

53 Gradual Advance/Marrying Woman JIAN



GRADUAL ADVANCE

Smooth, adaptable progress; infiltrate, penetrate like water; ceremonies leading to a formal marriage; a seed figure.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *Things cannot be stopped without end. Accept this and use the energy of Gradual Advance through the Marrying Woman. This means advancing.*

Gradual Advance is a model of a particular kind of change, imaged in the marriage of the Older Sister. It is a formal ritual progression that leads to union and establishment in the symbolic world, imaged by the infiltrating power of wind, wood and water. This change occurs step by step, through a subtle, gradual and sure advance. It is regular development that proceeds in stages, crossing thresholds in the advance to union and its celebration in dance and festival, its perfection in the symbolic order. The root is water and the term suggests leading water in channels, the course of a river, the watercourse way.

Marriage was one of the major mythic events. Spouses worship the ancestors together and form an inseparable unit in death. A noble married only once. Family alliances, ancestors, politics and religion were all involved. A man married a sororal group, and the 'junior sisters' who went with the First Bride or Consort formed a close-knit group. The love between man and woman that marriage engendered and the emotions and jealousies it provoked was considered a potent and dangerous emotion that doubled the creative force of the cosmos, the connection between Heaven and Earth. It was channelled and articulated in the marriage rites and the River-Mountain festivals and was seen as an image of the fundamental process of Change.

This figure portrays an advance to a goal such as the union of marriage and the sacred dances that connect the couple to the spirit or symbolic world. The Wild Goose, which was presented at the marriage ceremony, is a symbol of this journey that includes

the melancholy of separation, the risks that surround love and the vow or bond that founds an enduring union. The migrations of the wild geese were seen as the great movements of the soul, connected with the spring and autumn festivals. They suggest the *wu* dancing with feathers in front of the Ancestral Temple and the men taken away to war, those who followed King Wu into the Mu wilderness and wilds of Shang. This image invokes bird omens and bird dances, the transformation dances that connect to spirit energies, and the Hidden Temple where unions are made, symbolized as red threads that bind a man and woman in a fated relation. We see souls transformed to birds, life as a flight, a migratory journey made in pairs. The name of this figure describes their flight, crossing the water, skimming, gliding and settling at each stage in their journey.

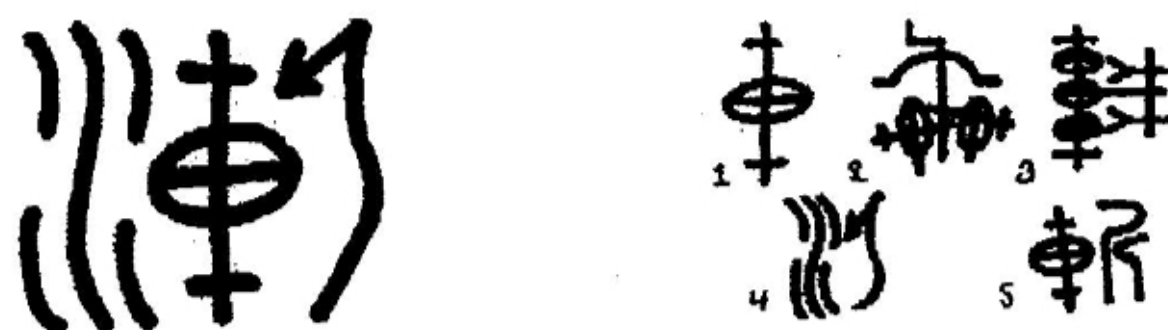
THE RESPONSE

Gradual Advance. Marrying Woman.

Wise Words! The Way is open.

Advantageous Trial. Harvesting.

Gradual Advance, JIAN: Advance by degrees, gracefully; penetrate slowly and surely like water; adapt, infiltrate; flexible, supple, submissive; permeate, influence, affect; formal marriage and festivities of the eldest daughter; channels in which water flows; the skimming, gliding flight of wild geese. The old character shows the sign for river, a central axis or wheel and a trench or channel. It also suggests a high mountain in central China where kings made sacrifice.



JIAN⁴ (1544/85) shows a river, a wheel (1) and a trench or groove, a channel for the water. The old character (2 and 3) suggests a waterwheel. Without the wheel, the character means cut through, chop off (4 and 5).

