

1 Inspiring Force/ Dragon QIAN

Creative energy; persist, create, endure; power to guide and inspire, dynamic and enduring; daimon, protection of the ancestors; the 'key', the male sexual organ; a Gate of Change and a primal seed.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: Heaven and Earth exist without beginning or end. This is the primal power of inspiration. Use it as a spirit helper.

Force is part of a pair that forms two of the 'gates' of Change. Inspiring Force, the Dragon, represents inspiration, a shape-changer at once inner and outer that constantly breaches natural reality. The Dragon's inspiring force rises in the heavens as the constellation Cerulean Dragon, who initiates and presides over the growing season. He connects with the Bin (Dipper), where *Shang Di* resides and dispenses the fates of all creatures. His weaving body surrounds us as lifelines in the landscape through which energy flows and as inner imagery, an inexhaustible source of transformation. He rises within us, a mysterious vital force moving and circulating through the subtle body. Dragon/Force is the actualizing potential between seen and unseen, the inspiration in a work of art, the dynamic language of the myth-world. He is connected with the Great Person, the deep personality in all of us, and with the diviners and sages who can help us realise this force. He promotes seeing or visualizing: becoming aware, connecting with inner images, being struck and moved by Inspiring Force.

The Dragon is the central symbol on the bronze sacrificial vessels that offer food to honour the dead and provide the sacred meal where humans and spirits join. As the Beast Face (*shou mian*), he presides over the language of the spirit world and the six places of Change, the animal masks and ritual dance transformations. His earliest image may be the two Staring Eyes found on sacrificial objects and writing from earliest times, signifying the awesome power of the Other, the Ancestor.

Dragon is a realising spirit-image, gate to the unseen, mediator and conductor of blessings. He is tireless creative energy, shape-changing, inspiring and creating dynamic harmony. He is dangerous. He is a Tiger. He brings deep abiding joy. In the body, Dragon or Force acts through the lungs, skin and nervous system, regulating the rhythm of life, making energy descend and disperse. He connects the surface with the central nervous system, using sexual stimulation and the power of inner images.

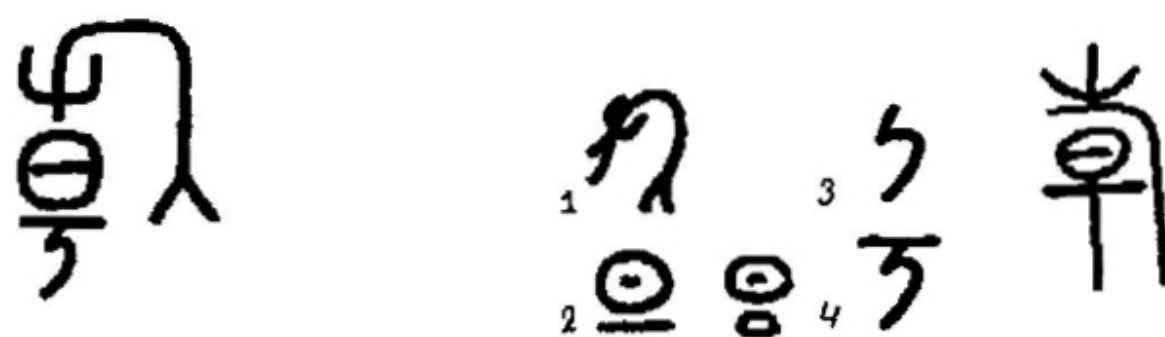
THE RESPONSE

Inspiring Force. The Dragon.

The Source of Success: an Advantageous Trial. Harvesting.

Make an offering and you will succeed.

Inspiring Force/Dragon, QIAN: spirit, creative energy, active transforming power, inspiration; the 'key', the male sexual organ and masculine drive; activate, animate, command and guide; strong, tenacious, untiring, firm, stable; *also*: destroy, dry up, exhaust, clear away, clean out. Dragon is the rainmaker, the yang force awakening life. He suggests the abysmal waters where the sunbirds bathe and the Sun Tree or World Tree from which they fly. He is gate to the unseen world of spirit, the dark bird who is the ancestor of dynasties, and the One, the origin, and principle of fate in all the Myriad Beings. The old character shows the graphs for sun at dawn, a three-leaved sprout and lush vegetation and energy flowing from Sky that disperses and spreads to nourish the All-Under Heaven.



QIAN (1621/5) is composed of 1 YAN³, hanging vegetation, jungle (1) DAN⁴, dawn, the sun just above the horizon (2) and YI³, vapours or breath (3).

