

32 *Fixing the Omen/* *Persevering* HENG



Continue, endure; constant, consistent, durable; self-renewing; a stable married couple.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: *The Way of the husband and wife must last to the end. Accept this and use the energy of Persevering. Fix the Omen. This means enduring to the end.*

Persevering refers to creating rituals and symbols that fix the spirit influence so that it endures in your life. This symbolic activity is similar to writing down a dream, perceiving its message and making a symbol that recalls the influence and acts as a guide to action. This gives form and enduring influence to the message from the spirits, making their power and virtue (*de*) endure in the heart. It extends to fixity of purpose, constancy and faith in the images as a personal characteristic. This is particularly important for diviners and spirit-workers. It is what makes their power firm. It is what keeps harm away. Confucius said: 'It is said in *Change*: A man without *heng* will not succeed as a *wu*-Intermediary. How true! Not fixing the *de* of an omen leads to failure. Just reading it is not enough.' Such fixings range from literal rituals through meditations that 'fix' the heart to ceremonies of marriage that 'fix' the attraction. The word is related to *keng*, and suggests the moon cult that read the Changes, the oldest form of Yi divination. The character suggests the regular movement of a boat between two shores, the faithful heart, laws and habits, continuity in development. It implies the continued interaction of spirits and humans and delivers a warning: one who does not fix the realising power of the omen given by the spirit faces disaster.

The later tradition saw this as enduring in good conduct or enduring in proper social relations. It expressed the ideal of an organized, integrated being or a self-contained and self-renewing whole. For the later commentators, the previous figure, Conjoining, represents attraction and courtship, while Persevering represents the enduring union, the Way of the husband and wife.



THE RESPONSE

Persevering. Fix the Omen. Make an offering and you will succeed.

This is not a mistake.

Advantageous Trial. Harvesting

Advantageous to have a direction to go.

Persevere, HENG: continue on, endure and renew the way; constant, consistent, continue in what is right; continue in the same spirit; stable, regular, enduring, perpetual, self-renewing; ordinary, habitual; extend everywhere, universal; the moon that is almost full; tradition, fixed rule, at ease; most northern of the five sacred mountains; Wang Heng, younger brother of Wang Hai, a worker dedicated to his master, the person to whom the king conveys his orders. The old character shows the two shores of a river, a boat, a heart and an increasing moon.



HÉNG (3913/61) shows a heart, XIN¹ (1) and GEN⁴ (4), a boat ZHOU¹ (2) between two shores (3) or GENG⁴, a moon between two lines (5, bottom), an increasing moon which looks like a spiral (5, top).

Persevering describes your situation in terms of what continues and endures. The way to deal with it is to continue on the way you are going. Be constant, regular and stable. Persist in your normal way of life and what you feel is right. This is pleasing to the spirits. Through it they will give you success, effective power and the capacity to bring things to maturity. Proceeding in this way is not a mistake. Put your ideas to the trial. Impose a direction on things. Have a place to go. These things bring profit and insight.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows arousing energy coupled with inner penetration. Thunder and wind. This is a time for resolute action. It is the Way of the husband and wife. It implies that things endure over time. Persevering fixes and steadies the power to realise the



Way in action. It mixes things but does not repress them. It focuses on the Way and the power that is common to all. Don't be fluid and versatile. Establish principles and boundaries that endure. Persevering endures over time. The solid is above, the flexible is below. Thunder and wind work together to ground things and stir them up to new growth. What is solid and what is supple are completely in harmony. Putting your ideas to the trial brings profit and insight. Endure in the Way. The Way of Heaven and Earth endures without coming to an end. Imposing a direction or having a place to go brings profit and insight. When you complete something let it become the beginning of the new. The sun and the moon have Heaven, and thus their light endures. The four seasons transform and change, and thus they enable lasting accomplishment. The wise person endures in the Way, and thus the human world changes and perfects itself. Contemplate where you persevere. By doing so you can see the deep purpose of all the Myriad Beings.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Thunder and Wind. Persevering. Fixing the Omen.

This is a time when Noble One establishes the borders of the Four Hidden Lands without change.

Spirit manifests in quake and thunder, working in those who lay out the offerings. These are the Operators, those who work with the spirit. Thunder above rouses and germinates new potential, while Wind and Wood enter subtly from below, penetrating, pervading and coupling. It is the Woody Moment: inner penetration and outer stimulation that renew each other, creating enduring structures. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by establishing the omens as firm boundaries on all four sides to receive the blessing.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL SIX

Deepening Persevering.

Trying to fix the whirlpools of Jun!

Trial: Trap! The Way closes.

There is no advantageous direction.

This means seeking depth at the beginning. You are trying to fix this influence too deeply, too soon. This is the wrong way to go about it. The Way is closed. Nothing you come up with can help you.
Direction: The strength is there. Let the situation mature. Be resolute. You are connected to a creative force.

NINE AT SECOND

Persevering. Fix the Omen.

The cause of sorrow disappears.

Able to last in the centre. If you persevere in what you have established, your cares and sorrows will disappear. Commit yourself. The power and the ability are there.

Direction: Be very small at the beginning. Don't be afraid to act alone. You are connected to a creative force.

NINE AT THIRD

Not Persevering in power and virtue. Not Fixing the Omen.

'Someone' gives you a gift, then you are embarrassed.

Trial: distress.

No place to tolerate this! You are betraying your own promise. Everything will lead to your embarrassment because you cannot keep your heart steady and realise the gift the spirit has given. Surely you can do better than this!

Direction: Release bound energy. The situation is already changing.

NINE AT FOURTH

Persevering. Trying to Fix the Omen.

The fields without game.

No lasting at all in this situation. There is simply nothing in sight, no possibility of a real connection that can fix the influx of feeling. The best thing to do is to leave quietly. Then you may find what you need.

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



SIX AT FIFTH

Persevering in power and virtue. Fix the Omen.

Wise Words! The Way opens if the wife makes the Trial.

Trap! The Way closes if the husband makes the Trial.

Adhere to the wife and complete this. The husband must decide. Persevere in your own virtue. Decide it and fix it. A favourable situation if you act as a wife. Let the woman make the divination and trial. Then things will open up in this situation. If you force the husband's way, you will be cut off.

Direction: A transition. Don't be afraid to act alone. You are connected to a creative force.

SIX ABOVE

Persevering. Trying to fix the distant horizons.

Trap! The Way closes.

The Great is without achievement here. You cannot make anything endure like this. Too much excitement and agitation, trying to drum up support that is not there.

Direction: Find a vessel, an image of transformation, and use it. Be resolute about this. It will connect you with a creative force.