

LESSON THREE: WEIGHING THE OPTIONS

Below is text from an internet reading. It shows how the *I Ching* can be used to explore options to focus effort on the more favorable outcome.

The email string runs "backwards" in time. To follow the exchange, begin at the end of the document and work forward. Exchanges are separated by a line. Traci's question is at the bottom of each section and my responses are above that and immediately below the line. I suggest you start at the last page and read forward.

Read Traci's -----Original Message-----. Jump forward to where my response begins:
james r wilkinson <jrw@change-cycle.org> wrote:_____.

Last Email

-----Original Message-----

From: Traci [mailto:someone@yahoo.com]

Sent: Sunday, August 27, 2006 9:59 AM

To: james r wilkinson

Subject: RE: *I Ching*

Sounds good. Thanks.

james r wilkinson <jrw@change-cycle.org> wrote:_____

Traci:

I think I'd stay on the warm, fuzzy path of tremendous resources, great blessing, and good fortune and not go for the proposed task is so great and difficult that you will need to put all personal concerns aside. It seems you and your husband got a good handle on this. Remember what Reform said, Know what you want, know what makes you feel good about your Self, know what brings you into harmony with others. The image of Reform is Biting Through. Staying there to work through the issues for a smooth separation seems to be appropriate.

This is how the *I Ching* works....Good luck, keep in touch about the outcome, and consult *Heaven to Earth, I Ching* when you next confront challenges.

jr



-----Original Message-----

From: Traci [mailto:someone@yahoo.com]

Sent: Sunday, August 27, 2006 8:51 AM

To: james r wilkinson

Subject: RE: *I Ching*

So what I get out of it is that moving to MN isn't the best idea. But I could go for a couple weeks in October just to see how my mother is doing. Then I need to get a firm idea of where I'm going before I take the leap and make sure I'm taken care of. I had a headhunter call on Friday and leave me a message. I called and left him one back. He said he does other states besides IL and I asked if he had anything in WA, MN, or TX? So we'll see what he says. My husband is being real supportive. He won't contest it but just wants me to make sure I have an idea of what I want. So life is good. We've had some good talks. I've done a lot of reading on divorce and how it affects children in general. I had hubby read it too.

james r wilkinson <jrw@change-cycle.org> wrote:_____

Traci:

I'm not sure what active lines text you're reading. The text I have for Sovereignty 6c/14t active lines are these:

2) You not only have tremendous resources to work with, but you also possess the where with all to co-ordinate these assets and make them work for you. Such ingenuity will allow you to fearlessly attempt ambitious endeavors.

6) Here lies the potential for great blessings and good fortune. Know how to keep things in balance; be devoted in your endeavors and openly appreciative to those who help you. In this way you might expect supreme success.

Tao? I tried in Chapter 2, however feeble, to describe my interpretation beginning page 16. On 19, I use the analogy that the Beargrass and Lodgepole Pine grow next to each other in the same environmental conditions, but they are two different types of plants. They uniquely thrive in their Idaho mountain top environment. The Beargrass is not the Lodgepole. So, expressing your tao is to harmonize who you are with the conditions present in your environment (Tao).

In essence, we cannot often control that which impacts us. Like any building storm, you can get prepared if coming events are somehow framed. You get out storm gear, seek shelter, or evacuate. We have control only over how we react and respond to environmental conditions. The *I Ching* and H2E help us explore that storm like weath-



er balloons (hexagrams and active lines create change cycles). It is especially powerful when you are the instigator of the storm...Find the proper inner expression of self that is then projected into/onto appropriate environmental conditions. This is how the 64 hexagrams and 384 active lines define the realm of human dynamics.

Assuming we are on the same page on the Sovereignty active lines 2 & 6 above, just simply compare the outcome defined by the lines above with the active line 3 text from Dispersion: The proposed task is so great and difficult that you will need to put all personal concerns aside. Working toward common goals will greatly benefit your inner strength. There is no regret in such selflessness.

Back on August 24, you asked "What do I need to hear about my divorce plans?" You received Reform 31c/21t with active lines 1, 3, 5. As you shape your plan, keep Reform in mind: Know what you want, know what makes you feel good about your Self, know what brings you into harmony with others. These are your guidelines and principles. Other factors that assume control of your behavior or your health or that create inner discord are the obstacles that must be overcome.

