



Chinese Oracle Script Divination Cards

Guidebook

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Also by Benebell Wen:

***Holistic Tarot: An Integrative Approach
To Using Tarot for Personal Growth***
(North Atlantic Books, 2015)

***The Tao of Craft: Fu Talismans
and Casting Sigils in the Eastern
Esoteric Tradition***
(North Atlantic Books, 2016)

***Spirit Keeper's Tarot deck
and The Book of Maps***
First Edition, 2018
Vitruvian Edition, 2019



GLORY & GREATNESS TALISMAN TO ENSURE SUCCESS

Near the top of the sigil design, you'll see three connected circles representing the sacred trinity. To the left is the glyph for moon. To the right is the glyph for the sun. Below is the oracle bone script for Divinity. Within the bell are the Chinese oracle bone script characters for "victory," "wealth and great riches," "fortitude and strength," and "glory." In my personal practice, I'll light incense, a candle, envision a beam of light from the crown of my head connecting upward, and then white light energy descending down from the connection I sent up, traveling down through my arm, out my fingertips, and into the sigil I'm drawing, empowering it into the talisman. I visualize my intention materializing and coming into being. One reliable way to determine whether your craft was effective is through emotion: it should be an emotionally-charged experience and leave you a touch emotionally exhausted.



Lady of the Ninth Heaven

The Lady of the Ninth Heaven is likened more to an archangel than a deity. She is associated with the phoenix and kingfisher feathers, a master of military strategy and magic, and was venerated by the Yellow Emperor, the first emperor of China, who knelt before her. She taught the Yellow Emperor the art of war and the art of spell-casting so that he might defeat his enemies. Her symbols are the sword and the gourd of healing. Today she is venerated as a goddess of high magic and intellectual prowess. In personal ritual, focus on her image above to connect to her. Call upon her for support in forms of combat and in magical practice

PETITIONING AND ATTUNING TO THE LADY OF THE NINTH HEAVEN

I call upon Jiu Tian Shwen Nu, the Lady of the Ninth Heaven, disciple of the Empress Mother of the West, to lend me the spirit and power of your sword, so that I may be strong, fearless, indomitable, to cut through all obstacles, and lend me the spirit and power of your gourd, so that I may heal those who are wounded and repair that which is broken. Na mo Jiu Tian Shwen Nu, send to me the power to change that which I seek to change.



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Design Conception

In late August and early September of 2015, my parents visited me to keep me company while my husband James went mountain climbing with my cousins. Mom and Dad's departure flight was on September 9, 2015 and I would be driving them to the airport at 5:00 a.m.

That morning twilight, I was jolted awake at 3:00 a.m. without an alarm clock, because I thought someone was in my room talking to me. At first I thought it was my mother barging into my room, nagging at me to wake up, because I had somehow overslept. Then I realized no one was there.

Immediately thereafter, a second thought popped into my mind: using ancient Chinese script from oracle bones for divination. Along with each script would be a short phrase indicating the script's message.

I thought, "Well, that sure is a nice idea" and then was ready to go back to sleep, now that I realized I was two hours too early and no one was actually present in my room. However, I just couldn't get back to sleep. So I got up, booted up my laptop computer, and started drafting what would be the Chinese oracle script divination system.

By 3:33 a.m. exactly, within about half an hour, I had completed 32 scripts I wanted to include, along with accompanying messages. Intuitively, it did not feel complete, but I didn't compel any additions.

I went back to bed and wrote longhand into a notebook to memorialize some of my ideas for the divination system. The easiest medium would be as oracle cards, so I brainstormed the structure and numerological assignments.

Then, just before I had to get ready to leave with my parents for the airport, I thought of the 33rd character: 善. It means "benevolent." [It can also mean "virtue" or "compassion."]

It is a word that is often associated with Kuan Yin, the bodhisattva of mercy and compassion. It is also the center character that forms my given name in Chinese: 溫善鈴. That center character means benevolent. According to mythic lore, the Lady of the Ninth Heaven, a beneficent spirit that I tend to liken to the Western concept of an archangel, was the protégé of the Empress Mother of the West, one of the four directional deities and often referred to as a dark goddess.

However, the Lady of the Ninth Heaven herself, like many other deities in the Chinese Taoist pantheon, holds a deep respect and admiration for Kuan Yin. In Buddhist mythos, Kuan Yin could have achieved Buddhahood, but out of her compassion for the people, chose to stay behind so that should be of direct assistance to the people, bestowing them with mercy and alleviating human suffering. Kuan Yin vowed not to transcend until every last human soul has transcended to enlightenment. In Taoist mythos, many of the Taoist divinities will honor the requests of Kuan Yin when she asks them to assist humanity on her behalf.

The lore, my given name, and the symbolic reference embedded into these cards are all spiritually significant to me.

After returning from the airport, my parents safely on their flight home, I cut out scraps of paper with the 33 characters along with their assigned numbers, 1 through 33. At random, the first character I drew while thinking about my oracle script divinatory system was Number 33: 善. Before dawn, the complete system was finished.

The whole time while I conceived the system, I did not feel like myself and the idea does not feel like it came from me. I felt more like a stenographer, someone who was tasked to take down dictations. Each card's featured oracle bone script and the message accompanying it is a divine revelation provided in shorthand. It is then up to each practitioner using the divination deck to interpret that shorthand and flesh it out back into its full message.

Back when I was a legal intern, I'd put on headphones, play recordings of the lawyers' dictations, and type out what they said in order to draft their memos and correspondences to judges. That was the same exact feeling I had as I completed the 33 characters and each character's divinatory messages. It really felt like someone was speaking into my ear and I simply transcribed what was being dictated to me.

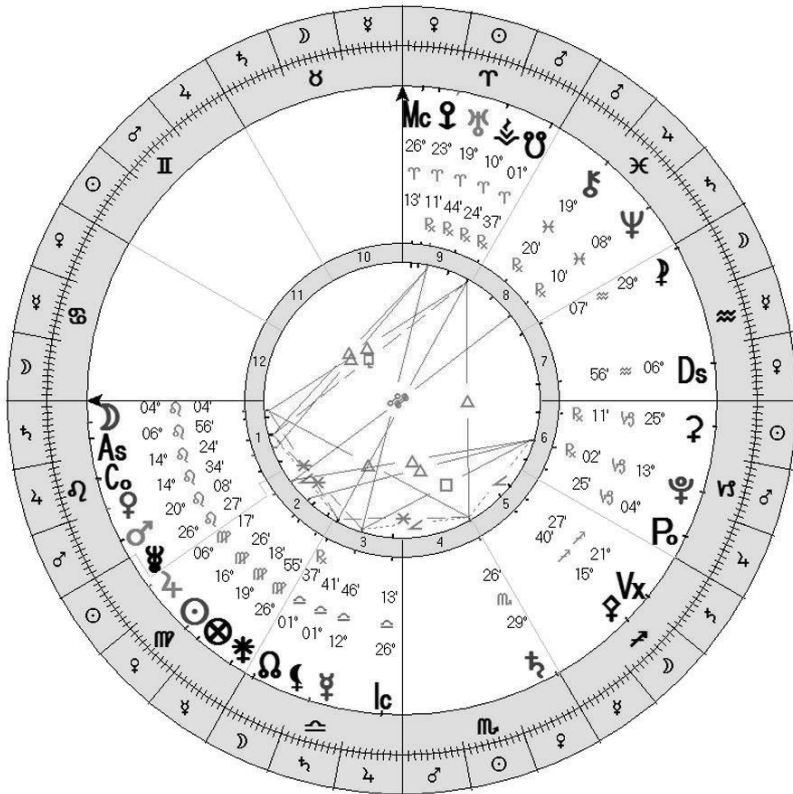
Four years later, around the new moon of Cancer in July of 2019, through a total solar eclipse, I revisited this divination deck and made minor revisions to both the cards and the guidebook. Then I released a second version of the Chinese Oracle Bone Divination Deck.

The watermark of a seal in the background of the revised cards features two scripts from the deck: near the top is Guāng, or Luminescence, Card 1, and to the left is Lù. Affluence, from Card 17. These cards are designed to radiate with Divine Light, to be inherently powerful in and of themselves so they're shielded and protected from malefic interferences, and exist for the purpose of facilitating your ascension and advancement in all endeavors that bring you closer to union with that Divine Light, that strengthen your Divine Light within.

