one another, overcome obstacles; tame, train; domesticate, raise, bring up; gather, collect, hoard, retain; seed, shell, carapace, protection of a germ broken through in spring, protection in the womb. The old character shows a field and two bundles of silk or grass, harvested and stored.



DA<sup>4</sup> (10210/37) shows the great person and his ability to support and protect. The character CHU<sup>4</sup> or XU<sup>4</sup> (2538/102) is composed of silk bundles SI<sup>1</sup> (2) and a field with plants TIAN<sup>2</sup> (3): the harvest of silk and crops, also read as XUAN<sup>2</sup>, profound or dark, mystic, mysterious.

Great Accumulates describes your situation in terms of having a central idea that defines what is valuable. The way to deal with it is to focus on a single idea and use that to impose a direction on your life. Concentrate everything on this goal. Gather all the different parts of yourself and all your many encounters. Take the long view. Think of yourself as raising animals, growing crops or bringing up children. Tolerate and nourish things. Develop an atmosphere in which things can grow. Putting your ideas to the trial brings profit and insight. It can culminate in great abundance. Don't stay at home. Be active. Take in what is coming. This generates meaning and good fortune by releasing transformative energy. This is the right time to enter the Stream of Life with a purpose or to embark on a significant enterprise.

### THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows creative force accumulating within. Heaven in the centre of the mountain. If you let yourself be led, you can realise your hidden potential. Put your purpose in order and use it as an accumulating point. It is the right time to act. Assimilate the records of what your many predecessors have done and go on from there. Accumulate the power to realise things. Be firm, persist. Your efforts to shed light on things will bring you





glory and substantial rewards. Renew your power, your virtue and your connection to the Way every day. Have a firm overriding purpose. Honour what has moral and intellectual power. Stabilize what endures and correct your focus. Don't stay at home. Taking in what comes generates meaning and good fortune by releasing transformative energy. It nourishes intellectual and moral power. This is the right moment to make a move. The connections reach to Heaven.

### THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

**Heaven located in the centre of Mountain. Great Accumulates.**

**This is a time when Noble One uses the numerous records of the predecessor's words to move, nurturing power and virtue.**

*Spirit wars in Heaven; its words bind us and accomplish fate.* The Sacrificer is working with the Force. Mountain above limits and articulates what is complete to suggest what is beginning, while Heaven below struggles on, persistent and unwearied. This is Earth over Metal: hidden power that accumulates in the inner field. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by 'eating ancient virtue', finding the realising power inherent in the words of the sages. Work through the receptive and the power of Earth. Retreat to the Mountain Shrine.

### TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

#### INITIAL NINE

**Great Accumulates.** There is adversity, hungry souls and angry ghosts.

**Advantageous to end it.**

**Offer a sacrifice to Heaven. Harvesting.**

*This is not opposing disaster.* This connection is haunted by old angry ghosts. Eliminate the negativity now. Commit yourself to what you truly believe in.

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

## NINE AT SECOND

**Great Accumulates.**

**Loosen the cart's axle-straps.**

**Say it this way: Hidden cargo.**

**Draw round the carts and make a barrier each night.**

*Centred without going to extremes.* Forward motion of the great vehicle is stopped. Draw up the wagons and make contact. Think of it this way: you are escorting a covered cart with your secret treasure inside. Join together and nurture things.

*Direction:* Beautify things, be brave. Release bound energy. The situation is already changing.

## NINE AT THIRD

**Great Accumulates. Fine horses in pursuit.**

**Trial: hardship is advantageous. Harvesting.**

**Advantageous to have a direction to go.**

*This is uniting purpose with what is above.* You are pursuing your great ideal. Don't lose heart, the drudgery will bring you profit and insight in the end. Stay focused and work together. Be careful day and night. Having a plan will help you.

*Direction:* Present hardship is future gain. Diminish passionate attachments. Make the sacrifice. Something important returns. Be open and provide what is needed.

## SIX AT FOURTH

**Great Accumulates. A horn-board for the young bull.**

**Wise Words! The Way to the Source is open.**

*There will be rejoicing.* This is the preparation for the great spring sacrifice, protecting and guiding the growth of the young bull's horns and preserving him from flaw or stain. You can accumulate the force to carry heavy loads and confront difficult situations. Don't give up now, the Way is fundamentally open. In the end you will have cause to rejoice.

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



## SIX AT FIFTH

**Great Accumulates.** A gelded boar's tusks and a thorn hedge.

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

*There will be rewards.* You have managed to confront and disable what could have been a powerful obstacle, accumulating and focusing a significant force. The Way is open. This will bring rewards in the end.

*Direction:* Collect the Small to achieve the Great. Turn conflict into creative tension. The situation is already changing.

## NINE ABOVE

**Great Accumulates.** Could this be Heaven's highway?

**We receive the Blessing.**

**Make an offering and you will succeed.**

*This is moving on the Great Way.* The energy has accumulated. You are walking Heaven's highway. Your sacrifice is accepted and blessing will flow. There is no doubt about your success.

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