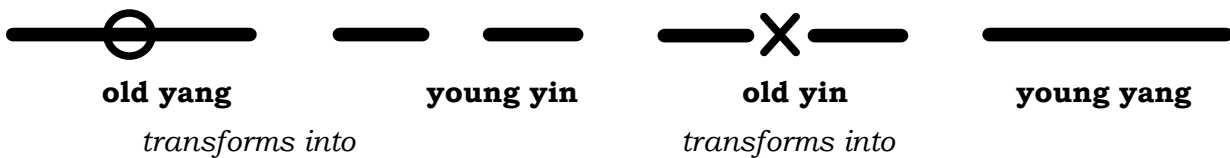


Voices of the Transforming Lines

The transforming lines of a hexagram are the place where Change talks to us directly. The Two Powers represented by these lines are continually in motion, waxing and waning (*hua*) and transforming (*bian*) into each other. They build potential gradually through a slow accumulation then suddenly transform into the opposite state at the precise moment of fullness. In the divination process these Four Symbols become the *four* kinds of lines, two stable and two transforming. Through them any figure in the Matrix can transform itself into any other figure.



One of the most common problems encountered by users of *Yijing* is the problem of conflicting line readings and the confusion they produce. Any hexagram contains a variety of conflicting omens attached to its lines. What can we do when these radically conflicting omens are given as the response to our specific question?

One source of this confusion lies in the ideas we have inherited about the nature of the different line positions. It has its root in a Han Dynasty Confucian re-interpretation of the structure of a hexagram based in “correctness,” “correspondence” and yin-yang line analysis that effectively silenced the many voices and interconnections of old tradition’s “calling” lines (*yaoci*).

A first step in re-claiming these old voices is to look deeper into the “meaning” of the line positions themselves, how they create meaning. Rather than seeing them from the perspective of a homogenizing moral philosophy, we might see each line position as a characteristic resonance and stance, like sounding boxes or wind harps or metaphors. As the stuff of change or *yi* flows through each of these “six empty places” it is given a characteristic voice. The important thing to realize here

is that even though a hexagram may describe or embody a particular “field of image,” these images do not speak with a single voice or have a single meaning any more than we do. Here is a description of these voices based on the dynamics of interconnecting Pairs.



Transforming Lines

Inner World

Step 1 Beginnings: This return of the spirit attracts a new fate.

Line 1 is the Voice of **Beginnings**, the first entrance of things into the psyche or the first stirrings of a process of manifestation. Things here are barely conscious, the dim stirrings of a return of the spirit (24) or the entrance of a new fate (44). This is a receiving position. It receives energy and information from another Pair or from a Crossover within the Pair it is a part of. It is in dialogue with Line 6, a dialogue of beginnings and endings that fully manifests through the Pair 27:28 Tiger's Mouth and the Great Transition, the process through which we emerge as a true individual.

Line 1 Dynamic: The source of creative energy is dormant now, immersed in the primal waters, while the forms of manifestation take shape. You are challenged to go back and eliminate emotional corruption, for the returning spirit is working through a screen of painful memories of past encounters charged with sexual energy and need for recognition, carefully preparing the emergence of the new. Make the sacrifice and have no fear for the Way to the Source is open.

Step 2 Inner Center: This inner re-organization leads to harmony with others.

Line 2 is the Voice of the **Inner Center**. It speaks about how things register, affect and motivate the center of our inner life and awareness, the heart mind. It speaks of inner meaning and focus, the possibilities of effective inner organization (7) and achieving a harmony with others on the basis of shared inner values (13). It is in dialogue with Line 5 about the possibilities of connecting our inner and outer lives. This is an empowering position. It is linked with Line Position 5 Outer Center in a dialogue about the relation of our private and public life that fully manifests through the Pair 29:30 the Ghost River and the Bright Omens that form the Inner Axis of Change.

Line 2 Dynamic: Creative energy is appearing in the inner center now. The field of realization is straight, square and great. You are challenged to go back and work with the Ghost River of the past to release the Radiance of the Source. You have a mandate now. Your energy is centered and correct. Work through the screen of painful memories of your past failures to live up to the images of your Ancestors and the ideals they represent. Let the distress you feel return you to the Way. There is no need to repeat past mistakes.

