

BMCC Center for Continuing Education & Workforce Development



Spring 2011

# **Navigating Change & Uncertainty**

With the Ancient Chinese Classic of Change (the I Ching)

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# Change & Uncertainty Is Part of Life



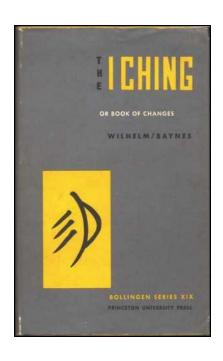
- Change and uncertainty about what it brings have been unavoidable aspects of life since the beginning of time.
- Today, despite advances in science and technology, the ability to navigate change and deal with uncertainty remains as much an art as it is a science.
- Change is inevitable and comes in waves: the goal is to ride the waves of change rather than being swept by them.
- Change is cyclical: over the millennia, the ancient Chinese have observed and documented a finite number of recurrent patterns of change in what is now known at the Book of Changes (the I Ching).
- Change brings new opportunities and with them new choices and decisions to be made in order to realize them.
- The *I Ching* is a tool for Navigating Change and Uncertainty.

# About the I Ching



# The *I Ching*

### The Book of Changes = the Book of Wisdom



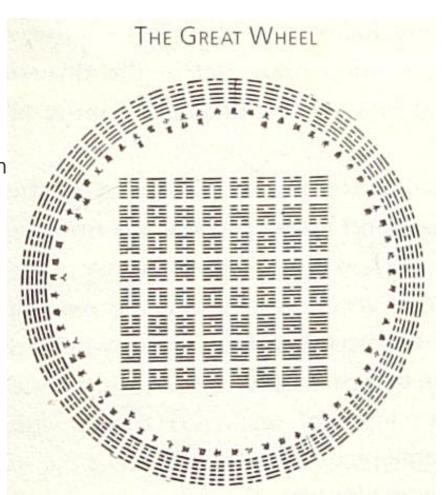
The *I Ching*, or the *Book of Changes*, is one of the first efforts of the human mind to place itself within the universe. It has exerted a living influence in China for three thousand years, and interest in it has been spreading in the West.

First set down in the dawn of history as a book of oracles, the *Book of Changes* deepened in meaning when ethical values were attached to the oracular pronouncements; it became a book of wisdom, eventually one of the Five Classics of Confucianism, and provided the common source for both Confucianist and Taoist philosophy.

(from the introduction to Wilhelm/Baynes translation of the *I Ching*)

# The *I Ching*The Great Wheel of Change

- Considered the oldest of the Chinese classics; the earliest version dates to 4th century BC.
- Originally used for divination and fortune telling, but later reinterpreted as a system of cosmology and philosophy.
- Centered on the ideas of the dynamic balance of opposites, the evolution of events as a process, and acceptance of the inevitability of change.
- 64 chapters (Hexagrams) define key patterns of change; "are instrument by which the meaning of sixty-four different yet typical situations can be determined." (C.G. Jung)



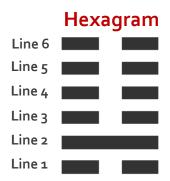
# Basic Organiation of the I Ching

#### **Upper Trigram**

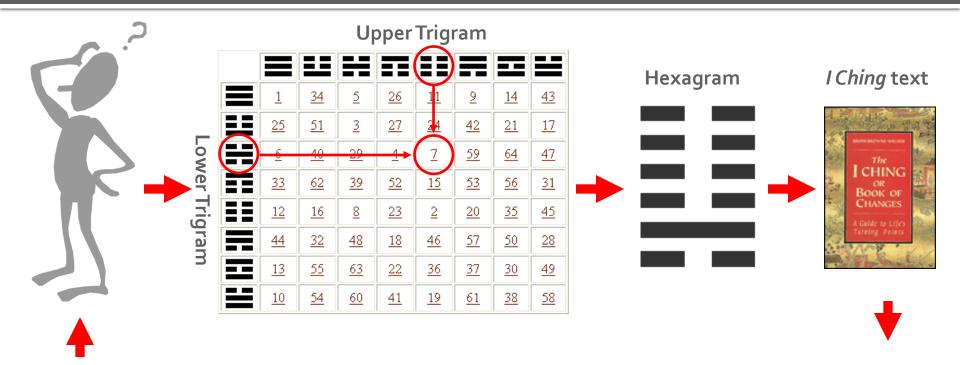
1	<u>34</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>11</u>	9	<u>14</u>	<u>43</u>
<u>25</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>29</u>	4	7	<u>59</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>47</u>
<u>33</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>31</u>
<u>12</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>23</u>	2	<u>20</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>45</u>
<u>44</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>13</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>49</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>60</u>	41	<u>19</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>58</u>

