

I CHING



INSTRUCTIONS
BY MARLIES HOLITZKA

The I Ching Oracle in Practice

I Ching was originally practiced with yarrow stalks. Later, three coins were thrown six times in a row. The method nowadays has been made far simpler to accommodate the needs of modern people. Artist Klaus Holitzka has transformed the abstract symbols of I Ching into attractive calligraphic ink drawings which are now available as a pack of cards. Questioning the oracle has become incredibly easy with the assistance of these cards. Instead of having to focus on the once extensive set of procedures, more time can be spent on the meditative aspect of questioning. The cards also offer something for the visual senses, stimulating your sense of fantasy and cultivating an optical bridge to intuition.

Now we come to how I Ching cards are used. Firstly, concentrate intently on your question and try to formulate it **as precisely as possible**. Avoid questions that result in a yes / no answer. Now shuffle the pack and lay the cards down in fan formation. **Keep concentrating on the question**. Select a card. Allow your intuition to guide your choice of card. The first card chosen contains information about current circumstances surrounding your question. Select a second card. This one refers to the future, anticipated developments and their trend. Although the method we use in the interpretation of the oracle is simplified in comparison to original methods, it nevertheless keeps to a spirit appropriate to the highly revered I

Ching. A practical example explains everything to ensure that your initiation is as smooth as possible.

Let's assume that you have chosen number 36 (ECLIPSE OF LIGHT) as your first card. The summary first gives you a general response to your question. Let's say that you have then selected number 42 (INCREASE) as the second card. The initial summary for this symbol gives you general indications concerning the future development of the matter in question. It is now necessary to find direction for the future and the nature of the situation. You no doubt anticipate that I Ching will give you more detailed information over and above an assessment of the general trend. In short, you want help in taking destiny into your own hands. The lines of change on both cards are especially significant here. Lines of change are those hexagram lines which are **not** common to both cards. In this case, the lines not identical are 3, 5 and 6. Please remember:

Line number 1 in this book is always **at the bottom** and **line 6** on top.

Refer to our example and now read the comments for lines 3, 5 and 6 for hexagram 36 – your first card. Think carefully about the comments as they contain the key to recognizing the background to your question. The lines of change for the second card (the future) may be ignored. Knowledge of future change will only be a consideration once that future has become the present.

Once questioning has been concluded, the two cards may be kept somewhere in sight as an aid in remembering advice and effecting change for as long as need be.

May you gain much pleasure in using the I Ching cards and attain truly lucid understanding through them.

1. THE RECEPTIVE

There is no weakness associated with this card. It represents pure and integrated creative power bringing into movement all things in the universe and human life. A time under this sign is full of inspiration and energy leading to inner growth and worldly success. Use the fortune of destiny with intelligence and farsightedness. Ensure that your actions also serve to bring good fortune, happiness and prosperity to your fellow human beings. Don't waste your creative powers on unplanned activities. Sometimes it is even better to do nothing at all. Now you can achieve even your highest goals. You need to organize your powers, behave honestly and keep stable. The more trust you have in your own powers the stronger you will become.

Line 6.

You overestimate your own creative power and want to achieve too much at once. If you don't pause for

breath and scrutinize your desires you will lose your sense of life's realities and the trust of fellow men.

Line 5.

Whether deciding in favor of the spiritual or worldly path you find yourself in harmony with the wholeness of life. Your influence upon your surroundings is growing. Someone will seek your advice.

Line 4.

You must make a decision now. Do you want to serve the community with your creative strength or choose to cultivate your individuality? Follow your intention and you will find the correct way by yourself.

Line 3.

A new sphere of activity will open up. Power and success will have an attractive effect on your fellow men. But take care! Pride comes before a fall. Hold onto your ideals with all your strength.

Line 2.

A benevolent, helping power is beginning to take effect. Someone of enormous benefit to you appears in your immediate environment. This person easily succeeds in having a positive influence upon others. A lot can be achieved together.

Line 1.

Creative power remains in hiding. The correct time has not yet come to act upon your intentions. Hold out for the right time and try to keep in the background until then.

2. ACCEPTANCE

This sign stands for the receptive and dedicated force of nature. Nature brings forth all creatures, bringing good as well as evil whilst preserving in equal portions the balance of give and take. Try to understand this law of nature, integrate it into your life and act in accordance with it. Accept your destiny joyously. This will strengthen your life-force and reaffirm your character, but you must also conform to the community. In the midst of all this activity you should not forget to put your own life in order. Create space for yourself in order to take stock and be able to contemplate a future course in life. Luck will be on your side if you successfully marry dynamic strength with dedication and sensitivity.

Line 6.

Darkness desires illicitly to usurp the place of light. It is trying to rule instead of serving. Both sides suffer losses in a battle.

Line 5.

If you wish to take a more leading but dependent position you must act precisely and with more restraint. Your abilities will be recognized and you will win through.

Line 4.

A hazardous time. Take care, measure your strength. Whether you act alone or with others is up to you. Avoid confrontation.

Line 3.

Concentrate on your daily tasks instead of seeking worldly fame. Your talents will develop sublimely and gradually gain recognition.

Line 2.

Nature tolerates all creatures and this is where its greatness and power lies. Be sincere and candid. Success will be a natural consequence.

Line 1.

Failure threatens if you overlook the first visible signs of decline. But by recognizing them you can counteract the negative with things positive.

3. DIFFICULT BEGINNINGS

This sign stands for intense, chaotic fullness and the excessive struggle for complexity in vulnerable relationships. Here, too, lies your chance. If you remain true to your principles you will master this difficult period and learn how to make use of it. It is crucial to work tirelessly to bring order to the confusion. Try not to force things. Accept great change even if it is accompanied by growing pains. Have faith that future order lies in the confusion of a new beginning. This does not mean waiting passively for everything to happen; rather, that you should actively deal with it using motivation and measured force. You will then achieve a satisfactory result.

Line 6.

Whether you want to realize it or not you have lost your perspective. Now you must do more work on yourself. Otherwise, you will soon come to regret your passivity. Chance a new beginning!

Line 5.

You are not succeeding in getting your ideas across to others. You can therefore only work towards improvement quietly and by taking one step at a time.

Line 4.

The time has come to act but you lack sufficient strength. It is not weakness but a mark of inner strength to overcome your pride and not to hit out at someone offering.

Line 3.

You face a mountain of obstacles and need advice from someone with experience. But don't try to hide behind someone and therefore shy away from the difficulties. Adapt your wishes to the real world.

Line 2.

Problems and obstacles wherever you look! This is not the time to be making momentous decisions. Help which is offered may easily become a restrictive obligation. Better wait for more manageable conditions.

Line 1.

No sooner do you begin than you collide with another obstacle. Try not to force matters but don't lose sight of your goal. Seek support. A modest approach helps in this.

4. INEXPERIENCE

You find yourself in a position where personal experience is of no further help. Remember: life is a process of constant growth and change. Without a disposition for learning and adaptability comes the danger of stagnation. Admit to your own helplessness and seek an adviser who can give further assistance. Accept the advice even when you are unable to see the reasoning. And don't fight it, otherwise your adviser could abandon you when help is most needed. You may possibly suffer an identity crisis. Accept your feelings. See the situation as providing the seed for further development.

Line 6.

Those who won't listen have to be prepared to suffer the consequences. Your incorrigibility carries the consequences in its wake. You will be led back onto the right track.

Line 5.

An inexperienced person will not regret being prepared to accept advice.

Line 4.

You are losing yourself in an unreal dream world. Disappointment will unavoidably follow if you prove to be unwilling to learn. The only saving grace lies in the fact that disappointment can be the instigation of a desire to change.

Line 3.

A weak person imitating someone strong loses all individuality of character. Nothing is achieved without strength of character.

Line 2.

You possess the wisdom and power to understand the inadequacies of human beings. Your sympathy and intuition enable you to do this.

Line 1.

You are not going about the task with the earnestness it deserves. As a consequence you will achieve little. Those who gamble with life make little progress, and those who ask too much of themselves paralyze their own strength.

5. THE WAITING

This sign indicates that you have to face a danger ahead which you cannot control. Try to remain calm and not succumb to your fear. Waiting need not mean helplessly hoping. Use this time to recognize the fundamental elements of your life honestly. Become aware of your strengths and weaknesses and in doing so develop the strength to meet future challenges. You need to save your strength now by remaining calm and serene. Live in the here and now. Replace your doubts and worries with certainty and create an atmosphere in which trust and self-confidence can grow.

Line 6.

The period of waiting has not yet passed. You should accept the inevitable. When things seem desperate help will come along. Everything turns out well if you gratefully accept it.

Line 5.

The danger is not yet over. But there is a quiet pause. Use the time to gain perspective. Enjoy it but don't lose sight of your goal. There is still much to be done.

Line 4.

You find yourself in difficulty. This situation can become extremely dangerous. Whatever you may try to do merely leads to a deterioration in matters. Take stock and let fate run its course. It is the only means of exorcizing the danger.

Line 3.

By behaving rashly you have squandered your strength and now stand at the mercy of your opponents. Only extreme caution can save you now.

Line 2.

Difficulties are drawing nearer. Remain calm if you are the subject of gossip. Trying to defend yourself would only lend unnecessary weight to certain senseless accusations.

Line 1.

The danger is still far off. Don't allow yourself to be unsettled by dark premonitions. Remain calm as everything is still all right. Deal with problems as they arise. Trying to solve them now would only expend energy.

6. CONFLICT

This is no time for ambitious plans. Inner or external difficulties only stand in the way of their realization. Avoid confrontation of any sort and guard against the use of deception or force. You need to enlist the help of an impartial figure trusted by both sides to forestall a battle being fought to the bitter end. Important matters should be left for the time being. At present you are not gaining the optimum effect. But even if you know that your opinion is right you should still make compromises. Remember that those involved can only see one side of the coin. This has to be kept in mind from the outset to avoid misunderstanding.

Line 6.

Maintain the upper hand if you are prepared to see the dispute through to the end. But this victory brings no peace as it is always challenged. The result is endless conflict.

Line 5.

Look for a person of sufficient strength and authority who can judge the matter impartially. The decision will pass in your favor if you are right.

Line 4.

You are unhappy with your situation. You could secure advantages for yourself because a weaker opponent is involved. But your sense of dignity and justice allows you to forego them. You become calm, regain inner peace and ultimately succeed.

Line 3.

Remain in the background of things even if this means foregoing honor and approval. The values you acquire can never be taken from you. Personal development is more important now than worldly success.

Line 2.

Your opponent is superior. There is no shame in retreating to a one-sided battle to avoid negative consequences.

Line 1.

At the outset of a conflict it is always possible to reach a settlement without loss of face. Avoid altercation with a stronger opponent even when you feel you are in the right. Ultimately, everything will turn out for the better.

7. COLLECTIVE FORCE

The struggle against an external opponent or a part of yourself always involves an element of risk. If you want to win, then you have to deploy all your strength as any good commander would do. Victory requires iron discipline, good perspective and strategic skill. Perseverance and a sense of justice are prerequisites for maintaining control of the situation. Keep in mind the power of human feelings and needs. Remain courageous and understanding, and through this foster a sense of unity among your allies. First of all, you should scrupulously and impartially

ascertain whether the struggle is just and absolutely necessary. Perhaps the same outcome could be achieved with patience and frankness.

Line 6.

Victory is possible. All those involved are subsequently rewarded according to their effort, but consider the character of each one. Causing trouble could undo the good work.

Line 5.

Don't be afraid of the defense of a just cause. But you require an experienced adviser to prevent the struggle from degenerating into senseless aggression.

Line 4.

In a hopeless conflict it is a sign of courage and strength to pull back instead of destroying self and family in senseless battle.

