

An Introduction to the Yi-Jing

A Self Guided Tour
from Jim Cleaver

First Things First

- You will need a book:

- Generally this will be a translation of the ancient Chinese text.
- This used to be simple – there were only three main candidates.

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1. James Legge | 1899 |
| 2. Wilhelm/Baynes | into German 1923, then into English 1950 |
| 3. John Blofeld | 1965 |

But times have changed since the sixties and now there are dozens.

- Many of which are quite good.
- So choices have to be made.
 - My recommendations are as follows:

Disclaimers

- I have no personal or financial interest in any of these authors or publishers.
- For the most part the information contained herein is fact based, and true as I understand it.
 - Also, as accurate as I could make it, any mistakes are just that, and my fault and I apologize.
 - Opinions are mine and hopefully are obvious.

Translations vs. Interpretations

- By **Translation** I mean a reputable and scholarly translation of the Chinese text.
- I sometimes use a *subcategory* I call a *loose translation*, by which I mean someone familiar with both Chinese and the target language, in this case usually English, whose purpose is primarily utilitarian rather than scholarly – so more colloquial in style and substance.
- An ***Interpretation*** is a text based on translations by others and thus typically more interpretive in nature. These authors are generally only fluent in English, and their interpretations range in quality.
- They may be quite faithful and accurate or highly biased or fanciful.

In Choosing a Text: First Focus on Reputable Translations

- *As mentioned, until the mid eighties there were really only three of note:*

- Legge 1899
- Wilhelm/Baynes 1923/50
- Blofeld 1965

- *I'll say a little about each one:*

1. James Legge - 1899

- The 'first' good and scholarly translation*
 - He began in 1854, finished in 1882, revised and finally published in 1899
 - It is a precise & literal translation, a good example of Victorian scholarship.
 - However, Legge (being Western educated and a Christian missionary) is not always sympathetic to the spirit of the Yi. (smt. he is overtly skeptical and dismissive in footnotes)

*Thomas McClatchie published in 1876 is sometimes referenced as the first English translation.

- Legge's translation, in terms of copyright, is in public domain.
 - Thus often shows up under other author's names, many times without attribution.
 - And it is often found online as well.
 - It is worth being familiar with, just so one can recognize when it is being used.

Legge's translation is organized in a rather convoluted manner, which detracts from its utility.

Raymond Van Over's reorganization of Legge's text is probably the best of the many versions of the Legge translation. Unfortunately, it is currently out of print.

So, probably a Dover edition is the one to get.

2. Richard Wilhelm – 1923 and Cary Baynes

- Richard Wilhelm grew up in China, son of missionaries, translates from Chinese into German in collaboration with classical Chinese scholar Lao Naixuan who was his mentor/tutor.
- It is scholarly, sympathetic, traditional (Confucian) and comprehensive.
- German into English by **Cary Baynes** – 1950
- henceforth know as the Wilhelm/Baynes translation
- Baynes was a student of Carl Jung.
 - Jung wrote the now famous foreword for the 1950 edition.
- 2nd edition into 1 volume – 1961
- 3rd edition into smaller format – July 1967

3. John Blofeld - 1965

- Scholarly, but straightforward, and sympathetic/understanding.
- He lived in Asia for over 50 years, and was a practicing Buddhist, as well as Daoist scholar.
- Legge & Wilhelm include the traditional commentaries attached to the text known as the Ten Wings.
 - This is part of what accounts for the convoluted aspect of Legge and to some extent Wilhelm. (why 3 books/parts with the third part seemingly a repeat of the first?)
- Blofeld omits the Wings except for one, which he calls 'the Symbol', while Wilhelm refers to this commentary as 'the Image'.
- This vastly streamlines the text and makes it much more accessible.
- Another real strength of Blofeld is his Introduction.
 - By far the most accessible of these three publications.

Thomas Cleary - mid 80's

- All three of the above translations use a Chinese version of the Yi Jing/I-Ching compiled in 1715,
- by the court of emperor Kang Xi/Hsi [1626-1723].
- All three are Confucian interpretations of the text.

- *Enter Thomas Cleary:*

- **Cleary's Three Translations**

- **1. The Taoist I-Ching** – 1986
is a translation of Liu, I-Ming's version written in 1796.
- **2. The Buddhist I-Ching** – 1987
translation of Chih-hsu, Ou-i's version circa 1650.
- **3. The Tao of Organization** – 1988
Is a Neo-Confucian version of the I-Ching
Specifically it is a translation of Cheng Yi's version circa 1075.

