



THE TOLTEC  
I CHING

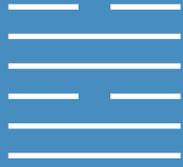
# THE TOLTEC I CHING

64 KEYS TO INSPIRED ACTION  
IN THE NEW WORLD

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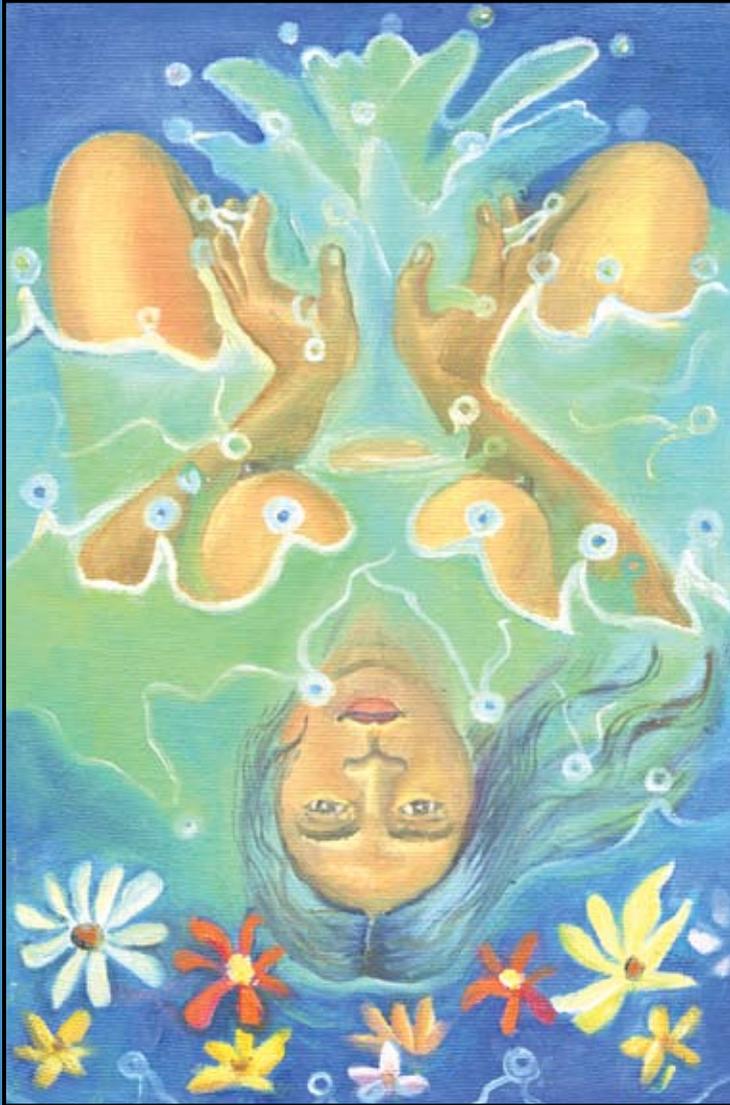


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HEXAGRAM

2



SENSING  
CREATION

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**IMAGE** | A female warrior is naked, immersed in water and surrounded by flowers. A wellspring of water rises from between her hands. The water drops are drawn as beads of jade in order to portray the precious nature of that which sustains life.

**INTERPRETATION** | This hexagram represents the great courage essential to creating a meaningful life. The female warrior symbolizes the way of nurturing and encouraging human nature that increases its sensitivity and loving-kindness. Being naked means that nothing stands between you and the world. Being immersed in water means that you plunge wholeheartedly into the spirit of that which nurtures all. Being surrounded by flowers means that you perceive the perfection of the world as it truly is. Each moment blossoms perfect and whole, then passes like a fading flower—each perfection born into the world must die. The wellspring of water symbolizes the inexhaustible source of courage that allows you to use your awareness of mortality to more profoundly experience the joy and sorrow inherent within every encounter. In this sense, the flowers and the water signify not only the wisdom attained through experience, but the aesthetic sensibilities to be moved by a beauty and truth not always apparent to others. Taken together, these symbols mean that you open your spirit to the overwhelming perfection of the world and share your vision with all you touch.