Line 3.

The conflict lacks leadership and clarity. Beware of incompetence and infighting. This would be the shortest course to failure.

Line 2.

When leading others into battle you should share joy as well as sorrow with them. Friendly and kind behavior motivates your companions.

Line 1.

There should be good grounds for taking up arms. Once you have made the decision, you should be disciplined and carry out the resolve with all your might. Failure threatens through indecision.

8. COHESION

We humans are individuals with different inclinations, problems and standards. But we are all alike in the longing for togetherness which provides us with an inner homeland. And so, too, you need like-minded company. Don't hesitate too long! Important experiences in life will elude you if you miss the right moment by arriving too late. Furthermore, your personal scope for action will remain limited. Consider the responsibilities involved when you believe that you are able to lead others. Think carefully whether you possess the right attributes. Otherwise, you will merely create confusion. It is only possible to speak of a cohesive community when each member of the group feels accepted by it.

Line 6.

If you hesitate much longer you are going to miss the boat. Remorse is worthless when it comes too late! Try to find out where the source of your hesitation lies.

Line 5.

You have reached a point where you are in true harmony with a person or group. All your difficulties can be solved in an atmosphere of mutual respect and reciprocal support.

Line 4.

Your relationship to an influential person is filled with promise. Prove your loyalty but keep an eye on your independence.

Line 3.

You are presently not in the best of company. Avoid close relationships and remain open to new things. This will keep your reputation intact.

Line 2.

Keep a tight grip on your moral convictions and maintain your dignity. Those who seek accord at any cost poison the waters of their own well.

Line 1.

You must be open and sincere to establish true friendship. People then come to you freely and together you will enjoy success.

9. THE POWER OF THE MEEK TO TAME

You find yourself in a frustrating position in which, despite your effort and good work, you cannot realize plans and ideals. Too much resistance and too many difficulties stand in your way. There is hope of overcoming the limitations but you must tread carefully taking one step at a time. This is not the time to make a breakthrough. React with measure and sympathy. Avoid aggressive behavior of any kind. You can only manage the desired effect by using friendly persuasion and in maintaining a steady grip on your goals. Develop your own character and try to raise your personal standing. If you are resolved in your-

self and adaptable to the outside world you will attain your goal and enjoy ultimate success.

Line 6.

You have reached your goal by persistence and rigorous attention to detail. But take care! Don't labour under the illusion that it will always be like this. Misfortune threatens if you try to force things before the time is ripe.

Line 5.

The power of each individual grows when two people mutually complement one another. Happiness which is shared is happiness doubled. You are on the right track.

Line 4.

If you remain unselfish and sincere your advice will find open ears. Gradually you are overcoming your own inhibitions, increasing in competence and making fewer and fewer mistakes.

Line 3.

Believing that obstacles are easily overcome, you are trying to achieve results too forcibly. The meek still keeps the stronger in check. If you don't watch out you will collide with a barrage of obstacles and once again regret overestimating yourself.

Line 2.

You want to act but you realize how others before you have failed. Therefore, it is better to be restrained. A temporary retreat will ultimately contribute to success.

Line 1.

Trying to achieve a breakthrough will only lead to failure now. If you withdraw to the second line of defense you can determine the right time to go back on the offensive yourself.

10. CONDUCT

Whether you accomplish success or steer a course to disaster depends entirely upon your own behavior. Maintain your sense of dignity and propriety in dealings with people. By doing so, your authority will remain unassailable to the envious and malcontent. Think carefully: there needs to be an overall change in values before fair differences in rank can be established. Develop your own feeling of self-esteem to correspond to your abilities. Try to think positively. Work towards establishing a communication with others which develops feelings. Then you will also make a contribution to the realization of your own plans.

Line 6.

You need look no further than the results of your actions in judging how successful you have been in the past. You know what the future will bring by the result of the impression you make.

Line 5.

You need to act resolutely to realize your plans. Remain conscious of the dangers involved and work steadfastly ahead.

Line 4.

You are in the middle of a dangerous undertaking. Inner strength and a cautious manner ensure you ultimate success. Everything will turn out well.

Line 3.

You lack the necessary strength for ambitious plans. Each overestimation of yourself harbors a danger. You can only be proud of yourself when you are prepared to sacrifice yourself without reservation to a higher cause.

Line 2.

Problems are only spared to those who are modest and don't allow themselves to be blinded by temptation and allurements.

Line 1.

Your role may seem insignificant but you can make much of it if you keep within your limits.

11. PEACE

This is the beginning of a period of harmony with yourself and your surroundings. You experience a "heaven on earth". It is the time to strive for ideals. Instead of mutual distrust, you find a prevailing benevolence in your surroundings. Hindrances can be

removed; inhibitions disappear. Additionally, negative developments can be more easily rectified. Your balance extends a healing effect on even the most obstinate of people. A long-running argument could finally be brought to an end. Use this period to save for a rainy day. Having the golden touch, you will find unintentional acts will bear fruit both for yourself and others. Simply all things thrive in times of inner peace.

Line 6.

The change is under way. Don't oppose your destiny: it is inexorably running its course. Any attempt to avert what must happen is fruitless. Contemplate and strengthen the tie between yourself and your nearest and dearest.

Line 5.

When the strong and the weak join and mutually complement one another, happiness and success are granted to both.

Line 4.

Strong and weak draw near to one another in mutual trust. This inner approach brings advantages to both.

Line 3.

Wilting follows the bloom of every flower. The law of terrestrial life involves constant change. Don't allow this to unsettle you; have confidence in your own inner strength. It is superior to every external destiny.

Line 2.

It is of special importance to remain patient now. A calculated risk should not be excluded when long

term results are kept in view. Be on your guard against favoritism.

Line 1.

In times of growth and prosperity people come to you of their own accord. Your activities will be crowned with success if you keep their well-being in mind.

12. LULL

This sign is the opposite of the previous one. Where once there was nourishment are now decline and cessation. Trouble-free communication seems to have become impossible. Even your best ideas and most altruistic advice meet rejection and distrust. You struggle to bring about a change. Whatever you do, say or want just throws a spanner in the works. It is possible that doubt is cast upon your best intentions. You have to understand that this is the way it is at the moment the cleverest thing to do during a lull is to retreat and work ahead quietly. Don't have self-doubts. Hold your trump card up your sleeve and use it at the right moment. Believe that this phase will pass and that you will emerge from it strengthened.

Line 6.

(Even bad times don't last forever: but you alone can end them. An opportunity to do this soon presents itself. Summon up all your creative strength and remain true to yourself.

Line 5.

The pressure eases but periods of transition bring their own special problems. Only prudence and sensitivity can ensure your future success.

Line 4.

The lull is on the wane. If you sincerely seek harmony with the totality of life then you will find it inside yourself. But disharmony is inevitable if you merely seek personal gain.

Line 3.

Holding the whip hand does not necessarily imply knowing how to handle your own strength. You prove that you can handle responsibility by remaining self-critical.

Line 2.

The weak follow those who promise them help. The strong accept the lull without surrender to anyone. They reflect upon their strength and affirm their character.

Line 1.

You cannot change the situation without betraying your principles. By being reserved you spare yourself unnecessary worry. You find fulfillment by preserving your humanity and developing your character.

13. COMMUNION WITH HUMANITY

Complete togetherness with humanity is only possible if you share a common goal and everyone is free to develop individual talents. Only then can harmony rule and yield a sense of unity. If you wish or are requested to take on responsibility in a team or group, you should ask yourself honestly whether you possess sufficient strength and clarity of thought for the task. A sense of justice, social awareness and organizational skills are further essentials for the job. Support the objectives of your group unconditionally and ensure the equal rights of each participant. This is not the time to make a name for yourself on your own terms.

Line 6.

Through force of circumstance it may be necessary to join a group without totally agreeing with its aims; you make no mistakes if your intentions are sincere.

Line 5.

The situation is dangerous and you are testing your limitations. Make your feelings known in order to find assistance. Difficult times are subsequently better mastered.

Line 4.

Differing approaches hinder the convergence of points of view. However, reason ultimately prevails and a common denominator is found. Tolerance and openness facilitate success.

Line 3.

Distrust and rivalry reign within the community. Egoism leads to the alienation of group members from each other. The result is stagnation. Pause a moment to redefine the basis for your co-operation.

Line 2.

Selfish behavior endangers the community. A group which disintegrates into rival factions loses all credibility and effectiveness. In the long term, this results in the failure of all plans.

Line 1.

You are among people who pursue similar goals to your own. No one occupies a privileged position, and communication is free and open. If there is a common goal you will enjoy success.

14. POSSESSION OF GREATNESS

“Possession of Greatness” is a gift from fate. This sign therefore heralds material wealth and worldly success all along the line. Both freely come about of their own accord, but it is crucial how you handle this gift. Practice being humble. Keep in mind the well-being of your fellow human beings. It will support your own intentions as well. Pride and competitiveness could damage your own reputation and personal development. Build upon your positive attributes. Preserve your self-discipline and strength of character. Then you will achieve the remarkable in this phase.

Line 6.

Happiness and success accompany you, but don't get carried away. Don't forget that others have helped you too. Your fellow men appreciate it and you will benefit from that.

Line 5.

Your sincerity and generosity win you the heart of others. Be careful that relationships don't become too narrow. This could undermine your authority.

Line 4.

Beware of jealousy and envy, and try not to trump or outdo other people. You remain faultless by concentrating on your own task.

Line 3.

Generous people allow others a share in everything they themselves share in. In this way, they meet with everyone's recognition. Egotistical people are incapable of sharing and suffer as a result.

Line 2.

You have at your disposal the means to realize ambitious plans. You find capable and competent people to assist you.

Line 1

Your strong position has not been questioned until now. As a result, it was easier to avoid mistakes, but you are just beginning. You remain on a direct course to success without impatience and pride.

15. MODESTY

All things strive for balance and moderation. No sooner does the sun reach its zenith than it inevitably sets out upon its path toward sunset. Once the moon has become full, it again begins to wane. This law applies to human life as well. But we mortals possess free will and can determine for ourselves whether we promote creative or destructive forces. Wiser people seek the balance instead. They take from excess and add to the deficient. They show understanding instead of displaying their power over lesser beings. Try to create balanced relationships within yourself and your surroundings. If you succeed in finding an inner balance and allowing it to manifest externally then you will feel in harmony with the totality of life and its all-encompassing power.

Line 6.

True modesty is reflected in the overall behavior of people. Don't look for the cause of your troubles in other people. You can only have a positive effect on your environment by taking full responsibility for your life and ensuring harmony in the "self."

Line 5.

Even modesty and honorable restraint have their limits. In order to achieve your aims it is sometimes necessary to push yourself into the foreground or purposefully resort to drastic measures. But don't exploit

your power over others. Remain objective and don't get carried away.

Line 4.

Don't abuse the trust of other people. Express your recognition of other people's merits clearly. Move modestly and unobtrusively in social circles and preserve your inner balance.

Line 3.

Through persistence and determined action you receive great credit. But don't let yourself be blinded by success. Remain moderate and unassuming and people will happily assist in meeting your aims.

Line 2.

If you remain conscious of your own limitations it will show in your behavior. You create the foundation of trust upon which your influence and reputation increase. In this sense, persistence attracts success.

Line 1

Modesty and unpretentious behavior help you to realize chancy plans successfully. This attitude clears the path of much opposition.

16. ENTHUSIASM

This sign advises you to move like a stream, always seeking the simplest course and adapting to the most diverse of conditions. Endeavor to act in tune with cosmic harmony and your own inner nature. There

are fixed laws in your personal surroundings by which you have to live. These are the precondition for bringing about loyalty and willing co-operation. New ideas come to fruition if people are enthusiastic about them. This is always the case if the common aim concurs with fundamental human needs and the governing climate is one of co-operation and trust. Everyone will then profit from it. You will continue to develop on the individual level through a harmony of body, mind and spirit. Rely upon your own inner voice.

