



18 Corruption and Pestilence/ Renovating GU



Perversion, corruption, decay; plague, pestilence, death of a parent, negative effects of parents on children; parental images, inner family; sexual infatuation; renew, renovate, new beginning.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *Having a joyous Following means you must render service to the ancestral images. Accept this and use the energy of Corruption. Corruption means offering service to the ancestors.*

This figure probably refers to a turtle divination done to determine the most auspicious time for King Wu's army to cross the Fords of Meng on the Yellow River ('The River') and move on to battle with the Shang in the Wilds of Mu. One of its traditional images is a vase containing the five poisonous insects – snake, scorpion, centipede, gecko and toad – that were put into a jar and left until one had killed and eaten the others. This became the *Gu* – a spirit venom capable of not only crazing and killing a victim but also securing his possessions and wealth for the perpetrator of the magic. It suggests hallucination, loss of reality, sexual debauch, the insects that appear in rotting or fermenting grain, miasma, sorcery and, most of all, the curse of the ancestors, the pestilence they send when they are neglected or offended. *Gu* is first of all poisonous acts done by or to fathers and mothers that become manifest in the children. It extends to straightening, handling, managing these affairs in an individual's life, work with the inner family or parental images we all carry with us. This is the time when the new seed sprouts, a 'stem-day', and must be carefully watched. It is the moment when we pass into action, cross the river, to deal with these things.

Ancestral *Gu* played a great part in the fall of the Shang. Zhou Xin, the last tyrant, deeply angered the ancestors by disregarding the sacrifices. It was said they had not eaten in sixty years! The search for the offended ancestor causing trouble is alluded to in the

lines of this figure, which have the shape and rhythm of oracle bone consultation pairs. These might have been made just before the conquest in a desperate attempt to find which ancestors were cursing the state. The Zhou preserved them in the yarrow stalk oracle as an example of the kind of corruption to be remedied.

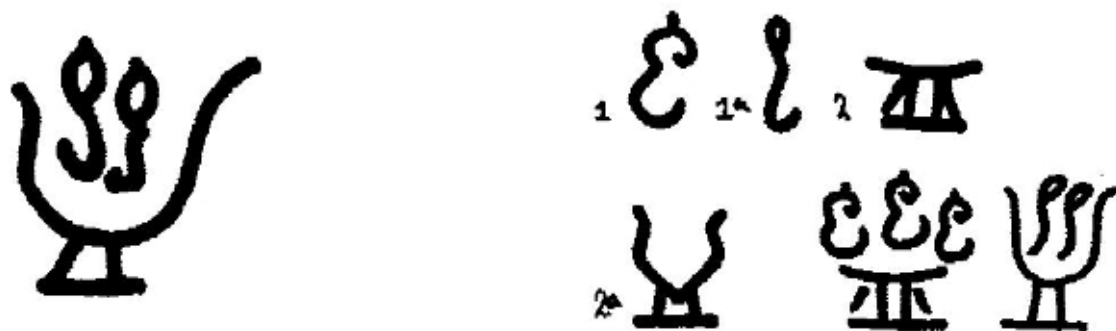
THE RESPONSE

Corruption and Pestilence. The Source of Success.

Advantageous to step into the Great Stream. Harvesting.

Before 'seedburst' three days, after 'seedburst' three days.

Corruption/Pestilence, GU: rotten, poisonous, defiled; intestinal worms, venomous insects; perversion, evil effects of parents and the past; black magic, hallucinations; seduce, pervert, flatter, put under a spell; disorder, error; engage in business; the first Celestial Stem, the first day of the ten-day week when decay is removed to support new growth. The old character shows worms in the meat contained in a sacrificial vessel, the shared meal spoiled.



GU³ (6159/142) shows a sacrificial vessel MIN³ (2/2a) with insects or worms CHONG² (1/1a) in the meat.

Corruption/Renovating describes your situation in terms of poison, putrefaction, black magic and the evil deeds done by parents that are manifested in their children. The way to deal with it is to help things rot away so that a new beginning can be found. You are facing something that has turned to poison. Search out the source so new growth can begin. This is pleasing to the spirits. Through it they will give you success, effective power and the capacity to bring the situation to maturity. This is the right time to enter the Stream of Life with a goal, or to embark on a significant enterprise. That brings profit and insight. Prepare the moment when the new time arrives and carefully watch over its first growth. It will take three days, a whole period of activity, before the seed of the new energy bursts open, and a similar period afterwards to stabilize it.



THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows an obstacle in the outer world that turns inner growth back on itself. Below the mountain there is wind. If you let yourself be led, you can realise a hidden potential. Being engaged in the world of affairs and the service of kings always implies corruption. If you find its source, you can stabilize the situation. Rouse up the undeveloped potential outside your normal set of values in order to nurture the power to realise what you must do. A solid limit above is stopping the nourishment of new growth. This means corruption. This rotting away can be the beginning of a new spring. Make the effort. This is pleasing to the spirits. Through it they will give you success, effective power and the capacity to bring the situation to maturity. You can regulate the world anew. Set out with a firm purpose. You will soon have enough to keep you busy. Watch carefully before and after the opening. You can bring things to a conclusion that results in a new beginning. The spirit above is moving in this situation.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Wind below Mountain. Corruption and Pestilence.

A time when Noble One joins and rouses the commoners to nurture power and virtue.

Spirit works in those who lay out the offerings. Its words bind us and accomplish fate. These are the Operators, the ones who work with the spirits. Mountain above limits and articulates what is complete to suggest what is beginning, while Wind and Wood enter subtly from below, penetrating, pervading and coupling with the new. It is Earth over Wood: an outer limit that turns the focus on inner corruption. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by rousing a sense of our common needs, strengthening the power to renew the Ancestral images. You are journeying into the world of the great symbols.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL SIX

Corruption. Managing and straightening the Father's Pestilence.

The offspring correct the faults of the predecessors.

Adversity, hungry souls and angry ghosts.

Wise Words! Completing this opens the Way.

This means taking predecessor's intention in hand. You must deal with the corruption of authority. This means danger with roots in the past. If you can manage this, the Way will open. Take on the responsibility like a son or daughter who redeems the ancestors and go through it to the end. This is the place of Yu the Great, the hero who redeemed his father's work and of King Wu, who launched the armies and redeemed the time.

Direction: Concentrate. Focus. Be active. If you let yourself be led, you can realise hidden potential. The situation is already changing.

NINE AT SECOND

Corruption. Managing and straightening the Mother's Pestilence.

This is not an Enabling Trial.

This means acquiring the centre and the Way. You must deal with the corruption of nourishment and care. Get to the source of the trouble before you put things into motion. You cannot simply take action. Put yourself in the middle of the situation and try to find the Way. Then you can see and change the obstruction.

Direction: Find and articulate the obstacles. Release bound energy. The situation is already changing.

NINE AT THIRD

Corruption. Managing and straightening the Father's Pestilence.

Small has cause for sorrow.

Without the Great, a mistake.

Completing this is not a mistake. You must deal with the corruption of authority. There will be regrets that you co-operated with it in the past. You must have a strong central purpose to come through.



Direction: There is something hidden that will unfold in this situation. Be open and provide what is needed.

SIX AT FOURTH

Abundant Corruption. Enriching the 'bathing' Father.

Going on like this you will see distress.

This means going and not acquiring it. You are colluding with the corruption of authority. This figure is in the process of changing, so don't simply follow the old ways. If you do, you will end up both lonely and confused, cut off from the Way.

Direction: Transform your awareness. Be resolute. You are connected with a creative force.

SIX AT FIFTH

Corruption. Managing and straightening the Father's Pestilence.

Use praise to accomplish the task.

This means receiving and using power and virtue. You must deal with the corruption of authority. Don't attack directly. Use praise to accomplish the task. You will disarm your opponent and reclaim your own power. In the process you will find out what your purpose really is.

Direction: Subtly penetrate to the core of the problem. Turn conflict into creative tension. The situation is already changing.

NINE ABOVE

Corruption. Don't involve yourself in the Pestilence affecting the kings and the lords.

Honouring what is highest is your affair.

This allows you to find your purpose. You should keep clear of the current corruption of business and politics. You have another job, finding and honouring what is truly noble in the human spirit. You will be rewarded for this. These are the people who work on in a dark time to prepare the new dawn.

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