INTRODUCTION:

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO YIJING READINGS

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The 易經 Yìjīng (sometimes written 'I Ching') translates roughly to the 'Classic of Changes.' It is an ancient divination system which emerged in the diverse cultural space and lands of present-day China. The Yijing oracle has been used for thousands of years to clarify the challenging situations of life and find suitable responses.

It is believed that the Changes were initially transmitted orally, and later written down sometime in the 周 Zhōu dynasty (c. 1046 BCE – 256 BCE). The lines of wisdom poetry that we can read today are the result of many authors and thousands of years of spiritual practice, observation of changing environmental systems, and the accumulated experiences of ancestors.

READING THE CHANGES

This text offered in our Yijing readings comes from the most popular Qing dynasty version, which comes with a substantial body of traditional analysis including the famous 'Ten Wings' attributed to Confucius. We made our own translation of this text, seeking to express the poetic concision and directness of the poetry.

We want to say that at this time we/Fili barely speak Mandarin, and are hardly an expert on Chinese classics! That said, we have done our best to study the meaning and etymology of these ancient writings for several years, looking also at the wider historical context and philosophical framework of this tradition.

When interpreting a reading, its important to access your intuition. As you sit with the response of a reading, we invite you to slow down and stay connected to soft and smooth breathing. Notice what you are feeling in your heart area. What 'jumps out' or 'clicks' for you from the texture of experience? You can trust these insights!

HELPFUL DEFINITIONS

Each of the 64 hexagram (six-line) symbols of the Yijing are connected to specific pieces of text offering guidance for your path. The text uses the following format:

- **Determination**: the oracle's response on the situation and things to come.
- **Image**: highlights the interaction of environmental and elemental images ('gua' three-line trigrams), to advise virtuous actions and conduct.
- **Line readings:** each changing line also has associated text, describing a key or 'turning point' within the situation.

The term 君子 jūn zǐ **'sovereign child'** means someone who is seeking to move in wisdom and ancestral teachings — aka. that's you! You are both a child of the ancestors (receiving their energy and wisdom), as well as a free being who is empowered to live your own sovereign life.

Remember: the Yijing isn't a fatalistic view of the future that is fixed or impossible to change! It is simply showing you the prevailing dynamics and tendencies in any given situation, and what you can do about them.

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