Look at Reform active line 1 text: Since this is only your first departure from the right path, only a mild punishment is forthcoming. This should serve the purpose of early REFORM. Is it possible that your consideration of moving to MN represents that first departure?

By comparing Reform against the outcome of moving to MN and not, what are your next steps?

jr

-----Original Message-----

From: Traci [mailto:someone@yahoo.com]

Sent: Saturday, August 26, 2006 5:46 AM

To: james r wilkinson

Subject: RE: *I Ching*

What if I don't go to MN? I got 3 tails, 2 tails 1 head, 2 tails 1 head, 2 tails 1 head, 3 heads, 2 tails 1 head

I got 6c/14t sovereignty with active lines 6 and 2 which says (6)All obstacles give way. Potential energy can be used to accomplish great deeds in the world. Align yourself with the tao and you will meet with un-paralleled success. (2) There is no opportunity for advancement. You are held back by forces that are beyond your reach. Stay



where you are and continue to build the resources of your potential energy. Be content with the present situation. There should be no conflict. What's the tao?

james r wilkinson <jrw@change-cycle.org> wrote:_____

Traci:

And the audience said....

-----Original Message-----

From: Traci [mailto:someone@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, August 25, 2006 5:56 PM

To: james r wilkinson

Subject: RE: *I Ching*

Gottcha, I reversed them but didn't know which to use. 17c/57t Gentle So now I ask what if I don't go to MN?

james r wilkinson <jrw@change-cycle.org> wrote:_____

Traci:

I'm not sure where got your text below from. Help me get on the same page....I take it that,

2 heads 1 tail is the bottom line of your hexagram (broken line)

2 tails 1 head (solid line)

3 tails (broken Active line 3): The proposed task is so great and difficult that you will need to put all personal concerns aside. Working toward common goals will greatly benefit your inner strength. There is no regret in such selflessness. - Are you up for the moving to MN? And living with your mother? Look to the primary hexagram text for clues.

2 heads 1 tail (broken line)

2 tails 1 head (solid line)

2 tails 1 head is the top line of your hexagram (solid line)

Assuming yes, here are my Dispersion primary hexagram texts highlights:

1) You must devote yourself to a cause or task of some real significance in the world, or perhaps participate in an event that brings together the members of the community. There should definitely exist an emotional atmosphere within this mutual partaking.



You may want to think this through given all other considerations. Meditate on the emotional atmosphere and the mutual partaking ideas.

2) Therefore, if you are estranged, make an effort to transcend the things that divide you from others. Focus on issues that may bring everyone together in mutual accord. - This text hints at a positive outcome.

Pay attention to the last paragraph of hexagram text.

Finally, active line 3 states the task is so great and difficult that you will need to put all personal concerns aside. Are you currently prepared for such a task, or is it something that happens next spring after you have worked out home front issues? The line says no regret, but I question if there is a more positive outcome hidden in other options. Try asking the "opposite" question and see what the answer is....

jr

-----Original Message-----

From: Traci [mailto:someone@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, August 25, 2006 4:39 PM

To: james r wilkinson

Subject: RE: *I Ching*

Dispersion 27c/59t

Concentrate now upon your inner virtue. Rely upon your principles and those things you know to be true about your nature. Good fortune will come with this attitude. If you look outside of yourself for help, you may succumb to chaos and all subsequent action will be uncentered and improper.

james r wilkinson <jrw@change cycle.org> wrote:_____

Traci:

OK. What hexagram did you get? What does the active line say? (Three tails).

jr



-----Original Message-----

From: Traci [mailto:someone@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2006 5:40 PM
To: james r wilkinson
Subject: RE: *I Ching*

I asked about moving to MN and living with my mother. I got 2 heads 1 tail, 2 tails 1 head, 3 tails, 2 heads 1 tail, 2 tails 1 head, 2 tails 1 head. What does that mean?

james r wilkinson <jrw@change cycle.org> wrote:_____

Traci:

The first questions might deal with getting a divorce and how that should be best handled. You are the obvious priority #1, and so too are the children. You may want to begin with an approach that provides everyone a win-win. Some people can't be pleased, but there are more ideal ways to do this than others. Unless for some reason there is pain in your heart, try a smooth transition.

