

8 Grouping/Calling and Gathering the Spirits Bi



GROUPING

Mutual support, spirit kinship; change how you think and who you are grouped with; appearance of Yu the Great, site of creative transformation.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *Crowds rising up must have a place to form groups. Accept this and use the energy of Grouping. Grouping means forming new groups.*

Grouping shows the new gathering of forces after the armies had conquered Shang, also imaged as Yu the Great bringing the spirits together after taming the flood. It is the moment when the spirits and lords gather around a new chief, a new time after the flood or chaos of war. It is a ritual gathering of energies, a masked dance with all the animal powers on the sacred mountain that combines instruction, incantation, and the investing of the powers. It also represents a *pi*-sacrifice to the female ancestors and alludes to men and women joining at the River-Mountain festival, a great ritual dance, feast and celebration that affirms the community of humans and spirits and invites the souls to return.

When Yu tamed the waters and established the Way, he called an assembly of the *shen*, the lords and spirits, on Mao Shan, the sacred mountain, to assign the fiefs and help the people. But Feng-fang, demon of the past season, held back and was late. Yu killed him and beheaded his corpse, sending him to the limits of the world to stand guard. Gong Gong was the one who had stirred the waters to crash in waves against the Hollow Mulberry, threatening the world. Yu curbed him and exiled him to stand guard at the edge of the world. Xianlu was Gong Gong's minister, a nine-headed serpent who turned anything he touched to marshes and swamps. Yu killed him. His blood stank so much Yu had to empty the marsh three times. He stabilized this bloody swamp by making it into a great terrace for the spirits from the north and east, bringing them into the group. Then, finally, the Ghost River flowed peacefully in

the Way. People made images of the monsters and no longer suffered from the waves. The waters became an ever-flowing source, like the oracles, Earth's springs that nourish all.

The sacrifice of Feng-fang on Mao Shan marks the time when 'the power and virtue (*de*) of Yu and the Xia grew to plenitude'. After a ritual combat and death, the Two Royal Dragons, symbol of the lineage, descended on Yu. He received the homage and loyalty oaths of the Myriad *shen* (River and Mountain spirits) and lords (gods of soil and grains, the Earth Altars) who form the sacred places. Yu became the First Ancestor through the sacrifice of Feng-fang, the Monster at the End of the World. There are temples to both figures on the sacred mountains, victor and victim, Thunder Dragon and Wind Bull. They are *zhen* and *sun*, thunder and wind, and the sacrifice that institutes the Royal Marriage and the River-Mountain festivals.

THE RESPONSE

Grouping. Gather the spirits. Wise Words! The Way opens.

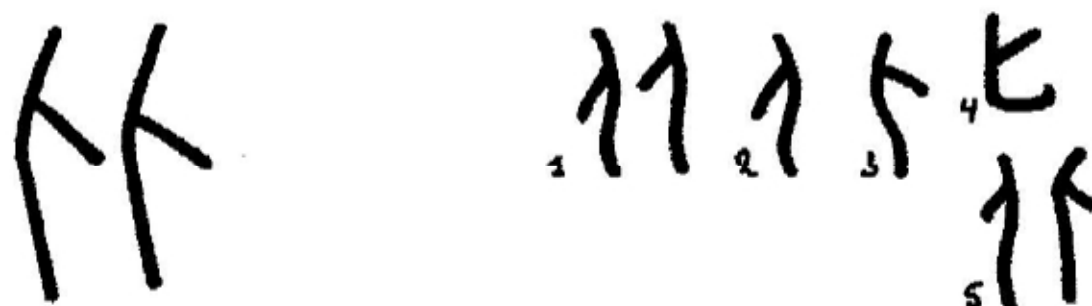
Trace the oracle to its wellspring. Trial: an ever-flowing Source.

This is not a mistake.

This is not soothing, they are coming from the Four Hidden Lands.

For the 'Late Man', Trap! The Way closes.

Group, Bi: join together, ally; spiritual connections; find a new centre, join a new group; find what you belong with; order things in classes, compare and select; harmonize, unite, equal, identical; co-ordinate, approach, accord with what is good; classified correctly, a fundamental group of five households; gather, group with, align, range, rank; work together, work towards, neighbours; gathering the lords. The old character shows two people standing or walking close together. The figures look backward in order to know the future.