Line 6.

Your enthusiasm threatens to turn into complacency. You are seeking success at any price. Fortunately, you are still reasonable enough to instigate a change. This allows hope for a fresh start.

Line 5.

External difficulties and inner obstacles undermine your motivation, but a lack of enthusiasm is not necessarily a disadvantage at present. Ask yourself what you really want. By doing so, you avoid rash behavior.

Line 4.

You have the self-confidence and enthusiasm now at your disposal to win support for plans. Have faith that your helpers will give you their best. You will be successful together.

Line 3.

You are in the course of losing your self-confidence

and independence. By looking up to others too much you lose your own creative energy. Act now and you can still achieve something.

Line 2.

You don't fall victim to illusions. Others may let the applause cloud their vision but you yourself recognize clearly how things are. Avoid taking sides if misunderstandings arise. In this way, you maintain your sovereignty and overall respect.

Line 1.

You are proud to be in close contact with an important person. However, unless the motivation is there and a personal opportunity beckons, you will founder on the rocks.

17. EMULATION / ADAPTATION

In the ancient Chinese text this sign is synonymous with autumn. All life adapts to the yearly cycle: decay follows creation. You achieve your goals in so far as you keep the reality in mind and do not go against the grain of fate with misplaced opposition. Be peaceful and open minded. Do not waste your energy on the struggle against beliefs which cannot be changed. Only those who can be dishonest will find the strength to lead others. If you proceed with trickery and force you will achieve little except resistance. Look closely at your own ideas and values. Bring them into harmony with your environment.

You will go further if you can put aside preconceptions and outdated views.

Line 6.

Don't go about frantically seeking self-advantage. Help others and let them profit from your experiences. This contributes to the success of your own plans.

Line 5.

You need a higher ideal for which you are prepared to make a sacrifice. If you wish others well, it will reflect kindly upon you.

Line 4.

You are surrounded by sycophants who are merely seeking self-advantage. You remain spiritually free and independent of external forces only if you can resist adulation.

Line 3.

Consider the past as gone. Chance a new beginning! Your persistent work on yourself will bear fruit.

Line 2.

Examine your goals and relationships. Are they beneficial to your development or do they lead you astray? A bad influence undermines the friendship of generous people who could strengthen the good in you.

Line 1.

Always learn from others regardless of whether they can be considered friend or foe, but you should not abandon your own convictions.

18. REPAIR

If your question concerns a precarious situation then it has been all your own doing. Not fate but rather your own tardiness and indifference have got you into this predicament. Only you can get yourself out of it now. Do the problems appear insurmountable? Don't worry. If you admit to your own mistakes and don't shun harder (inner) tasks then you can soon turn over a new leaf. So look to the future with confidence. Those things which have been corrupted by people can be healed again by people. But you should finally cast off particular behavioral patterns which have caused self-defeat time and again.

Line 6.

You must not speak disparagingly about others even if you feel you do not need them. By creating harmony between yourself and the outside world you are working within your personal framework for a better world.

Line 5.

Important changes are long overdue but you are too afraid to instigate them. You therefore have to seek support and effect this change with the help of other people.

Line 4.

Mistakes and oversights in the past are now taking their toll. The situation will deteriorate further and failure will become unavoidable if you stand by idly.

Line 3.

You are trying with all your strength to correct the errors of the past and to take a new direction, but in doing so, you are overshooting the mark a little. This causes annoyance. Eventually everything will turn out for the better.

Line 2.

You are trying to sort out the cause of your problems. Show consideration for others and avoid sounding too brusque. It would be a mistake to hurt someone you are close to.

Line 1.

Cast off an old habit which restricts and hinders your progress. You are only at the beginning of the difficulties, but changes are still easily made. Remain aware of the fact that all change involves an element of risk.

19. APPROACH

This sign promises a period in which your abilities and performance will find recognition. You enjoy strong charisma and your influence grows. You therefore win the support of others for your ideas and goals. Your personal relationships are under a lucky star as well. If you are considerate and tolerant you will be able to establish a new partnership or consolidate an existing one. This helps whenever a bad phase returns. Use this favorable period to make per-

sonal progress. If you succeed in integrating the insights you have acquired through experience then openness and enthusiasm can contribute to a new and positive approach to life. Keep in mind that you should maintain a grip on the situation by preparing yourself for great changes.

Line 6.

An independent person can give you good advice. This person is willing to help and lets you profit from a wealth of personal experience. It will be useful if you heed this advice.

Line 5.

You need to find a comrade-in-arms who can work independently. Stay in the background rather than interfere unnecessarily. In this way, you are most likely to achieve what you want.

Line 4.

You have reached a good position through personal commitment. Steer clear of prejudice and partiality and the future is yours.

Line 3.

A better situation is in store for you. But don't become over-confident or, in particular, careless and foolish. Any spokes left in the wheel are fundamentally all your own doing.

Line 2.

You find recognition and support. Your future holds promise. The art of living is to take into consideration

the fleeting nature of all earthly forms and still enjoy yourself.

Line 1.

Your ideas will find recognition. Thanks to the presence of capable helpers you are able to realize your plans. Success beckons if you consider other people and remain true to yourself.

20. OBSERVATION

This sign has a double meaning. On the one hand, it signifies that you are observing something closely; on the other, it means that you yourself are being observed and standing in the spotlight. By observing cosmic laws, a knowledge is gained which affects everyday life right down to the finest detail. These laws grant great power to the one who understands and knows how to use them. Such a person possesses true leadership qualities by using intuition and sensitivity instead of force. Use this valuable time to try out new ideas and alter those which have become outdated. Trust is created by your efforts to do justice to people and relationships and through trying to understand them in their respective contexts. Your open attitude will create unity and harmony in personal relationships.

Line 6.

You have left narrow structures behind you and can look at your life without merely focusing upon your-

self. By not being tied down by everyday events you recognize the laws of life and how to act correctly.

Line 5.

Look at the effect your actions have upon other people. This provides a measure of yourself. When your actions prove to have a positive effect then you can be satisfied with your own life as well.

Line 4.

You know how to get on and succeed. Look for a field of activity in which you feel at ease. You will progress through an understanding of overall contexts and a lucky hand in dealing with people.

Line 3.

You gain objectivity by overcoming egotistic and narcissistic dreams. Self-knowledge is not just based upon an exploration of the inner self but also upon understanding how you affect others.

Line 2.

You suffer from the delusions of a subjective single-sided perspective. If you don't want to become more distant from people then you will have to come down from your high horse. You will only understand people's motives if you cease seeing yourself as the centre of things.

Line 1.

You are obsessed with trivialities and don't recognize the core of the problem. Try to understand the situation as part of its greater whole and in its real significance for your life.

21. STRUGGLING

You are severely hindered by an outside obstacle or as a result of a destructive person. Don't believe that problems will merely disappear of their own accord. Instead, try to find out who or what is causing the disruption. As soon as it is found, you have to alleviate it uncompromisingly and resolutely before lasting damage occurs. Give justice a helping hand on the road to success and don't be unwilling to point out someone's limitations. Misunderstandings and confusion pose a threat in the present situation. Clear guidelines must therefore be drawn and reasonable arrangements made. Only then can the way be fundamentally cleared of difficulties. Put yourself under the microscope. Inhibitions and fears are obstacles which you yourself must overcome in order to make progress.

Line 6.

You will pay the price if you won't or can't accept the advice of others. You are on a difficult path and one which leads to disaster.

Line 5.

Although the situation is obvious, a definite decision is difficult to reach. Look for the happy medium and stick to your decision once made. Your sense of responsibility saves you from error.

Line 4.

You are tackling a superior opponent and face enormous difficulties. Show resilience even when it is hard to find. Act immediately. If you show persistence and watchfulness you will emerge the victor.

Line 3.

You don't possess sufficient strength and authority to get through. You are trying with all your might to reach an honorable settlement but your opponent is filled with hatred. However, your opponent is also paving the way to defeat.

Line 2.

If you are not to be told then you will have to live with the consequences. If the penalty appears to be too harsh, it is nevertheless fair.

Line 1.

You have only recently strayed from the right path and don't have to fear any grave consequences yet. You should have the desire to turn back.

22. GRACE

A time in the sign of grace affords you a view of the potential for perfection in this world. But don't confuse the beauty of its outer shape with the real basis of life. Grace is an ornament of all forms of existence which gives us joy in daily life and enables a brief moment of pure spiritual happiness. But nothing

changes merely by watching; beauty remains a fleeting moment. Deeper insight and selfless activity are required to bring about positive changes. Seize the opportunity to refine your way of life. Give more space to your aesthetic sense and to feelings. But guard against being over-idealistic. Don't see the world through rose-colored glasses.

Line 6.

You need no extravagant embellishments and embroideries to everyday life. Your simple but rich style possesses a natural grace.

Line 5.

You would like to attract the attention of a particular person, but you unconsciously entertain the idea that you have nothing to offer. You are too reserved though. Your personal worth is certainly recognized.

Line 4.

Is it sufficient for you just to live your life in material well-being? The answer lies in possible doubts: you will get the most satisfaction by living in harmony with your true self.

Line 3.

You recognize how grace and a romantic aura can transform human existence. Enjoy your life, but enjoy it without being complacent. Hold your ideals up high and continue to pursue them steadfastly.

Line 2.

You are fostering superficiality by placing more va-

lue on form rather than content. Try to do justice to the circumstances by being careful and far-sighted.

Line 1.

You want to move ahead by dint of your own strength alone, even if an opportunity presents itself to take the path of least resistance. Nevertheless you also feel the necessity to build upon your own strengths – and you are right to do so.

23. FRAGMENTATION

A problematic trend now appears in almost all areas of life. The negative element of being emerges and grows in strength. It can't be helped. You can only change your attitude towards it. Accept the situation and use the time for self-reflection. Bad phases pass just like everything else in life. You should be particularly careful in financial dealings. Arrogant behavior will endanger your position by resulting in misunderstanding and argument. You can avoid a crisis in your love life through generosity and kindness. When the period of fragmentation is over you will have emerged from it matured.

Line 6.

The forces of fragmentation have ceased to rage and better times return. Those who are sympathetic will find support for themselves as well. Those who mere-

ly think of themselves, however, will meet rejection by other people.

Line 5.

Your situation improves. The dark, destructive forces gradually retreat and the clear and constructive forces gain more influence. If you are willing to open up you will find harmony and everything will turn out all right.

Line 4.

You are paying the price now for your mistakes and oversights. There is nothing more you can do to avert danger so you have to wait patiently for better times.

Line 3.

You have become involved with people who exercise a damaging influence upon you. Fortunately, however, there remains a strong relationship with a true friend who helps you out of the aberration.

Line 2.

The situation is becoming more and more dangerous – particularly as you have hardly any help. Avoid confrontation of any sort and adapt to current circumstances. Only then can you prevent more serious consequences.

Line 1.

The situation is dangerous and brimming with disaster. People scheme against you and attempt to undermine your position. You are powerless to retaliate. Nothing more can be done except sit it out patiently.

24. TURNING POINT / RETURN

Now begins a hopeful time for renewal and growth. Nothing more stands in the way of a new start. You can leave outdated views and bad habits and feelings behind you and energetically shape your life. Get together with kind people and you will achieve more than would be possible if each of you were to act alone. The best is when progress is made with people you love and who love you, and when this progress brings benefit to others as well as to you yourself. There is no need to force anything: the improvement in your situation corresponds to the natural flow of events. The best things always happen by themselves! Know that the changes have just begun. The new influence must first grow undisturbed before it can prove its worth.

