

A Glimpse at the I Ching

Introduction

I Ching - also Zhou Yi, a book of divination, philosophy, or maybe of the Universe...

- One of the oldest Chinese classical text.
- Yi (易): Simplicity, Variability and Persistency.

Authors: Fu Xi (~3000 BC) → King Wen (~1100 BC) → Duke of Zhou | → Confucius (~500 BC)

Content: Trigrams (bāguà) → Hexagrams and Judgments (guàcí, tuàn) → Line statements (yáocí) | → Commentaries (shíyì)

Structure of the Hexagrams

NINE (solid line) 

SIX (broken line) 

(爻 yáo)



Trigrams (八卦 bāguà)



姤

Encounter
(or Royal Bride)

Hexagrams (六十四卦 guà)

乾：元、亨、利、貞。

Qian consists of fundamentality [*yuan*], prevalence [*heng*], fitness [*li*], and constancy [*zhen*]. [Lynn]

初九：潛龍，勿用。

1. In the first (or lowest) NINE, undivided, (we see its subject as) the dragon lying hid (in the deep). It is not the time for active doing. [Legge]

九二：見龍在田，利見大人。

2. In the second NINE, undivided, (we see its subject as) the dragon appearing in the field. It will be advantageous to meet with the great man. [Legge]

九三：君子終日乾乾，夕惕若，厲，无咎。

3. (In the third NINE, undivided) The noble man makes earnest efforts throughout the day, and with evening he still takes care, though in danger, he will suffer no blame. [Lynn]

九四：或躍在淵，无咎。

4. (In the fourth NINE, undivided) "Hesitating to leap, it still stays in the depths": when it advances there will be no blame. [Lynn]

九五：飛龍在天，利見大人。

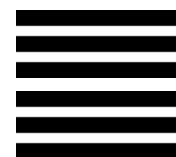
5. (In the fifth NINE, undivided) (we see its subject as) When a flying dragon is in the sky, it is fitting to see the great man. [Lynn]

上九：亢龍有悔。

6. In the sixth (or topmost) NINE, undivided, (we see its subject as) the dragon exceeding the proper limits. There will be occasion for repentance. [Legge]

用九：見群龍无首，吉。

7. All nines: You meet a group of dragons without a head. Good fortune. [Pearson]



乾 Qian

English translations by James Legge, Richard J. Lynn and Margaret J. Pearson

Acknowledgement: Many thanks to Prof. Margaret Pearson for her correction of some notations and suggestions on the English translations. We really appreciate her permission of using things from her book 'The Original I Ching: An Authentic Translation of the Book of Changes' in this notes.