Overture: An I-Ching/Cartomancy Reading

The future is not written yet. These dreams, visions, and archetypal patterns are only food for thought.

Imagination and storytelling can tap into our subconscious thoughts, feelings deep within our hearts, and even the better angels of our nature.

The three Thai coins are cast six times. The king’s picture on heads indicates yang; the Buddhist temple on tails indicates yin. Hexagram 30 is revealed—fire over fire, the igniting, bright yet dependent fire.

FIRE

FIRE Brightness within ignites and brings brightness without.

There are two changing lines, but the upper changing line of yang prevails: “Sent as an instrument of justice, he transcends his station, delivering swift punishment to the perpetrators, but mercy to the misled. Faultless.”

The changing lines transform to show the possible situation if wisdom is followed. Hexagram 62 is revealed, “Preponderance of the Small,” with the suggestion of lying low when there is thunder on the mountain.

THUNDER

MOUNTAIN Arousing thunder over tranquil mountain: keep still.

The cards are shuffled seven times and three rows of three are laid out.

First set shows 7D-KD-JC suggesting great favor for a successful man who is a faithful friend at heart.

The second set shows a calling to inner peace and success of a higher plane, founded on wisdom.

The third set shows close relationships strained, and call to wisdom transforming the man to love.

7D—2C—6H Favor and success meets call to wisdom, peace with relationships stretched or strained

KD—8D—2C Successful man finds renewal and higher plane of success as a higher calling

JC—4C—KH As a faithful friend, he lays foundation of wisdom and peace becoming a king of hearts.

The reading as fairy tale:

There once was a king who delivered his kingdom from seven enemies and was honored with the sacred celebration of fire. He had won battles on his four borders—against the northern frost dwarves and the southern sea serpents, against the trolls of the East and the tribes of the West; and he had defeated the vampire queen and the zombie lord of the night. Finally, he had slain the great red dragon of the lower caves and brought home the seven treasures of silver, gold, gems, armor, weapons, rings, and crowns.

The gates of the castle were opened for the celebration of fire and the treasures shared with all the people. The magi had prepared a new crown of victory, crafted from the best of the treasure, and placed it upon his brow to the new song played by the court musicians; “His horn has been exalted. His righteousness and justice endure forever in strength and success and skill and favor and glory!”

When the celebration was over, as was his custom after a victory, the king went into the garden of the temple to rest at the foot of the great tree of the Sage. Here in the secret garden, he has always been a faithful seeker of wisdom. As he had always done before, he offered thanksgiving and prayed for wisdom. Here his magic scroll would always reveal that he must seek the Sage and not alliance with dwarves or trolls or tribes and not even the affections of the people. Always before the calling to battle and the vision of the next enemy would appear, but this time only silence was in his mind and stillness in his heart.

A still, small sense of peace tells him to lay his new crown at the foot of the tree. As the gnarled roots wrap around and absorb it, the tree begins to glow with a faint light, with blossoms and fruit beginning to grow. The symbol of a heart appears, engraved and glowing, on his staff as he wonders what the meaning might be and what new enemy might appear.

With the kingdom at peace, the king soon finds those close to him falling prey to restlessness and dissatisfaction. He overhears three friends plotting to betray him in a ploy for power, and in justice he plans to imprison them. He discovers his brother and sister stealing from the treasury, and he plans to exile them. He even catches his mother lying and cheating for more honor and glory, and he wants to disown her.

The king then returns to the garden and the tree of the Sage where sense of peace leads him to show mercy. As he discards his plans for justice and revenge, six more hearts appear on his staff, glowing magically around the first one. In a vision, the tree transforms into the Sage, who explains those who are forgiven much will love him much. The Sage also reveals that the great red dragon was a king of old who would not relinquish his crown of victory and hoarded his treasures, never finding the true treasure of the Sage and in the fruit of the garden.

The crown he surrendered is returned as a chalice, shining with the warmth of love. The leaves of the tree are given him for the healing of the people.