**ACTION** | The feminine half of the spirit warrior collects the movement and energy of the unseen forces, calming them and bringing them together in harmony, making a place for them to gather strength and then making that source of *benefit* open and available to all. Where past injustices and resentments survive to poison the well of *benefit*, true *need* goes unmet and people suffer unnecessarily: The spirit warrior fosters a climate of forgiveness and reconciliation, reuniting those whose hearts have become estranged and dissolving the tensions and insecurities that have prevented people from coexisting in harmony and mutual understanding. Before action, the passions breeding distrust and discord appear too strong and too deeply entrenched to be overcome. After action, the *benefit* you help



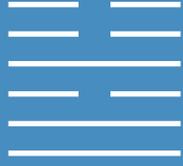
cultivate results in a greater union of good will, hope, and creativity. You succeed where others fail because you rely on the warrior's refined sensibilities to guide you rather than on past experiences. You succeed where others fail because you reflect generosity in every thought, word, and deed rather than demanding that others first prove their worth. You succeed where others fail because you cleanse yourself of all ill will rather than harboring any spiritual intent that might poison the well of *benefit* that you are become.

**INTENT** | Whether the struggle is internal or external, work to increase your sensitivity to the realms of nature, human nature, and spirit. Because people differ only in the degree of their sensitivity to the One Spirit, continue to open your perceptions to more and more sublime thoughts, feelings, memories, and sensations. By recognizing that you are filled with the source of nurturance, you can calmly let all your adaptations arise from it. By giving form to the source of nurturance, you can respond to things with dignity, patience, joy, and appreciation. Because your sensitivity to the world is your strength, you can find the way to restore harmony and progress where others find only opposition and antagonism. Make the well-being of others your goal right now and you can build a coalition of allies to undertake even greater endeavors in the future. Avoid taking sides, work to bring them together. Cultivate trust in the early stages of discord, rely on your lack of self-interest in its later stages. You succeed because you bring future *benefit* to those separated by the past.

**SUMMARY** | The beauty and loving-kindness you seek are within your reach. Let go of obsolete opinions and dogma handed down to you from others. Find that which allows you to share happiness with others and you will achieve greater freedom and creativity. Focus on the healing of old wounds, promote the forgiving of old wrongs. Set aside personal ambition, act for the common good.