Line 6.

You have stubbornly ignored much well-meant criticism and passed up the opportunity to change direction. This is a pity as you won't receive another chance so soon.

Line 5.

The turning point is irrevocable. You have to exercise self-criticism now and admit to your mistakes. By doing so, you will attain strength of character.

Line 4.

You are becoming aware of your unhealthy relationships and want to rid yourself of them. None of your

friends may possibly want to join you and so you must go it alone.

Line 3.

Your changeability causes you to shift back and forth restlessly between good intentions and bad habits. You gradually reach greater constancy because you keep your higher goals in mind.

Line 2.

You have to reach a firm decision in order to change outdated views. Common experiences tie in: the task becomes easier and success calls.

Line 1.

You cannot always arrive at the correct decision. You now need to recognize error and turn back. Ensure that you have a positive approach to life. Everything will then turn out very well for you.

25. INNOCENCE / THE UNEXPECTED

Human nature is good at heart for it is in harmony with the laws of the universe. Those who act from their feelings and without ulterior motive are in a state of innocence. It is only our egotistic motives which create difficulties. By always acting spontaneously and from the inner spirit you will discover a new side to yourself. Life will take a surprising and delightful turn. If you yourself evolve and develop you can also bring about evolution and development among other people.

Line 6.

Further advances are difficult at the moment. Childlike innocence alone is not enough to protect you from fate's austerity. Bow to its decision. You are powerless against destiny.

Line 5.

You yourself are not to blame if misfortune occurs. However, accept this misfortune as you can do nothing to change it. Better days soon arrive.

Line 4.

Have faith in your inner voice and remain true to your own spirit. You will do well as you do not let yourself be influenced by your surroundings.

Line 3.

At no time is anyone ever safe from innocent misfortune. The unexpected should always be taken into account. By keeping your positive outlook on life you will know how to put even the difficult times to good use.

Line 2.

Carefully settle unfinished work without hoping to gain success or recognition. This is the right attitude in realizing your plans.

Line 1.

Rely on your initial, spontaneous feelings with regard to someone you meet. You won't feel disappointed if you remain free of ulterior motive.

26. POWER OF THE GREAT TO TAME

You have gathered sufficient strength to realize the most ambitious plans. Carefully and honestly take a look at yourself and the goals you are striving to reach. If you are in harmony with the creative forces in the cosmos you will achieve something great and find much recognition. Such a phase is too precious to squander on trivial and everyday activities. Use your present strength to achieve real changes. You can now inspire and motivate other people as well. Hidden treasure lies buried in your self and in your feelings and thoughts. You now possess the inner clarity and outer energy to bring this treasure to light.

Line 6.

All obstacles are surmountable. Your powers can freely unfurl. When you are in harmony with the wholeness of life you can shape the world around you and achieve extraordinary success.

Line 5.

Considered and reasonable measures are required to restrain someone who is pushy and impetuous. Next, you need to recognize the causes of your actions. Take the indirect path and avoid confrontation.

Line 4.

The existing problems will prove to be useful for your personal development. The strength you have gathered is not wasted early on, but can grow in peace instead. You soon achieve a great victory.

Line 3.

The obstacles are removed and you make good progress. You may even find fellow travellers. It pays to remain vigilant, protect yourself against sudden interferences and not to allow yourself to be distracted from your goal.

Line 2.

You are being restricted by forces beyond your sphere of influence. You can only resign yourself to waiting. Do so and you gather the strength to keep working towards your goal when the moment comes.

Line 1.

You would like to progress but an obstacle stands in your way. The cleverest thing to do is to wait until a starting point for action arises.

27. NOURISHMENT

This sign stands for bodily nourishment as much as for spiritual nourishment. If you want to cast judgement on someone then look at the focus of his or her attention and the aspect of existence this person nourishes. Someone who bothers about things unworthy of attention and becomes preoccupied by them will be of little use to you. But someone who has a higher objective in mind will have something valuable to offer you. You, too, should appear stimulating and encouraging when it comes to relating to other people.

Pay attention to what you say and carefully choose the things that you contribute to spiritual nourishment. A relaxed and positive approach to life is the best way to strengthen your soul.

Line 6.

You can act as a model for other people. Rise to the occasion and you can achieve great happiness for yourself and your companions.

Line 5.

You want to take care of everyone and everything but lack sufficient strength. Seek support from a wise person and heed the advice. Destiny will be on your side when you act accordingly.

Line 4.

In striving for a higher goal you are consuming all your strength. Your amenable temperament finds the necessary help from different sources. By looking after others as well as yourself you build a secure house for the future.

Line 3.

Your spirit does not find the right nourishment. Those who don't satisfy both mind and body are neglecting their own totality. Their soul hungers and their inner self is never satisfied.

Line 2.

You are actually in a position to be independent but instead you prefer to let others care for you. In the long term you lose independence and self-confidence.

Line 1.

You are a strong and capable person, but you become dissatisfied when you see others who are even more powerful than you. You need to wave goodbye to over-ambitiousness in order to reach inner peace.

28. PREDOMINANCE OF THE GREAT

You are in a situation where too many things are affecting you at once. They all seem to be important and all demand your attention. You need to look at things carefully so that this extraordinary situation does not become permanent. You will find a way out once you succeed in reducing your view of details down to fundamentals. In doing so, you should anticipate suddenly finding yourself in a totally new position in life. The Predominance of the Great heralds a new crisis marking the crossing into a better period. Remain relaxed and serene and you will solve all difficulties – whether by taking active measures or through patience and biding your time.

Line 6.

You need to tackle the task courageously even when it involves danger, because your task is worth fulfilling if it requires sacrifices.

Line 5.

You create stressful situations for yourself which ex-

pend energy without bringing results. In troubled times you should seek contact with your roots; especially if they lie almost forgotten.

Line 4.

You find support and are able to continue your task. But you will come to a compromising position if you want to charge ahead without looking both ways first.

Line 3.

Don't try to force a breakthrough. Great obstacles block the way. You will end up getting no help at all if you ignore all the warnings.

Line 2.

You are facing a surprising development. Surround yourself with dependable people who are suited to you. By this means, you create the foundation upon which real regeneration can take place.

Line 1.

If you want to realize something in this period then you need to begin carefully and have a plan in mind. Pay close attention to every detail. This may seem exaggerated, but is the way to avoid making errors.

29. PRECIPICE / WATER

Through no fault of your own, you have fallen into a critical situation and will need all your strength to escape once more. Solve the problem by following the example of water. Water seeks the easiest course,

remains true to its direction after each fall and unwaveringly reaches its end. Follow your principles and make no false compromises. To make real progress you need to understand the problem from within and act upon it in the outside world. This time is extremely instructive and can be of great value for your personal development. Equanimity and optimism in all situations are the best recipe for solving every sort of problem.

Line 6.

The day of liberation will come even if all roads have been barred and you are shackled to your problems like a prisoner. It could still take time – so be patient.

Line 5.

Don't do more now than is absolutely necessary. This is not the time for ambitious plans. Take the line of least resistance as this increases your chances.

Line 4.

Formalities can be done away with as it is your attitude which is now important. Be direct and strive for clarity and predictability in your actions.

Line 3.

Danger lies in wait for you everywhere and you don't quite know what to do. The wisest course of action is to remain silent and wait for a solution to appear.

Line 2.

You are hampered by great difficulties. They cannot be overcome in one single blow. Rather, it requires long and patient attention to the closest things at hand.

Line 1.

If you don't keep a firm grip on your bad habits you will run into problems. You know what is to be done – so do it!

30. ADHERING/FIRE

When two forces mutually support one another they achieve a greater effect than would be possible for each one acting alone. You are currently in the vicinity of a complicated power struggle. Understand that even you cannot be impartial. Accept the given nature of mutual dependence. Open up to other forces and to relationships capable of bearing the strain. All of those involved live up to their individual challenges through mutual support. You should not question the importance of co-operation even in relationships where there is less harmony. Adapt your ideas to the realities and use your energy to expand into new horizons.

Line 6.

You must energetically fight the element of disturbance if you want to rid yourself of the bad. But don't be too extreme in your actions. Being too demanding on yourself or others is not advisable.

Line 5.

Inner change is accompanied by psychological growing pains. You recognize the limited importance of

desires and concerns, and endeavor to find a new approach to life.

Line 4.

The upturn is unstable and the force insufficient for long term success. Pay attention that you don't disregard your main concern for quick success.

Line 3.

You are repressing your own mortality. Only those who have accepted and integrated the reality of death can live freely and unhindered in the present.

Line 2.

Try to reduce the extremes in your actions. This creates harmony and will bring good fortune.

Line 1.

Each new beginning holds its own surprises in store. Create the vision you need through quiet and level-headed planning. Never lose sight of your objective as the first step decides what is to come later.

31. INFLUENCE / ATTRACTION

Whether a person or a situation gives rise to your question, it nevertheless has a deep and lasting influence in shaping the background to your concern. If you involve yourself unreservedly you could gain much from it. Seize the initiative as you are currently in a strong position. But make wise use of your strength. Lively exchange is possible in an atmosphere

re of co-operation and trust. Suggestions find fertile ground for development and ideas mutually complement one another. Think deeply about what the influence is based upon. Once this is understood you are afforded a glimpse into the future.

Line 6.

Talking in itself is essentially not enough to affect your surroundings. Let action follow your words. Otherwise, your plans become unrealistic.

Line 5.

Show a strong will. You are then less easily thrown off-track. However, you are still influenced by external forces. As soon as you have become independent within yourself, you will be able to have an influence upon your environment.

Line 4.

You must act from your own inner conviction if you want to convince someone else. Avoid manipulative and calculating behavior as you will gain less from it than you believe.

Line 3

Become more aware of your capricious and spontaneous tendencies. This will give you inner freedom. The more difficult it will then become for those who want to influence you.

Line 2.

You want to achieve something specific but your actions are still confused. Take time to reflect until you recognize clearly your desired aim.

Line 1.

You are just beginning to put an idea into reality. Those around you react indifferently for as long as there are still no visible results. Everything is still wide open.

32. DURATION

What merely had influence in the former sign transforms itself here into a lasting unity. In relationships, for example, this sign points to marriage and family. In terms of traditional values, all plans easily allow themselves to become reality. Go back to the tried and trusted methods. Experimentation doesn't pay. It is vital to show stamina as you have to persevere for a long time. Each positive upward trend requires time. It is a constantly regenerating law following fixed cycles. It is just like the seasons in nature where a fresh beginning follows everything which ends. A lasting effect grows from a set system of change. Feel the rhythm of life and embrace it. You have taken a great step in development when you recognize how things achieve permanence.

Line 6.

You waste your strength and find no peace, as you skip from one thing to the next. Activity in this way, you will achieve no lasting effect. Carry your intentions through to the end.

Line 5.

In terms of everyday projects, your ways and means have been sufficient until now. But to strive for greater things you need to be flexible in your ideas, be judicious and work out new approaches step by step.

Line 4.

You want to realize something which is unfeasible for you. As much as you may try, nothing will come of it. Adapt your aims to the circumstances.

Line 3.

You swing from one extreme to the other. In this way, you lose touch with yourself and with reality. Pay attention to yourself and, above all, work for greater constancy. Otherwise, you set yourself up time and again for the most embarrassing failures.

Line 2.

Your abilities are far greater than the scope offered by your present range of activity. But don't become impatient. Avoid hasty actions. Your chance will come.

Line 1.

You only achieve lasting results through conscientious work. If you want to achieve everything at once then you hit turbulence and achieve nothing at all – except ending up empty handed.

