

4 Enveloping/ Royal Maiden MENG



Immature, unaware, foolish, the 'foolish youth'; hidden, concealed; a magic plant called Royal Maiden; nurture hidden growth; a foetus in the womb.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *All being as it gives birth must be enveloped. Accept this and use the energy of enveloping. Enveloping means being immature.*

The basic image of Enveloping is 'covered sky', something veiled and hidden. It is hidden growth protecting a secret gift from the spirit. Enveloping suggests dreaming and the womb, rites of passage and initiations, hidden secrets, oracle consultation, fraud and hidden magic. It points at the entrance of souls into the world, 'fixing' (*heng*) the souls from the Ghost River, and to nurturing a hidden mandate, a command from the spirit. It suggests the growth of a sage or an Intermediary, a *wu*, with great inner power. A major metaphor for this is the parasitic plant known as Royal Maiden (in English, the Dodder) and the process whereby it is gathered and prepared for use. Royal Maiden was thought to appear spontaneously and be a sign of spirit presence. It was gathered and used by the *wu* or spirit dancers in rituals and marriage preparations. Its appearance is also an image of the foetus growing in the womb.

The line 'I do not seek the foolish youth. The foolish youth seeks me' may be a ritual disclaimer against violating the Royal Maiden or an insistence on the respect due to the oracle. It also has a deliberate historical allusion. It is a comment by the Noble Jizi, mentioned in Figure 36 as an image of hidden virtue, lamenting the fall of the Shang. It points at a great hidden secret, the particular moment when the Numinous Turtle informed the Shang that the Mandate of Heaven had been withdrawn and they would no longer receive answers from the spirits through the oracle. Enveloping represents this change. It is a secret event of great import, necessitating hidden process, magic ritual and nurturing through inner awareness. This is represented by the veiled or covered sky. It suggests the preparation

of the numinous plant, the hidden messages of the oracle, inner development and the education of the young.

THE RESPONSE

Enveloping. The Royal Maiden. Make an offering and you will succeed.

'I did not seek the foolish youth, the foolish youth sought me.'

At the first consultation, there is a notification: 'the old time is ending'.

You ask two and three times and it is obscured.

When things are obscured, there is no longer a notification,

Advantageous Trial for the 'foolish youth'. Harvesting.

Envelop, MENG: cover, hide, conceal, veiled, hidden; lid, covering, womb, hidden growth; dull, unaware, ignorant; uneducated; young, undeveloped, fragile; presence of the unseen; trick, fool, deceive, cheat, fraud, hunters disguised in animal skins; occult, hidden mysteries; guile necessary at the beginnings of things; *also*: a parasitic and magical plant, the Royal Maiden. The old character shows the covered sky as a dwelling. Magical plants sprout from the roof while within is the pig sacrifice to the underworld and the hidden strength of jade. It suggests a hidden temple and nurturing hidden growth.



MÉNG² (7722) shows a pig or jade (3), a cover or roof (2) and plants (1).

Enveloping describes your situation in terms of staying under cover. You are immature and your awareness of the problem is dull and clouded. The way to deal with it is to accept being hidden in order to nurture growing awareness. Pull the covers over. Put the lid on. There is much concealed from you. You don't really know what you are doing. But the beginnings are definitely there, even if you can't yet see them. You didn't ask for this problem. It asked for you and it belongs with you. The first time you consult the oracle about this, it will advise and inform you. If you keep on asking, you muddy the

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ENVELOPING

waters. Accept that you are the foolish youth. Your awareness must grow and change. Put your ideas to the trial. That brings profit and insight. Keep working on your problem. It will educate you.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows an outer obstacle that protects an inner source. Below the mountain a spring emerges. Energy is returning below. Turn back to meet it. The answer is already there, but it is immature and has to be protected. Enveloping means being immature. Don't pretend you know it already. Accept being visibly confused. Work on things gradually, like a plant bearing fruit. Aggressive action is blocked because this is the season for inner growth. The oracle confirms this. Don't keep asking the same question. Use your confusion to envelop your premature desire to act. What you see as an obstacle is there to nourish your awareness and correct your one-sided view of things. When you can really accept and understand this, you will most certainly become wise.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Below Mountain, spring water issues forth. Enveloping.

A time when Noble One ripens the fruits, nurturing power and virtue.

The words of the spirit bind us and accomplish fate. The Sacrificer works with the Ghost River. Mountain above articulates what is complete to suggest what is beginning, while Rushing Water below dissolves direction and shape. This is Earth over Water: an outer limit hides and shields the inner process. The idea Realising Person reflects this by ripening the hidden fruit that will actualize the Way. Make the sacrifice. A cycle is ending. Let the difficulties dissolve.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL SIX

Enveloping shoots forth.

'We dislodge the Royal Maiden.'

Advantageous to punish people. Harvesting.

Loose the fettered, shackled youth or going on brings distress.

This means correcting the laws. You have to correct a far-reaching error. Be clear and discriminating with the people around you. Free the youthful energy that you are now confining. Simply going on will cover you with distress and confusion.

Direction: Decrease passionate involvement. Something important is returning. Be open and provide what is needed.

NINE AT SECOND

Enwrapped and Enveloped.

'We carry the Royal Maiden.' Wise Words! The Way opens.

Let in the wife.

This young son can control the dwelling.

This means articulating the strong and the supple. Here being hidden and enveloped turns into caring for and protecting someone. It is time to take a wife and establish a dwelling. You have the ability to do this and the time is right.

Direction: Strip away your old ideas and be open to the new. Provide what is needed.

SIX AT THIRD

Enveloping. The Royal Maiden. Do not try to grasp this woman!

See her armoured husband. Do not try to possess her body!

There is no advantageous direction.

Do not yield to this impulse! You are flirting with something that is beyond you. If you become personally involved with this, you will lose your independence and your capacity to express yourself. There is great danger. This is the bride of the King, who will defend her. There is nothing of value here for you. Do not try to grasp and hold on to it.

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

SIX AT FOURTH

Enveloping confined.

'We bundle the Royal Maiden.' Distress.

This is solitary and distant from the real. You are locking your youthful spirit in a prison. You don't have to confine your affection and your insights so rigidly. This just leads to distress and confusion. You are cutting yourself off from what is real.

Direction: Gather energy for a decisive new move.

SIX AT FIFTH

The 'foolish youth' Enveloped. Wise Words!

The Way is open.

Yielding and using subtle penetration. King Wu, the great hero, is in hiding, awaiting the right time. This is the perfect way to deal with the situation. You have accepted your immaturity and the fact that there is something hidden in the situation. All will go well. The Way will open and lead to real connection and real understanding. Be patient and have faith.

Direction: Disperse obstacles to understanding. Take things in. Be open and provide what is needed.

NINE ABOVE

Attacking the Enveloping.

'We beat the Royal Maiden!'

Not advantageous to act like an outlaw.

Advantageous to resist being an outlaw. Harvesting.

This means the above and the below must be yielding. You are fighting against the very processes that, in the long run, will give you what you need. This is a time for inner work. Resist the temptation to act impulsively. The fruit will literally fall into your hand.

Direction: Use this time to organize yourself. Return to the source. Be open and provide what is needed.