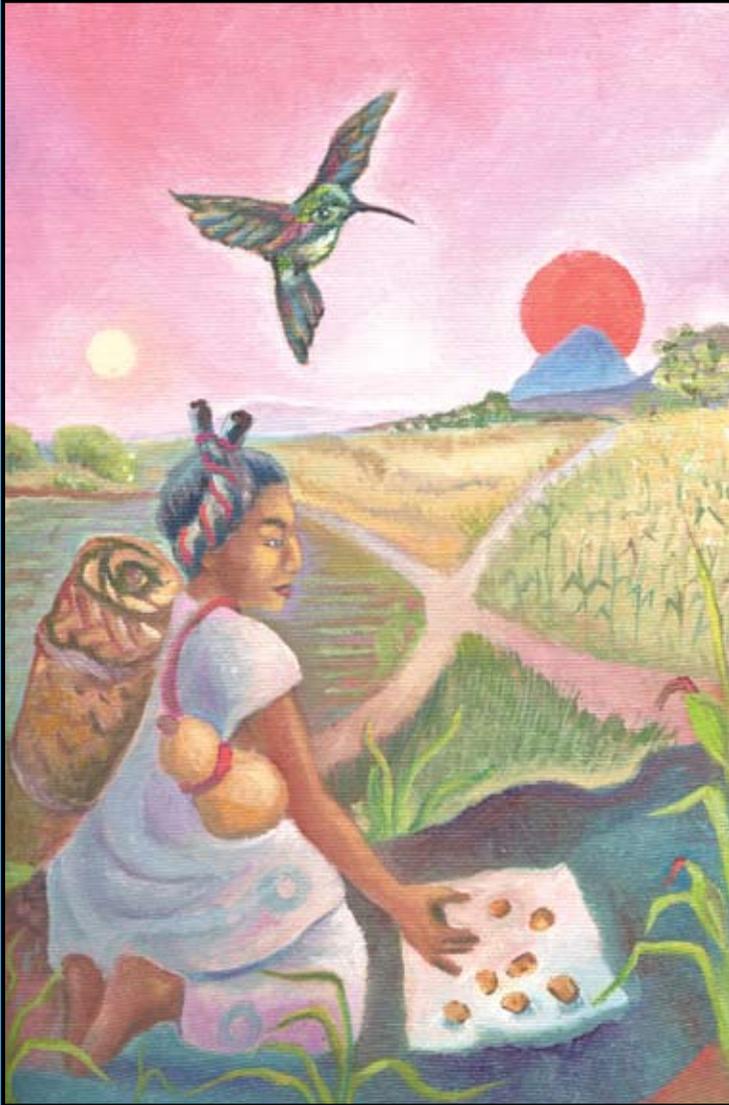
THE LINE CHANGES

- 1ST** Being a realist, you are optimistic—people have harmed each other and nature for millennia, so you do not react every time humanity fails to live up to its potential. Its successes, though, give you faith in the overall refinement of human nature. Hope, like fear, is contagious—now is the time for hope.
- 2ND** Being trustworthy, you are trusting—you do not second guess the intentions of your partners or doubt the propriety of their motivations. Although this causes you some harm occasionally, in the long run it makes for wonderful relationships. Expect the best of people and they will reciprocate.
- 3RD** Being overwhelmed, you are desperate—even if you can't gain the respect of your peers, do not try to appeal to their self-interest. These are ethical people and they would reject such overtures. You are out of place—you were too optimistic about your fit with this project.
- 4TH** Being intellectual, you are brooding—although you want to believe in the goodness of people, this situation forces you to confront the worst of human nature. Your intent is good but you are not cut out for this. Serving those with less severe wounds will seal your happiness.
- 5TH** Being sincere, you are susceptible—you may have a superior position but you must rely on the character and advice of others now more than ever. If you are not aware that people may be advocating instead of informing, you will fail. You must be skeptical to sustain your optimism.
- 6TH** Being tolerant, you are exploited—clever people take advantage of you but do not benefit from their deceit. Do not change your demeanor just because some fail the test—keep casting your net for the rarest creature in the sea. You know people are self-serving but you are looking for the exception.



HEXAGRAM

12



SEEING  
AHEAD

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**IMAGE** | A female warrior stops at a crossroads, determining which road she should take. The road to the right leads into mountains, behind which stands the sun. The road to the left crosses a level plain and leads toward the moon. The warrior, who carries all she needs for a long trip, kneels and consults the oracle by tossing kernels of corn. The oracle answers her question with a hummingbird, who points to the road toward the sun.

**INTERPRETATION** | This hexagram depicts the window of opportunity opening. The female warrior symbolizes the patience and acceptance to rest until the time comes to move. That she carries all she needs means that you are self-reliant and well-prepared for the journey ahead. That she pauses at a crossroads means that you stop to assess your situation and make plans for your next course of action even if doing so reawakens old fears, injuries, or resentments. The road to the sun beyond the mountain symbolizes a period of creativity that can only be reached by overcoming obstacles and difficulties. The road to the moon across the open plains is a symbol of future contentment and fulfillment that is within easy grasp. Consulting the oracle means that you trust the helping spirits to guide you toward your destiny. The hummingbird, who drinks only the nectar of beautiful flowers and can fly in any direction at will, is a symbol of the will power of a great warrior who returns from the house of the sun to encourage and inspire the living. Taken together, these symbols mean that your connection to the spirit world is strong, your vision is clear, your decisions are firm, and your actions inspired.

**ACTION** | The feminine half of the spirit warrior pauses in her journey, taking time to question her destiny about the road ahead: By stepping outside the flow of events and listening to the spirit of your lifetime, you ensure that all your decisions are in accord with the will of your guide. This is a time for stepping back from the immediacy of your emotions and being receptive to deeper, more sublime, urges welling up from the innermost sanctuary of *need*. Keeping in mind your dearest dreams and aspirations for this life, ask of the spirit helpers guidance in choosing the road that will lead



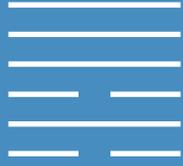
you to that destination. From such a vantage point, survey the terrain ahead, noting in particular the landmarks by which you can keep your bearings and mark your progress. Lay out your plans now and map out your overall strategy for achieving your goal. Reminding yourself constantly that matters will not be this clear again for some time, take advantage of the time to project your will as far forward as possible. In this way, you arrive at decisions that fulfill a *need* greater than your own, decisions that multiply the *benefit* you receive into the lives of untold others.