**Lower Trigram** 

- Assumes existence of the finite number of patterns of change (64 patterns had been documented based the empirical observations of nature)
- Each *pattern of change* has a unique:
  - Number (1-64)
  - Name
  - Description
  - Story / instructions
  - Drivers of change
- Each *pattern of change* describes the quality of the moment and provide a blueprint for how it is likely to develop in the near future.



# Navigating Change and Uncertainty with the *I Ching*, *Book of Changes*

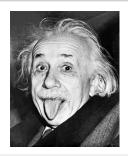


#### #7-THE ARMY

In times of war it is desirable to be led by a cautious and humane general.

- You are advised to prepare for a trial now; your success will be determined by your conduct
- Proper conduct in the times of adversity should be based on the example of a first-rate army
- General wins lasting power and loyalty via superior action and fair treatment of his soldiers

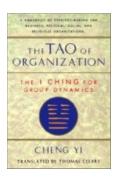
## The Modern Views



"The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant.
 We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift. "
(Albert Einstein)



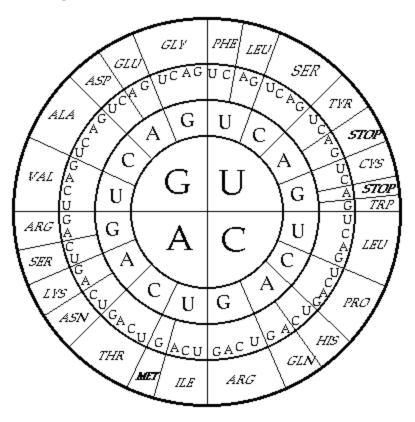
• [I Ching] is the intuitive technique for grasping the total situation which is so characteristic of ancient China. Unlike Greek-trained Western mind, the Chinese mind does not aim at grasping details for their own sake, but at a view which sees the detail as part of a whole" (From Synchronicity, by C.G. Jung)



"Analysis and projection are fundamental elements of rational "divination",
much as is done in the markets, whether for the sake of an orderly market or
for the sake of personal advantage. The I Ching includes an extra element, one
that is often the deciding factor. This is the element of the possibilities and
practicalities of human development. "(From The Tao of Organization. The I
Ching for Group Dynamics, by Thomas Clearly)

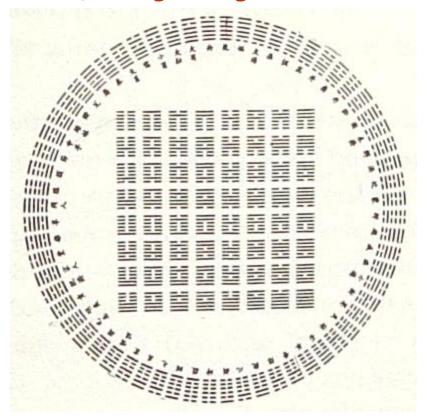
# The I Ching and the Genetic Code

#### **64 Rules of Genetic Code**



The **genetic code** is the set of rules by which information encoded in genetic material (DNA or mRNA sequences) is translated into proteins (amino acid sequences) by living cells.

#### 64 I Ching Hexagrams



64 chapters (Hexagrams) define key patterns of change; "are instrument by which the meaning of sixty-four different yet typical situations can be determined." (C.G. Jung)

# Consulting the I Ching

# Consulting the I Ching

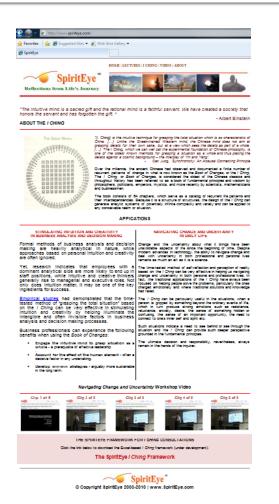




- Two commonly used approaches to consulting the *I Ching* (does not include time-space system):
  - Chance methods identifying a hexagram via the use of coins, colored bids, yard sticks or at random.