More Recent Scholarly Translations

My recommendations, for various & sundry reasons, are in Bold:

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|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| • Greg Whincup | • Rediscovering the I-Ching | – 1986 |
| • Henry Wei | • The Authentic I-Ching | – 1987 |
| • K & R Huang | • I-Ching: A New Translation... | – 1987 |
| • Jing-nuan Wu | • Yi Jing | – 1991 |
| • Richard Lynn | • The Classic of Changes (based on Wang Bi commentary ~240 CE) | – 1994 |
| • Stephen Karcher | • The Classic Chinese Oracle of Change | – 94/02 |
| • Liu & Lin | • I Ching Text & Annotated Translation | – 1995 |
| • Edward Shaughnessy | • I Ching, The Classic of Changes (based on Ma Wang Dui texts) | – 1996 |
| • Alfred Huang | • The Complete I Ching | – 1998 |
| • Richard Gotshalk | • Divination, Order and the Zhouyi | – 1999 |
| • Richard Rutt | • Zhouyi: A Bronze Age Document | – 96/02 |
| • Margaret Pearson | • The Original I Ching | – 2011 |
| • John Minford | • The Essential Translation | – 2014 |
| • Lars Bo Christensen | • Book of Changes the Original Core of the I Ching | – 2015 |
| • David Hinton | • I Ching The Book Of Change | – 2015 |

Looser Translations

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| • Da Liu | • I Ching Coin Prediction | – 1975 |
| • Ni, Hua-ching | • The Book of Changes and the Unchanging Truth | – 1983 |
| • Jou, Tsung-hwa | • The Tao of I Ching Way to Divination | – 1984 |
| • Palmer, Ho, O'Brien | • The Fortune Teller's I Ching | – 1986 |
| • Palmer, Ramsay, Zhao | • I Ching: The Shamanic Oracle of Change | – 1995 |
| • Chan Chiu Ming | • Book of Changes, An Interpretation for the Modern Age | – 1997 |

Interpretative Texts

Many interpretations exist. Remember interpretations are based on translations.
Some are more faithful and responsible than others.

- ***Among the best, are versions by:***

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| • Alfred Douglas | • The Oracle of Change | – 1971 |
| • Neil Powell | • The Book of Change: How to Understand & Use the I Ching | – 1979 |
| • R.L. Wing | • The I Ching Workbook <i>or</i> • The Illustrated I Ching | – 1979/82 |
| • Carol Anthony | • A Guide to the I Ching | – 1982/88 |
| • Fox, Hughes, Tampion | • An Illuminated I Ching | – 1984 |
| • Brian Walker | • I Ching Book of Changes: A Guide to Life's Turning Points | – 1992 |
| • Mondo Secter | • I Ching Clarified | – 1993 |
| • Gordon | • The New Age I Ching | – 1995 |
| • Stephen Karcher | • The Elements of the I Ching | – 1995 |
| • Robert Benson | • I Ching a New Age | – 2002 |
| • Moran & Yu | • The Complete Idiot's Guide to the I Ching | – 2002 |
| • Hilary Barrett | • I Ching - Walking Your Path, Creating Your Future | – 2010 |

Books About the Yi Jing (1)

(for further study)

- H. Wilhelm • 8 Lectures on the I-Ching publ. 1960
 - H. Wilhelm • Heaven, Earth & Man in the Book of Changes publ. 1977
- Helmut Wilhelm is Richard Wilhelm's son, and a renown Yi Jing scholar in his own right, as evidenced by these works. He taught Chinese at the Univ. of Washington for many years.
- R. Wilhelm • Lectures on Constancy & Change publ. 1979
 - I. Shchutskii • Researches on the I Ching – 1927 publ. 1979
 - Wei Tat • An Exposition of the I Ching – 1977
 - Stephen Karcher • Ta Chuan The Great Treatise – 2000

More Books About the Yi Jing (2)