**INTENT** | Sometimes the clear and easy path is the right road but this is not such a time. Your road leads beyond a steep mountain range that can be surmounted only by overcoming both inner and outer obstacles. But it is the radiance of solar light and its life-giving energy that calls you forward—it is the higher purpose given you by the creative forces that asserts itself anew. Dedicate yourself to reaching your life's destiny and you will establish the overall direction for the rest of your life. Don't shy away from hard work and don't settle for anything less than seeing matters through to the end. Be receptive to the presence of the helping spirits, for they bring the masculine half of the spirit warrior to bear on the moment: By being open to the insight and understanding of the spirit of the corn and to the courage and will power of the spirit of the hummingbird, you will be filled with the wisdom and strength to surmount every obstacle between you and your heart's desire.

**SUMMARY** | Set aside your hopes and fears, ignore the hopes and fears of others. Cultivate a more objective frame of mind, make the most of this time of clarity and insight. You are particularly attuned to the momentum of how things are developing at this time. Once you determine the proper course, do not hesitate to devise your plan of action and begin putting it into effect. Accept the challenge.

THE LINE CHANGES

- 1ST** If you allow being in a subordinate position to frustrate you, you will offend others and cut off aid you might otherwise receive. If you want recognition so badly, then this humbling is precisely what you need. Honor those around you and do not resent their air of superiority—time is your ally.
- 2ND** Occupying a lowly position can be a boon, for the wealthy and the powerful cannot trust anyone. Having little, you have no reason to distrust—the relationships you forge now will last a lifetime. Strive to be the equal of anyone in character and learning—follow your personal path.
- 3RD** Though the situation does not seem favorable, it is best to do nothing to change it—though you do not seem to be appreciated, it is best not to alter your demeanor. Circumstances will eventually bring your talents to the forefront. Continue honing your skills and contributing wherever asked.
- 4TH** Experience shows that it is often the second choice who succeeds when the first choice fails to work out. Tolerate no false pride or opportunism in yourself—respond with genuine gratitude now that your chance has come. You succeed now because you did not jump at lesser opportunities earlier.
- 5TH** There is nobility sometimes when figureheads fail. This is because it was their role all along to legitimize the transition from the old to the new and never to actually accomplish the task they ostensibly accepted. Play out your role with dignity and integrity—this is a joyous destiny.
- 6TH** When the two halves fly apart, the strong half sacrifices direct thought and action even as the adaptable half fails to nourish all it touches. You cannot produce any positive results under these conditions. Step aside gracefully and let others try—this was never your vision in the first place.



HEXAGRAM

32



CONTROLLING  
CONFRONTATION

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**IMAGE** | A male warrior stands silhouetted against the setting sun, his shadow cast upon the ground before him. He is armed with spear and shield and is in the prime of life. He stands alone in the world, apart from companions or dwellings.

**INTERPRETATION** | This hexagram depicts the single source of light from which every body receives its shadow. The male warrior symbolizes the masculine creative force, who tests and trains human nature in order to increase its versatility and fortitude. The inert and inanimate shadow symbolizes the enemy-within, the self-defeating part of every human being. The setting sun symbolizes the ending of a phase of strength and influence. The spear and shield symbolize the skills of attack and defense. The prime of life symbolizes the work that must be accomplished while the creative force still waxes. Standing alone in the wilderness symbolizes the work of self-transformation, which cannot be perfected through the efforts or experiences of others. Taken together, these symbols mean that you succeed by mastering destructive passions.

