

## The Philosophy of Change

The spiritual and social importance of using *Change* (*yi*) and its symbols (*xiang*) might be summarized in a set of premises taken from the *Dazhuan* or Great Treatise:

- All things are produced by the *Dao* through the fixed poles or “gates” of Heaven and Earth, the Two Primal Powers.
- All manifest being is an interchange or alternation between these powers, yin and yang, *Qian* and *Kun*.
- This alternation creates all dualities, the basic units of our being and thought: dark and light, male and female, receptive and creative, up and down, heavy and light, old and new.
- This constant flux is articulated by the symbols or *xiang* of Change which link Heaven, Earth and the human psyche.
- These symbols can be traced in all things, for they are prior to our experience. They motivate *Change* as the *shi*, the moment and the strategy, and the *ji*, the subtle beginnings or seeds.
- The Ancient Sages “*xiang*-ed” or created these symbols (*xiang*) to produce the *gua*, the diagrams of *Change* that participate in the process they represent.
- They also created a language that makes this process available to us, a language we see in the “attached words” of the *Change*. These words give voice to the ghosts and spirits (*guishen*) that create the world we live in through the process of divination.
- The Great Enterprise or Great Task (*Da Yeh*) confronting us is to raise this Sage Mind into awareness. By using the *xiang* or symbols of *Change*, we come to know *Dao* and the Sage-Mind and can thus make right decisions in our lives, both personally and collectively. Thus, by becoming a living example of the process, we set Change out for all the people to use.