BI³ (8794/81): The character represents two people standing or walking behind each other. A person turned to the left, REN², (2) is man, a person turned to the right, BI³, (3 and 4: deceased mother) is a symbol for female. North, BEI³, (5) is two people standing back to back or a man and a woman.

Grouping describes your situation in terms of the people and things with which your spirit connects you. The way to deal with it is to look at who you group yourself with, and how you use ideas to categorize things. The way you put things and people together is changing. Stop and take a look around. Try to perceive essential qualities in order to get to the heart of the matter. Compare things and sort them out. Find what you belong with. You can ask your question in many different ways. The oracle will help you. This is not a mistake. It generates meaning and good fortune by releasing transformative energy. This is not a soothing time. Things are coming at you from all sides, demanding that you consider them. Do it now. If you put it off and try to manage it later, you will be cut off from the spirits and left open to danger.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows relationships dissolving. The stream is above the Earth. Strip away your old ideas. You are confronted with crowds of things and must find new ways to group them. This doesn't have to be painful. You can take delight in this activity. Let harmony, pleasure and elegance be a key. The early Kings used this time to establish cities that connect and define the different peoples. Give each thing a place where it can actively and joyously join with others of its kind. Pay attention to what supports you from below. Try to connect your ideals and goals with an underlying support. Do not put it off! Take advantage of the profusion of things coming at you and change now.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Above Earth, the Stream. Grouping.

A time when Early Kings ennobled vassals to connect the myriad cities.

Spirit offered service at the Earth Altar rewards those toiling in the Pit. This is the Ghost River and the Earth Altar. Rushing Water above

dissolves direction and shape, while Earth below yields and sustains. It is Water over Earth: the outer world dissolves and changes, while a new grouping appears on the inner field. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by emulating the early Kings who bestowed responsibility on others and bound them with ties of affection. Hold your heart fast and take the risk.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL SIX

Group them!

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

This is not a mistake.

This connection fills the earthen vessels to overflowing.

The completion is coming. Even more! Wise Words! The Way is open.

The beginning will have more. The Way is open. Becoming part of this group will connect you with the flow of the spirit. Your bodies are the vessels. This connection is certain. There is no mistake here. This group overflows with love and care. As you become part of it, you will find there is more on the way.

Direction: Give everything a place to grow. Strip away old ideas and be open to new ones.

SIX AT SECOND

Calling and grouping the spirits.

Group them from the origin inside.

Trial: Wise Words! The Way is open.

Do not let go of the origin. Your connection puts you at the centre of this group, a part of its origin. The Way is open to you. Gather people around this. Don't let the connection slip through your fingers.

Direction: Commit yourself. Take risks. Be open to the new and provide what is needed.



SIX AT THIRD

Grouped with the unpeople, the victims!

Trap! The Way closes.

Won't this truly injure you? The people you are involved with now will do you no good. Danger. This is not where you belong. Leave now before you are sacrificed along with the others.

Direction: Re-imagine the situation. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

SIX AT FOURTH

Outside the Group.

Trial: Wise Words! the Way is open.

This means adhering to what is above. You feel outside this group, but you are in this position because of your moral and intellectual worth. Stick to your work and your values and you will influence them. The Way is open.

Direction: Assemble things for a great new project. Proceed through gentle penetration. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

NINE AT FIFTH

Illustrious Grouping!

The King uses beaters on three sides of the hunt.

He lets the game go that runs before him.

Thus the capital's people are not frightened away.

Wise Words! The Way is open.

This situation is centred and correct. Lose the rebellious and grasp the yielding. Employ the centre above. This is the royal hunt after a battle. You are looking for people to be with and a social identity in which you can find a place. Don't try to coerce or impress people. Let your virtue shine. This creates a true and willing bond in which the people you contact are there because they want to be. Deep affinities have a chance to work. Acting like this opens the way to real connections.

Direction: Be open. Provide what is needed.

SIX ABOVE

Grouping them without a head.

Trap! The Way closes.

This is no place to complete things! This is not the group for you. It has no goal and no purpose. It is going nowhere fast. Leave now or face disaster.

Direction: Take a deeper look. Strip away old ideas and be open to new ones.