**ACTION** | The masculine half of the spirit warrior accumulates force in order to resist the use of force. Whether they are internal or external, it is necessary to confront the forces working in opposition to our goals. This is a matter of grave delicacy, however, since the passions tied to self-interest run equally deep and strong among all concerned. Old grievances and resentments, in particular, stand in the way of a peaceful and mutually advantageous resolution to the current discord. For this reason, confronting others means we are forced to confront ourselves, restraining our own anger and righteous indignation by seeing how our own actions have contributed to the present conflict. Only by holding our anger in check can we avoid escalating the problem at hand: An uncompromising stance of having been wronged serves no one's purposes here since it merely forces others to do the same. The danger is that real hostility can be ignited under these conditions—hostility that can inflict profound suffering on all concerned and take a long time for any party to heal. This is a time to treat your opposition with all the respect due a great



warrior: Avoid inflammatory and provocative statements based on half-truths or a one-sided view of things, since slyly provoking others to hostility is doubly hostile. This is likewise a time to act like a great warrior: Accept responsibility for past mistakes and make good faith commitments to remedy injustices and imbalances among all concerned immediately, since demanding that others right their wrongs without following suit is doubly wrong. For the spirit warrior, true force is exercised by not resorting to hostility even when it promises the shortest route to success.

**INTENT** | Those who are secure in their ability to survive and adapt find no fear or insecurity in their shadow. Those who are secure in their ability to love and be loved find no mean-spiritedness or hate in their shadow. Those who are secure in their ability to imbue their shadow with light find no self-defeating actions in their shadow. For this reason, fears and insecurities are calls for us to strengthen some weakness or vulnerability, just as mean-spiritedness and hate are calls for us to break the chains of alienation binding us. By taking up the work of self-transformation, we purify the shadow and make it radiant. When there is nothing left by which we can defeat ourselves, we have answered the shadow's call to make ourselves impervious to any defeat from the outside.

**SUMMARY** | There is much to lose by forcing others to confront what they are not prepared for. It is in your best interests to de-escalate confrontation and move matters along more slowly. Because former allies make the worst enemies, take the time to disengage in a manner that attracts the least hostility. Be willing to let the opposition win a last battle so that you might win the war. Control yourself so that others may feel secure enough to do the same.