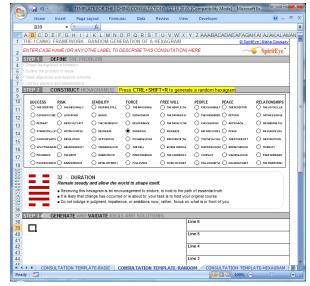
 Deliberate methods – constructing a hexagram by selecting trigrams or individual lives via the process of intuitive contemplation.

# SpiritEye I Ching Consultation Tool



Microsoft Excel based micro-enabled file with the following consultation templates:

- CONSULTATION TEMPLATE-BASIC
- CONSULTATION TEMPLATE-RANDOM
- CONSULTATION TEMPLATE-HEXAGRAM
- CONSULTATION TEMPLATE-TRIGRAM
- CONSULTATION TEMPLATE-LINE





# Consulting the *I Ching:*Chance Methods

### Chance Methods: Random Selection





#### Role of Chance

- Western science is based on the principle of causality, leaving chance out as an exception, a statistical outlier
- If we leave things to nature, we see a different picture: every process is partially or totally interfered with by chance

#### Synchronicity, an Acausal Connecting Principle

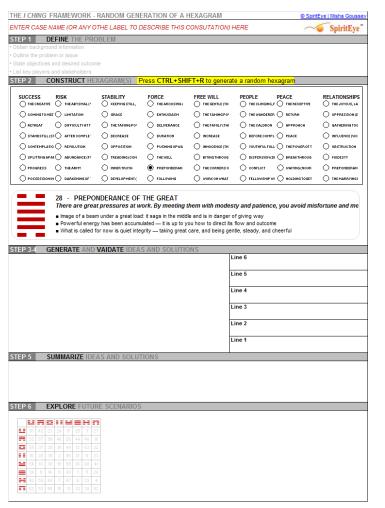
- Both ancient Chinese and modern physicists adapt the psychophysical model of the world
- Causality describes the sequences of events
- Synchronicity deals with the coincidence of events

#### I Ching hexagram as a snapshot of reality

- The I Ching hexagram, cast at random, reflects key qualities of the moment via synchronicity between relevant events.
- The snapshot is a assumed to represent a legible and understandable picture of the present, from which past and future can be inferred.

(based on C.G. Jung foreword to Wilhelm/Baynes edition of the I Ching).

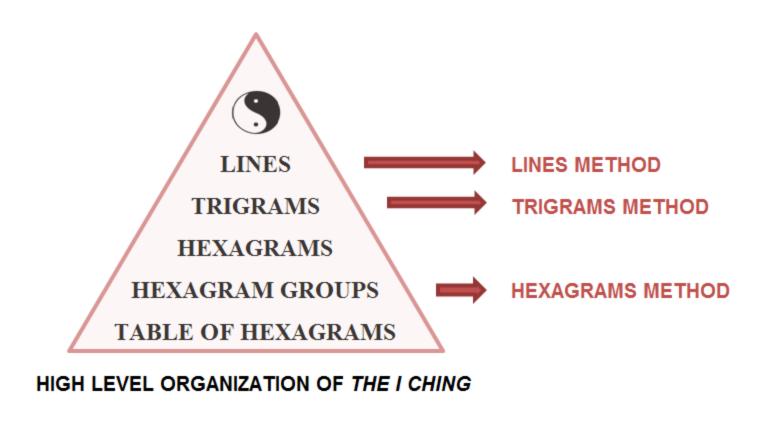
### Chance Methods: Random Hexagram Selection



- Go to www.SpiritEye.com site and click on the "I Ching" link at the top
- Click on "SpiritEye I Ching Framework" link to launch the Excel-based consultation template at the bottom of the page
- Enable macros in the Excel file when prompted
- Go to "CONSULTATION TEMPLATE-RANDOM" tab
- Generate random hexagrams by pressing Ctrl+Shift+R simultaneously
- Analyze the received hexagram in the context of your question / situation