Gradual Advance describes your situation in terms of gradually achieving a goal with the image of the elder daughter's wedding



procession. The way to deal with it is to advance slowly and steadily through subtle penetration. Move through the woman and the yin. Through infiltrating, you find the place where you belong. Proceed step by step, and don't try to dominate the situation. This generates meaning and good fortune by releasing transformative energy. You will ultimately achieve mastery and find a new field of activity. Put your ideas to the trial. This brings profit and insight.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows an inner limit that stabilizes outer growth. Above the mountain there is a tree. Gather energy for a decisive new move. You can't just stay in one place. Infiltrating means advancing. Be like a woman given in marriage who gives priority to the man's initiative. Depend on your moral and intellectual strength and your power to realise the Way to improve the everyday situation. This will certainly advance you. By moving through yin and the woman you achieve mastery and a new field of activity. You acquire the place you desire. Pushing on brings real achievement. Correct yourself in order to advance. This lets you correct the way power and responsibility are assigned. You will acquire a solid place in the centre. Stabilize your desire and be adaptable. Gently penetrate to the core of the situation. Thus the new energy that is stirring will not be exhausted.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Tree above Mountain. Gradual Advance.

This is a time when Noble One resides in eminence, power and virtue to improve the vulgar.

Spirit words bind us and accomplish fate, working in those who lay out the offerings. These are the Operators, the Sacrificer and the Lady of Fates. Wind and Wood above enter subtly, penetrating, pervading and coupling, while Mountain below limits and articulates what is complete to suggest what is beginning. This is Wood over Earth: on the inner field that supports outer penetration and coupling. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by firmly residing in his innate power to actualize the Way, transforming what is mean-spirited and grasping. Work through joyous words to bring the spirit to expression. Renovate the Ancestral Images.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL SIX

Gradual Advance. The Marrying Woman.

Wild geese settle on the riverbank.

Small son encounters adversity, hungry souls and angry ghosts.

There are words. Nothing is lacking.

This is righteous, not a mistake. First steps of the path to union. You encounter danger from the past, but the creative energy is still there. This is not a mistake. Have no fear. Speak out. You lack nothing.
Direction: Gather energy for a decisive new move.

SIX AT SECOND

Gradual Advance. The Marrying Woman.

Wild geese settle on the stone.

Eating and drinking, Feasting! Feasting!

Wise Words! The Way is open.

This is not simply gratification. The sacred meal. On the path to union, you find a secure place and a warm connection. Enjoy yourself now. The Way is open. The journey will soon resume. This is the paradise time of the River-Mountain festival.
Direction: Subtly penetrate to the heart of things. Turn conflict into creative tension. The situation is already changing.

NINE AT THIRD

Gradual Advance. The Marrying Woman.

Wild geese glide over the high plateau and the ancient forest.

The husband goes on campaign and does not return.

The wife is pregnant and does not nurture a child.

Trap! The Way closes for them.

Advantageous to resist becoming an outlaw. Harvesting.

A bunch of flocking demons, the wife lets go of the Way. Yield to and mutually protect each other. Separated on the path to union. You have taken a wrong turn. Things are falling apart in mutual recrimination. The Way is closing and creative energy dispersed. Firmly



resist the temptation to become violent or withholding. Find what you can do to help each other.

Direction: Let everything come into view. Strip away old ideas. Be open and provide what is needed.

SIX AT FOURTH

Gradual Advance. The Marrying Woman.

Wild geese settle on the trees.

'Someone' acquires a branch to rest on, the rafters of the house.

This is not a mistake.

This is yielding and using subtle penetration. This is a resting place after a great transition and a great portent of future happiness. Have no fear, this is not a mistake.

Direction: Through retiring you will be coupled with a creative force.

NINE AT FIFTH

Gradual Advance. The Marrying Woman.

Wild geese settle on the grave mounds.

The wife is not pregnant for three years.

When this is complete, absolutely nothing can stop you.

Wise Words! The Way is open.

This is acquiring the place you desire. This is the penultimate step on the path to union. Your creative energy makes contact with the ancestors and the guardian spirits. This takes time, but when it is finished nothing will stop you. Have no fears. The Way is open.

Direction: Stabilize your desires. Release bound energy. The situation is already changing.

NINE ABOVE

Gradual Advance. The Marrying Woman.

Wild geese glide over the high plateau and the ancient forest.

Their feathers can be used in the great spirit dances.

Wise Words! The Way is open.

This does not allow disorder. The journey ends in the world of the spirit. Your love becomes a symbol that can activate fundamental

energies in the world we live in. Because you understand what symbols can do, the Way will always be open to you.

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