

## **The Matrix of Change**

It has been said that the overall tradition of Change is a vast latent network of connections that create significance, empower something to signify or release meaning, only when it is activated by the charge given by an inquirer's question and the emotional and individual need to know behind it. We can see how this system works in the interaction between the structure of Change, the Matrix or multidimensional system of diagrams, the Omen-words that the Matrix organizes and displays, and the act of divination that activates the whole process.

At its most basic level the Matrix is made up of 32 Pairs of hexagrams (*gua*) arranged in a particular order, called the King Wen Sequence. This Sequence creates a series of local logics and systems that include the Tools, the Decades, the Hidden Pathways of the Nuclear Figures, Secret Sickness pathways, and areas of symmetry and coherence that include the interrelations of each Pair both within itself and to particular other Pairs. This multi-dimensional arrangement of lines, trigrams and hexagrams is a process duplicate of a chaos system, a fractal system in which each part contains and replicates the whole.

### **The Paradigm**

This old Daoist formula is a paradigm for the creation and emergence of things into our world, the All-under-Heaven. It can act as a guide to the way we see the Matrix of Change.

The Dao gives birth to the One, the One gives birth to the Two, the Two gives birth to the Three, and the Three gives birth to the Ten Thousand Things.

Dao is the imageless secret, the ongoing process of the Real that flows through the fractal units of the Matrix at all levels. The One to which it gives birth can be imagined as a circle whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere. When the circle is rotated it becomes a single line with infinite extension.

In order to help us know the spirit,  
The Sages invented the great Axis:



The world we experience, however, begins as this line divides and we pass into the realm of the Two.

The Great Axis brought forth the Two Powers

**Strong**



Action: firm, underlying, moving,  
persisting

**Supple**



Structuring: flexible, adaptable, still,  
yielding, pliant, opened

Divining with Change relies on these two basic kinds of Lines to generate its diagrams. The lines directly participate in the nature of the two Fundamental Powers.

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.



**old yang**

*transforms into*



**young yin**



**old yin**

*transforms into*



**young yang**

We enter the Realm of the Three with the Eight Trigrams, diagrams (*gua*) that personify and invoke the transformative forces that lie just behind the world of appearance, The Eight Trigrams are the eight possible combinations of three whole and opened or strong and supple lines. They are fundamental units of eastern thought, describing energies, processes or spirits that activate the world we live in.



**The Groundbreaker – challenge, inspire, invigorate.**



**The Lady of Fates or Matchmaker – find, explain, release, awaken.**



**The Visionary – clarify, energize, support.**



**The Midwife/Field/Earth – ground, collect, manifest, produce.**



**The Joyous Dancer – connect, express, liberate.**



**The Creator – create, imagine, empowering images.**



**The Navigator – risk, venture, toil.**



**The Gatekeeper – fix limits, articulate form, learn the lessons of the past.**

These *Bagua* or Spirit Helpers represent an old shamanic tradition that fused early on with the developing tradition of Change. Over time, they acquired a wide range of associations or correlations. They occur in a number of cycles, most notably the King Wen or Later Heaven series and the Fuxi or Early Heaven series. They figure in the development of all Chinese medicine, philosophy and magic.

## **The Six-line Diagrams or Hexagrams**

With the six-line diagrams (*gua*) or hexagrams, made by doubling the trigrams, we enter the World of the Ten Thousand Things. Hexagrams are the basic fractal units of the Matrix, all the possible combinations of six whole or strong and opened or supple lines. Because each line can transform itself into its opposite, all of the diagrams flow into each other in a continuous interaction that reflects the diversity and the organization of the *Wanwu*, the Myriad Creatures or Ten Thousand Things. They are the Tools for Change.

## **Hexagrams and the Matrix**

Hexagrams partake of the nature of the Two and the Three through their Pairing and through the fact that they are a doubling of the trigrams. The fact that any hexagram can become any other hexagram reflects the nature of the One or Great Unity. And, tradition says, they all contain the “wordless secret” of the Dao and act as a “reversion” to it. In chaos language they are the hole in the world of appearances that reveals the (w)hole.

The overall Matrix of Change has a fractal reflection in the internal matrix of each Pair that creates the Guideways, a “reversion to the Way” or hole that reveals the (w)hole in any specific situation. The hexagrams also occupy and fill the empty places of the strategic or **Reading Matrix**. Here they deepen and widen images available to us from a consultation, resolve confusion and point out important themes and perspectives. Each position or Tool is a style of seeing into the spirit of the words, with a certain similarity to the work of the old magicians and sages.