As a practitioner of craft, my main mode of divination has always been cartomancy. Cartomancy, however, isn't exactly an Eastern construct. This deck pays homage to both my heritage and my main mode of divinatory practice. Oracle bones are the progenitor of many forms of Eastern divinatory arts and feature the earliest form of Chinese writing we've seen. This early form of Chinese writing was used specifically for the purposes of communicating with Spirit.

I don't have any specified purposes or intentions in mind for the Chinese Oracle Bone Divination Deck. I've produced it, shared it with you, and simply hope that it will be of service to you in the ways that these cards can best be of service to you. I hope they are versatile enough for any practitioner to encode their set of cards with their personal magnetism and their own specific intentions.

**Event Chart for Conception of the
Oracle Bone Divination Deck**



ELEMENTS*		MODES*	
Fire	██████████	Cardinal	██████████
Earth	██████████	Fixed	██████████
Air	██████████	Mutable	██████████
Water	██████████		

September 9, 2015
 3:33 a.m. PDT +7:00
 37° N 41'39" 122° W 05'07"

Geocentric, Tropical
 Whole Signs, Mean Node



Chinese Oracle Script

What I am referring to as Chinese oracle script is based on oracle bone script (甲骨文, jiǎ gǔ wén), or Chinese characters from the Shang (1600 B.C.–1046 B.C.) and Zhou (1046 B.C.–256 B.C.) Dynasties that were inscribed onto oracle bones for divinatory purposes.

[To be more specific, I've incorporated script from the Shang, Zhou, and Qin Dynasties.]

Scholars of Chinese etymology look to oracle bone script to understand the origins and meaning of words. That's because the imagery can be deconstructed and the parts tell the story for the whole.

For example, the oracle script for “poison,” pictured on the subsequent page, is made up of three insects (虫) that are being placed inside a container (皿). It represents the history of prehistoric magicians in China and how they exorcised demons. The demons

possessing or haunting a body or place were extracted by force and compelled by the magician to manifest as worms or insects, which the magician then trapped into a container.

Poison

Gǔ

The ideogram also tells the story of how poison was first created. An ancient form of Chinese poison consisted of putting several poisonous insects together into a sealed container. To survive, the insects would eat each other and the last surviving insect, the one that has in effect consumed all of the other insects that had been in the container, was believed to contain the most potent amount of deadly poison. That one insect would then be unleashed onto the victim.

Spirit

Witch / Shaman

Other ideograms provide insight into cultural beliefs. The oracle script for “spirit” (see Card 11), features the Chinese character for “witch” or “shaman” (巫) inscribed into the bottom, indicating who among the people are able to commune with Spirit.

Also, note how in Card 3, the oracle script for “abundance” shows a basket full of wheat. “Hardship” in Card 28 shows the character for “wood” (木), symbolizing assets, resources, money, but also growth, nourishment, and development, trapped within an enclosed box (口).

“Split” is the symbol of a dagger (刀) along with the symbol for “separate” or “divide” (八).



Abundance



Hardship



Split

The oracle script for the character I refer to as “Stasis” in the cards represents obstacles in one’s path, impediments to progress or advancement, though implied within the ideogram is the prognostication of prevailing against all obstacles.

Stasis, Obstacle; Impediment



Water

+



Emperor

=



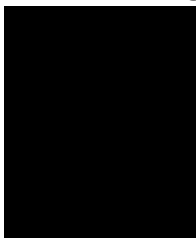
Zhì

The ideogram is the combination of “water” or “stream,” and “emperor.” In the I Ching Book of Changes, many of the hexagram verses reference the crossing of a stream to represent either a prognostication of victory in “crossing the stream” or to refrain from “crossing the stream” because the time is not yet right for such an undertaking. These references come from history, specifically the shamanic King Wen overthrowing the Shang Dynasty to establish the Zhou.

King Wen was born along the Wei River and experienced great hardships throughout his life. The incumbent king of the Shang Dynasty betrayed Wen’s father and had him killed. The Shang king,

fearful that Wen might retaliate, then had Wen imprisoned. It was during Wen's imprisonment that, according to legend, he conceived of the 64 I Ching hexagrams, and used his divinatory hexagrams to predict the fall of the Shang Dynasty. Eventually, King Wen was released from captivity, overcame all obstacles, and went on to establish the Zhou Dynasty. (To be specific, though, it was King Wen's son who later founded the Zhou, not King Wen himself.)

Cauldron



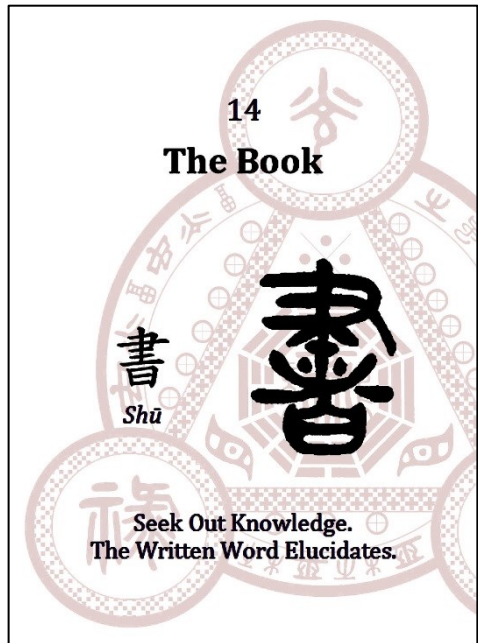
Dǐng

Other ideograms, like “cauldron,” are less about narrative and more about illustration. The oracle script for “cauldron” is a drawing that resembles an actual pot. The ideogram is also Hexagram 50 in the I Ching. Per the I Ching, the three legs of the cauldron represent prophesy, or use of the cauldron as an alchemical vessel by magicians. Yet it is also a cooking pot, used to prepare nourishment. Thus, the cauldron takes on two meanings, as an indication of a matter still in its developmental phase (it's still “cooking”) and as an auspicious prognostication of alchemical success. Note that in the modern version of the word (鼎), the all-seeing eye (目) for prophesy is positioned in the place of the cooking pot.

Given the layers of meaning each oracle script can take on, I found them ideal for divination, even if you are not literate in Chinese. After all, how many among us, even those literate in Chinese today, can read arcane oracle script? Thus, the script serves as a medium for scrying. It is similar to the interpretation of symbols in the imagery of tarot cards.

In the deck I have conceived, each oracle script also corresponds with a particular message, which is written onto the card. As you read the keyword (up top, centered, in bold, under the number) and the accompanying phrase (at the bottom, centered), think of each word both literally and figuratively.

Card 14: The Book, for example, could literally be a nod to a book that Spirit is nudging you toward reading or toward a book you're being guided to write and publish. The Book can also be symbolic of knowledge and education. Card 14 denotes that the answer or the path you seek can be found in the written word.



What I love about Chinese oracle script is how conducive it is to both right-brained and left-brained approaches.

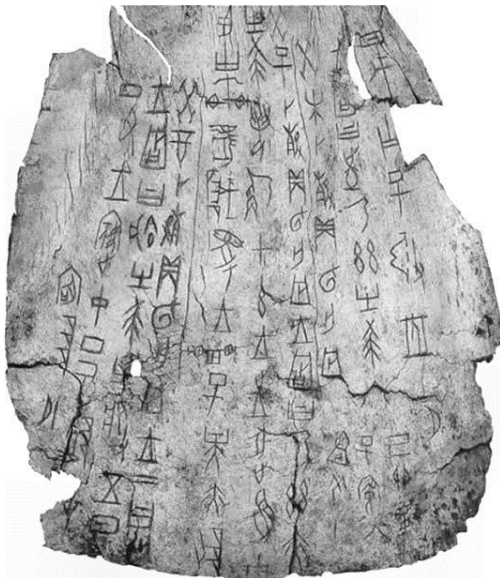
The oracle script is visual enough to trigger intuitive-creativity and bring your imagination into the divinatory fold. Each pictogram tells a story, a story that leads to the meaning of the word. Every line of the pictogram is symbolic. What that narrative is exactly, or what each line symbolizes is between you and your intuitive-creativity. That, I hope, is how the right-brained readers will connect with the cards.