33. RETREAT

It isn't your fault if forces repressing the good increase in influence. This is the natural cycle of all life. Orderly retreat is now a sign of the strong. In

such a situation, retreat is not flight but rather a temporary renunciation in order to make better progress after a creative pause. You can prepare for the upswing in small ways now. Avoid harsh feelings, impatience and acting out your frustrations on others. If you give into negative emotions you are also fostering negative energy. Such inner conflicts reveal a disharmony between ideal and reality. Remain calm and confident as it is a passing phase.

Line 6.

You are above it all and therefore don't lose face if you now begin to retreat. You will find the right course. You attract goodness by showing human greatness.

Line 5.

You are, partially at least, above it all. You are therefore prepared to retreat. You remain open and friendly instead of withdrawing. You must nevertheless stand by your decision resolutely and firmly and wait for your chance.

Line 4.

You retreat of your own free will and know that your inner spirit is untouched. However, others who retreat through fear will suffer and not endure the new situation.

Line 3.

You want to retreat but are prevented from doing so. This is as disagreeable as it is dangerous. But others need to help you in order to change the situation for the better. This brings no real solution but it is acceptable.

Line 2.

Attach yourself to someone stronger whilst still preserving your independence and dignity. This way, you will ultimately reach your goal.

Line 1.

It would have been advisable to retreat earlier. Now the problems are still with you. You may escape danger by pushing the emergency button immediately.

34. THE POWER OF THE GREAT

If destiny presents you with special power and strength then it is also placing a heavy responsibility upon your shoulders. It is up to you alone whether you create a constructive or destructive effect. This applies just as much in relation to yourself as to your environment. Look at your attitudes and way of behaving. Take into consideration that you are not just living for yourself alone. Whatever you do is going to have an influence upon others too, in turn reflecting on yourself. Decide whether you possess the ability to throw conventional codes of behavior overboard. Preserve your sense of justice and social equality. Only then can the best of your powers be used to the maximum. Above all, remain aware of your own shortcomings and work persistently on personal development.

Line 6.

You have got yourself into a difficult position through stubborn behavior. You need to change within if you want to improve your situation. You will then recognize what has to be done.

Line 5.

The problems sort themselves out and you can continue along your course unobstructed. Now is the time to give up your cautious behavior and show trust towards your fellow human beings.

Line 4.

Be decisive – keep your wits about you and don't overdo it. Supreme ability should not be put on display. It achieves its effect in sure ways and means.

Line 3.

Don't brag about your success nor show off your abilities. By doing so, you only cause envy and ill-will. Take into consideration that you still depend on receiving help.

Line 2.

There are good prospects for success and recognition. You only achieve long-term results if you use your power wisely and utilize only a little of your strength.

Line 1.

You finally have the necessary strength at your disposal to realize a long-term plan. Circumstances though are a hindrance. Remain patient and alert. Make sure to be in the right place at the right time.

35. PROGRESS

This sign promises good and easy progress in relation to worldly and spiritual matters. Your reliability and loyalty are valued professionally and in partnerships. You are trusted when it comes to deciding important questions. By evaluating each situation impartially and altruistically you reach inspired solutions. With so much selflessness it is sometimes not easy to consider your own interests as well, but quite miraculously you always get what you are entitled to. Your secret is that you always feel and act in harmony with the innermost part of nature and the human spirit. You yourself are part of the energy vibration which serves the perfection of all forms – the lowest right up to the highest. Become aware of your role and fulfill it to the best of your ability.

Line 6.

Fight long and consistently against your own errors. Patience is advisable with regard to other people. This way, you avoid further difficulties at the moment.

Line 5.

You have a loyal, reserved and generous nature. Perhaps you could achieve more for yourself by other means. More important, however, are relationships between people – and this you understand well.

Line 4.

The temptation is there to take quick and easy advantage by dubious means, but any success from this will only be of a transitory nature.

Line 3.

You make progress through other people's encouragement. This experience in turn motivates you to lend a helping hand. The result is fruitful co-operation.

Line 2.

Your progress is hindered because an important encounter doesn't materialize. Contact will ultimately come about, however, if you firmly believe in your vocation. Things will take care of themselves from then on.

Line 1

You feel the urge to move ahead but have doubts as to whether you will find the necessary support. Trust cannot be forced. With calm serenity you achieve what you want almost without effort.

36. ECLIPSE OF LIGHT

Unfathomable influences gain ground and threaten the realization of your aims and plans. You have no power over them. The power you have is over yourself. Don't let yourself be swayed from your goals. Stand firm, albeit quietly, by your convictions. The present need is to remain calm within, firm and strong willed, and to appear tolerant and flexible to

those around you. Avoid acting as the centre of attention. Don't meddle in other people's affairs. Your personal opinion has little importance at present. Demonstrate to others once more that the existing conflicts are of a passing nature. They are essential for positions to be clarified once and for all. You will also warm to the task and gain much in terms of personal development.

Line 6.

The eclipse wanes. If good has been harmed and beauty spoiled then they will slowly become whole and healthy once again.

Line 5.

Don't relinquish a strong position lightly even when retreat is the best course of action. There remains nothing else for you to do than adjust to the circumstances – without, however, relinquishing your own ideals.

Line 4.

You are in the fortunate position of being able to recognize clearly what is happening around you. Don't venture too far ahead as you can then avoid impending disaster.

Line 3.

You unexpectedly collide with the cause of your problem. Take advantage of this moment coolly and unhesitatingly. With tactfulness you later find normality from within.

Line 2.

A negative force curbs you but you are still capable of acting. React spontaneously and without ugly or ulterior motive. The right decision comes when your gut feelings lead you to make the right decision.

Line 1.

The situation is almost impossible to withstand. You come up against a brick wall. The lack of appreciation of others is a tough nut which is only cracked by sticking to your principles.

37. KINSHIP

The family is the archetype of the social community and a reflection of society. In a healthy family the needs of each person are just as important as those of the group. This goes for all other groups as well. Trust and mutual acceptance must form an effective counterbalance to the authority of the person who leads. This sign is an invitation for you to recognize your own role in the group, family or relationship and to fulfil it to the utmost. Ask yourself honestly whether openness, trust and mutual support rule your relationships. Express your feelings freely and openly and set a good example by living according to the group's ideals.

Line 6.

You enjoy greater significance in your group than you yourself realize. You achieve a positive effect through a sense of responsibility and by being prepared to act. This means happiness and success for everyone.

Line 5.

A group leader should show love and understanding for those who are entrusted to his care, and forfeits the right to leadership when these qualities are absent.

Line 4.

Balance is the first and most important rule in each relationship among equals. Make sure that justice is done to each person – not justice in the same way but according to each person's needs.

Line 3.

Try to find the middle course between rigor and tolerance. Extremes would only cause damage at the moment. A compromise should be sought even when it is not to the liking of some.

Line 2.

Harmony exists when the needs within the family are fulfilled. Try to rid yourself of stubborn and capricious behavior.

Line 1.

Establish clear guidelines from the very beginning. If unreasonable claims and bad habits are instigated at the outset, it becomes extremely difficult to turn the clock back.

38. OPPOSITION

Heaven and earth, day and night, and man and woman are opposite polarities. The process of life comes into being through attraction and balance. But if people or life forces confront one another irreconcilably, something goes wrong. Temporary goals are left unfulfilled. Differences of opinion can never be discounted in the area of relationships. Conflicting forces are at work even within one person. Try not to repress the conflict but understand it instead as a spur to development. Don't aggravate conflict unnecessarily. Avoid biased or hostile behavior. Begin to see things in terms of their overall interrelation. You reach inner harmony if you find unity within the conflicting forces at work.

Line 6.

Distrust is clouding your ability to judge. You face the danger of misjudging someone entirely. The blinkers will fall away from your eyes if you are able to settle particular conflicts once and for all.

Line 5

You have shut yourself off with an air of frostiness. You therefore don't recognize that someone wants to help you. You can count your lucky stars that this person is not easily deterred. You will derive much happiness from him or her.

Line 4.

You will remain an outsider for as long as you continue to be at odds with the group. You will find support with a bit of goodwill. You overcome the difficulties together.

Line 3.

Hold on firmly to those ideals which mean something to you even if it seems that everyone is sworn against you. For all the bad times, everything will turn out all right in the end.

Line 2.

You will come across a person or idea of further help to you. Furthermore, you need the help of external circumstances; everything is so near and yet seems so far away.

Line 1.

Harmony cannot be forced when estrangement sets in between people who belong together. What really belongs together will grow back together by itself. This is how the law of polarity works.

39. HINDRANCE

The hindrances have not built up overnight even though it may not seem like it now. They are part of the path you have followed and need to be overcome before things progress once more. Don't try to evade them, nor should you impetuously run into battle

against them. Reflect upon things and enlist support. An experienced person who is capable gives you the necessary help. Become conscious of the fact that many of your external difficulties have inner causes. So why lay the blame at the feet of other people or on fate? The cause of your problems is found in you yourself. Use the external standstill brought about by the obstacle to build upon your own character. This way, you transform the difficulty into a virtue. The experience will strengthen you and bring happiness.

Line 6.

You feel compassion for people who are suffering. You therefore have a bad conscience if you just live your life and don't help others. Convert this impulse into constructive actions. You will feel better afterwards.

Line 5.

You receive help in the midst of your worst difficulties because you believe in yourself and don't lose heart. United in strength, you succeed in overcoming the hindrances.

Line 4.

You cannot overcome the obstacles alone. Wait until you have found trustworthy people to help. You will settle the difficulties together once and for all.

Line 3.

You are foolishly exposing yourself from time to time to danger by attempting to eliminate an obstacle

outright. Take time to reflect and think about those you love. When you endanger yourself you are also endangering those who are there to help you.

Line 2.

These are no ordinary challenges you are facing. To solve them you must tackle the obstacles using means which are out of the ordinary as well. Proceed purposefully and resolutely.

Line 1.

You shouldn't simply attack the obstacles. Only thoughtful actions protect you from injury. Play it calm and you will be in the right place at the right time. Then you can act successfully.

40. LIBERATION

Difficulties are lifted and the tension dissolves. The effects are liberating! But there is one more thing needed to clear away remaining misunderstandings. Just as thunder and lightning relieve the tension in the atmosphere, so liberation releases the soul from fear and constrictions. Enjoy your newly-won freedom. Don't get tangled up in the past. Forgive all those you hurt when you were at rock bottom. This will help everyone who is involved. You could avoid attributing blame in relationships too, and instead provide a new impulse for love. Letting go of rigid attitudes and worn-out behavioral patterns allows extraordinary potential for personal growth.

Line 6.

You will overcome a powerful opponent if you plan well and act according to the realities. Inner obstacles can also be courageously swept a way now.

Line 5.

First of all, make a firm decision to free yourself of bad influences and tiresome habits. Through inner freedom you successfully tackle the problems this time.

Line 4.

Free yourself from selfish people even if they may seem indispensable. Otherwise, people who can really be trusted will avoid you.

Line 3.

You still want more even though you may have achieved a lot already. In this way, you give cause envy and ill-will. If you behave thus you are certain to pay for it later.

Line 2.

Someone is trying to improve his or her situation with flattery. You will succeed only if you remain strong-willed and immune.

Line 1.

Difficulties are overcome: you can enjoy freedom in peace and look forward to the future. The progress you make will be long lasting.

41. REDUCTION

Reduction and increase are polarities. Both come and go depending upon what is ordained. If you find the right approach towards reduction you will profit from it, but at the same time it fundamentally doesn't matter which aspect of life reduction seizes upon. So try to develop patience and staying power. Find a modest approach. Consider your inner strength. What is within is more important than what is without. Work on yourself is more important now than worldly success. Set aside inner reserves which you can call upon later. The things you now learn and integrate into your personality will later repay you twice over.

Line 6.