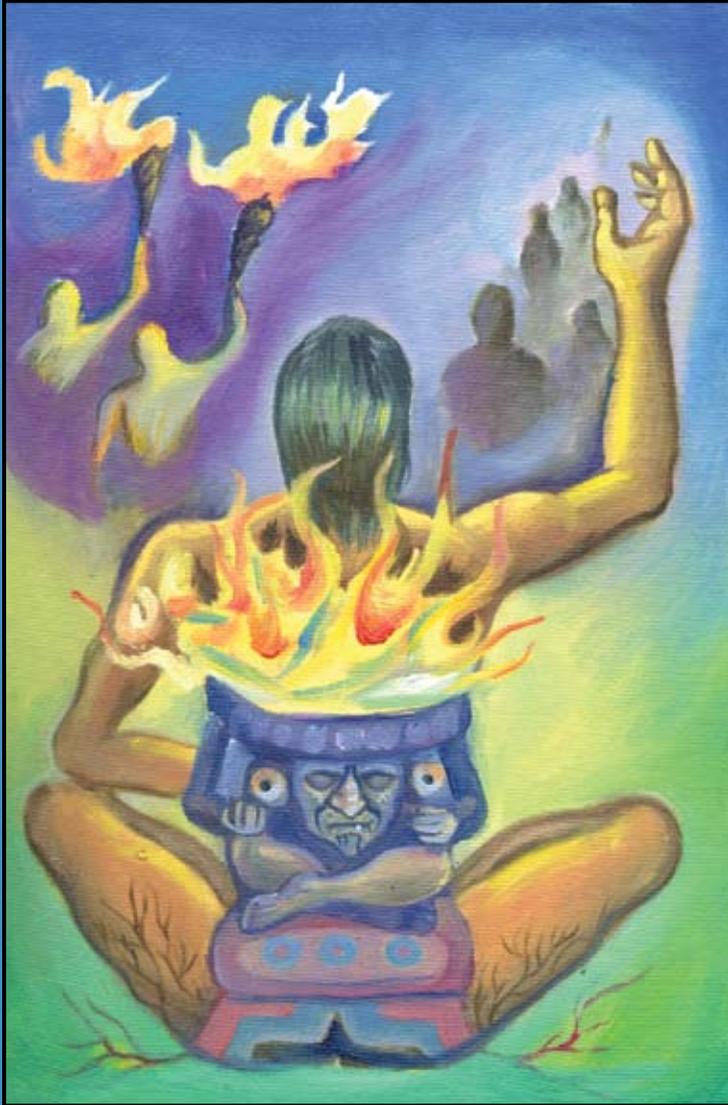
THE LINE CHANGES

- 1ST** Avoid extremes in any facet of your lifestyle—distance yourself from those whose tastes are immoderate or behavior is suspicious. Keep in mind that people who flaunt their improprieties are not steadfast allies when their backs are to the wall. If you wish to be taken seriously, live seriously.
- 2ND** Those accustomed to conflict no longer feel themselves bleeding, those who come to enjoy the bickering of power struggles no longer see others bleeding. Here compromise must take the form of action—give in. Do anything to break the deadlock before it is too late—make the first move.
- 3RD** Competing with peers brings nothing but misfortune. There is no gain to be had by allowing those above to pit you against others in the same straits. Comport yourself with dignity and integrity at all times—do not compromise your values or self-respect.
- 4TH** Recognize when you have made an error in judgment and admit it readily. You are like a fish out of water here, so there is real advantage to asking for direction from any around you. They will remember your humility even after you get your footing and your worth becomes apparent.
- 5TH** The window of opportunity opens—there is a perfect resolution possible. Both sides are exaggerating—ignore their claims and counterclaims and determine what each most fears losing. Protect the real interests of each and they will follow your lead in resolving the smaller matters.
- 6TH** Victory is an illusion—it creates a backlash that returns to harm you and yours. Righteous indignation is a trap—it creates resentment for years to come. Let desire, ambition, and emotion run away with you and you will have cause to regret it for a long, long time.



HEXAGRAM

39



REVIVING  
TRADITION

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**IMAGE** | The ancient spirit of fire takes the form of a male warrior, who is made part of the land by the roots growing like veins through his body and the earth. His arm is raised, greeting the long line of people in shadow that approach him. Another line of people, their torches rekindled, depart in light.

**INTERPRETATION** | This hexagram depicts the ancestors' inheritance passing from individual to individual and from generation to generation. The ancient spirit of fire symbolizes the universal tradition of fire-making, whose timeless ritual unites all people in a common heritage. The male warrior symbolizes the self-discipline and training needed to stand against greed, ambition, and materialism. That he is made part of the land means that you find your spiritual home in the site of your own lifetime. The long line of people in shadow is a symbol of those seeking to find their way back to a balanced and harmonious way of life. The line of people departing with torches rekindled is a symbol of those who find the light of the ancestors inside their own hearts and carry it through the darkness of their own time. Taken together, these symbols mean that you resist spiritual erosion the way a mountain of righteousness stands against the wind of corruption and the rain of meaninglessness.

**ACTION** | The masculine half of the spirit warrior views everything as a buried treasure left behind by the spiritual ancestors for their descendants. It is a time for holding fast to what lasts rather than getting distracted by the novel or overwhelmed by the fleeting. Avoid participating in the fads and fashions of the day, seeking instead to uphold the values and world view of a more spiritual time. This means, first and foremost, respecting and honoring all that is not human. When matter is seen as devoid of spirit, then nature can be desecrated without a second thought; when one form of nature is seen as devoid of spirit, then all forms of life can be desecrated without a second thought; when one form of life is seen as devoid of spirit, then human beings can desecrate one another without a second thought. For this reason, the spirit warrior sees the world as the divine homeland shared by the living and the dead and those



not yet born. Recognizing that meaningfulness is hidden from those who attack it, you look into the secret heart of things and see the One Spirit of creation everywhere you look. Recognizing that meaningfulness is an open secret to all but the greedy, ambitious, and materialistic, you bury the treasure again in your own turn so that your descendants will find their secret heart.

**INTENT** | Even though you feel out of step with the wounded spirit of the time, you are actively involved in healing it. Recognizing that its illness is meaninglessness, you feed it the medicine of meaningfulness day and night throughout your life. Just as the fire of light and warmth must be fed wood and air to continue burning, the spirit of the time must be fed the joy and insights born of meaningfulness if it is to continue living. Without the tradition of meaningful consecration to feed it, the spirit of the time will eventually die and be replaced by that of meaningless desecration. For this reason, the spirit warrior keeps alive the ancient tradition of training every thought and feeling to reflect the hidden sacredness of every moment.