Yet each ideogram can also be interpreted with symbolic logic. You can formulate a proof based on assumptions made about the various parts of the ideogram. That proof leads to a conclusion, one affirmed

by the corresponding message I've conceived with each oracle script. The words and numerical attributions on each card help the left-brained reader retrieve divinatory answers.

For me, divination with oracle script has been accurate and powerful. There is something about these ideograms that I connect deeply to, and I can only hope you find oracle script divination intriguing as well.

The namesake for Chinese oracle bone script comes from its intended use in divination, first discovered by archeologists carved into oracle bones dated as far back as the earliest Chinese dynasty of recorded history. It is through the discovery of these oracle bones that historians were able to piece together the early religion of the Chinese. There was a belief in an omnipotent High God (上帝



, Shàngdì) equivalent and encompassing Heaven; then there were nature spirits that governed the conditions of Earth—the sun, moon, stars, mountains, and rivers all housed powerful spirits; and then there were both immortals, who were great shamanic kings, warriors, or sages who became powerful spirits after death who could return to help mankind, and the spirits of one's own ancestral line. Altogether they made up the pantheon that one called upon for divine assistance and oracle bone script was the medium between which the spirit world and the human world could communicate.

How to Work with the Cards

How you read the cards is going to be different from how I read the cards, and you might not interpret an ideogram the way I've interpreted it (though if you're not literate in Chinese, then I guess you'll have to trust my translation of each word up at the top of the cards). I strongly encourage you to look at the oracle script and identify what symbols and imagery you see. What you see in the oracle bone script will guide how you interpret the card.



Take the above ideogram, for instance. What do you see? For divination purposes, there is no right or wrong answer here.

Do you see two people? What are they doing? Their arms seem to be raised. Why? Imagination is the wellspring of psychic power. Tap in to your imagination and weave together a story. There will be truth found in the fiction.

The two figures seem to mirror each other's gestures. Why? What is the structure they're standing under? Or are they sitting? When you look at those lines and clear your consciousness, what comes to mind? Tell a story, the narrative you see when you look at that ideogram. Feel as if Spirit is whispering in your ear, telling you the story, and you were repeating that story aloud. After the story is told, reflect on the meaning of the story. What are the themes?

The oracle bone script pictured above is found on Card 33. It means “benevolence.” It denotes generosity, sharing in kind with others, being empathetic, and caring deeply about your fellow humankind.

If you possess any familiarity of the Chinese written language, then refresh your knowledge of radicals. It’s going to help immensely. In the ideogram for “benevolence,” you’ll see the radical for speech (言), twice. That suggests the exchange of speech. You’ll also see the character for sheep (羊). The sheep is symbolic here. It symbolizes a heightened sensitivity for others, empathy, and a gentle, virtuous nature.

I have also intended the messages at the bottom center of each card to be part of the divinatory result. It represents either a prognostication or a prescription. A card with a prognostication suggests that “what’s done is done” and now the focus is on navigating the effects. A card with a prescription suggests that much is still at play, variables not yet confirmed, and so the prescription tells you what needs to be done to ensure that you prevail.

Reading with Reversals

Each card, or each oracle script, has both yin and yang essence (as do we all). In actual personal practice, I go back and forth between reading with reversals and without when using this deck, but my original intent for the deck was yes, that it be read with reversals. In practice, I have found that most of the time, I don’t read the reversals and will order all the cards right side up before commencing.

When reading with reversals, upright cards are yang-dominant, and so the attributions of the card for “yang” will be more pertinent in the divination while the “yin” attributions are secondary.

Reversed cards are thus yin-dominant, and indicate a dominance of that card’s “yin” attributions while “yang” attributions become secondary.

For example, if your reading result yields Card 12, Cauldron upright, then turn to its corresponding entry in this guidebook and read the

yang attribute first: “You are mid-stream in the right direction. Advancing bodes well. Favorable to proceed. The cauldron is an alchemical vessel for both cooking and the sacred arts. Nurture your gifts.” Then, at your option, you can also read the yin attribute, though know that it is a secondary influence: “A personal catharsis is needed. Upturn the cauldron and clean out the grime inside. Reconsider your list of ingredients. Details and minutiae matter. Be more diligent.”

On the other hand, if you’re reading with reversals and Card 12 appears reversed, then the primary influence is yin, so you would read the yin attribute first. Then consider the yang attribute as a secondary lesser influence, though one that may still be relevant.

Reading without Reversals

When I don’t read with reversals, I anchor most of my interpretation of the card on the short-form caption provided immediately beneath each script, printed right on the card. In the instance of Card 12, Cauldron, I will rely primarily on the caption: “Developmental Phase. Prophecy of Success.”

I then return my gaze to the oracle bone script on the card. I identify what it is depicting. In the case of Card 12, it is a cauldron. I start there. Find your center, open your senses for Spirit, and through clairaudience, hear the voice of Spirit whispering to you a story. Tell a story inspired by the theme of the cauldron.

It may help to write down that story. Once you’ve finished the narration, deconstruct that story. What do the main subjects of the story symbolize to you? What are the prevailing themes of that story?

Use of Oracle Script in Craft

For practitioners of craft, yes, the oracle script can be used to raise metaphysical energy and manifest specific intentions. When designing a Fu talisman and you’re feeling a creative or intuitive block, consult the Oracle Bone Divination Deck for inspiration.

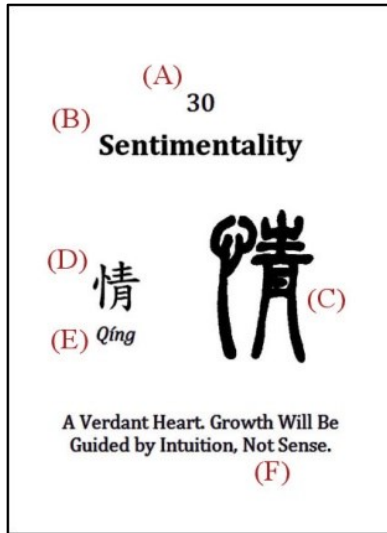
Focus your thought on the intention you've defined for the Fu talisman or sigil. As you shuffle the cards, channel all of your power and will to convert intention into *qi* energy and direct all of that energy out your hands and into the cards.

Then draw your first card. In the same way I Ching hexagrams are constructed bottom up, you will be pulling three cards that will instruct on how to construct your Fu talisman, bottom up.

The first card's featured script is the glyph you stylize into the bottom base of your sigil, its foundation. You'll then pull a second card and that forms the central body of the sigil. The third card you pull forms the top of the sigil. For more information about Fu talismans and traditional Chinese sigil-crafting, read *The Tao of Craft: Fu Talismans and Casting Sigils in the Eastern Esoteric Tradition* (North Atlantic Books, 2016).

To use an example, say that you've recently been laid off and are now seeking gainful employment. You want to craft a Fu talisman to assist in your job hunt and to help safeguard your career track. Focus those intentions in a concentrated manner and channel it as energy into the cards as you shuffle. Say that the first card you pull is Card 21, Joy.

Perhaps you interpret this as the final outcome and what it is you are truly seeking, what you are really asking for here. The oracle bone script for Joy will form the foundation, the bottom of your sigil. Then pull a second card. Say that you pull Card 16, Prosperity. You interpret this as what you will manifest with this talisman. This is the body of your aspiration. Then pull your third and final card. You pull Card 29, A Sudden Jolt. This is the top-most section of your talisman. Beyond having lost your job, you're going to be using Craft to induce a sudden jolt so that you can direct yourself onto the path of career growth, so that you can manifest Prosperity and find Joy at your destination point.



Card Anatomy

The following explains each card's anatomy:

- (A) I've numbered each card and the numbering is not arbitrary—far from it. I've incorporated Chinese numerology in deciding the card number assignments for each oracle script.
- (B) If I had to express the meaning of the corresponding Chinese character in one word, then this would be it. It's not always easy, and so linguists will disagree. Just like getting ten tarotists in the same room to explain the meaning of the Judgement card, asking ten linguists to interpret the same Chinese character will yield differing results.
- (C) The arcane oracle bone script corresponding with the traditional Chinese character I've selected. The specific script I've selected here varies between historic scripts from the Shang Dynasty, Zhou Dynasty, and Qin Dynasty, though

all pre-date the Qin.