Through determined and persistent work you convince your companions. Helpful people offer their services. You are able to achieve much together, but the fruit of your labor should also be reaped by all.

Line 5.

Good luck is on your side and scarcely anything is capable of keeping your fortune at bay. You would be a fool to worry now.

Line 4.

You will gain friends if you have seriously endeavored to acknowledge and set aside your bad habits. Your modest approach will once again support this development.

Line 3.

Closeness is always at its greatest between two people. Jealousy and distrust can mar the best of relationships and the candor of true love proves itself strong against the environment.

Line 2.

You need to help yourself before you can help others. Though you will be of no use to anyone if you sacrifice yourself in order to be there for others. Only someone with a strong character can give real help.

Line 1.

Whether giving help or receiving help from others, you need to consider how much you give and how much you can and are prepared to take. Each act of giving is taking and each act of taking is a form of giving. The energy balance always remains the same. However, pay attention that your personal balance is also equalized.

42. INCREASE

This sign means that the creative powers of heaven and earth are united. Difficult and risky projects can also be attempted now. Take advantage of this phase as it won't last forever. An exceptional force comes into effect from a higher level. It is so subtle that it seizes upon what is important. Trivial and superficial matters are not caught in its net. A healthy blend of inner and outer activity ensures the growth of strong

energies. You are not alone on the planet and you are therefore not just here to look after yourself. Take responsibility: increase the good in yourself as well as in other people.

Line 6.

You have neglected to increase the well-being of others. Your fortunes are fading and if you continue like this you will find yourself. Act with a sense of solidarity and sympathy. Help where you can and it is still possible to turn over a new leaf.

Line 5.

Those whose help comes from the heart expect neither thanks nor recognition. Learn the art of caring for the well-being of good itself, and not just for yourself. You will see how goodness reflects back upon you almost miraculously.

Line 4.

An important mediating role comes your way. Keep in mind the increase in well-being of everyone involved. Your suggestions are then accepted even if the verdict is uncomfortable.

Line 3.

In times of increase even otherwise unfortunate influences can bring good. If you find the right view of things you will recognize good fortune in the bad and again discover a kernel of truth in every untruth.

Line 2.

Your wishes are fulfilled for they are in harmony

with everyone's needs and you are open to good. You need to remain level headed and persistent to secure an unexpected success.

Line 1.

Use the increase in strength to start a large and important task. You will have great success and find general acclaim as you are pure in intention, honest in word and direct in action.

43. BREAKTHROUGH / RESOLUTION

Unfavorable forces lose their influence and you can achieve a breakthrough, but you must act resolutely and perhaps even uncompromisingly. Admit to your intentions and aims. Fight hard – but keep smiling! Violence and hatred are beneath you. Should you succumb to negative emotions, those very forces which you are fighting against will take hold of you. Be careful not to project your own mistakes onto other people. Your environment always holds the mirror up to your own behavior. And it is absolutely certain that the fruit of your own actions will be reaped by you alone.

Line 6.

It would seem as if the problems have been overcome. Nevertheless something remains from which new difficulties will certainly grow. You should there-

fore not relent in your determined struggle against all negativities.

Line 5.

Because your strengths and abilities are diverse, even seemingly insurmountable obstacles are overcome. You are like an acrobat: you topple over and over and always bounce back again. This is your greatest strength.

Line 4.

You want to progress unconditionally, but great obstacles tower up before you. If you would only let go of your obstinacy, it would then be much easier.

Line 3.

Everyone recognizes the problem and all are in favor of finding a solution. However, you stand alone at the decisive moment. Being alone, you have to fend for yourself by running with the pack even if you find it detestable deep down inside.

Line 2.

When you combine resolution with carefulness, watchfulness and inner strength then all difficulties fade away. Be prepared for anything and you will also be forearmed and cannot be caught on the hop.

Line 1.

You resolutely accept a new task. Go about the job carefully as a mistake early on could have fatal consequences.

44. CONGENIALITY

This sign indicates that difficulties believed to have been already overcome unexpectedly present themselves again. At first everything appears innocent and harmless but ultimately confrontation cannot be avoided. It is advised to take timely countermeasures. It could prove necessary to acknowledge your loyalty to a particular person or to your own aims. Don't keep your opinion in the shade if you are without a shadow of doubt that it is right. If you prove to be obliging and understanding at heart then your openness causes no harm and the ice is broken.

Line 6.

You distance yourself internally from the superficiality of your surroundings. You unintentionally come across as curt or even proud. Don't let yourself be deterred from your course.

Line 5.

At last move those values according to which you always wanted to live to the centre of your life. By doing so, you will find more balance, and the energy to lead others also flows to you without having to push or urge them.

Line 4.

Don't be condescending to people and behave with a lack of self-awareness. A power also lies hidden in these people which is only waiting to be discovered:

a power which you might gladly rely upon some time, too.

Line 3.

You are tempted to take up a struggle with powers you cannot control. A good person is trying to stop you. You are thrown into a painful conflict. Keep an awareness of the danger threatening you.

Line 2.

Keep an eye on everything that threatens to pull you down. Make sure that your weaknesses are not all too apparent at present. An unfavorable chain of events and circumstances could cause you a considerable amount of bother.

Line 1.

Even if the problem still appears small and insignificant you should tackle it decisively. Great difficulties will grow from it if you simply let the thing run on.

45. GATHERING

Wherever people find themselves together there is something which motivates them: whether a collective goal or a stronger person to whom they align themselves. As a leader you become the focal point of all the group's strength. As an ordinary group member you add your individual capabilities to the collective power of the group. In both cases you are one of the group and contribute to the concentration

of energy within the group. Either role could have a positive or negative effect upon your personal development. It all depends on how you go about it. Try to organize your feelings and thoughts so that they match your actions and goals. By doing so, you gain self-confidence and can achieve your objectives.

Line 6.

Your good intentions are unappreciated. You therefore remain a bit of an outsider. Try to find out the cause. You will succeed if you honestly want to.

Line 5.

Others seek to be near you as soon as you achieve power and influence. You need to show strength of character, loyalty and leadership qualities in order to gain real trust.

Line 4.

You have the gift to motivate other people. Have you really acknowledged this yet? You are a long way from the sort of person to pursue selfish plans; people are therefore willing to trust you.

Line 3.

You would like to join a group but it is proving difficult and somehow there seems to be no room for you. It can do no harm to seek the help of an influential person.

Line 2.

Compatible people are often brought together in mysterious ways. Such an occurrence should not be resisted as it could be fatal.

Line 1.

You are uncertain whether to join a group and whether you should completely and absolutely integrate into it or not. Your indecision causes confusion. You should hesitate no longer if you feel the aims of the group are worthwhile.

46. ASCENSION

This sign heralds a phase of exceptional success and recognition. You might even be presented with a chance to establish contact with a highly influential person. Use it with self-awareness, but avoid appearing smug as this will only spoil things. It is especially important that you work ahead steadfastly and maintain your independence. It could do no harm to build up greater solidarity with other people. Your feeling for things that matter between people will show you the way to better teamwork- The password to your inner development now is self-discipline. By being self-disciplined your feet stay firmly planted on the ground, and lasting success emerges.

Line 6.

Don't strive blindly upwards without looking around yourself. If you do, you will make serious mistakes. Furthermore, it is asking too much to give one hundred percent. "Slowly but surely" should be your motto all the time.

Line 5.

If you achieve unexpected success, please don't become arrogant or foolish. An ascent from a solid foundation is only possible through steady and gradual advancement.

Line 4.

As soon as you have reached your material goal you will feel the need to develop spiritually as well. You will then understand just how whole it is possible for you to become.

Line 3.

You yourself find success difficult to acknowledge. Care is naturally advisable. However, don't become suspicious and suffer groundless doubts about yourself.

Line 2.

Your sight is firmly set on the target. What matters is substance rather than external appearances. It is better that way. You should not forget though that the appropriate behavior contributes to success.

Line 1.

You are not in the best of situations now. The reason is simple: your capabilities have not yet been recognized. By hard work and perseverance you win the trust of an influential person; success and recognition loom on the horizon.

47. DISTRESS

The soaring powers of the former sign have come to rest. The result is a time of distress. There remains nothing else for you to do than surrender to this unfortunate development. Try to remain calm and optimistic. With positive thoughts you create the pre-conditions for later success. Admit to fear and uncertainty, for you are at the mercy of outside forces. Stick to your guns – even if it is difficult now. Remember: the chance for inner growth occurs in every situation in life. Take life as it comes and focus on that innermost characteristic which is above to fate.

Line 6.

Your plight is approaching an end and final difficulties are eliminated. Don't forget those particular experiences which cause fear time and time again! Approach the matter with hand on heart and everything will succeed.

Line 5.

You know what has to be done but you lack the support of a vital, decisive person. You need to wait until you receive help and a fair hearing. Your time will come!

Line 4.

You would like to help others out of their distress but you are too hesitant. Don't let yourself be deterred. Insist upon your own ideas being implemented. Only then will you and others get your just rewards.

Line 3.

You allow yourself to be troubled by trivial things. You place hope in fruitless projects. Try to perceive things as they really are and not suppress the realities.

Line 2.

If you feel moody it possibly comes from boredom. When you busy yourself with outside matters it signifies that you are not content within. Look for a meaningful task which can enthuse you.

Line 1.

In a time of emergency it is necessary to be decisive in worldly matters and strong within. If you react fearfully and despondently then the situation only becomes more hopeless. However, by avoiding oversensitivity you will soon see a ray of hope on the horizon.

48. THE WELL

The Well symbolizes a deep and inexhaustible fullness of being from which every person creates meaning in life. It represents the fundamental and unchanging needs of humanity. We need to find the source of our true nature in order to reach fulfilment. To this end we are led by intuitive understanding rather than reason. We understand the boundless variety of the human spirit by feeling. Clarify your real desires, yearnings and needs. Push on ahead to the real and true values of life rather than sticking to

superficial norms. In your inner core lies the source of your strength and clarity.

Line 6.

Those who have found themselves are like an eternal well. Their strength is inexhaustible for in themselves they possess the source of inner wealth. So, too, is this source in you, even if you have not yet discovered it.

Line 5.

You possess all the talent needed to attain the insight and experience in order to advance. You develop your potential gifts into abilities by accepting challenges you can meet.

Line 4.

You should now retreat and make contact with your own inner being. First get your spiritual life in order before trying to achieve important things for other people.

Line 3.

You would very much like to put your aptitude and abilities to use. You feel underestimated and this rankles you. Beware of negative emotions. Your day will certainly come.

Line 2.

You are neglecting your talents. Have you ever asked yourself whether you are a bit too indolent? Take care that your natural gifts don't go to waste.

Line 1.

You are preoccupied with things not worthy of your consideration. Thus you are losing contact with your true needs and real goals. Don't think that this development escapes the attention of your neighbors.

49. REVOLUTION / SHEDDING

Times change and with them the demands life makes upon us. This truism now acquires a tangible meaning for you. This is an inner and outer change which is necessary to avoid a hiatus or deterioration. Projects which you never before dreamed of are waiting for you. Don't act with too much haste or force. Your responsibility is growing and you must remain credible – both to others and to yourself. It is only to be expected that the attendant circumstances of the present changes will cause some degree of uncertainty. Try not to hide it; this is a natural result of this situation.

Line 6.

The revolution has already taken place whether you have noticed it or not. If you cannot be entirely happy then just wait. Your judgement could soon change.

Line 5.

Your ideas for reform find fertile ground to grow. The people upon whom it matters are understanding and

support you. Allow for clear guidelines and the situation will soon improve.

Line 4.

Fundamental changes can only be brought about consciously if a deep insight guides your behavior.

Furthermore, the need at present is for detailed preparation.