**SUMMARY** | The more you put the world view of the ancients into practice, the more you have to offer others. Be generous with what you have learned but do not stop learning: Just as people depend on a well for their water, the well depends on the invisible river below ground for its water. Assume that you will understand matters better in the future and act with a corresponding degree of humility.

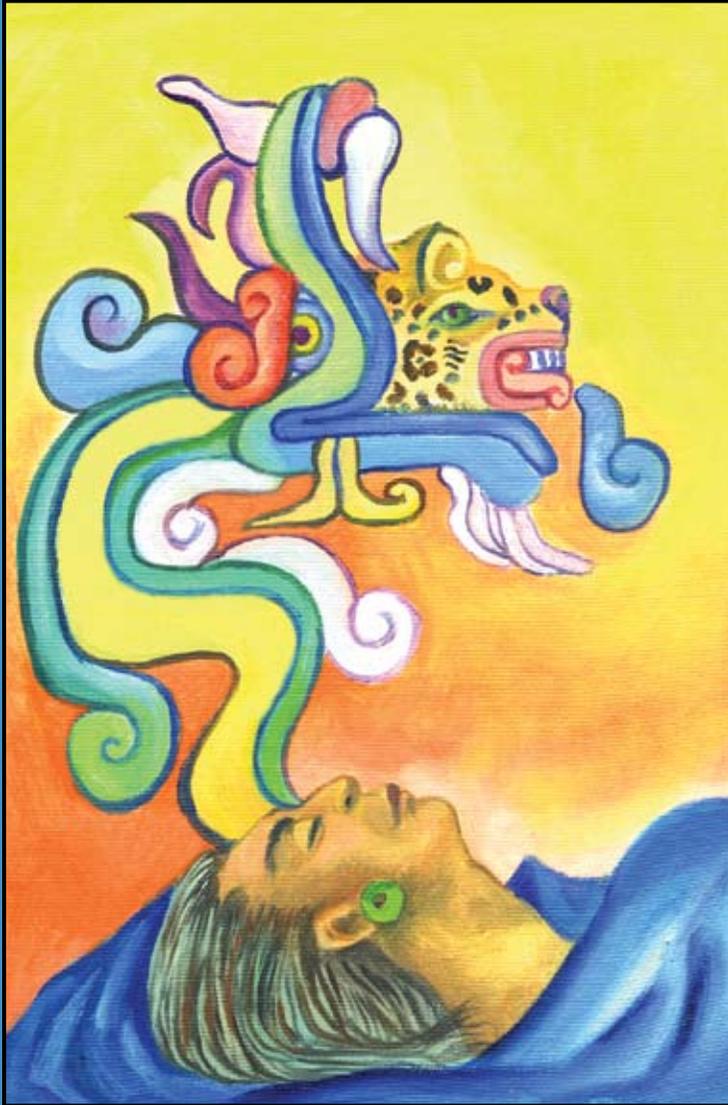
THE LINE CHANGES

- 1ST** Take stock of those closest to you—what are their strengths, what are their weaknesses, how might you harm one another? Take this into account in all your actions and make your intentions clear in all your communications. With this as a basis, you can avoid any unnecessary rifts between allies.
- 2ND** Take stock of those closest to you—what are their needs, what are their sorrows, how might you comfort one another? Take this into account in all your interactions. With this generosity of spirit as a basis, you can forge unbreakable bonds with each of your allies.
- 3RD** The alliance is splitting into two camps—one where discipline is too strict and the other, too lenient. When conduct is too severe, members find fault everywhere—when too frivolous, members do not even question their own effectiveness. Get rid of extremists on both sides and restore the balance.
- 4TH** Ethics emerge from bad judgment—they are the collective memory of what does not benefit the whole. Those who work together to serve others must encourage one another to maintain humility and respect at all times, even in private. Without the proper attitude, servants become masters.
- 5TH** Principles emerge from ethics—they are the collective memory of what is worth striving for. Peace is achieved when leaders are content and sincere—prosperity is achieved when leaders do not concentrate the wealth. Nothing holds people together better than sustained peace and prospering.
- 6TH** Wisdom emerges from principles—it is the collective memory of what produces happiness. Those who evaluate their own conduct, building on their successes and correcting their faults, dwell together in shared well-being. This is the road of freedom that leads to the ecstatic life.