- Z.D. Sung
- R.G.H. Siu
- Khig Dhiegh
- Larry Schoenholtz
- Da Liu
- Lama Govinda
- Thomas Cleary
- Alfred Huang
- The Symbols of the Yi King – 1934
- The Portable Dragon: A Western Man's Guide to the I Ching – 1968
- The Eleventh Wing – 1973
- New Directions in the Ching – 1975
- I Ching Numerology – 1979
- The Inner Structure of the I Ching – 1981
- I Ching Mandalas – 1989
- Numerology of the I Ching – 2000

STILL More Books About the Yi Jing (3)

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| • Charles Ponce | • The Nature of the I Ching | – 1970 |
| • Jung Lee | • Understanding the I Ching | – 1971 |
| • Jung Lee | • I Ching & Modern Man | – 1975 |
| • Sherrill & Chu | • The Astrology of the I Ching | – 1976 |
| • Sherrill & Chu | • An Anthology of I Ching | – 1977 |
| • Carol Anthony | • Philosophy of the I Ching | – 1981 |
| • Carol Anthony | • The Other Way | – 1990 |
| • Diana F. Hook | • I Ching & You | – 1973 |
| • Diana F. Hook | • I Ching & Mankind | – 1975 |
| • Diana F. Hook | • I Ching & Its Associations | – 1980 |

And Still More Books About the Yi Jing (4)

- Edward Hacker • The I Ching Handbook (with annotated bibliography) – 1993
- Hacker, Moore, Patsco • I Ching An Annotated Bibliography – 2002
- Bent Nielsen • A Companion to *Yi Jing* Numerology and Cosmology – 2003
- Schorre & Dunne • Yijing Wondering and Wandering – 2003
- Richard Smith • Fathoming the Cosmos and Ordering the World – 2008
- Richard Smith • The I Ching A Biography – 2012
- Edward Shaughnessy • Unearthing the Changes - Recently Discovered Manuscripts – 2014

Medicine & the Yi-Jing

- Miki Shima
- The Medical I Ching – 1992
- Yang Li
- The Book of Changes and Traditional Chinese Medicine – 1998

Yi-Jing & the Genetic Code

- Martin Schönberger • The I Ching & the Genetic Code – 1979
- Johnson F. Yan • DNA and the I Ching – 1991

Psychology & the Yi-Jing

- Terence McKenna • Invisible Landscape – 1975/93
- Jean Shinoda Bolen • The Tao of Psychology (Synchronicity & the Self) – 1979
- Myles Seabrook • The Twelve Channels of the I Ching – 1994
- Roderic & Amy Sorrell • The I Ching made Easy – 1994
- Marysol G. Sterling • I-Ching and Transpersonal Psychology – 1995
- Denny Sargent • The Tao of Birthdays – 2000
- Lily Chung & Jin Peh • Four Pillars of Destiny Your Life Numbers and Hexagrams from the I Ching – 2014

Physics & the Yi-Jing

- Katya Walter

- The Tao of Chaos

– 1994

"Feminist" Versions

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| • Diane Stein | • The Kwan Yin Book of Changes | – 1985 |
| • Barbara Walker | • The I Ching of the Goddess | – 1986 |
| • Rowena Pattee | • Moving With Change | – 1986 |
| • Margaret Pearson | • The Original I Ching | – 2011 |
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- Note: I consider myself to be a strong advocate for women and a “feminist”, but this category has long been a disappointingly weak link in my opinion. I actively discourage the first two. Finally, the publication of a book worthy of the designation has arrived with Margaret Pearson’s book.

Yi-Jing Applied

- Guy Damian-Knight • On Love and Relationships – 1984
- Guy Damian-Knight • Business & Decision Making – 1986
- Guy Damian-Knight • Karma & Destiny – 1987
- Christopher Markert • I Ching: The No.1 Success Formula – 1986

Martial Arts & the Yi-Jing

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| • Gia-fu Feng | • Tai Chi – A Way of Centering & I Ching | – 1970 |
| • Da Liu | • T'ai Chi Ch'uan and I Ching | – 1972 |
| • Larry Johnson | • 18 Buddha Hands Qigong: A Medical I Ching Exploration | – 1999 |
| • Stuart Alve Olson | • T'ai Chi According to the I Ching | – 2001 |

On Divination & Oracles

- Marie-Louise Von Franz • On Divination and Synchronicity – 1980
- Lowe & Blacker • Oracles and Divination – 1981