Step 3 Threshold: This inner re-balancing lets you make your way in life.

Line 3 is the Voice of what is approaching the **Threshold**, the crossover between the inner or foundation trigram (*zhen*) and the outer or distress trigram (*hui*). It explores the motivation behind our need to express things, questions of inner balance (15) and real paths and steps (10). It is in dialogue with Line 4 as the entrance to an initiation site or liminal zone connected with the animal powers, particularly the Tiger (27), the Grey Rat (15) and the Elephant (16). This is a dangerous liminal position linked with Line Position 4 Arrival as an initiation site, a process that fully manifests through the Pair 61:62 The Opened Heart and the Flying Bird that passes what we have learned to a new generation.

Line 3 Dynamic: You face adversity day and night, striving for mastery, while a containing beauty secretly surrounds you. You are challenged to work through a screen of painful memories of your failures to live up to the demands society has placed upon you and your own need for power you can never really achieve. If you can let go of your misplaced ambitions and toil on humbly you will bring everything you desire to completion.

Outer World

Step 4 Arrival: This inner preparation leads to what is greater.

Line 4 is the Voice of what is **Arriving**, after the Crossing of the Threshold. It speaks of how the future might be prepared (16) by accumulating small things and gathering the ghosts that can lead to what is greater (9). The traditional place of the Minister, it is a dangerous liminal position that is in dialogue with Line Position 3: Threshold as the exit from an initiation site, a process that fully manifests through the Pair 61:62 The Opened Heart and the Flying Bird that passes what we have learned to a new generation.

Line 4 Dynamic: The unnamed creative spirit is playing in the primal abyss while everything in the outer world is held in the fertile chaos of infinite possibilities. Let go of what you usually depend on and meet the new spirit. You are challenged to work through a screen of memories of discord, fear and bad blood between friends, families, clans and compatriots to call in all the projected parts of your soul. Have no doubts. This will open the mind of the great symbols and gather what belongs together like a hair clasp gathers the hair.

Step 5 Outer Center: This inner re-grouping lets your real purpose shine.

Line 5 is the Voice of the **Outer Center**. The traditional line of the King, it speaks about our relation to outer structures of power and influence. It is a new grouping of spirits and lords (8) that can reveal our Great Being or Great Idea (14). It is in a dialogue with Line 2: Inner Center about the possibilities of connecting our inner and outer lives that fully manifests through the Pair 29:30 the Ghost River and the Bright Omens that form the Inner Axis of Change.

Line 5 Dynamic: Creative energy appears in the Heavens above while a hidden process at the center of things open the Way to the Source. You are challenged to go back and work with the Ghost River of the past to release the Bright Omens it contains. Let your tears flow freely. Work through the screen of painful memories of all the times you sought to overpower others with the magnificence of your ideas and purposes. If you let go of your compulsive need to be the leader of the group, your true virtue will shine and attract those who belong with you. The Earth Spirit is already appeased.

Step 6 Culmination: This inner stripping leads to a breakthrough.

Line 6 is the Voice of the **Culmination**, the traditional line of the Sage. It offers wisdom or warning, emphasizing a decisive breakthrough and parting with the past (43) and the need to strip away the outmoded (23). This is a projecting position that sends energy and information to other Pairs. It is linked with Line Position 1 Beginnings in a dialogue of beginnings and endings that fully manifests through the Pair 27:28 Tiger's Mouth and the Great Transition, the process through which we emerge as a true individual.

Line 6 Dynamic: Creative energy is returning to the yin. Do not seek dominance. The Dragons are mating in the wilderness outside of your awareness and their blood flows down like the rains to fertilize your heart-mind. You are challenged to work through a screen of memories of the times when you failed to openly stand by what you knew was right. If you give way and return with the retreating energy you will be nourished at the source. If you step out into the dangerous waters rising all around you, you will be swept away. There is a ripe fruit not eaten that you must carry away. Take the chance. Do not just change your face.

