

I-Ching

The Book of Changes — I-Ching in Chinese — is unquestionably one of the most important books in the world's literature. Its origin goes back to mythical antiquity, and it has occupied the attention of the most eminent scholars of China down to the present day. Nearly all that is greatest and most significant in the three thousand years of Chinese cultural history has either taken its inspiration from this book, or has exerted an influence on the interpretation of its text. Therefore, it may safely be said that the seasoned wisdom of thousands of years has gone into the making of the I-Ching. Small wonder then that both of the two branches of Chinese philosophy, Confucianism and Taoism, have their common roots here. The book sheds new light on many a secret hidden in the often-puzzling modes of thought of that mysterious sage, Lao-tse, and of his pupils, as well as on many ideas that appear in the Confucian tradition as axioms, accepted without further examination.

The I-Ching has nothing to do with "fortune telling." It is concerned with human development and self-knowledge, with understanding first of all the dynamics in any situation and then what consequent actions might be appropriate, even when the action advised is most difficult or may go against the wishes or hopes of the enquirer. Sometimes the answer the oracle offers is not what you want to hear, but over time, you realize it is ALWAYS right. Often the changing lines lay out the consequences of different types of action possible in any situation. The I-Ching is, unquestionably, one of the greatest works of philosophy in the history of the human race, a unique representation of how the great forces of the cosmos interrelate with a human life as we encounter continuous change. It's timeless, and regardless of how human society seems to progress and change on the outside, the oracle remains relevant and of inestimable value to what goes on within us.

1. KIAN – The Creative
2. Khuan – The Receiving
3. TSHUAN – Difficulty of commencement
4. MONG – Youthful foolishness
5. SU – The Waiting
6. SONG – The Dispute
7. SHI – The Firm Leadership
8. PI – The Agreement
9. SIAO-TSHU – The Small Gathering
10. LI – The way of living, the demeanor
11. THAI – The Peace
12. PI – The Stoppage, the Obstruction
13. THONG JEN – The Community
14. YU-TAE – The Large Property
15. KIAN – Modesty
16. YUE – The joy, Enthusiasm
17. SUEI – The Followers
18. KU – The Decay
19. LIN – The Approach
20. KWAN – Consideration
21. SHIH HO – The Criminal trial
22. PI – The Decorating
23. PO – The Decline, Fall

24. FU – The Return Point
25. WU WANG – Innocence, without guile
26. TA-KHU – The Taming, Inhibition
27. I – Nutrition
28. TA KWO – Overburden, excess
29. KHAN – Risk abyss
30. LI – Insight, brightness
31. HSIEN – Taking influence
32. HANG – Long duration
33. THUN – The retreat
34. TA KWANG – Big power, strength, wealth
35. ZIN – Progress, rise
36. MING I – Injured brightness
37. KIA ZAN – Family, Heini
38. KUEI – Alienation, contrast
39. KIEN – The danger
40. KIAE – Exemption
41. SUAN – The loss
42. YI – Profit
43. KUAE – Decision, breakthrough
44. KEU – The encounter, contact
45. TSUEI – The Assembly
46. SHENG – The Rise, uplift
47. KUEN – Exhaustion, distress
48. TSING – The Fountain
49. KO – Radical change
50. TING – The pot, jar
51. TSHEN – The Arousal
52. KEN – Keeping still
53. TSIAN – Development
54. KUEI MEI – The Marrying Maiden
55. FONG – The Abundance
56. LU – The Wanderer
57. SUN – The Gentle
58. TUI – The joy
59. HOAN – Resolution
60. TSE – Limitation
61. TSHONG FU – Confidence
62. SIAO KUO – Preponderance of the Small
63. KI TSI – After Completion
64. VI TSI – Before Completion