HEXAGRAM

62



CONCEIVING  
SPIRIT

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**IMAGE** | A male warrior receives a vision of a great feathered serpent whose inner nature is a roaring jaguar.

**INTERPRETATION** | The male warrior symbolizes the versatility and fortitude of the disciplined spirit. That he receives a vision means that your ability to sense the invisible grows stronger. The feathered serpent symbolizes the divine twin, the higher self, the light of wisdom and understanding. That the feathered serpent's inner nature is a roaring jaguar means that within even the most subtle and profound understanding, an even more subtle and profound mystery demands to be heard. Taken together, these symbols mean that you grow stronger and more resourceful by attuning your senses to the world of spirit right before your eyes.

**ACTION** | The masculine half of the spirit warrior breaks through the barrier separating matter and spirit. Such a barrier is erected in our minds by the constant training we receive from those who find advantage in promoting the separation of people from nature, from each other, and from their own true self. If people everywhere perceived matter and spirit to be the same thing, after all, the ignorance, cruelty, and suffering that make up much of human history would end. If we were all to experience the material form of nature as spirit, we would stop harming it by diminishing it faster than we help it replenish itself. If we were all to experience the material form of people everywhere as spirit, we would stop harming one another by acting as if our own rights and desires are superior to those of others. If we were all to experience the material form of our own individual bodies as spirit, we would stop harming ourselves by doubting that every thought, feeling, and action play a pivotal role in eternity. Breaking through such a mental barrier is a matter of constant training, as well: If we do not use every thought, feeling, and action to intensify our experience of matter as spirit, we continue to desecrate the temple of nature, the temple of civilization, and the temple of individuality. Because you increasingly see the invisible within the visible, your thoughts are filled with insight, your feelings with good will, and your actions with *benefit*.



**INTENT** | When the warrior's spirit has become second nature, we inevitably come to see through the foremost artifice of the enemy-within. A rigorous cultivation of the warrior's spirit is, in effect, a prolonged act of laying siege to the stronghold of the enemy-within: True victory is achieved only when the walls have been broken and the hostage set free. In this sense, the hostage is our innate awareness of the oneness of all things, the walls of the stronghold are the views of separateness we have been trained to accept as real, and the enemy-within is the traitor who takes hostage the true heir and usurps the throne of experience. By reminding ourselves constantly that the present boundaries of our awareness do not mark the furthest limits of awareness, we strip away all the false views that have accrued to the lower self over the course of this lifetime. In this way, we clear our eyes of the cobwebs that have obstructed our seeing the world of spirit right before our eyes.

**SUMMARY** | A momentous change is at hand. All your life the soul has looked at the world through your eyes but now you are beginning to look at the world through the soul's eyes. Everything you undertake will benefit others and make you a treasured part of your relationships. Treat everything with the reverence due an aspect of the divine. Leave behind worry, trust that your path is blessed.

THE LINE CHANGES

- 1ST** It is the season to congregate and enjoy being with others by attending public spectacles in the arts, sciences, and athletics. It is the season to congregate in celebration of traditional religious and political holidays. Shared physical experiences fuse people into a cohesive whole.
- 2ND** Honoring everyone but your own extended family reveals the blind spot of ingratitude. Honoring no one but your own extended family reveals the blind spot of insecurity. Honoring all as your extended family reveals the clear-slightness of good will—be ever more inclusive in your heart.
- 3RD** Selfishness is the enemy-within—in the midst of much personal evolution, you are surprised to find a nagging resentment toward the needs of others. This is the aspect of sharing that puts your ideals to the test. If you don't force things, you will prove to yourself that benefiting others benefits you.
- 4TH** There are people who will use your enthusiasm, idealism, and talents to advance their own cause. If you find yourself taking advantage of others' hopes and fears, then you have been duped into doing your superiors' dirty work for them. Quit and go forward.
- 5TH** The bond between above and below is unbreakable, forged in the fires of many shared trials and tribulations. You can count on this relationship to the end—just as the union of man and woman produces a child, you are producing something that will outlast you. Radiate the peace you feel.
- 6TH** In the final analysis, there are things that cannot be shared with others—mysteries, paradoxes, inexpressible longings, impossible visions. Such is the fate of every individual—it is the well, in fact, of what makes us individual. Continue your quest for absolute at-one-ment.