

# 34 Great Invigorating Strength DA ZHUANG



GREAT INVIGORATING

Great invigoration, a great idea; advance, focus, drive on; injury, wound, harm; driving animals, the First Herdsman.

## MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

**Charge to the Oracle:** *Beings cannot simply remain in withdrawal. Accept this and use the energy of Great Invigorating and the First Herdsman.*

The retreat is over and great strength takes the field. Invigorating Strength means both great strength and the strength of the Great Ones. It is cognate with a word that means injuring or doing harm and can signify: 'Attack them and injure them!'; causing or being injured. It signifies being adult, full-grown, in full vigour, with the capacity to kill and to offer sacrifice. It is the eighth month when the plants are resplendent and the grain ripens. It combines animal strength, force and treachery in the person of the First Herdsman, the nomad warrior and metal-magician, and tells the story of ultimate success in a battle or raid. This is the story of Wang Hai, the Shang ancestor who combines fertility, sexuality, ritual combat, great animal strength and violence. From him came the line of civilized rulers.

Wang Hai was the Herdsman, a metal-magician and a warrior, an Arouser. When he was guest of the ruler of Yi, Mian Chen, pasturing his flocks, he performed the war dance. He 'took a bird in each hand, ate its head and went into trance'. When he 'danced with metal shield and plumes', Mian Chen's wife was inflamed with desire. They enjoyed each other in secret and she became pregnant. Mian Chen killed him and exposed the corpse. The Lord of the River mourned him. Wang Hai's son used the River Lord's armies to invade Yi and kill Mian Chen, 'leading back the herds and flocks'. He 'used his neighbour's wealth'. This is a story of a cattle raid and change through force that established a new power. Wang Hai became a hero endowed with the strength of the Ram, able to make and wield bronze weapons. He was First

Herdsmen, who protected the flocks that fed the people and supplied the sacrifices.

It also tells the story of Chi You who invented metal weapons, head butting and sanctions the use of force. It is an image of the strength that bursts from the mountain retreat and its underworld waters.

Ko-lu Mountain burst open and out came water. Chi You gathered it and made bronze weapons from it. He conquered nine lords that year. Yung-hu Mountain burst open and out came water. Chi You gathered it and made lances and dagger axes. He conquered twelve lords that year. He has a bronze head and iron eyebrows. His ears are like swords and his head has horns. When he fights he butts people with his horns like a ram.

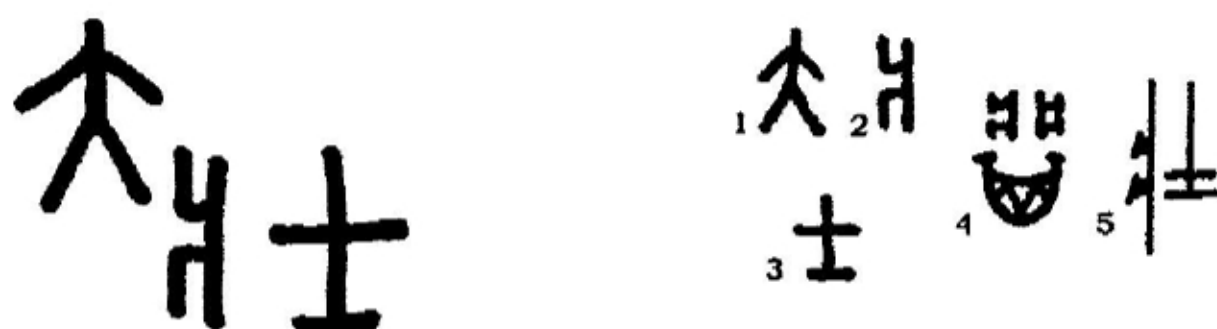
## THE RESPONSE

**Great Invigorating Strength. Drive the herds.**

**Advantageous Trial. Harvesting.**

**Great, DA:** big, noble, important; orient your will towards a self-imposed goal; ability to lead your life; yang energy. The old character shows the Great Person and his power to protect and shelter.

**Invigorate, ZHUANG:** inspire, animate, strengthen; strong, robust, vigorous, mature; a warrior, distinguished or eminent man; flourishing herds; eighth month when vegetation matures and the tenth moon, the moon of harvest; damage, wound, unrestrained strength. The old character shows a wooden or bamboo weapon and a robust man. It suggests Wang Hai, the First Herdsman.