# Consulting the I Ching: Deliberate Methods

### Deliberate Methods Based on the I Ching Organization



### Deliberate Methods: Hexagram Groups

Group Name	Hexagram Name	Number
SUCCESS	THE CREATIVE	1
	COMING TO MEET	44
	RETREAT	33
	STANDSTILL (STAGNATION)	12
	CONTEMPLATION	20
	SPLITTING APART	23
	PROGRESS	35
	POSSESSION IN GREAT MEASURE	14
RISK	THE ABYSMAL (WATER)	29
	LIMITATION	60
	DIFFICULTY AT THE BEGINNING	3
	AFTER COMPLETION	63
	REVOLUTION	49
	ABUNDANCE (FULLNESS)	55
	THE ARMY	7
	DARKENING OF THE LIGHT	36
STABILITY	KEEPING STILL, MOUNTAIN	52
	GRACE	22
	THE TAMING POWER OF THE GREAT	26
	DECREASE	41
	OPPOSITION	38
	TREADING (CONDUCT)	10
	INNER TRUTH	61
	DEVELOPMENT (GRADUAL PROGRESS)	53
FORCE	THE AROUSING (SHOCK)	51
	ENTHUSIASM	16
	DELIVERANCE	40
	DURATION	32
	PUSHING UPWARD	46
	THE WELL	48
	PREPONDERANCE OF THE GREAT	28
	FOLLOWING	17

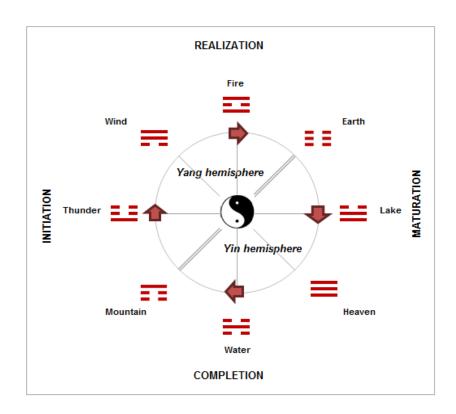
Group Name	Hexagram Name	Number	
FREE WILL	THE GENTLE (THE PENETRATING, WIND)	57	
	THE TAMING POWER OF THE SMALL		
	THE FAMILY (THE CLAN)		
	INCREASE	42	
	INNOCENCE (THE UNEXPECTED)	25	
	BITING THROUGH		
	THE CORNERS OF THE MOUTH (PROVIDING NOURISHMENT)		
	WORK ON WHAT HAS BEEN SPOILED (DECAY)	18	
PEOPLE	THE CLINGING, FIRE	30	
	THE WANDERER	56	
	THE CALDRON	50	
	BEFORE COMPLETION	64	
	YOUTHFUL FOLLY	4	
	DISPERSION (DISSOLUTION)	59	
	CONFLICT	6	
	FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS	13	
PEACE	THE RECEPTIVE	2	
	RETURN	24	
	APPROACH	19	
	PEACE	11	
	THE POWER OF THE GREAT	34	
	BREAKTHROUGH (RESOLUTENESS)	43	
	WAITING (NOURISHMENT)	5	
	HOLDING TOGETHER (UNION)	8	
RELATIONSHIPS	THE JOYOUS, LAKE	58	
	OPPRESSION (EXHAUSTION)	47	
	GATHERING TOGETHER	45	
	INFLUENCE (WOOING)	31	
	OBSTRUCTION	39	
	MODESTY	15	
	PREPONDERANCE OF THE SMALL	62	
	THE MARRYING MAIDEN	54	