- (D) The modern-day traditional Chinese character. When I say “traditional Chinese character,” that’s a reference to the written Chinese language currently used in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and that was used in mainland China prior to the Communist takeover. Between (C) and (D), you can see how each character has evolved over thousands of years.
- (E) The pin yin for how to pronounce the Chinese character in Mandarin.
- (F) The companion message or phrasing I’ve conceived to go along with each oracle script.

Single Card Draw

Hold the deck in both of your hands. Close your eyes (for most people, it’s easier to concentrate that way because you’re blocking out external distractions), formulate your inquiry as clearly as you can in your mind and feel the energy and the power of that inquiry. Through your will and intention, convert that energy into a flowing stream, like a river of light, and direct the flow of that light from the top of your head down to your hands and push it outward, so that light gets absorbed by the cards. Continue to hold the question in your mind, shuffle the deck, and when you’re ready, draw a single card for the divine response to your inquiry.

The Lo Shu Spread

The Lo Shu (洛書, Luò Shū) dates back to prehistoric China, during the Xia Dynasty (2100-1600 B.C.), and was used by prehistoric shamans, as far back as 2500 B.C. According to legend, a turtle emerged from a flooding river with the Lo Shu square imprinted on its shell. A shaman-king, Yu the Great (大禹, Dà Yǔ or 夏禹, Xià Yǔ), saw the turtle shell and thus devised the Lo Shu. With the Lo Shu, Yu

the Great was able to devise an irrigation system that saved China from the floods. Medieval China was sectioned off according to the nine sectors of the Lo Shu. Throughout history the Lo Shu square has been used in feng shui, fortune-telling, divination, and other Eastern esoteric practices.










The Lo Shu is a magic square where the numbers 1 through 9 are positioned in a grid and equal the sum of 15 in every direction. Per Chinese tradition, the number 15 represents the harmony of life and the order of the universe. The number 15 is a product of the factor of 3, for the trinity of Heaven, Earth, and Man, multiplied by the factor of 5, for the Wu Xing five phases and the five directions per Chinese geomancy, north, south, east, west, and center. It is the number of the Tao, the Way.

The nine sectors of the Lo Shu square are set forth on the subsequent page. I use the nine sectors as reference for a nine-card spread. When I set down the cards, I am not terribly concerned with the order that the cards go in, trusting that whatever order I go with, the end result will draw the right card into the corresponding Lo Shu sector.

The Lo Shu spread is for general readings when a seeker wants to get a general snapshot of all aspects of his or her life. Set the cards down into the nine sectors in any order that resonates with you.

Visualize the grid as being superimposed over an oracle bone, such as a tortoise shell. The script inscribed in each sector of the oracle bone offers a divinatory revelation. There will be nine messages in total and you are reenacting that process by drawing nine cards into the nine sectors. Traditionally, a practitioner would be aligned with Earth and so directionality matters. In other words, the top row of the Lo Shu magic square, sectors 4, 9, and 2, would be directed south, and you would be facing the cardinal direction south. Sectors 8, 1, and 6 would be north; the vertical column of sectors 4, 3, and 8 align with the east, and the column of sectors 2, 7, and 6 align with the west.

The Lo Shu Square: A Nine Card Oracle Spread

<p>4</p>  <p>Your Assets, Finances, and Personal Prosperity</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>Achievement of Your Ambitions. Social Status.</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Love, Romance, Committed Relationships</p>
<p>3</p>  <p>The Domestic Sphere, Ancestors; The Past</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>Health, Wellness Personal Vitality</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>Creativity, Innovations, Fertility, Progeny; Legacy</p>
<p>8</p>  <p>Knowledge, Education Higher Learning Arts and Culture</p>	<p>1</p>  <p>Professional Development, Career; Societal Work</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>Community Relations, Allies, Friends</p>

You Determine How the Cards are Used

There are no limitations to how you can work with these cards. In any manner you work with oracle cards, I hope the oracle bone divination deck can function the same. How well a divinatory system will serve a practitioner is dependent on a unique alchemy. It is the combination of what you bring, the energies of the situation at hand and the prevailing energies of a certain space-time, with the energies innate in the system.

There are no prerequisite conditions for working with these cards. I hope the oracle messages on each card are self-explanatory enough for anyone to reap benefit from them. You don't need to have any experience with Eastern metaphysical practices and you don't even need to hold any personal interest in Eastern esotericism. Simply work with the cards because you find them insightful, or because they intrigue you.

When I released these cards out to the public for free, I also released any intention or sense of control over the deck. Although the deck itself as a copyrightable work has not been dedicated to the public domain (it is offered under a creative commons attribution, non-commercial license), spiritually I do not feel any sense of ownership over these cards.

That means any feature of the oracle bone divination deck can be used in a casual, flippant manner. You are under no obligation whatsoever to treat these cards as sacred. They are intended to be psychically versatile, meaning they meet you where you are and they work with you in any manner you want to work with them.

Yet the system is also equipped to accommodate esoteric Buddhist and Taoist practices. A card can be drawn from the deck, either in a divinatory manner or intentionally selected by you, and used in focused meditation. Focused meditation of each of the 33 cards can endow 33 skills or powers in the practitioner's repertoire.

The closer you attune to your deck, the more effective your sigilcrafting will be with any of the 33 scripts. If you're working with this deck as a companion to my book on Fu talismans, *The Tao of Craft*, you can select or design any house and assemble a combination of glyphs from these 33 oracle bone scripts to craft your Fu sigils.

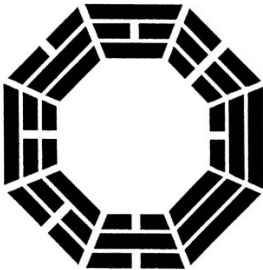


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

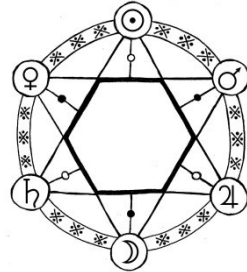


Fig. 3

The three figures above are three different houses or seal frameworks that can be used in sigil design. Figure 1 is the Later Heaven Ba Gua, or eight trigrams arranged to amplify a practitioner's willpower and intention. A single glyph from the 33 oracle bone scripts or a combination of scripts can be arranged inside the eight trigrams. Think of the sigil design as a recipe. To achieve your intention, what ingredients might you need, with those "ingredients" selected from your "cupboard" of 33 oracle bone scripts.

Use of the Fu talisman house in Figure 3 is similar to that of Figure 1, though here the Western planetary glyphs for the Sacred Seven are used, which at this point in time have become universally recognizable, no matter what tradition of craft is practiced.

Thus, this deck of cards can be worked with as a closed system of magic, a comprehensive toolkit for esoteric workings under an Eastern tradition of craft.

Figure 2 is the Seal of Changes where eight oracle bone scripts corresponding with the eight trigrams are arranged around the outer ring. Within it is a cross of glyphs of the four animal spirits

representing the four directional divinities. Typically a single oracle bone script will be placed at the center of the Figure 2 seal.

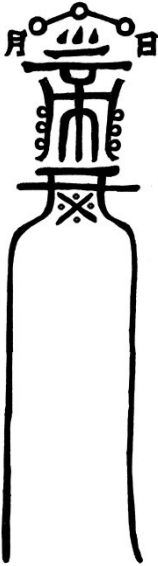


Fig. 4

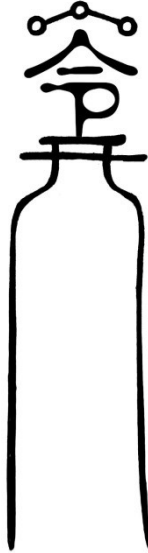


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

Figure 4 and Figure 5 are Fu talisman houses that can contain three oracle bone scripts. The top glyph of Figure 4 designates a sovereign divinity (帝). The top glyph of Figure 5 is the oracle bone script for “Order” (令) indicating a petition.