These Line Positions are a part of a complex interpretive method, but a feeling for the different voices can definitely help make sense of an otherwise very confusing reading and point at deeper things.

Here is a radical example. When asking about a major professional change, a risky move at a crisis point in her life that involved a change of status, income, ambitions and goals, an inquirer received the Answer 24, 9/1, 6/6 > 23. On the

surface the two omens, the first line and the sixth line, are diametrically opposed to each other. The first is one of the great images of a return of and to the spirit:

Step 1 Beginnings: This return of the spirit attracts a new fate.

Working with Change: Workers, employees, base of support.

Not distancing the Return. No harm or cause for sorrow.

The Way to the Source is open.

This means adjusting the total personality. You have been keeping at a distance, probably through pain or isolation. Now is the time to let it go. Return to the Way, for the spirit is emerging. Do not just think about, do something. The Way is fundamentally open.

Guideway (23.6 [2.6 : 2.1] 24.1): You have stripped away the outmoded and found the new. Now take in the fruits of your actions. Do not go back to your old ways. Move on and carry it all away with you. The dragons are mating in the wilderness and their blood flows down as the fertilizing rains. The marriage time draws near. This is the time when we pass through the Tiger's Mouth to connect with the realizing power of Earth. Accepting the shock of inner enlightenment now brings you a deep faith in the processes of life.

The second is one of the great images of total disaster, the return of a fatal delusion:

Step 6 Culmination: This inner stripping leads to a breakthrough.

Working with Change: Advisors, researchers, guiding principles, founders.

Delusion Returning. Calamities and blunders.

If you try to move the legions like this it will end in great destruction.

Trap! The Way closes for the city and its Leader.

This will end in ten years of uncontrolled chastisement.

Trap! The way of the leader is reversed. You are returning to an old delusion, blinded by self-deception and infatuation. If you go on in this way your hard won growth will be destroyed. It will take at least ten years to deal with the repercussions of this catastrophe. Think about where this desire comes from. Whatever you do, do not act it out.

Guideway (23.1 [27.1 : 27.6] 24.6): You must confront basic questions of support and intimacy. Take a stand for change. If you simply ignore the message the Way will close. You must decisively confront and overcome the seductive delusions of wealth, power and fear. Strip away the old and you will be nourished at the source. This is the time when we pass through the Tiger's Mouth to connect with the realizing power of Earth. Inner devotion now lets you see the patterns that mark real ends and beginnings.

If these omens are read through the single voice of moral prediction they can only be seen as a quite frightening deadlock or dilemma that can paralyze the inquirer, a real catastrophic fault. However, if they are read as "a dialogue of beginnings and ends" at the very limits of personal awareness we can hear them differently. The two contradictory omens become a dialogue between a Voice of the Beginnings that affirms the enterprise as a "Return to the Way that should not be

kept at a distance” that will eliminate the “cause for sorrow” and a far-seeing Sage Voice describing a fatal delusion that must be stripped away in order that the Return might succeed.

Further information from the Matrix would then show us that this dialogue is a Zone of Radical Transformation where the inquirer must “pass through the Tiger’s Mouth (27) to connect with the realizing power of Earth (1) and the Dark Animal Goddess.” The Tiger’s Mouth (27), the great initiation site where the corruption of the past is eaten away, also appears as the Inner Operator in the reading, with the Great Transition (28) when one emerges as a true individual as the Outer Operator, the possibility to be realized. This brings the Relating Figure 23 Stripping the Corpse into stark relief. It points at the absolute necessity to strip away the compulsive delusions of control and power the Sage Voice is speaking in the top line.

This way of reading focused the inquirer on her own inner corruption, her hidden collusion with the very organization she was seeking to escape. It involved her in an exploration of a series of traumatic experiences indicated by the Karmic Nodes, that insists she must focus on this inner work rather than imposing a premature direction on things that could only lead to disaster. By truly listening to these voices of Change and doing considerable inner work to “fix” the challenging omen they offered she was led to a happier and more fulfilling life rather than exchanging one prison for another.