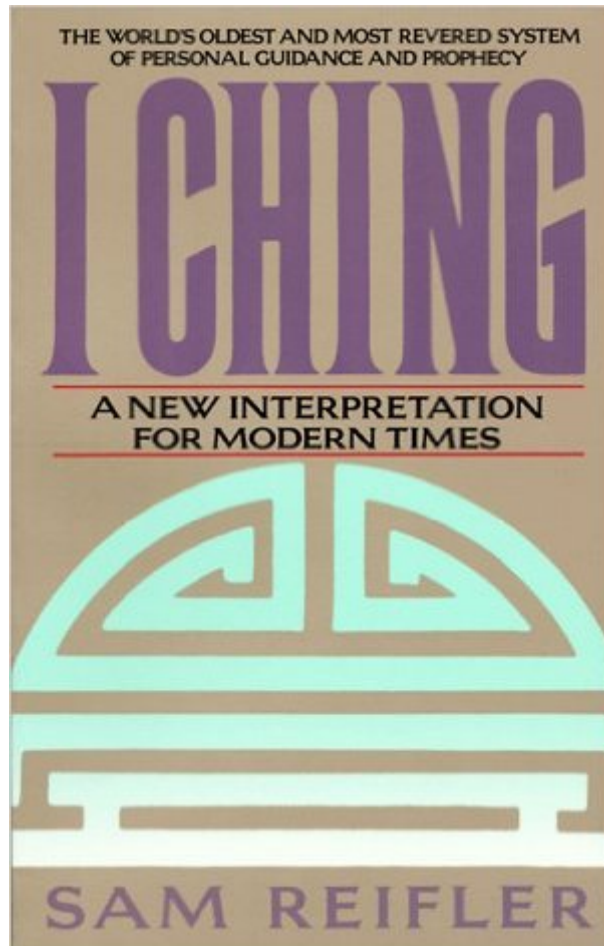


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I Ching: A New Interpretation For Modern Times



Synopsis

For centuries the Chinese have consulted the I Ching both as an oracle and as a means of self-understanding. The moral and psychological depth of its wisdom has been celebrated by its scholars, psychologists, poets, and scientists. In this clear, immensely readable interpretation, Sam Reifler eliminates the obscure and dated references of previous translations to provide an accurate and accessible version of the ancient Chinese classic for the contemporary seeker. With easy-to-follow instructions for using both the yarrow stick and the coin toss method, this new interpretation of the I Ching reveals the hidden forces at work in our relationships, our careers, and our emotional lives - and suggests new directions and choices for the future. For everyone who seeks to better understand themselves and the world around them, this new translation of the I Ching is a practical and remarkably effective pathway to enlightenment.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I got my first copy of this book some 25 years ago. In the meantime, I have acquired many other versions, but one is still one of my favorites. I used to refer to it as "my second brain" because it has been a tremendous help for me for accessing higher wisdom and getting practical solutions to some challenges that bordered on impossible - finding a way when there seemed to be no way out. The wisdom and guidance from this book has enabled me to accomplish some things that were very important for me, but which I didn't have a clue where even to begin to turn into reality. It has helped me to turn some seemingly impossible dreams into reality. For this I am profoundly grateful to the

author of this book. I have started using this book when I was a teenager and when some other translations and interpretations of I Ching left me more confused, whereas this one provided easy to understand and straightforward counsel. As you keep on working with I Ching, you begin to develop a "feel" for different hexagrams that goes beyond words and comes about through actual experience. In time, you don't have to read the interpretations any more because you have the knowingness of the meaning of each hexagram. In time, you may develop a greater and deeper relationship with your higher wisdom, and what you need to know will emerge into your conscious awareness through direct guidance, without the necessity of using outer oracles. But, until you learn to clearly discern the voice of your higher wisdom, I Ching can be tremendously helpful. Other than the simple and easy to understand language of this book, I particularly appreciated that the interpretations of each hexagram are divided in three sections - related to your material life, to your love life and to your spiritual life.

There are literally tens of thousands of translations of I Ching (pronounced "Yee Jing") or "Book of Changes" in existence. A truly ancient text (scholars estimate that it is at least 3000 years old) I Ching is a handbook of sortilege, or divination through the arrangement of objects. Sortilege has been used since prehistoric times. Modern dice ("Roll them bones!") are the direct descendants of sacred goat bones used by diviners who interpreted the future by reading the marks on the bones and the arrangement of the bones when ritually tossed. Other sortilege-based games include Mah-Jongg and Go. Another form of sortilege is the reading of tea leaves. I Ching uses hexagrams (six line figures of solid and broken lines made up of a lower and upper trigam, all of which have independent meanings) to represent its readings. The hexagrams are traditionally constituted by the tossing of coins or yarrow sticks, though other objects can be used. Unlike many other forms of "fortune telling" I Ching does not in fact answer questions. Rather, it presents the querent with a series of interpretive statements from which the querent is expected to draw conclusions upon reflection. Thus, I Ching is related closely to Zen Koans, many originating in China, which are used as exercises in spontaneous thought. Previous reviewers seemed somewhat surprised at the use of Sanskrit terms in I Ching. However, it should be recalled that Indian mendicants, including the Buddhist sage Bodhidharma, entered China long ago bringing their various systems of thought with them. The Chinese reinterpreted these ideas in their own way, but a word like "Karma" entered the Chinese language much as it has entered English in modern times.

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