

Consulting the I Ching





(text from <http://www.eclecticenergies.com/iching/introduction.php> - with some additions by me)

Traditionally the I Ching is consulted by throwing 50 yarrow stalks, but usually a set of three coins is used. The coins are thrown six times, while a question is held in mind. It is also possible to just let the I Ching comment on your current state, when no question is held. (However, the I Ching will only comment on your current situation; it will not predict the future.)

The hexagram is built from the bottom up, so the first line is the bottom one, the sixth line the top one.



To calculate the lines from the coins thrown, values are assigned to the coins' sides. Tails equals a value of 2, heads a value of 3. The values of the three coins are added to get the total to determine the line. There are four possibilities:

coins	total	line	changing
0 heads + 3 tails	6	yin 	changing
1 heads + 2 tails	7	yang 	
2 heads + 1 tails	8	yin 	
3 heads + 0 tails	9	yang 	changing

Even totals (6 or 8) give rise to a yin line, odd totals (7 or 9) a yang line.

Throws with all tails or all heads are considered changing lines. A changing line is a line that changes from yin to yang or the other way around. The hexagram that is formed with the changing lines being changed, is the resulting hexagram.

(Example:

Initial Hexagram	Resulting Hexagram
— — (8)	— —
— — (9) changing	— —
— — (7)	— —
— — (8)	— —
— — (6) changing	— —
— — (7)	— —

This is how to interpret the reading:

No changing lines

Consider the hexagram text (judgment) of the initial hexagram.

1 changing line

Consider the line text of the changing line and the hexagram text (judgment) of the resulting hexagram.

2 or 3 changing lines

Consider the line texts and also the hexagram text (judgment) of the resulting hexagram.

4, 5 or 6 changing lines

Consider the hexagram texts (judgments) of the base and resulting hexagrams.

(You could check out the line texts, however they will often be conflicting, and may not clearly relate to the situation.)

For hexagram 1 or 2, when all lines change

Consider the special text for this situation.