5-DAY QIMEN DIVINATION TRAINING

JOEY YAP'S

YOUR NEXT MOVE



THE FIVE ELEMENT CYCLES

木　火　土　金　水

Five elements. Three cycles.
Read the relationship between the boxes.

QIMEN ORACLE · YOUR NEXT MOVE

THE FIVE ELEMENT CYCLES

木 火 土 金 水

Every QiMen Oracle reading sits on the Luo Shu square, and each of its nine boxes has a base element. Whatever falls inside a box is governed by that base element. The components bring their own elements with them, but the box itself is the base.

What you are really reading is the interaction between the boxes, and that interaction is read with the five element cycles. Without them, it is hard to see what the boxes are saying to each other.

THE CORE THREE OF EVERY READING

THE DAY IS YOU	Where you stand.
THE HOUR IS THE MATTER	What you are dealing with.
THE MINUTE IS THE OUTCOME	Where it is heading.

Find the core three first. Then read the base elements of their boxes against each other, and against the question that was asked.

The Oracle is a different school from QiMen forecasting, so put the forecasting rules aside: the rules are different here. Once you know what produces what and what counters what, you have the foundation to read the boxes.

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THE FIVE ELEMENTS

The five elements are the foundation of all Chinese metaphysics, whether you study BaZi, Feng Shui, Yi Jing or QiMen. Qi cannot stay in one form: every time it flows, it moves from one form to another and takes the form of one of these elements. That is why the word for element, Xing (行), means moving: the five transformations of energy.

木

WOOD · GROWTH, VITALITY, EXPANSION

Like a plant, Wood is constantly growing, finding a way and evolving. It governs kindness, generosity and patience; a lack of Wood tends to show as anger, irritability and frustration. Its season is spring and its directions are East and Southeast.

火

FIRE · HEAT, LIGHT, TRANSFORMATION

Fire is energy and passion, the ability to express and to show beauty in the world. It governs joy, excitement and enthusiasm; when Fire is weak, that joy and enthusiasm can suffer, or impatience and agitation can appear. Its season is summer and its direction is South.

土

EARTH · STABILITY, NOURISHMENT, GROUNDING

Earth governs compassion, patience and stability; a lack of Earth can cause worry, passiveness and overthinking. When it is positive, people are reliable, nurturing and grounded. Earth produces Metal, which is why Earth is the resource of finance. Its boxes are the Centre, the Southwest and the Northeast.

金

METAL · STRENGTH, STRUCTURE, PRECISION

Decisiveness is a Metal quality, as are integrity, determination and courage. Indecision, a lack of leadership and a lack of character strength are generally a Metal issue, while a lack of Metal can also bring grief, resentment and rigidity. Its season is autumn and its directions are West and Northwest.

水

WATER · FLUIDITY, WISDOM, ADAPTABILITY

Water is intelligence and flow. When it is stable, people are wise, smart, adaptable and empathetic; without it, a person tends to be less flexible and less quick-witted, and can turn fearful, withdrawn or overly sensitive. Its direction is North.

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THE PRODUCING CYCLE

水 Water **produces** 木 Wood

木 Wood **produces** 火 Fire

火 Fire **produces** 土 Earth

土 Earth **produces** 金 Metal

金 Metal **produces** 水 Water



The producing cycle is the five transformations of Qi: from Fire to Earth, Earth to Metal, Metal to Water, Water to Wood, and Wood back to Fire. It is cyclical.

On the Luo Shu it is simple to follow. Water, the North, produces the East and Southeast, which are Wood. The East and Southeast produce the South, which is Fire. Fire produces both the Southwest and the Northeast, because they are Earth. The Northeast and Southwest produce the West and Northwest, which are Metal. And Metal produces back to the North, which is Water.

When the box of an activity produces your box, it feeds you, and the activity tends to benefit you.

