

Karmic Nodes

Each Pair or set of two interconnected hexagrams in Change generates a set of other paired figures across its Internal Matrix. These sets of Generated Pairs do many things. They describe the overall interchange between the themes of the two hexagrams involved; they connect the Pair in question to other sites in the overall Matrix or Sequence; and they generate the Crossline Omens. Further, through the model of the Decades they can also point at specific events in a person's life that may be relevant to the situation at hand.

The Decades and the Symbolic Life

The Decades are an ancient age-grade system that shows the progressive formation of an individual's character (*de*) throughout life in terms of ideal units of Ten. It is a major shaping principle used in sculpting the local logics of Change, giving shape and meaning to individual experience by describing its major events, initiations and passages from one state of being to another. There are specific tasks associated with each of the Decades. Within each Decade, there are five positions (1:2, 3:4, 5:6, 7:8, and 9:10) that describe its developmental dynamics. When the numbers of the Generated Pairs are arranged sequentially, associated with the specific age of the inquirer and dropped into this system they become what I call the Karmic Nodes.

Karmic Nodes as Tools

The Karmic Nodes can point at knots in the flux of individual experience that contain either traumas (yin fixations or "ghosts") that are influencing the situation at hand and can be dissolved or hidden powers (*shen* or bright spirits) that have been hidden or repressed and can be reclaimed. The Nodes are a mysterious but, in my experience, very powerful tool for going into the depths of an individual situation. They are not relevant to all readings and should be used with real care when you are working with another person.

Reading the Nodes

Here is an example of how the Nodes can amplify and deepen a reading in an individual sense. We asked a question to Change about how we can best read the answers it gives us.

Question: What would you (Change) like to say to us about reading your answers to our questions?

Answer 3, 9/1 > 8: Hexagram 3 Sprouting as Primary Figure, with a Transforming Line in the first position, producing the Relating Figure 8 Grouping.

I used the Karmic Nodes to explore the deep connections of this Pair (3:4) to myself as the individual posing the question.

Karmic Nodes

The interconnected lines of the pair constellate a series of Karmic Nodes that represent ages in the Symbolic Life, past and future, that are directly relevant to the current situation. They point out painful experiences or screen memories that trap creative energy and establish real future goals. Put your actual age into the sequence to determine what is past and what calls to you from the future.

7:8	17:18	23:24	41:42	59:60	63:64
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When I mused on the events in my own life associated with these times and ages, I saw a series of cultural or educational thresholds and betrayals – the failure or corruption of cultural institutions, the images of the Ancestors, to do what they are supposed to do and the personal suffering and search for alternative ways of thinking and living this set off. These were my personal associations to the subject of “reading the answers” from Change.

At **7:8**, in the building boom of the 1950’s in the US, the beginning of the Sputnik era and the great fear it engendered, I was enrolled in a new primary school that began a truly disastrous engagement with what I can only call dis-education and deep confusion.

At **17:18** I passed into an equally disastrous institution of “higher” learning.

At **23:24** I learned what I was being trained for - the war in Vietnam –and left my country as a criminal and an exile. It was then, too, that I first found the Classic of Change and my true education, or re-education, began. It was an education that went on to include training and working as a professional dancer, a PhD in Comparative Literature and Archetypal Psychology and an introduction to eastern languages and ancient texts.

At **41:42** I became Director of Research at the Eranos Foundation and applied the scholarly tools I had acquired to a serious study of the texts and history of the *Yijing*. After the very bitter breakup of the Foundation, I became what we might call a wandering scholar and teacher, taking the *Yijing* to many different places and countries.

59:60 saw the first publication of my life's work, which you are now encountering.

If there is a lesson for me in these experiences it is the deep necessity to find a way to transform the corruption of learning in which we are trapped. There is also a warning against despair and an injunction to have faith in the "on-going process of the real" that will always, somehow, come through when we have the courage to accept our exile as a real message from the spirit and have the courage to step outside the norms, to encounter these shadows and nurture the new.