In the earlier crafting instructions for a Fu talisman to assist in a job hunt and to safeguard one’s career track, a consult of the cards indicated, in sequential order, Card 21, Card 16, and Card 29. Working with that as guidance, the top most glyph within the bell of Figure 5 for a petition would be the last card pulled, Card 29, or A Sudden Jolt. Below that would be the corresponding oracle bone script for Card 16, Prosperity, and concluding the talisman would be the first card pulled, Card 21, or Joy. See Figure 6 for an example of how such a talisman might be crafted. The petition would then be signed, such as with the red stamp of a practitioner’s seal.

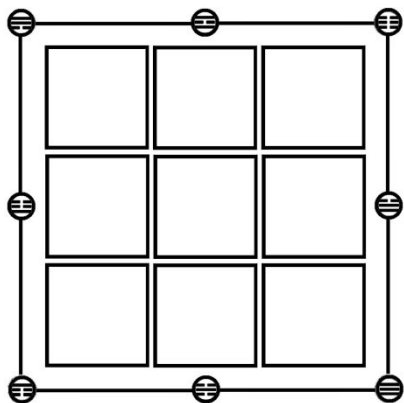


Fig. 7



Fig. 8

Figure 7 is a talismanic house based on the Lo Shu magic square. The eight points around the nine sectors feature the eight trigrams of the Ba Gua in the Later Heaven arrangement.

Recall the corresponding sectors of life for each of the nine sections. For example, the top left corner is “Your Assets, Finances, and Personal Prosperity,” the center sector is “Health, Wellness, Personal Vitality,” and the top right corner is “Love, Romance, Committed Relationships,” etc. This grid-like talisman can be used for general protection throughout a given year.

Figure 8 offers an example of how the Figure 7 magic square framework can be used. In the top row, you’ll find, left to right, the oracle bone script from Cards 16 (Prosperity), 17 (Affluence), and 21 (Joy). In the center row, left to right, Cards 18 (Longevity), 27 (Healing), and 14 (The Book) and the bottom row, Cards 7 (Teacher), 32 (Stability) and 6 (Exchange).

List of All Cards

#	Character	Pin Yin	English Name	Divinatory Phrase
1	光	Guāng	Luminescence	Radiating with Divine Light. Shielded and Well Protected.
2	對	Duì	Affinity	Affirmation. A Faultless Pairing. Opposites Become Complements.
3	豐	Fēng	Abundance	Great Capacity. Advancement. Peaking to Fullness. Fruition.
4	平	Píng	Serenity	Resting State. Balance. Stability. Equanimity.
5	移	Yí	Shift	A Change in Position. Transference is Productive.
6	兌	Duì	Exchange	The Adept Meets the Adept. Nourishing Growth.
7	師	Shī	Teacher	With Discipline and Guidance, a Purpose Comes to Light.
8	輪	Lún	The Wheel	Spinning In the Cycle. Seek Out an Exit.
9	程	Chéng	Journey	An Occasion for a Voyage. Take on the Expedition.
10	訟	Sòng	Conflict	Controversy. Dissidence. Opposing Views Bring Strife.

GUIDEBOOK FOR THE CHINESE ORACLE BONE DIVINATION CARDS

11	靈	Líng	Spirit	A Spirit Lingers Nearby. An Unseen Influence.
12	鼎	Dǐng	Cauldron	Developmental Phase. Prophecy of Success.
13	蠱	Gǔ	Poison	Expel the Poison, or Decay Will Set In.
14	書	Shū	The Book	Seek Out Knowledge. The Written Word Elucidates.
15	解	Jiě	Untie the Knot	Release and Unravel. Give Amnesty. Let Go.
16	福	Fú	Prosperity	Toward Increase and Material Gains.
17	祿	Lù	Affluence	Ascension and Advancement. Gains in Status.
18	壽	Shòu	Longevity	Vitality. Stamina. Life of Bliss. The Good Endures.
19	強	Qiáng	Force	Exert Greater Force. There is Unseen Power.
20	滯	Zhì	Stasis	Stagnation. Setbacks; Delay. Detention. Be Patient.
21	喜	Xǐ	Joy	Respite Is Needed for the Pursuit of Joy.
22	建	Jiàn	To Establish	Structural Considerations. The Master Builder Undertakes a Challenge.

LIST OF ALL CARDS

23	分	Fēn	Split	One Becomes Two. Diverging Paths.
24	接	Jiē	Adjoin	Bring Together. Connect and Unite.
25	命	Mìng	Fate	It Is Destiny. Continue On the Path.
26	餌	Ěr	A Decoy	Do Not Take the Bait. Resist the Lure.
27	愈	Yù	Healing	Full Recovery. More and More. Toward the Better.
28	困	Kùn	Hardship	Fear Creates Difficulty. No Fear, No Difficulty.
29	震	Zhèn	A Sudden Jolt	An Upheaval. Seek Shelter. The Rain Shall Pass and Growth Will Come.
30	情	Qíng	Sentimentality	A Verdant Heart. Growth Will Be Guided by Intuition, Not Sense.
31	劍	Jiàn	The Sword	To Prevail, Use a Sword. Cut Away the Excess.
32	恆	Héng	Stability	The Union Endures. Alliance Brings Prosperity.
33	善	Shàn	Benevolence	Compassion is the Exalted State. Goodwill is Returned in Kind.



1. Luminescence

The image shows the Chinese character '光' (guāng), which means light. It is a black, stylized character with a central vertical stroke and two horizontal strokes above it, forming a shape reminiscent of a flame or a beam of light.

Guāng



Radiating with Divine Light.
Shielded and Well Protected.

Yang: Advancing bodes well. Favorable to proceed. Heaven is guiding you throughout your endeavor. You walk an illuminated path.

Yin: There is potential for success if you manifest the card's energy and essence. Pray to invoke Heaven and you will always have guidance. You are not alone.

Etymological Notes: A combination of the character for “fire” (火) and “person” (人) or “son” (儿), noting a halo around Heaven’s son.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Familiar in contemporary times as a reiki symbol for Light that heals. Used to tap in to the source and channel of Divine Light, and to draw it from Heaven to Earth through the powers ordained to humankind.

2. Affinity

對

Dui



**Affirmation. A Faultless Pairing.
Opposites Become Complements.**

Yang: Advancing bodes well. Favorable to proceed. Success comes by way of a pair. Meet your match, and then create harmony together.

Yin: There is potential for success if you manifest the card's energy and essence. Seek out affinity with your other half. Match opposites and complements, and then success will be yours.

Etymological Notes: The image of a hand reaching out, taking measure. Balance and symmetry found in that which the hand is measuring.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Fortifies personal space with energies conducive for attracting healthy love and romance.

3. Abundance



Fēng



Great Capacity. Advancement.
Peaking to Fullness. Fruition.

Yang: Advancing bodes well. Favorable to proceed. The path you endeavor on will bring fulfillment. The sum will be greater than the parts.

Yin: Yearning to create, and yet there is stagnation. Consecrate the space around you. Detoxify. That is how you will acquire creativity and fertility.

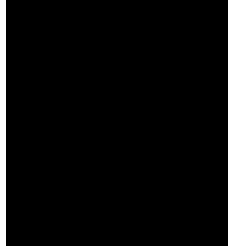
Etymological Notes: A tall serving dish (豆) full of wheat (丰).

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Use in prosperity magic. In agricultural workings or for one's personal garden, can also be used to ensure a prosperous harvest.

4. Serenity

平

Píng



Resting State. Balance.
Stability. Equanimity.

Yang: Be calm and maintain composure. Success if you find your equilibrium. Stay the course of a stable, flat path. Avoid risks during the short term. Avoid emotional extremes. Be Zen.

Yin: Inconsistency and emotional extremes are hindering you from achieving your objective. Before proceeding, first find your equilibrium.

Etymological Notes: The image of a scale. What is being weighed on the scale is level, balanced.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Helps to calm and center, reduce stress or anxiety.

5. Shift



Yí



A Change in Position.
Transference is Productive.

Yang: Transfer your focus, efforts, and attention elsewhere. There is a fork in your road. Go in a different direction. Then success will be yours.

Yin: There is potential for success if you make adjustments to your current course. You are resistant to change. Overcome that resistance. Take a risk and try a different approach.