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THE COUNTERING CYCLE

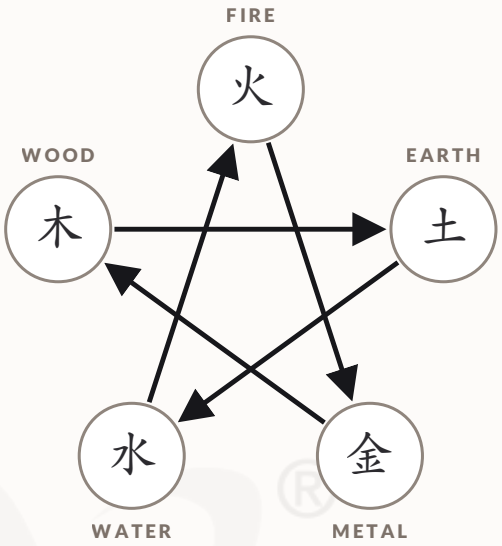
水 Water **counters** 火 Fire

火 Fire **counters** 金 Metal

金 Metal **chops** 木 Wood

木 Wood **counters** 土 Earth

土 Earth **counters** 水 Water



The countering cycle is also called control: Earth controls Water, or counters it. It is the cycle to check when you want to see whether a relationship or an activity may actually be working against you. When the box of an activity counters your box, the activity tends not to be favourable.

Countering is not the same as bad. Water puts Fire in check: it controls it, but it does not destroy it. Fire makes good use of Metal, and Earth holds Water together so it can irrigate the land. The problem is excess: over growth, over weakening, over countering. Within means, countering can be a good thing.

THE FIVE RELATIONSHIPS EVERY BOX HAS, SEEN FROM YOUR OWN BOX

PRODUCE IN	The other box produces yours. It tends to feed and support you.
COUNTER IN	The other box counters yours. It tends to act against you.
PRODUCE OUT	Your box produces the other. You feed it, and producing uses up your energy.
SAME ELEMENT	Both boxes share one element. The two tend to be coherent.
COUNTER OUT	Your box counters the other. You act on it and keep it in check.

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THE WEAKENING CYCLE

火 Fire **weakens** 木 Wood

木 Wood **drains** 水 Water

水 Water **drains** 金 Metal

金 Metal **weakens** 土 Earth

土 Earth **weakens** 火 Fire



Whatever an element produces also drains it, because producing uses up its energy. Wood produces Fire, so Fire weakens Wood: after producing, the Wood is exhausted. Weakening does not mean physically weak. It means vibrationally less intense.

There are only three cycles: producing, weakening and countering. They are the same basis in every branch of metaphysics; only the intensity and the way they are applied differ. Keep all three in mind, because they come up again and again in a reading.

READING A PARTNERSHIP

The same relationships guide a partnership question. The day stem is the asker and the hour stem is the partner. When the hour produces the day, the partner tends to be good for the asker. When the day produces the hour, the partnership tends to benefit the partner, which is not necessarily bad: it depends on who the partner is.

When both share the same element, it is generally mutually good and ideal. What you do not want is the hour countering the day, which suggests the partner is going against you. When the day counters the hour, it is the asker who may be causing damage to the partner.

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THE BASE ELEMENT OF EACH BOX

The Luo Shu, with South at the top.

4 SOUTHEAST 木 Wood	9 SOUTH 火 Fire	2 SOUTHWEST 土 Earth
3 EAST 木 Wood	5 CENTRE 土 Earth	7 WEST 金 Metal
8 NORTHEAST 土 Earth	1 NORTH 水 Water	6 NORTHWEST 金 Metal

The East and Southeast are always Wood. The North is Water. The Northeast and Southwest are always Earth. The West and Northwest are Metal. The South is Fire.

Whatever is in a box is governed by that box's element. The components bring their own elements, but the box is the base. Read the relationship between the base elements of the boxes, using the three cycles.

MORE IN THE RESOURCE SECTION

Short videos and notes from the training,
in the resource section of the page.

www.joeyyap.com/additionalresources

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