3 Important Unpublished Works

- Richard Alan Kunst The Original Yijing: – 1985
A Text, Phonetic Transcription, Translation, and Indexes,
with Sample Glosses – Doctoral dissertation - Univ. of Michigan
- Titus Yu I Ching – A New Translation – 1983
with Douglas Flemons – Simon Fraser University
- Yi Wu handwritten handout – 198?
for class at California Institute of Integral Studies
- * Yi Wu Chinese Philosophical Terms – 1986
University Press of America

Summing Up

- ***In the end, I highly recommend owning more than one text.***
- *My Top 3 for many years has looked like this:*
- Wilhelm/Baynes — a classic and every serious student of the Yi should have this book, fortunately, it is readily available and reasonably priced. 1967
- Alfred Huang The Complete I Ching 1998/2010 (10th Anniversary Edition)
This, in spite of the fact that Hexagram 35 is still misspelled as Jing (should be Jin) and remains without tone marks.
- R.L. Wing The I Ching Workbook 1979
- R.L. Wing The Illustrated I Ching 1982
These two works are the same text arranged differently and of course the latter title includes famous Chinese paintings that she thinks “illustrate” the hexagram.
It also includes Chinese characters for the “Judgement texts” for each hexagram.
RL Wing’s books are far and away my favorites from the Interpretations category.
- To expand on this basic list go back to the items in **Bold** on my list in Slide 10.

Other Ancient Chinese Oracles

- **1. T'ai Hsuan Ching** = Tai Xuan Jing of Master Yang Hsiung (Yang Xiong)(written in 2 BCE)
= The Classic of Great Mystery or The Classic of the Great & Mysterious
Translated by: 1. Derek Walters 1983 *The Hidden Classic*
2. Michael Nylan 1994 *The Elemental Changes*
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- **2. Ling Ch'i Ching** or **Ling Qi Jing** author unknown, attributed to Shuo, Tung-fang
(written between 222 & 419 CE)
= The Spiritual Chess Classic or Classic of the Numinous Chessmen
Translated by: 1. Ralph & Mei-chun Sawyer 1995 *Canon of the Supreme Mystery
A Classic Chinese Oracle*
2. Ivan Kashiwa 1997 *Spirit Tokens of the Ling Qi Jing*

Books by Me - Jim Cleaver

- **An Introduction To The Yi-Jing** 245 pages
The text I created/wrote, and use for my course by the same name, and from which these presentations are drawn.
- **Hexagram Name Data-Base** 137 pages
My chronological compilation of hexagram name translations by different authors (starting with Legge - currently 64 authors)
- **Yao-Xue / Line Studies** 109 pages
An Examination and Analysis of the Lines Comprising the Hexagrams of the Yi Jing

My Books (continued)
Translating The Zhou-Yi

- **Zhou-Yi Translation Workbook**

333 pages

– Translating the Basic Texts (Judgement & Line Texts) of all 64 Hexagrams

- **Zhou-Yi Vocabulary**

105 pages

– The ~800 characters used in the text,
organized alphabetically by pinyin, by radical & stroke count, and by frequency of occurrence

This is designed to help the student use the translating workbook above.

It is your dictionary for the task.

Translating The Da-Xiang Zhuan "The Great/Greater Images/Symbols" (This is material from Wings 3 & 4)

- **Da-Xiang Translation Workbook** 52 pages
A brief text for each hexagram using its two component trigrams as the basis for interpretation. Specifically using them to guide behavior.
How a noble person (person of high integrity / an exemplary person, a jun-zi) would/should act.
- **Da-Xiang Vocabulary Supplement** 73 pages
all the characters/vocabulary used in this text
- **Da-Xiang Commentary – Eight Translations** 67 pages
8 Significant and Representative Authors offering their translations of this key commentary.

Jiao Shi Yi Lin

Master Jiao's Change Forest

- (My) **Jiao-Shi Yi-Lin Translation Workbook**: in 2 Volumes (2012) 512 pages
Master Jiao circa 50 BCE [Chiao Yen-shou fl. 85-40 BCE]
composed another ancient oracle in which every hexagram is transformed into every other hexagram in succession, for a total of 4096 individual readings.
- This text had never been translated into English until recently (2016) when Christopher Gait published his **Forest of Changes**: A Han Dynasty Compendium of Divination
[available thru Amazon]