



39 Limping/ Difficulties JIAN



LIMPING

Obstacles, afflictions, feeling hampered; overcome difficulties by re-imagining the situation; appearance of Yu the Great, the limping god; a seed figure.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *When you turn away, there will be heaviness and trouble. Accept this and use the energy of Limping. This means heaviness and trouble.*

Limping invokes the hero Yu the Great, the limping god, who tamed the flood, fixing the omens and opening the channels. It combines the meanings 'lame, limping, hobbled; difficulties, poverty, suffering' with the meanings 'straight, honest, frank'. The advice is: 'progress not possible, stop and change your ideas'. This is imaged in the person of Yu, who combines unceasing toil and great adaptability.

Yu channelled the overflowing waters from the underworld Ghost River, inheriting the task from his father, Gun. He changed the strategy from heroic, lonely striving to collective effort, building the dikes, channels and dams that opened the Watercourse Way, the foundation of culture. He obtained the aid of Responding Dragon and Numinous Turtle. He called the lords and spirits together. He established the divinatory vessels, the *Nine Ding*, clearing communication with the spirit world. In doing this he redeemed his father, the disgraced and executed Gun. Yu limps on through great difficulties, flowing like water. His limping is a sign of selfless toil and an enduring connection with the underworld.

This is reflected in the phrase that runs through this figure, *wang lai*, going and coming, the river of time on which the seeds or symbols of events flow toward us. 'Going' represents what is leaving the field of awareness. It suggests the past, the dead and the waters of the dead. It means leave, flee, as well as put into practice, go in the direction of. It is the *wang*-sacrifice, an exorcism of noxious influences. 'Coming' represents arriving from the future, attracting good influences, grain received in tribute, what comes



Contact important people who can help you and think about what your central idea really is. Putting your ideas to the trial generates meaning and good fortune by releasing transformative energy.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows an inner limit and an outer danger. Above the mountain is the Pit. Gather your energy for a decisive new move. Turning away from something is always arduous and heavy. Limping implies heaviness. But by reversing the direction of what you are doing, you can renovate your power to realise the Way. This is a difficult and heavy time. There is danger in front of you; if you can see it and stop, you will really understand the situation. In a difficult time, retreating and joining with others brings profit and insight. You can acquire the strong, calm centre. Through attack and lonely striving you will only exhaust your Way. See Great People. Consult those who can help you to see what is great in your own ideas. This brings profit and insight. Proceeding in this way leads to achievement. The situation is appropriate. Correct the way you are apportioning power and who you depend on. By re-imagining your situation, you connect with what is truly great.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Stream above Mountain.

This is a time when Noble One reverses his personality to renovate his power and virtue.

Spirit words bind us and accomplish fate, rewarding those toiling in the Pit. The Sacrificer is working with the Ghost River. Rushing Water above dissolves direction and shape, flowing on through toil and danger, while Mountain below limits and articulates what is complete to suggest what is beginning. This is Water over Earth: an inner field that blocks and articulates the outer flow. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by turning back on himself to renew his connection to the Way. Hold the heart fast and take the risk. Nurture the new.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL SIX

Limping. Difficulties going, praise and ease coming.

It is proper to await this. Limping on, while feeling cut off and frustrated. Resist the temptation to push your way through. If you wait and open yourself to new thoughts, all these frustrations will disappear. You will be praised for doing this.

Direction: The situation is already changing.

SIX AT SECOND

Limping like Yu. The King's servant: Difficulties, Difficulties!

His own person is definitely not the cause.

This means completing it without excess. This is the line of the great hero Yu, through whose ceaseless work the land we live on emerged from the swamps. 'Without Yu, we would all be fishes.' You are pushing on through a sea of troubles and you don't really know why everything is so complicated. Be calm in your heart. The difficulties you are facing are not your fault. Though it doesn't make it any easier, you are truly called on to confront them. Much good will come of this.

Direction: Connect with common needs and strengths. Turn conflict into creative tension. The situation is already changing.

NINE AT THIRD

Limping. Difficulties going, reverse is coming.

What is inside will rejoice in this. You are limping on, but don't keep chasing what you want. Don't force it. If you just wait calmly, the whole situation will reverse itself. Then you will truly have cause to rejoice.

Direction: Change who you associate with. Strip away your old ideas. Be open and provide what is needed.

Limping. Difficulties going, connection is coming.

This is an appropriate and substantial position. Limping on, you feel lonely and think the world is against you. You are beating your head against a brick wall. Relax. There are people looking for you right now who can see how valuable you are.

Direction: Open yourself to this influence. It couples you with a creative force.



LIMPING

NINE AT FIFTH

Limping like Yu. In Great Difficulties, partners come.

This means articulating the centre. Yu calls the spirits and the lords. You are in the middle of great difficulties, about to give up. New spirit and new partners will soon be there to help you. What you are doing is very important. Don't give up now.

Direction: Stay humble and connected to the facts. Release bound energy. Dissolve obstacles to understanding. The situation is already changing.

SIX ABOVE

Limping. Difficulties going, ripeness and abundance coming.
The seeds.

Wise Words! The Way opens.

Advantageous to see this Great Person. Harvesting.

The purpose is inside. Adhere to it and value it. Do not try to impose your will. Let go and the situation will drop into your hand like a ripe plum. Things are full of promise. Talk to someone who can connect you with the great and help you reflect on what is going on. See the spirit at the heart of the situation. A whole new world is appearing from the waters.

Direction: Proceed step by step. Gather energy for a decisive new move.