Line 3.

You should not act too hastily upon changes which are on the agenda. The old behavioral patterns need to be dispensed with once and for all, but look closely at where you can start and how you can translate your insight into action.

Line 2.

The time is ripe for a change, but you need to state your aim more precisely and explain it better. Only then will other people join you – people without whom you would be helpless.

Line 1.

If you are uncertain whether the time is ripe for a change, then it is preferable to wait before committing yourself. Acting rashly would produce undesirable consequences.

50. THE CRUCIBLE / COSMIC ORDER

On the one hand the crucible symbolizes the giving of physical nourishment; on the other it stands for

“soul food” – that’s to say, spirituality. In respect of your personal life, this means that a piece of cosmic harmony is realized within your being. Perhaps you might need to make a sacrifice, but you will be richly rewarded for it. All your endeavors for something higher and more revealing are supported. Accept and make use of the chance to direct your powers towards what is really significant and essential. You can even develop a sense for the laws of the universe and learn how complete harmony is realized in yourself. This will enrich your life in a wonderful way.

Line 6.

An atmosphere of inner clarity and outer well-being creates favorable conditions from which all those involved can profit. You yourself can do a little to strengthen and maintain the positive tendency.

Line 5.

You find support for your work through an open and modest approach. Your success essentially depends upon shaping your own character in so far as you are capable.

Line 4.

Your weak point is an unrealistic estimation of yourself. It is vital to you allow others to reflect the way you really behave. Only then will you notice what is and what is not part of you.

Line 3.

Your good qualities and talents remain unused so

long as no one recognizes them. Don't be content with the fact that, above all else, it comes down to the inner value of a person. It is the stuff of excellent character building to struggle for an external standard without becoming a slave to success.

Line 2.

You would like to achieve a great success. If you are successful you must take envy and ill-will into account. The more you concentrate on your goal, the less you will be disturbed by them.

Line 1.

You should possibly resort to unconventional means in order to make progress. This strengthens your creative flair, and so long as you don't forget who you are it will do no harm to your reputation.

51. EXCITEMENT / TREMOR

The bottled-up tension eases and a tremendous energy is released. This experience is a shock and it gives rise to fear as life can change with a single stroke. The disturbance to the usual and familiar has, however, a markedly productive effect. With things beginning to move, they become changeable in the positive sense. This is also true when the experience of reaching the turning point is painful. You can later react in a more relaxed manner to the vicissitudes of life. Your faith in your own abilities grows. In feeling the

power of destiny over your own life you experience the greatness and honor of cosmic order as well. Out of this grows humility, and from humility comes wisdom.

Line 6.

Excitement and turbulence wherever you look. By distancing yourself you remain calm and in control. Even if people feel that you are insulating yourself, deep down you know that this behavior is necessary for self-protection.

Line 5.

One tremor follows after another – no pause for breath. Remain outwardly at the peak of excitement, but establish a firm point of reference within. By this means, you find the happy medium in everything you do.

Line 4.

You are stuck in a dead end. The problem cannot be solved: do not give up. Look at the present stage of development. Wait a while and admit to your helplessness.

Line 3.

An unexpected event sorely tests your inner strength. Try to remain calm and maintain an overall view. An opportunity to escape the danger suddenly appears.

Line 2.

A situation suddenly arises bringing the danger of material loss. Don't succumb to a wave of frantic activity. It is wiser to accept certain disadvantages and

protect yourself from further harm with circumspect behavior. You will make up for everything in good time.

Line 1.

Something is frightening you. You will soon see that it was a passing phenomenon. Relieved, you will ascertain that everything is all right and smile a little about your fearfulness.

52. REFRAIN / THE MOUNTAIN

The tidings of this sign could be translated into modern parlance as "meditation". You are asked to calm the wave of disturbing thoughts and concentrate instead on looking at the reality. Only then will you shift those deep-rooted prejudices which made it impossible for you to understand your own life in all its complexity. You need to experience your self and the world from peace within the heart in order to decide when the time of holding back is over and the time for action has come. In any event, this sign suggests bringing your soul to life through meditation.

Line 6.

You can achieve an inner peace which encompasses all aspects of your life and reveals the deeper meaning of being. Direct your thoughts inwards and, above all, go wherever the spirit moves you.

Line 5.

If you have found inner peace then your words will also have gained in influence and relevance. You can therefore avoid thoughtless statements which cause difficulties and awkwardness.

Line 4.

You have not yet entirely overcome your egotistic desires. Doubt and difficulty appear time and again. Don't be swayed from your ideas and real inner peace will appear in the course of time.

Line 3.

You will only create even more disquiet in yourself if you try to put an end to your restlessness merely by willing it away. Let go of your desires and covetousness. Seek your inner core through meditation.

Line 2.

You recognize that your chosen path has its perils. Even if you wanted to turn back you couldn't, as the whirl of events drags you along. However, if you deliberately stay in this situation you will find the exit point some time and even help other people as well.

Line 1.

For as long as no egotistical interests are at work you have the intuition for the realities of life. The more you put into effect a selfless approach to life, the more objective and free of prejudice your view will be.

53. DEVELOPMENT / GRADUAL PROGRESS

Just as a tree grows slowly and surely in the air, so too in human life a development is gradually fulfilled step by step to bring about lasting results. This is all the more applicable to your present phase of life. Go about the task with persistence and a level head. Don't expect rapid progress and avoid volatile and impulsive actions. You might not find it very stimulating if things only move slowly. But each result now obtained has a more lasting effect. This is the time to lay solid foundations and put down firm roots. If everything occasionally seems to be moving along a bit too ponderously and leisurely for your taste, bear in mind that you have an aim and that you are on the way there.

Line 6.

You know the meaning of the old wise saying that "all good things take time". You are acting in agreement with the law of progress and success if you fashion your expectations of life accordingly.

Line 5.

The further you progress, the easier it is for your intentions to go unrecognized. You will have to come to terms with the situation, but you will learn how to cope with it and ultimately find out how you can create harmony in your environment.

Line 4.

Situations threatening the upward trend cannot always be avoided. You must prove to be flexible and at the same time keep to your principles. In this way, you could find a personal place for yourself in the midst of all the perils of life.

Line 3.

You place yourself and others in unnecessary danger if you act rashly and create problems. It would be wise, however, to watch developments and make tactical interventions to repel danger and keep your life's ship on course.

Line 2.

You have overcome the initial difficulties. This should give you courage. Your future development is under no dark cloud. Share your happiness with others and look confidently towards the future.

Line 1.

You are only beginning. You feel uncertain and vulnerable while no one helps you. Also learn from the situation: you become watchful and cautious and your independence grows.

54. THE SUBORDINATED

This sign refers to a situation in which you must show tact and proceed with extreme caution. It is an appropriate time to think about traditional values –

values which so often go unrecognized in our time. Viewed correctly, you have lost none of your worth: adaptability, modesty, humility and consideration. If you cannot or won't find these abilities you run an increased danger that no one is interested in your opinions and views. The things you still believe to have under control could slip from your grasp quicker than you think. With loving and selfless support and some tactful reserve you reinforce your position – even if it might at first seem that you are denying yourself something.

Line 6.

It is definitely commendable to have discovered the virtue of modesty. If, however, your noble actions only serve as an exterior pretence to maintain form, people will soon see through you.

Line 5.

It will be of great benefit to you if you prove to be adaptable and can subordinate yourself from time to time. This definitely does you a lot of good, even if it means having to grit your teeth a little.

Line 4.

You have difficulty keeping to conventions which you yourself don't stand by. Such sincerity is certainly laudable, but you will have to wait until the time has come when you can live in your own style.

Line 3.

Your dreams will only be fulfilled if you allow more flexibility in your principles. If you cannot or will not

renounce them, you should take into consideration that adaptation can lead to a goal but the loss of self-esteem always leads to a dead end.

Line 2.

If the situation doesn't meet your expectations, please hold yourself and not destiny responsible. You will enjoy success if you adapt without committing a betrayal of principle.

Line 1.

Your influence upon the situation lessens. By coming to terms with it, you can concentrate on incurring no loss. Matters will begin to look better once more.

55. PLENTY

In terms of I Ching, "Plenty" signifies that inner clarity and worldly success are united in so far as the whole wealth of life can be experienced. This constitutes a true peak of experience for human beings. Once it begins – a beginning in the sense of a cosmic cycle of life – the descent renews towards the plains of everyday life. This is an entirely natural phenomenon and you should not therefore mourn the transitoriness of fortune and success. Gather your strength in order to meet the future challenges before the wheel of fortune takes you to the top again. The work you do now is an investment in the future: enjoy plenty for so long as it lasts.

Line 6.

The endeavor for wealth and success can lead to the alienation of people close to you. Guard against recklessly trying to accumulate worldly treasures. You could lose your spiritual treasures.

Line 5.

You need experienced helpers and will find them if you remain modest and open to advice. This attitude brings success, luck and contentment to all those involved.

Line 4.

If your strength is combined with a friend's wisdom you will complement one another to the best advantage. No obstacle is too great for you.

Line 3.

The situation is a little muddled. There is nothing you can do which is of real help. It may be small comfort to know that it is essentially not your own fault. There is nothing else that you can do except be patient.

Line 2.

Intrigue and complication abound. Everything you do becomes a delicate matter. Expect to cause distrust even if you are entirely innocent. So it is much more advisable to stick to the truth.

Line 1.

Achieving something of real significance requires first the insight and then the vigor. If you only have one of these, look for someone who possesses the other. You will succeed together.

56. THE TRAVELLER

You can expect nothing of permanence here, no matter what your question may be. Like a wayfarer, you will continue along your path too – whether from place to place, to other people, or upon a spiritual journey from one world of experience to another. Clear aims and a life-affirming approach always make it easier to let go of the loved and the trusted, but each parting is also an embarkation for new shores. You receive the opportunity to draw from the wealth of humanity's experience and share in the interconnecting forces of life which were previously unknown to you. You therefore shouldn't feel hopeless, even if you have a heavy heart. Above all, don't pass quick judgement on what this sign means. The wayfarer's life is grounded just as much in the inner world as in the outside world.

Line 6.

You are not behaving in a manner which corresponds to your situation. You soon lose sight of your path if you manoeuvre yourself into a dead end through thoughtless behavior.

Line 5.

You are exploring unknown territory – as much within yourself as in the world outside. Have faith in your abilities and build upon your personal strength so that you find your way. But recognize your limits.

Line 4.

You are familiar with the art of always finding a safe haven in the midst of the storms of life. But you need to move on! Understand this: only what is within you can be retained forever.

Line 3.

Through neglect and an over-estimation of yourself you are bringing about your own defeat time and time again. Avoid interfering in other people's affairs. Otherwise, a feeling of alienation can emerge.

Line 2.

You earn sympathy with your straightforward and reliable nature. Therefore, you receive a respite. Conserve your strength as it will all commence anew and you need your wits about you.

Line 1.

There is no reason to fit in unquestioningly even if you feel like an outsider. You won't reach your goal by being party to cheap tricks and behaving obsequiously. Whatever may happen, you have to preserve your dignity.

57. THE GENTLE / THE INSISTENT

You are in a situation according to which you should proceed gently and with empathy. Wanting everything at once would only achieve the opposite effect. It calls for discreet but decisive handling. Although

you achieve no spectacular results your successes will be all the more impressive. To influence other people you must first of all acquire a feeling for their point of view and motivations. You may perhaps get things moving then. Don't let yourself be dissuaded from your intentions. Anything of use to you ought not escape your attention. Just as the wind gently and insistently moves and shapes the world, so should you as well.

Line 6.

You are aware of your own weaknesses. But it is difficult for you to do anything about them. The best of your self-knowledge is of little benefit to you so long as this situation remains. Force yourself to do something which until now you have put off.

