

## 48 The Well JING



Communicate, interact; the underlying structure, the network;  
source of life-water needed by all, welling up from the depths;  
the common people, common needs and strength; site of  
creative transformation.

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

*Charge to the Oracle: Oppression above will reverse what is below,  
welling up from the deep. Accept this and use the energy of the Well.*

Out of oppression comes common good. Well represents the well field and the common people, an ancient unit of social order consisting of eight fields cultivated by eight families, surrounding a central well used by all. The root is Two, the Two Protectors that permit life to exist, the Couple, a local manifestation of Earth and Heaven. Well is a norm, a model of good order that meets common needs, an endless and inexhaustible source of the water of life. The figure that shows the Well and the bucket also means 'us, all together'. It is a structure that allows access to the Source, a moment when one finds what supports life without exhaustion and understands our common origin. Philosophically, this is the field of power and virtue, shifting and abiding in place. It shows us what is righteous. It is a tap into the subterranean flow of the Way, a nipple of the Great Mother.

### THE RESPONSE

The Well. All of Us. 'You can alter the city, you cannot alter the Well.'

Without loss, without gain, they go and they come in their order.

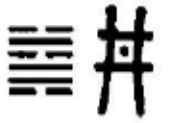
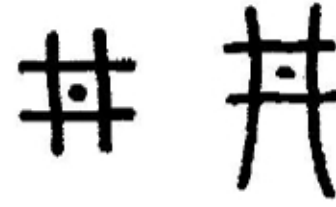
The Well is always the Well.

A muddy bottom, a short well-rope or ruining the pitcher:

All are a Trap! They close the Way of the Well.

Well, JING: water, well at the centre of a group of eight fields; resources held in common, the common people; underlying structure, in good order, well-thought-out; bricklayer's measure; norm,

model; communicate with others, common needs; the water of life, the inner Source. The old character shows the well field system, eight fields grouped around the central well.



WELL

JING<sup>3</sup> (2040/7) represents a well and fields divided among eight families with a well and common field at the centre, the oldest unit of social organization.

The Well describes your situation in terms of an underlying social structure and the natural force that flows through it. The way to deal with it is to clarify and renew your connection to the Source. The water is there for all to draw on. The Well that gives you access to it must be cleaned and maintained. You can change where you live and who you associate with, but you can't change the Well and the needs it represents. Losing and acquiring, coming and going, all are part of the Well and its water. If all you find is mud in the Well, you haven't gone deep enough. Your rope is too short. If you ruin the pitcher used to draw the water, you will be cut off from the spirits and left open to danger.

### THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows inner penetration flowing out into the world. Above the wood there is the stream. Turn potential conflict into creative tension. When what is above is confined, what is below is reversed. The Well means interpenetrating and free communication. It is the Earth in which the power to realise the Way is grounded. It means staying where you are but shifting your ideas by differentiating what is right. Work for the common good at humble tasks to encourage fortunate meetings. Inner penetrating reaches to the stream and brings it to the surface. The Well nourishes without being exhausted. You can change where you live, but you can't change the Well. It is the solid centre. If you only bring up mud, your rope isn't long enough. You haven't achieved anything yet. If you ruin the pitcher used to hold the water, you will be cut off from the spirits and left open to danger.

## THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

**Above Wood, the Stream. Well.**

**This is a time when Noble One toils for the common good to encourage mutualizing.**

*Spirit works in those who lay out the offerings to reward those toiling in the Pit. The Lady of Fates is working with the Ghost River. Rushing Water above dissolves direction and shape, flowing on through toil and danger, while Wind and Wood enter subtly from below, penetrating, pervading and coupling. This is Water over Wood: it reaches the inner ground, where the water wells up from below to support our common life. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by unceasingly toiling for the common good. He inspires people to find ways to share and support each other, carried by the Bright Omens. Dissolve the old self.*

## TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

### INITIAL SIX

**This Well is a bog. They do not drink here.**

**An old well becomes a pitfall that no creatures come to.**

*This is below and the right time is missed. The sources of life and order are muddy and bogged down. Nothing good will come of doing things this way. It is time to change.*

*Direction: Wait for the right moment to act. Turn conflict into creative tension. You can realise hidden potential. The situation is already changing.*

### NINE AT SECOND

**This Well is a gully where people shoot fish.**

**The jug is cracked and leaking.**

*This means no associates or friends. The sources of life and order are not taken care of. Each seeks his own gain. There is no container. His time to change.*

*Direction: Re-imagine the situation*

### NINE AT THIRD



**This Well is turbid. They do not drink here.**

**‘This makes my heart ache.’**

**If the King made a covenant, we could share this blessing together.**

*Moving and aching. Soon you will accept the blessing. This is the sorrow of someone who is connected to the source of the common good, but has no one with whom to share it. There is nothing you can do now. Be prepared to move on. In the end you will be recognized and blessings will flow.*

*Direction: Take the risk. Be open and provide what is needed.*

**SIX AT FOURTH**

**This Well is being lined with tiles.**

*This is adjusting the Well. A time of inner work and improvement. You may feel cut off from the outer world, but have no fears. This inner preparation is not a mistake.*

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

**NINE AT FIFTH**

**This Well has cold, clear springwater to drink.**

*This is centred and correct. This is a clear, pure source of life-water for everyone to draw on. Use it and give thanks.*

*Direction: Make the effort. If you let yourself be led, you can realise your hidden potential. The situation is already changing.*

**SIX ABOVE**

**This Well receives and gives to all, do not cover it.**

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

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

*The Way to the Source located above. This is Great accomplishment. Receive and give things freely. This is a source of spiritual nourishment for everyone. Don't hide it away. The Way is fundamentally open. You can accomplish great things.*

*Direction: Subtly penetrate to the heart of things. Turn conflict into creative tension. The situation is already changing.*