Etymological Notes: The grains are still on their stalks (禾). As we know the cycle of nature, we know there is more (多) to come. The grains will be harvested and transformed into food, so that they might be more productive.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Helps align all energies in your environment and push them toward producing a positive, productive change. Use to induce a measurable, significant shift in your life path.

6. Exchange



Dui

Trade Flourishes.
Nourishing Growth.

Yang: Advancing bodes well. Favorable to proceed. Commerce is favorable. A meeting of brilliant minds. There is intellectual synergy. All parties will grow from the exchange.

Yin: Delays in the transaction. You must reach out to generate greater interest in your work. Your trade can flourish, but first you must speak up.

Etymological Notes: One who is bartering. There is an exchange. Note the radical for “mouth” (口), symbolic of communication.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Use in sigil-crafting for business success, to increase the health of personal or collective economy; great for ensuring the success and harmony of business partnerships, collaborative efforts, or joint ventures.

7. Teacher



Shī



With Discipline and Guidance,
A Purpose Comes to Light.

Yang: You are the teacher. You become aware of another calling, one that brings fulfillment and fruition. Pursue that purpose and you will succeed in spades. A teacher-student, mentor-mentee relationship illuminates new facets of your life path.

Yin: You are the student. Be humble and ready to learn from an unlikely teacher. Insight comes when you listen to another's wise counsel.

Etymological Notes: The people gather on the mound to hear the master speak.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Can be used to call out for a Teacher to enter your life path and assist you in a particular craft or study you're seeking to advance in.

8. The Wheel



Spinning In the Cycle.
Seek Out an Exit.

Yang: Walking a circular path, encountering the same obstacles and failing by the same past errors. Stop your movement. Step aside and recalibrate. Do not run within the wheel; get off it and use the wheel to transport yourself forward.

Yin: You think you are moving, but you are only moving in circles. Continued movement forward results in stagnation and delays. Stop, step aside, and recalibrate. Change your karma.

Etymological Notes: The wheel of a cart in movement, going round and round.

9. Journey

程

Chéng



An Occasion for a Voyage.
Take on the Expedition.

Yang: Advancing bodes well. Favorable to proceed. A well calculated risk or investment will bring success. A journey to where you have not gone before takes you closer to achieving your purpose.

Yin: Although manifestation is delayed, still plan for travel. Identify what you have before you set out to obtain what you think you need. Yet a journey will serve your purpose well. Adventure brings new insights.

Etymological Notes: One is weighing grains. Checking on supply prior to take-off.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Pair with the oracle bone script for Luminescence (1), Longevity (18), Healing (27), or Stability (32), etc. for travel protection magic.

10. Conflict

訟

Sòng

訟

Controversy. Dissidence.
Opposing Views Bring Strife.

Yang: When faced with controversy, distinguishing each side as different begets conflict. Instead, seek out compromise. First, seek common ground. Do not strive to be happy about the outcome. Strive for peace.

Yin: A pending conflict takes an unfavorable turn. Do not take risks. To prevail, reconsider your strategy. Accusations. The trial. Words hurt irreparably. Watch what you have to say about another.

Etymological Notes: Accusing (i.e., speech or speaking, 言) the duke (公). 公 can be in reference to the state, the public, a general, or a gentleman (male). Also, 公 can represent justice or honor.

11. Spirit



Líng



A Spirit Lingers Nearby.
An Unseen Influence.

Yang: There is an unseen influence over the matter at hand. The causal connection is not of the material world or earthly plane. Commune with the Spirit to gain insight.

Yin: The obstacle that hinders your progress is an unseen influence, a spirit lingering nearby. Striking a resolution with the spirit is what will remove the obstacle and facilitate your successful advancement forward.

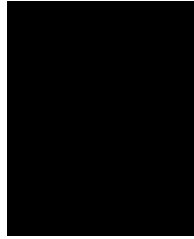
Etymological Notes: The magician (巫) looks up at Heaven and speaks (口). The trinity of speech to call upon Heaven, Earth, and Man in union. Rain (雨) then falls: the rainmaker. The word 靈 can refer to spirit, one's soul, or the spiritual world in general. It references the spiritual plane, or the metaphysical counterpart to the physical.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Can be used to craft power talismans for psychics, witches, shamans, or mediums.

12. Cauldron

鼎

Dǐng



Developmental Phase.
Prophecy of Success.

Yang: You are mid-stream in the right direction. Advancing bodes well. Favorable to proceed. The cauldron is an alchemical vessel for both cooking and the sacred arts. Nurture your gifts.

Yin: A personal catharsis is needed. Upturn the cauldron and clean out the grime inside. Reconsider your list of ingredients. Details and minutiae matter. Be more diligent.

Etymological Notes: The image of a tripod. Atop the tripod, an all-seeing eye (目). The cauldron standing atop a tripod symbolizes the alchemical vessel that incorporates the trinity of Heaven, Earth, and Man for manifestation. The tripod also symbolizes the oracular seat of a priest or priestess.

13. Poison

The character 蠱 (Gǔ) is composed of three insects (虫) inside a dish (皿).

Gǔ

A large, bold version of the Chinese character 蠱 (Gǔ), showing the three insects inside the dish.

Expel the Poison, or
Decay Will Set In.

Yang: There is an internal infestation causing your hardships. Exorcise toxins from within. Remove the malignant tumor. Thereafter, shield and protect yourself with great care.

Yin: A prolonged state of stagnation is causing degeneration. You are headed toward a stage of decay. Take bold, even risky action immediately to prevent further atrophy.

Etymological Notes: Three insects (虫) inside a vase or dish (皿). The insects are the poisons expelled. It can also indicate the insects placed into a dish to create poison. As the insects in the dish duel with one another for survival, the last one standing is the most deadly. That is the process by which the poison is made. Poison (蠱) as a divinatory meaning can indicate either exorcising poison from your vicinity or using poison in a retaliatory manner for self-defense and self-preservation. Gu Dao (蠱道) also refers to “poison magic,” a traditional Chinese/Taoist form of retaliatory magic. Thus, another message that can come through when this card is drawn is that of striking back against another, standing your own ground.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Commonly associated with poison magic (Ku), also called called Gu Dao (蠱道) or Gu Shu (蠱術) [Long form: 蠱道巫術 or Gǔ Dào Wū Shù].

14. The Book



Shū



Seek Out Knowledge.
The Written Word Elucidates.

Yang: Scholarship brings insight. Build upon your knowledge through learning, education, and the written word. You will find your solution among the words.

Yin: You possess the knowledge that you need to prevail, but you are not tapping into that knowledge. Reexamine words you have written in the past. There you will find the answer.

Etymological Notes: The combination of a calligraphy brush or pen (聿) and words (i.e., 日) being written. 日 is also the symbol for “sun” or yang energy, the energy of creation, innovation, and self-expression. The sun here is about the illumination of ideas.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Use to help improve scholarship; can be used to help ensure examination or academic success for a student.

15. Untie the Knot



Jiě



Release and Unravel.
Give Amnesty. Let Go.

Yang: Release the tension. Knots you tied in the past must now be undone. Pardon and let go of the past. The pardon is for your benefit, not theirs. Release, so that you can be set free.

Yin: Untie the knots that bind you and by doing so, you tie knots that bind another. Tie knots to bind another to untie the knots that were binding you.

Etymological Notes: Using a small dagger (刀) to untie the horns (角) of the ox (牛). Tying the horns would have restricted the movements of the ox; symbolizes holding one captive. To untie the horns is to free; to release, liberate.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Can be used in retaliatory or defensive magic to undo the offensive workings of another practitioner.

16. Prosperity

福

Fú

福

Toward Increase
and Material Gains.

Yang: Advancing bodes well. Favorable to proceed. The final outcome yields material gain. You enjoy abundance. Exactly what you want and more will become yours.

Yin: Prosperity to come, but progress is delayed. Potential for success, though not all variables affecting the situation are known at this time.

Etymological Notes: Wine jug or offerings (鬲) placed before an altar (示). To receive gains is to first give. 福 represents the investment of faith and conviction. Give offerings, and in turn, you shall receive. 示 also represents veneration of one's ancestors.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Use in prosperity magic.

17. Affluence

祿

Lù

祿

Ascension and Advancement.
Gains in Status.

