

Yin and Yang in the Yi Jing

from the “Ten Wings”

乾 Qian	坤 Kun
image of “sun” 日 over “stem” 干, meaning “dry lands” 旱 with “waving banners” or “venting qi” 艸, and a “young sprout” 乙 (2 nd Heavenly Stem)	image of “an object on the earth” 土 with “hands joined” 升 around a “central axis” 中 and then “extended to all things” 申 (9 th Branch of the Earth)
sky, above, higher, greater, active, yang	earth, below, lower, lesser, passive, yin
whole, entire, flowing, fortune, ease, continuous, circles	broken, partial, ebbing, misfortune, difficulty, segmented, squares
lightning, wind, sun, heat, day, light	thunder, rain, moon, cold, night, darkness
being, spontaneity, the great beginning	doing, simplicity, the completion of things
knowing, aligning, lasting, virtue, the way	following, helping, caring, work, the task
spontaneous change (hua), image, meaning, creating words	rhythmic change (bian), action, method, doing deeds
gua text (main statements), odd numbers	yao text (line statements), even numbers
regret and worry	obstruction and hardship
upstream, past, birth, beginning	downstream, future, death, end
opening, expanding, unity, initiative	closing, contracting, compliant, mutuality
decisive, sudden, immediate, alert to danger	agreeable, passive, gradual, warn of hindrance
strong, firm, regulating, seeking	yielding, soft, maintaining, laboring
one leader and two followers	two leaders and one follower
exalting virtue, honor, wisdom and speech so that yin and yang can intertwine and produce	deepening service, humility, respect and diligence so that all things can be fully nourished
infusing essence (jing) with spirit (shen) in order to generate the images (xiang)	combining form (xing) with cleverness (ling) in order to follow the patterns (fa)
singularly focused at rest and aiming straight in action in order to define greatness	all folded together at rest and spreading out in action in order to define vastness
horse (good/old/slim/piebald), head, round, male, father, leader, jade, bronze, cold, ice, deep red, fruit from trees	cow/calf, belly, stripes, female, mother, crowds, balance, cloth, black soil, frugality, cauldron, handle-shaft, large chariot