## Deliberate Methods: Hexagram Groups

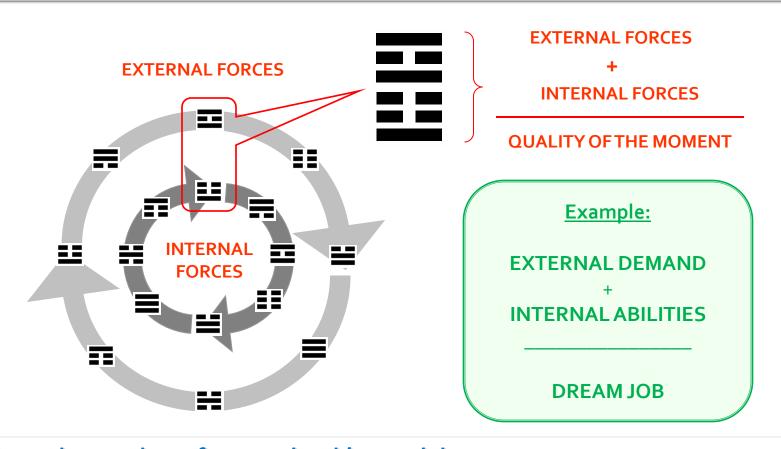
STEP 2 CONSTRUCT HE	XAGRAM(S)				
SUCCESS RISK  THE CREATIVE THE ABYSMAL (*	STABILITY	FORCE  THE AROUSING	FREE WILL  THE GENTLE (TH	PEOPLE PEACE  THE CLINGING, F THE RECEPTIVE	RELATIONSHIPS  THEJOYOUS, LA
COMING TO MEE: LIMITATION	GRACE	O ENTHUSIASM	○ THE TAMING PO	○ THE WANDERER ○ RETURN	OPPRESSION(E
RETREAT O DIFFICULTY ATT	○ THE TAMING PO	DELIVERANCE	O THEFAMILY (THI	THE CALDRON APPROACH	GATHERING TOG
STANDSTILL (S1 AFTER COMPLE	O DECREASE	O DURATION	O INCREASE	O BEFORE COMPL O PEACE	○ INFLUENCE (WO
CONTEMPLATIO REVOLUTION	OPPOSITION	O PUSHINGUPWA	○ INNOCENCE (TH	O YOUTHFUL FOLL O THE POWER OF T	OBSTRUCTION
SPLITTING APAF ABUNDANCE (FI	TREADING (CON	○ THE WELL	BITINGTHROUG	O DISPERSION(DI O BREAKTHROUG	MODESTY
PROGRESS THE ARMY	○ INNER TRUTH	O PREPONDERAN	○ THE CORNERS O	CONFLICT WAITING (HOUR	PREPONDERAN
POSSESSION IN O DARKENING OF:	O DEVELOPMENT(	OFOLLOWING	O WORK ON WHAT	FELLOWSHIP WI O HOLDING TOGET	( THE MARRYING I
Those who are  You've reached Far-reaching in	d a time of great per fluence is possible,	nced, humble, and sonal power and cla with your shining up	arity by purifying you	th the Sage inherit everything usur thoughts and actions un shines upon everything on earth enerous towards others	under the sun.

## Deliberate Methods: Trigrams

TRIGRAMS					
TRIGRAM	SYMBOL	KEY QUALITIES	ACTION	PHASE	
==	THUNDER	Movement Activity	Stirring-up Arousing	INITIATION	
=	WIND	Initiation Obedience	Entering Penetrating	INITIATION	
==	FIRE	Intelligence Understanding	Congregating Clinging	REALIZATION	
≣≣	EARTH	Receptivity Harmony Accord	Responding Yielding	REALIZATION	
=	LAKE	Joy Enjoyment	Stimulating	MATURATION	
=	HEAVEN	Productive Energy	Persisting	MATURATION	
==	WATER	Cautious Danger Desire	Venturing, Falling	COMPLETION	
₹	MOUNTAIN	Stillness	Stopping, Grounding	COMPLETION	



## Deliberate Methods: Trigram Dynamics

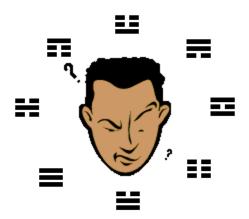


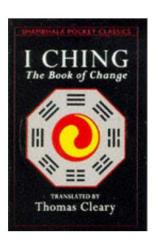


#### Change is a product of external and internal circumstances

- If external circumstances can not be changed, adjust internal attitude.
- If internal conflict can not be resolved, change external environment.