Line 5.

You have reached a point where you can really change your life. Think carefully about what is to be done now. If you have reached a conclusion then act in a manner corresponding to the basic meaning of this sign.

Line 4.

Your vigor has made you successful, and you are liked because you remain modest. Therefore, acquaintances are on your side and you can achieve things.

Line 3.

Don't inhibit your power to make decisions by brooding unnecessarily. You should implement an initia-

tive which has already been planned. Doubt and uncertainty cripple your initiative, leading to stagnation and an inability to act.

Line 2.

Discover the hidden reason for your present standstill. Once this is recognized you need to show a capacity for understanding. You then remove an obstacle from your path which has frustrated you until now.

Line 1.

Show resolution. You will never achieve anything by swinging back and forth between possible alternatives. Get back on track using gentle pressure.

58. THE JOYFUL / THE LAKE

“Greatness”, so the Chinese proverb goes, “comes through joy”. Serenity conquers people’s hearts and strengthens feelings of togetherness. One serious and lofty expression does not necessarily mean that a creative spirit lurks behind it. All the more is achieved with cheerful composure rather than grim earnestness. Your lightheartedness will rarely slip into arrogance if you remain aware of the seriousness of the situation. You feel committed to your ideals within; outwardly, you show goodness and understanding. This earns you the trust of your friends. You are like a calm, clear lake giving cool refreshment on a hot summer’s day.

Line 6.

Ask yourself whether your high spirit is not just a little contrived. Pleasure and diversion are like spices: they round off life but are not all-important.

Line 5.

Watch out for a particular matter which strongly tempts you. You could end up in the devil's kitchen if you become involved. Judge people and situations very carefully. Keep watching yourself closely.

Line 4.

Inner unrest arises from uncertainty and lack of resolve. Ask yourself what it is you really want. Have you really understood yet that passion creates an element of suffering too?

Line 3.

You give your life meaning by determining an aim. A meaningful life creates inner peace. Someone who enjoys inner peace experiences a calm brightness radiating outwards. Those in the company of such a person reflect balance, resulting in joy and contentment.

Line 2.

You demonstrate strength by not letting yourself be distracted from your deeds by pleasure. Success is certain, but the price is too high to pay if you move through life stressed and without joy.

Line 1.

Look for contentment and happiness within yourself. Outer circumstances change: sometimes they bring luck, other times not. However, if you find an emo-

tional anchor in yourself, you will experience joyful serenity and true inner freedom.

59. DISSOLUTION

“Dissolution” here does not mean destruction but rather a diminishing of alienating and egoistic feelings and motives. This sign promises a phase having a favorable effect upon relationships. Unity is strengthened as burdensome feelings and experiences are now worked through and your energy is free for positive and constructive purposes. But everyone who is involved must make a contribution. Disappointments suffered may be forgotten at last and a new start can be made. It is important to approach people in order to overcome inner isolation or permanent disagreement. It doesn’t help at all to continue raising acknowledged mistakes. You ought to show good will now. This provides you with a genuine chance to break from the past and make a successful new start.

Line 6.

Avoid any risk to yourself or friends at the moment. If difficulties are already looming, then it is best to make way for them. This is not cowardice: it is simply the right course to take.

Line 5.

If old and ingrained structures dissolve then exciting ideas will be born. Previously restrained energy begins to flow. Plans lying on hold are tackled with fresh motivation.

Line 4.

You need to become more independent again if you want to realize far-reaching plans. Above all, you should maintain a sharp lookout for things really serving the greater scheme and those which are merely insignificant.

Line 3.

You are mobilizing unexpected force in the face of a large and difficult task. You forget your ego as you are so involved in the task. This fosters your personal development and makes you even stronger.

Line 2.

You run the danger of being isolated if your plan is beset by difficulties. You will then find no inner peace. Exercise patience and tolerance instead of always wanting everything at once. In this way, you avoid grief and worry.

Line 1.

You are in the process of recognizing grave misunderstandings. Face the problem squarely before it gets out of control. You can still unravel the knot relatively easily if you act quickly and resolutely.

60. RESTRICTION

This sign suggests that you should watch out for extremes of any kind. You will then find the right path by yourself. Otherwise, you will drift like a rudderless vessel in a sea of possibilities and lose yourself in a lack of commitment. The restriction concerns the realm of ideas as well as the material. It calls for insight, discipline and moderation, but the effort is worthwhile. You overcome bad times without incurring substantial loss, and still have your sense of reality in the good times. Clear guidelines help in keeping to the imposed restrictions. You should not be too inflexible, though. You have to understand that restriction is just a means to an end. A restriction in your own nature leads to atrophy, whilst incommensurate restriction of other people triggers off indignation.

Line 6.

Drastic restrictions must not be a permanent state of affairs, neither in regard to you nor to other people, but they can and must be accepted for a certain period of time.

Line 5.

Don't impose restrictions upon others which are unacceptable to yourself. Begin with yourself and all the others will go along with it. This is how you motivate people you are dependent upon.

Line 4.

Imposed restrictions don't achieve half as much as

those freely adopted. This applies to you and to others as well. Awaken an understanding of what needs to be done. Even if things take longer it will pay dividends in the end.

Line 3.

Look at yourself soberly and unconditionally. Do you have a sense of your own limitations? Look for the errors in yourself instead of looking for them in other people. You make more progress by this than by wailing and feeling sorry for yourself.

Line 2.

The time is ripe: you have to act. He who hesitates is lost.

Line 1.

Are apparently insurmountable obstacles standing in your way? Then stop. Accept the limitations imposed upon you. Gather your strength to proceed vigorously at the appointed time.

61. INNER TRUTH

You must have access to what lies inside yourself and other people to use the power of inner truth. Approach your environment as openly and free of prejudice as possible. When judging conditions, relationships or people, try to distance yourself from your own desires and aims. This is the only way you can achieve an objective point of view without distorting reality. Even people who are difficult to approach

will open up to you, and you yourself will learn to understand their motives. Insight into inner truth gives your mind clarity and brings goodness and sincerity to your deep feelings and character. An attitude which arises quite naturally in you brings the friendship of other people.

Line 6.

You may well achieve something temporarily by just using sweet words, but for other people action must follow in order to attain lasting success. Take this into consideration if you want to realize your aims.

Line 5.

You still have something to learn before you achieve unity and co-operation. Above all, this applies to sensitivity in finding out about desires and yearnings of your fellow human beings.

Line 4.

You must devote yourself to more complex goals in order to find inner truth. You foster your own inner freedom by avoiding bias and watching out for prejudice.

Line 3.

You are still looking for too much strength and support from the outside world: the source of your strength is within your own inner being. This strength doesn't depend on your experiencing concord and harmony with your environment now.

Line 2.

Inner truth and true values gain influence upon you.

If your words and actions concur then your friends approach you filled with sympathy and joy.

Line 1.

Have a little more faith in your own insight and personal principles. You will thus gain strength and security even if you make a few mistakes occasionally. This is always better than showing no clear lines.

62. PREDOMINANCE OF THE SMALL

This sign brings to mind the fact that the small and apparently unimportant things are often decisive. The drop which brings the cup to overflow is a tiny one — but one generating tremendous effect. So sharpen your eye for detail. You will then understand better the super ordinate context as well. Learn to read what is written “between the lines” of life. It is not enough merely to bear in mind the great and “significant” things. Incidentally your chances of achieving a great success are minimal at present. So quite consciously pay attention to the finer details. For instance, look closely at everything to do with relationships which you consider to be self-evident. Nor is there any reason to hide your light under a bushel. “Dignity lies in the simplicity of the noble”, says a Chinese proverb.

Line 6.

You certainly are aiming high! Be very careful not to

plummet into the depths. Plain and unambitious work on details would do you a world of good at the moment.

Line 5.

You have little chance of reaching your target by your own strength alone. You require competent assistance. Don't allow yourself to be blinded by glitter and important names: you need someone who possesses patience and can knuckle down to the job.

Line 4.

By no means try to force anything now. You would be toying with the devil, so don't deviate an inch from your course even if "there's trouble at the mill".

Line 3.

Watch out! If you insist upon your rights now on principle then you could overlook certain nuances. Pay close attention to apparently insignificant things which could conceal a secret.

Line 2.

Try to make determined use of every opportunity without creating a fuss. It is entirely unimportant which rank someone occupies. The important thing is what this person can do and whether he has your trust.

Line 1.

You may have to resort to unusual measures if tried and trusted methods have failed. It might be necessary to bow down to realities. Otherwise, you exhaust your energies and achieve nothing.

63. AFTER FULFILMENT

The genesis of the cosmos precedes chaos. And so, too, does a new order follow every state of confusion in the people's lives. When this new order is achieved we like to sit back and relax. But beware! This is precisely the point where you need to be careful and observant, for the achievement has not yet stabilized itself. Furthermore, the law dictates that decline begins after every peak. Smug self-satisfaction only accelerates the process. Beware of the illusion that some ideal condition can be everlasting. Nothing is constant except change itself. Remain alert, open to new challenges and be certain of one thing: your road will take many a turn, lead you over numerous mountains and valleys.

Line 6.

As soon as you have completed something you stand still to admire your own work. Don't you notice how your attention wanes? This is how you unwittingly put at risk the fruit of your labor.

Line 5.

A pretty gloss may well conceal the emptiness of a heart but it can never dispel such emptiness. You will find true happiness only if you cultivate your own inner values. Flowers of great beauty are the first to fade.

Line 4.

The subliminal rumbles are present even if everything seems to be in wonderful order. The first signs of decay are making themselves known. Take precautions instead of closing your eyes in surrender to your dreams.

Line 3.

Your plans are ambitious. Remain conscious of the danger which threatens every climber. And especially important: have capable and loyal helpers to get you through the challenges of the future.

Line 2.

Your abilities all too often go unrecognized. But stay calm: your day will come. Continue your self-development and quietly consolidate your position. What truly belongs to you can never be lost.

Line 1.

Everyone rushes ahead looking for improvement at all costs after a change. But the blues strike once the “nitty gritty” work on detail begins! Resist gold rush fever. What you consolidate should ultimately endure.

64. BEFORE FULFILMENT

This sign can be compared to spring time which leads to the fertile summer after the tempering cold of winter. It is a time as difficult as it is beautiful. Harmony reigns; life flourishes and prospers only after its com-

pletion. You need to draw upon all your strength to cope with a task of this nature. It would be presumptuous to expect a sudden solution to all problems with just one roll of the dice. The ground is still shaking under you: you must carefully create a foundation enabling you to bear the load. You are heading for an all-encompassing renewal of life. This departure for new shores is accompanied by anxious expectation and new hope.

Line 6.

Once the confusion has passed we are delighted by harmonious co-operation and the feeling of mutual trust. But you should remain alert: the pendulum could easily swing back the other way.

Line 5.

You achieve your goal through hard work. This is the beginning of a new and glorious era. You mature into your true character and rise up to the challenges of life.

Line 4.

You must now battle resolutely against advancing signs of decay. Cast aside your doubt and misgivings and show purpose and drive.

Line 3.

You are still not strong enough to swing the boat around. You will become shipwrecked if you try to force things. Begin all over again. Build up systematically and you will ultimately succeed.

Line 2.

The time for action has not yet arrived. You must prepare patiently for the transition. Don't lose sight of your goal even if everything takes a long time. If you don't lose heart you will be successful.

Line 1.

You need to leave the confusion quickly behind you and produce tangible results. However, you still lack sufficient perspective and if you avoid acting rashly your chances increase a little more as each day passes. In the knowledge that every ending harbors a new beginning we bring the Book of Changes to a conclusion. Our thoughts turn back to the first sign – “The Creative”.