Force/Inspiring describes your situation in terms of the primal power of spirit to create and destroy. Its symbols are the inspiring power of Heaven, the light of the sun that causes everything to grow, the fertilizing rain and the creative energy of the Dragon that

breaks through boundaries. You are confronted with many obstacles. The way to deal with them is to persist, for you are in contact with fundamental creative energy. Take action. Be dynamic, strong, untiring, tenacious and enduring. Continue on your path and don't be dismayed. Ride the power of the Dragon and bring the fertilizing rain. Your situation contains great creative potential. It can open up a whole new cycle of time.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows creative force in action. Heaven moves and persists. This spirit power is available to you. Use it as a source of strength and determination in order to continue on without pause. This great force is the beginning of things. As the clouds spread and the rain falls, all things flow into their shapes. It shows you the end that brings a new beginning, the way energy moves in the world and the proper time to accomplish something. If you become aware of its movement, you can ride this energy in its six different shapes, the six lines of the hexagram, as if they were six dragons. The Way of Force is to change and transform things. It makes the innate spirit within each being manifest. This protects the great harmony of the world. Take advantage of it. Use this creative energy to produce ideas that inspire people and give them models of transformation. Bring together what belongs together. What you create can be the source of a deep and self-renewing peace of mind.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Heaven moves and persists.

A time when Noble One uses originating strength not to pause.

Spirit awes and wars in Heaven. The Force of the Dragon, the spark of yang born at the centre of the yin. The dynamic tension of this great energy binds opposing forces together. This is the Metal Moment, destroying old forms and creating enduring new relations. The ideal Realising Person reflects this, continually using the power of the origin to revitalize and invigorate his creative efforts.



FORCE

INITIAL NINE

Inspiring Force. Immersed Dragon, don't use it!

The spirit power is located below. Midwinter, dusk. The star-dragon is dormant in the underworld waters. The situation feels confused and uncertain. You would like to take hold and set it right. Don't do it yet. The creative energy is still under water. But have no fear. It will soon emerge.

Direction: Have no doubts. You are coupled with a creative force.

NINE AT SECOND

Inspiring Force. See the Dragon in the fields!

Advantageous to see the Great People. Harvesting.

Power and virtue is spreading throughout. Early spring. The Dragon's horns are visible above the horizon. Creative energy emerges into the lower centre. You have the ability to realise things now. Take the advice of people you know. Seek those who connect you to the great spirits and trust what is great in yourself.

Direction: Bring people together. Give them a goal. You are coupled with a creative force.

NINE AT THIRD

Noble One completes the day,

using the Inspiring Force again and again.

At night come alarms and adversity, hungry souls and angry ghosts.

This is not a mistake.

The Way reverses and returns. This is a transitional time of incessant activity, plagued by practical and emotional problems. Old ghosts come back to haunt you. Don't worry. This is a very important change and creative energy is available to you. Turn your back on the past and commit yourself to the new. This marks the return of the Way in your life.

Direction: Make your way step by step. Find supportive people. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

NINE AT FOURTH

Inspiring Force. 'Someone' is playing in the Primal Abyss.

This is not a mistake.

This means advancing without fault. Late spring. The Dragon's neck and loops of his body appear above the horizon. Creative energy emerges in the heart centre. Even though you are dealing with big issues, don't lose the playful spirit. Joy is the key to creation in this situation. You are mingling with the Source. Don't get frozen into a single stance.

Direction: Accumulate small things to build the great. Gather your ghosts. Turn conflict into creative tension. The situation is already changing.

NINE AT FIFTH

Inspiring Force. Flying Dragon in the Heavens.

Advantageous to see the Great People. Harvesting.

The Great Person is creating. Midsummer. The Dragon appears, bright against the dark night sky. Spread your wings. Let your creative power emerge. You receive energy and guidance. Now is the time to build something enduring. Seek those who connect you to the Great Spirits and trust what is great in you.

Direction: The mandate is changing. This begins a fertile time, rich with warmth and light. Be resolute. You are connected with a creative force.

NINE ABOVE

Inspiring Force. Overbearing Dragon, head in the gully.

There is cause for sorrow.

This means what is overfull cannot last. Autumn's beginning. The Dragon's head disappears below the horizon. The autumn rains arrive. The creative cycle is ending. Do not keep on pushing. This would be a misuse of creative energy. The time is changing and the Force withdraws into the receptive field. If you try to go on without it, you will certainly have something to be sorry about.

Direction: Resolve to do better. Hear the omen. You are connected to a creative force.