DA<sup>4</sup> (10210/37) shows the Great Person (1). ZHUÀNG (2624/33) (another version at 5) is composed of QIANG, the left half of a tree (2), meaning stiff and strong, and SHI<sup>4</sup> (3), a phallus or a weapon.

Great Invigorating describes your situation in terms of strength, drive and invigorating power. The way to deal with it is to focus your strength through a central creative idea. Putting your ideas to



the trial will bring profit and insight. Beware of hurting others through excessive use of force.

### THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows inner force expressing itself directly and decisively. Thunder located above heaven. This is a time for resolute action. Come out of retirement. It is important to be able to hold on to your strength, for you must judge things for yourself and proceed on your own. A great idea implies strength and power. Something solid and strong is stirring things up. This is the source of your strength. Put your ideas to the trial. Correct one-sidedness in yourself and others. Having a great idea and continually correcting your path lets you look into the heart of Heaven and Earth.

### THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

**Thunder located above Heaven. Great Invigorates.**

**This is a time when Noble One uses the rules nowhere, treading outside them.**

*The spirit that awes and wars in Heaven manifests in quake and thunder. The Rouser is working with Force. Thunder above rouses and germinates new potential, while Heaven below struggles on, persistent and unwearied, the spark of yang born at the centre of the yin. This is Wood over Metal: great inner force that is directly expressed through rousing action. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by allowing the invigorating force to break through established codes of action. Work through rousing and inspiring. A new cycle is beginning. Disentangle yourself from the past.*

### TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL NINE

**Great Invigorating Strength in the feet.**

**Trap! Chastising closes the Way.**

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

*Don't exhaust the connection. You are out to conquer the world. Hold back just a moment. Don't try to tell other people what to do*



and don't set out on any adventurous expeditions. The spirits are with you, but start slowly.

*Direction:* Continue on. Be resolute. You are connected to a creative force.

#### NINE AT SECOND

**Great Invigorating Strength. Drive the animals forward.**

**Wise Words! Trial: The Way is open.**

*This is using the centre.* Drive on. Whatever you want to do will be successful. This begins a flourishing time.

*Direction:* A time of abundance. Don't be afraid to act alone. You are coupled to a creative force.

#### NINE AT THIRD

**Small People use Great Strength.**

**Noble One uses the empty spaces of a net.**

**Trial: adversity, hungry souls and angry ghosts.**

**'The ram butts a hedge and entangles his horns.'**

*This means Noble One uses strategy.* You drive on, trying to catch something. Don't force it. Use strategy and an open heart rather than aggression. You are confronting some troublesome past experiences. If you use force, like the ram you will only get yourself entangled.

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

#### NINE AT FOURTH

**Great Invigorating Strength. Wise Words! Trial: the Way is open.**

**The cause for sorrow disappears.**

**The hedge is broken through, no more entanglement.**

**Invigorate the axles of the great war chariots.**

*This is going towards honour.* The obstacle vanishes and you can do what you want. The past simply disappears. Drive on. There is nothing holding you back. Attack. Put your shoulders to the wheel and do the great things that are in you to do.



*Direction:* A great and flourishing time approaches. If you let yourself be led, you can realise hidden potential. The situation is already changing.

#### SIX AT FIFTH

**Great Invigorating Strength.**

**He loses the flock in Yi. We change with ease.**

**Without a cause for sorrow.**

*Not an appropriate situation.* This is Wang Hai who, through his lust and carelessness, loss his flocks. Let go of forward drive. Change your considerable strength into imagination. Don't always charge into obstacles. There are more interesting ways to deal with things. If you realise this, your sorrows will simply disappear. You will soon regain what you have lost.

*Direction:* Be resolute. You are connected to a creative force.

#### SIX ABOVE

**Great Invigorating Strength.**

**The ram butts a hedge. 'He can't pull back and he can't push through.'**

**There is no advantageous direction.**

**Wise Words! Accept the hardship and open the Way.**

*Do not worry, the fault will not last.* You are stuck and you are in for a bit of hard work. You can't force your way out of this one. Just sit there and go through the painful analysis of your mistakes. As you do this, the Way will open of itself.

*Direction:* Your hard work begins a better time. Be resolute. You are connected to a creative force.