Yang: Advancing bodes well. Favorable to proceed. The final outcome yields social advancement. Great strides are made in your status. The respect and favor of both peers and superiors come earned.

Yin: Progress is delayed. Potential for success, though not all variables affecting the situation are known at this time.

Etymological Notes: The radical for “spirit” (示), which is also a variation of 示, meaning altar; also represents veneration of one’s ancestors. The character 𣪠 means to carve on wood panels; sculpture or engravings. The character 𣪠 itself depicts an ax, wood, and water. As the sculptor carves away at the wood panel, water is used to rinse off the scraps. Thus, the process of refinement, similar to the process of gaining in social status.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Use in prosperity magic or to increase glory, success, and status. Use to enhance professional or career success.

18. Longevity

Shòu

Vitality. Stamina. Life of Bliss.
The Good Endures.

Yang: Advancing bodes well. Favorable to proceed. The final outcome yields a stronger vitality, good health, wellness, and harmony of body, mind, and spirit. Success shall endure.

Yin: Potential for success, though not all variables affecting the situation are known at this time. Devote greater care to your health and wellbeing. Strive to live the blissful life.

Etymological Notes: A scholar (士) at work (工). See also the derivative of the word “time” (時). Longevity, vitality, and stamina comes from the continued pursuit of work by the scholar. Never let your mind run idle: that is the key to physical longevity.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Use for improving physical health. Great to use in protection spells or talismans for the elderly.

19. Force

強

Qiáng

Exert Greater Force.
There is Unseen Power.

Yang: Advancing bodes well, but greater force must be exerted to accelerate. Turn more of your potential energy into kinetic. Calculated risks for exerting greater force will yield success.

Yin: You have not fully anticipated all the obstacles you will face. Greater preparation and more resources are needed to overcome the barriers.

Etymological Notes: Greatness (𠄎) and the defeat of poison, or insects (虫). On the right side of the oracle script is the depiction of a warrior and on the left, a crossbow (弓).

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Use to cure or neutralize poison magic; if one is believed to be cursed or hexed, craft a protection and defense talisman with Force (19), along with To Establish (22), or if relevant, Untie the Knot (15), or Stability (32).

20. Stasis



Zhì



Stagnation. Setbacks; Delay.
Detention. Be Patient.

Yang: Avoid risks during the short term. The endeavor has hit a plateau. You are detained in the same position. Be patient. Be calm. Wait for the right opportunity. Be observant and it will come.

Yin: Your patience prognosticates an auspicious outcome. When you wait for a favorable current, you will cross the river with ease. You overcome the setbacks and albeit delayed, success will be yours.

Etymological Notes: A girdle (帶), symbolic of restriction, limitations, and obstruction, with the radical for “water” (水 or 氵). On the left side of the oracle script is a river or stream; on the right, an emperor or king seeking to cross that stream; symbolizes the undertaking of great challenges. The river represents a setback that causes delay in the king’s advancement forward.

21. Joy



Xǐ



Respite Is Needed for
the Pursuit of Joy.

Yang: A moment for pause is needed. Rejuvenate yourself by taking a recess. Pursue that which brings you joy. Success to come if you manifest the card's energy and essence.

Yin: You've exhausted your personal bandwidth. Time for a respite. Seek out that which brings you joy. Through joy, replenish yourself. You will not be ready for productivity until that needed respite is taken.

Etymological Notes: A drum (壺) and a mouth (口) open in song. Represents music, celebration, and mirth.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Use in protection magic to ensure the prosperity and enduring happiness of a new marriage. Usually, Joy (21) is doubled (囍), so the glyph will appear twice (i.e., 雙喜).

22. To Establish



Jiàn

Structural Considerations.
The Master Builder
Undertakes a Challenge.

Yang: The planning and building phase is most critical. The master architect scrutinizes over details. What you are building will endure long after you are gone. It becomes your legacy.

Yin: Focus on the roots and foundation. Build wide, not high. Build for longevity, not to impress. Avoid risks during the short term.

Etymological Notes: The Chinese radical for “road” (辶) and a calligraphy brush or pen (聿), symbolizing the writing down of plans or blueprints. Writing down plans for the path forward.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Use for road opening or road clearing.

23. Split



Fēn



One Becomes Two.
Diverging Paths.

Yang: Division need not be divisive. The end of one is the beginning for two. Let opposing positions stand on their own respective ground. A forced truce does not bring peace, but coexistence can bring liberation.

Yin: Do not force together what is better off apart. The differences are not meant to be reconciled. What is currently one locked in stalemate will be more productive when split in two.

Etymological Notes: The symbol of a dagger (刀) and the symbol for “separate” or “divide” (分). Asserting the act of cutting in two, to separate.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Use to cut energy cords.

24. Adjoin



Jiē



Bring Together.
Connect and Unite.

Yang: An alliance or merger brings greater productivity. That which was two needs to be joined as one. United, there is power. The collective force exerted brings success.

Yin: Each hesitates to sacrifice personal independence. It is not a sacrifice when the result of assimilation brings a mutually beneficial result. Success if each one is willing to concede.

Etymological Notes: The Chinese radical for “hand” (扌) and 妾, which means “concubine.” The character “妾” is of a woman (女) who is lying down (立) in submission.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Can be used to bring solidarity to a group or collective. Use to foster more harmonious collaboration efforts. Can also be used for match-making in love and marriage.

25. Fate



Mìng



It Is Destiny.
Continue On the Path.

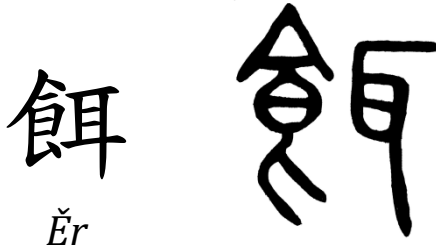
Yang: Destined for greatness. Assured victory to reward good deeds of the past. Embrace the prophecy. You are on the right path. Walk onward.

Yin: Unavoidable does not mean unfavorable. Do not resist the effect caused by past karma. Fate is the immutable outcome after an exercise of free will. Walk the path to the end. It leads toward an illuminated horizon.

Etymological Notes: The Chinese radical for “mouth” (口) and 令, meaning “to order” or to issue a decree or edict. “令” in this context can also mean “cause.” Together, the components of 命 indicate the instructions for one’s life path. The right bottom part of the oracle script resembles a pathway.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Combined with The Book (14), or The Sword (31) for possession of control, or Force (19) to amplify, this glyph can be used to increase the accuracy, skill, and gifts of the fortune teller.

26. A Decoy



Do Not Take the Bait.
Resist the Lure.

Yang: Forebear from both action and reaction. That way you will not be lured. Resist the lure of the easier path. The bait has been put there by the demons who seek to thwart you from a nobler path. You are meant for the greater, but that greater comes harder.

Yin: Then it will be others to lure you into entrapment. The prospects dangling before you seem promising, but what comes too easy will go just as quick. You must understand your own personal discontent.

Etymological Notes: While 餌 means “bait” or “to lure,” it is also an arcane term for “dumplings” (modern: 餃, jiǎo). The character is the Chinese radical for “food” (食) and 耳, perhaps indicating resemblance of Chinese dumplings to ears. 餌 is the bait used by fishermen to lure and catch fish.

27. Healing



Yù



Full Recovery.
More and More.
Toward the Better.

Yang: To recover, first heal your heart. Then the rest will follow. Place offerings on the sacrificial table and have faith. Unwavering conviction brings the recovery you seek. Onward, more and more blessings come your way.

Yin: Impatience is a symptom of uncertainty. You must be certain of your success. Fill your heart with faith and conviction. Only then will your mind and body do as you will it to.

Etymological Notes: At the foundation of the word is “heart,” 心. Heart symbolizes the emotional plane, and also willpower, the soul, and inner strength. 俞 is an altar of offerings to the gods for sacrifice, indicating consent, approval, an affirmation from the Divine that all will be well. The arcane meaning of 愈 is healing and recovery from illness. It is now also used to indicate increase, to gain in greater quantities.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Use in health and healing magic.

28. Hardship



Kùn



Fear Creates Difficulty.
No Fear, No Difficulty.