Consider the question, "What do I need to hear about my divorce plans?" This type of question begins introspection. Since you are the instigator and creator, take the reins to steer the process towards your desired outcome. I'm sure you are prepared to take personal responsibility for what is to happen. For example, a primary hexagram could indicate good fortune or bad fortune, particularly active lines. It could also urge you to stop, delay, or modify plans, or tell you to go for it with gusto. If the primary hexagram and active line text seems relevant, I suggest you follow the advice. How that unfolds begins with the question and is shown through your change cycle and active lines.

Did you see my paper on recent decision I faced? I asked a series of questions to test the winds. See: <http://www.change cycle.org/Docs/PracExample-wForm-0506.pdf>

Depending on the sparks from the first question, the next questions should involve looking at how you can best aid your children and husband. Dictates and cold shoulders gain less than being actively aware of their needs to help them towards separation. In fact, you may want to inquiry about how to individually help the children.

Doing the geographic is the next branch, which is a different question from moving in with your mother. Are you really ready for that? Is there an advantage to temporarily staying in Chicago in order to make the separation less painful? This would allow for some "settling in" with the idea. Have you checked for work in MN?



My suggestion is to begin with a question like the first one. Or, you can simply ask, "What about getting a divorce and moving to MN and living with mom."

Let me know what you came up with.

jr

-----Original Message-----

From: Traci [mailto:someone@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2006 4:22 PM
To: james r wilkinson
Subject: RE: *I Ching*

I went to a lawyer on Monday to check on a divorce. I talked to my mother when I was there and she said I could live with her and was welcome anytime. I thought she could use someone to take care of her anyway. So I thought the *I Ching* could help me decide if that was what I needed to do.

james r wilkinson <jrw@change cycle.org> wrote:_____

Traci:

62c/8t is Unity. I don't know the question, or what you were thinking of when you tossed the coins, but Unity means to identify and hold with those values, people, or life's path that are of similar cord for you. Basically, a static Unity signals isolation if you are not socially connected, which you may already be, but the text states to cross the sea for new ideas. I did a paper about static hexagrams, <http://www.change cycle.org/Docs/StaticHexa-0506.pdf>. Here are my Cliff Notes.

Read the primary hexagram text for overall ambiance, but more important is the static hexagram text on the lower right page. It says, "without strong social connections you may indeed become an island isolated in the sea of your own illusions. Make an attempt to embrace the opinions and perceptions of others, if only for a moment. Cross the sea and explore new frontiers of ideas." It is important to challenge your assumptions and beliefs in order to separate the chaff from wheat. Again, this approach depends on the question. However, expanding our horizons is how we recognize positive influences from negative ones. Reducing negative influences brings Unity and focus to our true path.

Because you have a static hexagram, each of the six lines can be examined for options in your current position. First, look at the active line 5 associate hexagram. Notice how it has a "higher" or larger change cycle number 64c than Unity 62c. However, for



active lines 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 each associate hexagram has a lower change cycle number. In essence, they go "backwards." In any primary hexagram, those associate hexagrams with higher change cycle numbers continue movement towards the Receptive 64c/2t, and you want to go with the flow. Think of the Change Cycle as a downstream system or process from Creative 1c to Receptive 64c.

The active line 5 text reads, "You can trust fate at this time to bring you together with those who would further you. There is a natural attraction at work here. The atmosphere is liberal, and much can be accomplished. The time is auspicious, indeed."

While you did not receive an active line 5, it is possible to "trigger" its influence by conscientiously embracing the opinions and perceptions of others, if only for a moment. The act of self examination (read primary text Unity) with attention to embrace the perceptions and opinions of others (read static hexagram Unity) makes you more receptive to those who will help you (read active line 5), whomever or whatever influence they may be. Since your primary hexagram Unity 62c/8t is near the end of the cycle, it is important to identify what makes you Traci.

Finally, read the last line of the Unity primary hexagram text. You are again to inquiry of your subject. Let me know if this helped.

jr

First Email

-----Original Message-----

From: Traci [mailto:someone@yahoo.com]

Sent: Saturday, August 19, 2006 7:24 PM

To: jr@changecycle.org

Subject: *I Ching*

JR-

I'm stuck. I read most of your book and tried a couple things. I'm a primary static hexagram and that's all I know. I came up with 62c/8t and then 43/20. From bottom to top 8,8,8,7,7,8. Now what?

Thanks, Traci

