

## A Glimpse at the I Ching

### Introduction

I Ching - also Zhou Yi (周易), 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 → Hexagrams and Judgments → Line statements | → Commentaries  
(*bāguà* 八卦) (*guàcí* 卦辭, *tuàn* 彖) (*yáocí* 爻辭) (*shíyì* 十翼)

### Structure of the Hexagrams

NINE (solid line) 

SIX (broken line) 

(爻 *yáo*)



Trigrams (八卦 *bāguà*)



Hexagrams (六十四卦 *guà*)

姤

Encounter  
(or Royal Bride)

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. NINE In the first place: The hidden dragon. Don't do it! [Pearson]

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。

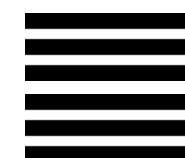
5. (In the fifth NINE, undivided) When a flying dragon is in the sky, it is fitting to see the great man. [Lynn]

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.