Yang: An impediment to your growth causes your darkest fears to set in. When there is restriction, free your mind first, and then ground yourself. Push on without fear. The roots of a young weed can break through rock.

Yin: You have overcome substantial hardships in the past. Learn from your suffering in a productive way, not one that is self-destructive. If you are mindful of lessons learned, then it will be favorable to proceed.

Etymological Notes: Wood (木), symbolizing assets, resources, money, and also growth, nourishment, and development. The symbol 木 is trapped within an enclosed box (口). Confinement on all four sides. Surrounded by a barrier, restricting growth; restricting access to the needed assets and resources.

29. A Sudden Jolt

震 震
Zhèn

An Upheaval. Seek Shelter.
The Rain Shall Pass and
Growth Will Come.

Yang: The sudden rain causes you to lose your way. Tremors. Do not forget that rain brings growth in the spring. Seek out shelter and wait it out. Be conservative and do not take risks at this time.

Yin: Pouring rain. Seek shelter immediately, or risk illness. Do not assert yourself or try to reach up for the sun when the sky is nothing but clouds. Wait for the clouds to pass, and then use the rainwater to inspire your growth.

Etymological Notes: Rainfall (雨) in the early morning (辰). 辰 is the earthly branch per the Chinese lunisolar calendar, which corresponds with the Dragon in the Chinese zodiac, ruling the ascendant hours between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Represents the third lunar month, or late spring, the Aries and Taurus sun signs.

30. Sentimentality

情

Qíng

A Verdant Heart. Growth Will Be
Guided by Intuition, Not Sense.

Yang: A verdant heart. Your subconscious is influencing the emotions you feel. It is not the sun that inspires growth here; it is by the light of the moon. Empathy brings connection. Connection brings love.

Yin: You miss the mark when you too hard to be rational. You do not yet possess the mental capacity to understand. Instead, use your intuition to expand that capacity. Then the rational will follow and you will find the answer.

Etymological Notes: The Chinese radical for “heart” (心 or 忄) and 青, which means “green, azure” or “verdant.” A heart open for growth. The moon (月) can be symbolic of intuition, the subconscious, and the emotional plane.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Can be used to foster healthy romance.

31. The Sword

劍

Jiàn



To Prevail, Use a Sword.
Cut Away the Excess.

Yang: Identify your sword, your arms, and strike. Cut out that which stunts growth. Excess and rot must first be removed. Then there will be room for success to flourish.

Yin: Weeds grow rampant in your garden. You must decide: save the trouble of weeding and risk losing your bounty or get out there and cut away what does not belong.

Etymological Notes: The Chinese radical for “blade” (刀 or 刃) and 僉, indicating togetherness, a collective force, or a unanimous, assertive strike. 僉 is made up of “亼” (to assemble; to gather together), “叩” (noise; clamor; aggressive sound; loud controversy; argument, conflict; oral dispute), and “从” (two people walking together).

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Use when on the offense. Can induce more proactive positioning. Invoke the warrior spirit.

32. Stability

恆 恒

Héng

The Union Endures.
Alliance Brings Prosperity.

Yang: Conditions are in your favor. You have all the resources you need to prevail. Great prosperity. Strong prospects for marriage, partnership, and alliances.

Yin: Great potential for future stability, but if you seek longevity, then what looks calm on the surface must be in constant movement below. True stability is achieved by the constant state of creation and transformation.

Etymological Notes: The Chinese radical for “heart” (心 or 忄), which also symbolizes personal willpower, and 亘, indicating an extended, smooth plane; expanding across; to endure through.

Use as a Sigil Glyph: Use for grounding and protection magic. Great for warding and sigils intended to safeguard a home or personal space.

33. Benevolence

善

Shàn



Compassion is the Exalted State.
Goodwill is Returned in Kind.

Yang: You achieve merit by giving generously, being virtuous, and through mental cultivation. Your merits bring you great success. There will be fruition. You did not seek honor, and so now you are given it. Emotional and social bonding.

Yin: Achieve the exalted state by virtuous conduct, virtuous speech, and virtuous thought. Be truthful, but never hurtful. There is strength in manifesting the sheep. The sheep can go where the tiger cannot. That is how you prevail.

Etymological Notes: A sheep (羊) and the exchange of speech (the double 言). The sheep symbolizes heightened sensitivity for others, empathy, and a gentle, virtuous nature. The oracle script depicts two people sheltered under the symbol for “sheep,” representing their gentle, amicable, and cordial nature. They are open to each other in harmony: emotional and social bonding.

The Card Back Designs

There are seven card back design options that come with the Chinese Oracle Bone Divination Deck, and you're encouraged to craft a personal working deck with your preferred design option.

In the first, the background of the card back design features the Glory and Greatness Fu talisman. The glyphs for the Holy Trinity, the sun and moon, and the High God, or Emperor of Heaven form the top of the sigil. Below that, inside the bell, is a Taoist power cross drawing forth powers from the four directions and four winds, and then oracle bone scripts that empower the talisman for glory and greatness.

The design is reversible, featuring my practitioner's seal stamp. Around it is the Later Heaven Ba Gua, or eight trigrams arranged for esoteric purposes (*cf.* exoteric purposes and arranged in the order of natural law). The esoteric purpose arrangement is the one typically used by metaphysical practitioners where human willpower overrides natural law.



The design also features the Wheel of Dharma, indicating moral order and the teachings that keep a practitioner on the path of enlightenment, or beneficent transcendence.



The second design option is the illustration for Key 0: The Keeper from my *Spirit Keeper's Tarot* deck, the Vitruvian Edition published in

2019. This design option is non-reversible and therefore tailored to the practitioner who does not intend on reading the deck with reversals. If you approach the divination deck as direct counsel from your spirit guides, then the second option is a choice selection.



The third design option features a Chinese art-inspired kingfisher bird by Albert Charles Auguste Racinet (1825-1893). While the background for the third option is not perfectly non-reversible, the primary point of focus is reversible, and so the third design option can be multi-functional—sometimes you'll use the deck to read with reversals and sometimes you won't.



Chinoise by Albert-Charles-Auguste Racinet (1825–1893)

Option four is a plain and simple Chinese medallion tile pattern prominently featuring the color culturally associated with good fortune, prosperity, and good luck—red. This option is reversible. The medallion design signifies the four directional deities and is reminiscent of a lucky coin. When the divination deck is intended to be crafted as a personal talisman for good luck, good fortune, and to function as a reliable tool of the fortune teller, the fourth design option would be a choice selection. The medallion itself is a stylized glyph of the character for Affluence (Card 17), Lù, 祿

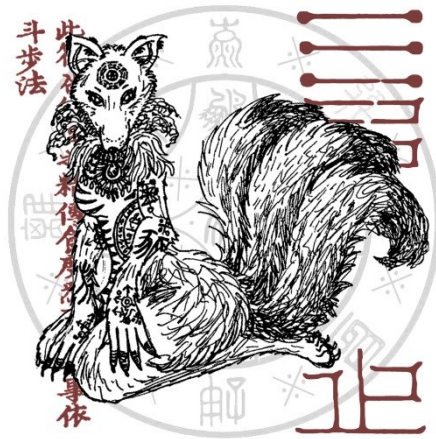


The fifth design option is another non-reversible back. It's my own pen and ink illustration of the Lady of the Ninth Heaven. To those who might want to use the divination deck exclusively for contacts with the Lady of the Ninth Heaven (Jiu Tian Xuan Nu), this card back design would be your choice selection

醫
西



The sixth card back design features a fox spirit (kitsune) with invocation and evocation seals that call upon the realm of fox spirits. It might be the choice selection for practitioners who want to use the deck to connect with the fox spirit.



The final card back design option features stylized glyphs of the oracle bone script for medicine (醫). This is the choice card back design for the healer or one who uses divination and shamanic journeying for the purposes of healing. The black background is color symbolism for the unseen, for one who reaches into the unseen or

sheds light into the darkness. The blue is the color of healing light and is associated with the blue light of the Medicine Buddha.

The indications for the different card back design options are baseline references only. You can repurpose any of the design options to suit your own needs or recalibrate the intentions and even the symbolic associations. In other words, the symbols in any of the card designs do not need to mean, to you, what they mean to me. Please feel free to replace my intentions with your own.

