

20 Viewing GUAN



Reading the signs; let everything come into view, examine, contemplate, divine the meaning; the invisible manifests in the visible world; the Tower, initiation begins.

MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

Charge to the Oracle: Being Great lets you see the hidden things. The ancestor's eyes. Accept this and use the energy of Viewing.

Viewing represents the perception of the invisible influences that spread from the spirit released through the ceremonies in Nearing. It is the moment when you read the omens of the ancestor spirit as and where they appear in the world and you are thus able to seize the influx of hidden energies. In ritual terms, this is 'fixing the spirit' (*heng*), making its influence endure. It is a certain mood and moment in a ceremony, just before the wine libation that calls the spirit presence, and the place where its omens are observed, a tomb, tumulus, grave mound, temple or observatory tower. The root of the term suggests visualizing in all its aspects: watching, appearance, clairvoyance and the intelligence that makes things clear. It is the word used to translate 'yoga'. King Wen, spiritual father of the Zhou, built such a magic tower at Feng, watching the skies and consulting the Intermediaries from a ritual platform raised high above the ground. He was searching for the appearance of the *ming xing*, the 'Mandated Star', waiting for the command of Heaven and the Great Ancestor to be implemented below.

THE RESPONSE

Viewing. The ablution, then the libation.

The connection to spirit will come like a presence.

View, GUAN: contemplate, look at from a distance, examine, judge, conjecture; let everything emerge into view; divine the meaning; instruct, inform, make known; a tower on the outskirts where initiation begins; observatory, observing bird signs and celestial omens; grave mound, high tower, high terrace for worship, moment in a ceremony between ablutions and libation, the pouring out of the dark wine that calls the spirits. The old character



shows a bird face with bright eyes and a standing person whose head has filled with spirit.



GUAN¹ (6294/147) represents a bird with big eyes and a crest, GUAN², the 'old gatekeeper', and a man with a big eye, JIAN².

Viewing describes your situation in terms of the need to look without acting in order to find the right perspective. The way to deal with it is to let everything emerge and divine the central meaning. Particularly, look at what you usually don't want to see or think about. This figure describes a particular moment in a religious ceremony, when the purification has been made and the libation is about to be poured out. Have confidence. Examining things will bring you the insight you need. When you have made the preparations, the spirit will arrive and carry you through.

THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows images appearing on the inner field. The wind moves above the Earth. Strip away your old ideas. There is something of great importance here and you can seek it out. The early rulers used this time to inspect the borders. They contemplated the needs of the people and set up ways to instruct them. Take a high view of the matter at hand. Yield to things and give them space on the inner ground. Stay correctly centred and you can let the whole world come into view. Prepare things well and the spirit will answer, the things you are trying to influence will change spontaneously. By viewing the way that Heaven moves through the spirits, you can see the proper times for things. When the sages used the Way of the spirits to establish and teach, the whole human world would listen.

THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

Wind moves above Earth. Viewing.

A time when the Early Kings watched the Four Hidden Lands to view the common good and set up teachings.

Spirit works in those who lay out the offerings. Offer service at the Earth Altar. The Intermediaries are working with Earth. Wind and Wood above enter subtly, penetrating, pervading and coupling, while Earth below yields and sustains. This is Wood over Earth: images of spirit come into view as they emerge on inner field. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by emulating the Early Kings who acted as guides and protectors for all. Work through subtle penetration. This involves fate. Ascend the Sacred Mountain.

TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

INITIAL SIX

Viewing the children's omens.

For Small People this is not a mistake.

Noble One: distress.

This is Small People's Way. Watching the children play. You may read things that can disturb the entire state. These are beginnings of danger. The Small People see nothing in this. The Noble One perceives the distress. Don't see things like a child. Be aware of the first stirrings of disturbance.

Direction: Increase your efforts. Strip away old ideas. Be open and provide what is needed.

SIX AT SECOND

Viewing through a patterned screen.

Advantageous if the women divine. Harvesting.

This can be shameful. Watching furtively to catch a sign of the new. Work through. If you ask the oracle you will see how the spirit is moving here. The woman and the Yin. Don't fall into negative emotions.

Direction: Clear away obstacles to understanding. Take things in. Be open and provide what is needed.

Viewing our birth, advance or withdraw?

Not letting go of the Way. Watching the spirit manifest in the clan. This is a transition. You have to decide whether to go on with this connection or to pull back. Look at the things you have done in this context, what they give birth to, what they create in you. Use that to answer your question.

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



VIEWING

SIX AT FOURTH

Viewing the city shining.

**Advantageous to be a guest when the King hosts the ancestors.
Harvesting.**

An honoured guest. You witness the great ceremony when the King hosts the ancestor spirit. This connection can bring you power and wealth. The city is spread out before you. Remember, however, you are only a guest. Be careful and polite. This is a long-term experience.

Direction: Communication may be obstructed. Don't be the victim. Proceed step by step. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

NINE AT FIFTH

Watching the sacrifices. Viewing our birth.

Noble One makes no mistake.

This is viewing the common people. The new ancestor spirit manifests in the world. Look deeply at this connection and your relation to it. Observe what you have in common with those around you. Look at the things you have done in this context, what they give birth to, then commit yourself. If you measure your desires against the ideal of the Noble One, you won't make any mistakes.

Direction: Strip away old ideas. Provide what is needed.

NINE ABOVE

Watching the sacrifices. Viewing its birth.

Noble One makes no mistake.

Your purpose is not calm yet. The new ancestor spirit manifests in the world. Look deeply at this connection. Look at where and how it started and the effect it has had on your life and the lives of others. Measure it against the ideal of Noble One, then commit yourself. You won't be making a mistake.

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