# Deliberate Methods: Trigram Selection



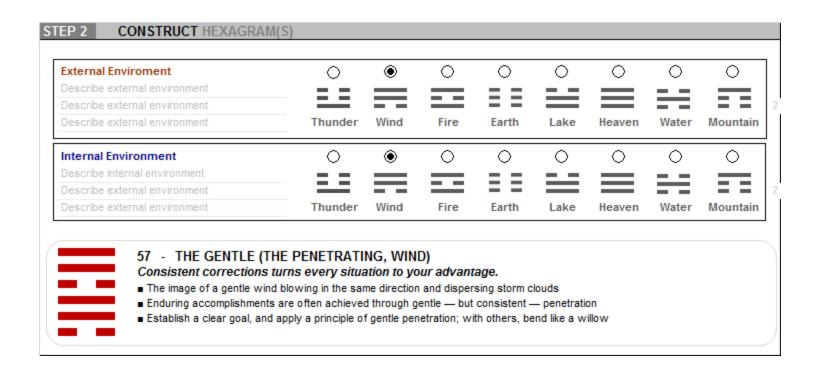


#### Examples of trigram selection for the Deliberate methods

- A relationship between someone who is very intelligent and someone who is very adaptable might be represented by a combination of fire and wind. Fire over wind yields hexagram number 50, THE CAULDRON. Wind over fire yields number 37, THE FAMILY (CLAN).
- A situation in which one faction is eager to move ahead in an undertaking while another faction is hesitant and inhibited might be represented by a combination of thunder and mountain. Thunder over mountain yields number 62, PREPONDERANCE OF THE SMALL.
   Mountain over thunder yields number 37, NOURISHMENT.
- If you tend to be lighthearted but are in perilous circumstances, this
  might be represented by a combination of lake and water. Lake over
  water yields number 47, OPPRESSION( EXHAUSTION). Water over
  lake yields number 60, LIMITATION.

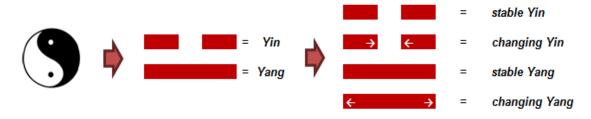
(From Shambhala Pocket Classics translation of the *I Ching* by Thomas Cleary.).

### Deliberate Methods: Trigrams

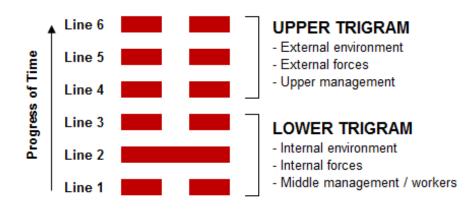


### **Deliberate Methods: Lines**

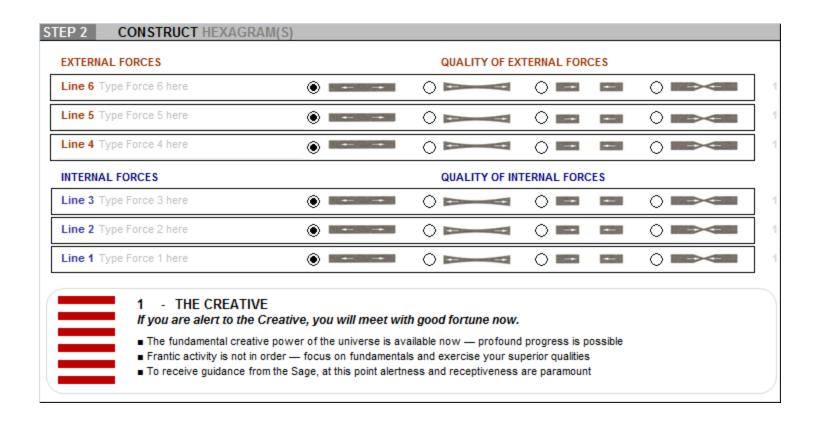
#### Anatomy of a line: four possible states



#### Anatomy of a hexagram: lines representing the hierarchy of power

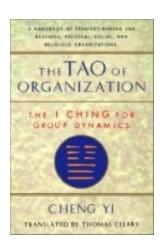


### **Deliberate Methods: Lines**



# **Appendix**

### Chance vs. Deliberate Methods



There are many methods for consulting the *I Ching and interpreting its advice.* "According to Liu Shiyi, the many methods of finding hexagrams in the *I Ching for* consultation all fall within two basic categories, the *chance and the deliberate. In* private circles much has been said by way of comparison between the results of these two fundamental approaches to use of the *I Ching.* 

These discussions can be generalized in terms of various relationships between subconscious and conscious perceptions and different methods of stimulating exchange between the subconscious and conscious minds, but all agree that whatever method is used, ultimately much of the quality of a reading will depend on the sensitivity and skill of the reader"

(From The Tao of Organization by Cheng Yi, translated by Thomas Cleary).

## Selected Reference Materials on the I Ching



The I Ching or Book of Changes by Wilhelm / Baynes



The Tao of Organization: The I Ching for Group Dynamics by Thomas Cleary



The I Ching or Book of Changes. A Guide to Life's Turning Points by Brian Browne Walker



Understanding the I Ching by Cyrille Javary



Synchronicity. An Acausal Connecting Principle. by C.G. Jung



I Ching. The Book of Changes by Thomas Cleary



Confessions of a Taoist on Wall Street by David Payne