

# *Introducing Divination and the I Ching*

## **Contents**

Introducing Divination.....	1
and the I Ching.....	1
Call details.....	2
How to get the most out of the call.....	2
Introducing Divination.....	3
What's divination for?.....	3
Guidance – how we 'get the message'.....	5
Synchronicity.....	5
Conversation.....	5
Creative questions.....	6
3 tips for creative questions.....	7
Oracles.....	8
The I Ching, or Yijing.....	8
Questions?.....	10
Join Clarity as a Friend.....	10
I Ching Class information.....	10

## *Call details*

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April, at

- 7pm UK time (6pm GMT)
- 11am US Pacific
- 1pm US Central
- 2pm US Eastern

for about 90 minutes

**To participate by phone**, call

801-717-1157

(add 00 1 if calling from outside the USA)

and enter the **conference ID**

447495#

To join the call online (your voice won't be heard, but you can type in questions and comments) visit

<http://www.onlineClarity.co.uk/introcall.php>

## *How to get the most out of the call*

1. Join in! Share ideas and ask questions.
2. Print out this handout (or download the [editable version](#))
3. Fill all the spaces with your own responses and ideas
4. Use one of those ideas to change something!

## *Introducing Divination*

The dictionary says that divination is 'the act or practice of divining: seeking to know the future or hidden things by magical means' – which is not especially helpful.

Stephen Karcher says in his *Encyclopedia of Divination* that when you divine,

“The first thing that happens is that the world comes to life. You enter a world of powers, potentialities and presences in which your destiny and your actions matter. Things and events acquire the capacity to speak with you. The act and language of divination revive a lost world of soul, a world full of spirits, magical helpers, and significant landscapes. We acquire a sense of destiny, the means to negotiate with that destiny, and a guide or helping spirit in the process. The 'living world' begins to play an active role in our lives.”

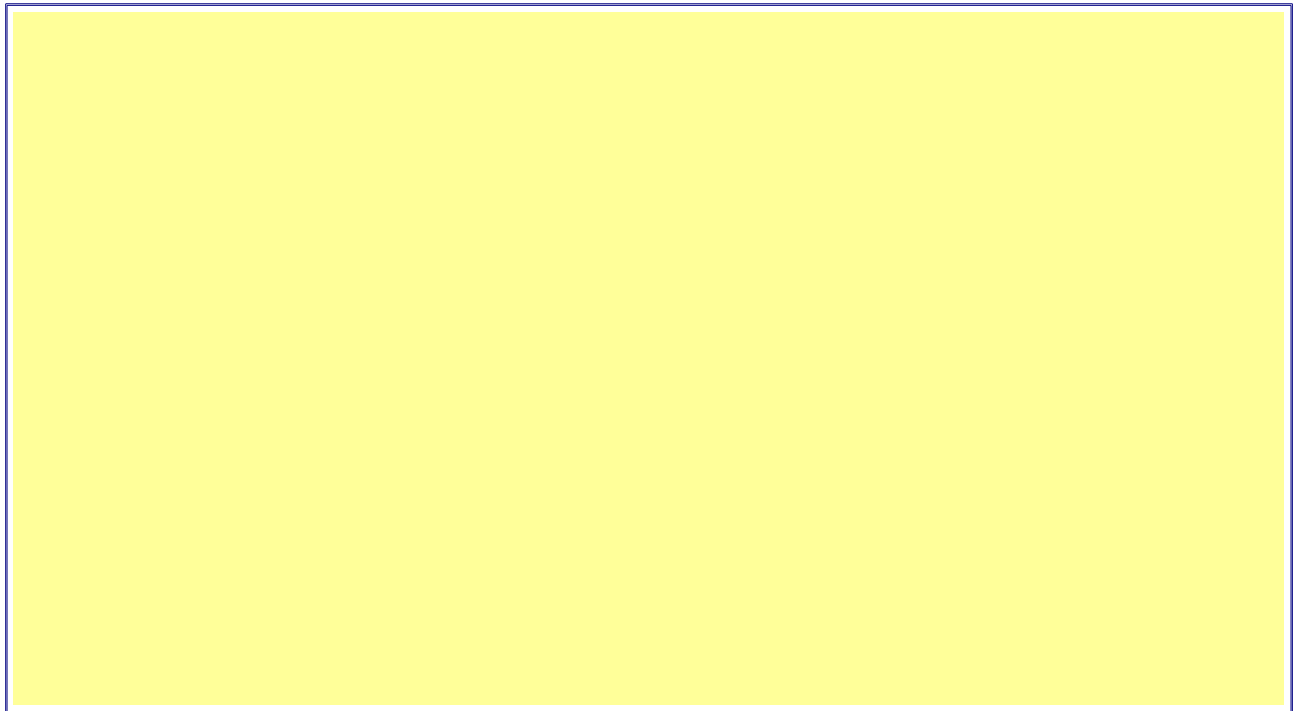
### *What's divination for?*

Perceiving...

- reality
- deeper truths
- meanings and relationships

...all *in the midst of everyday life*.

And also... for example...



Divination is *a way of inviting and nurturing spiritual connection*

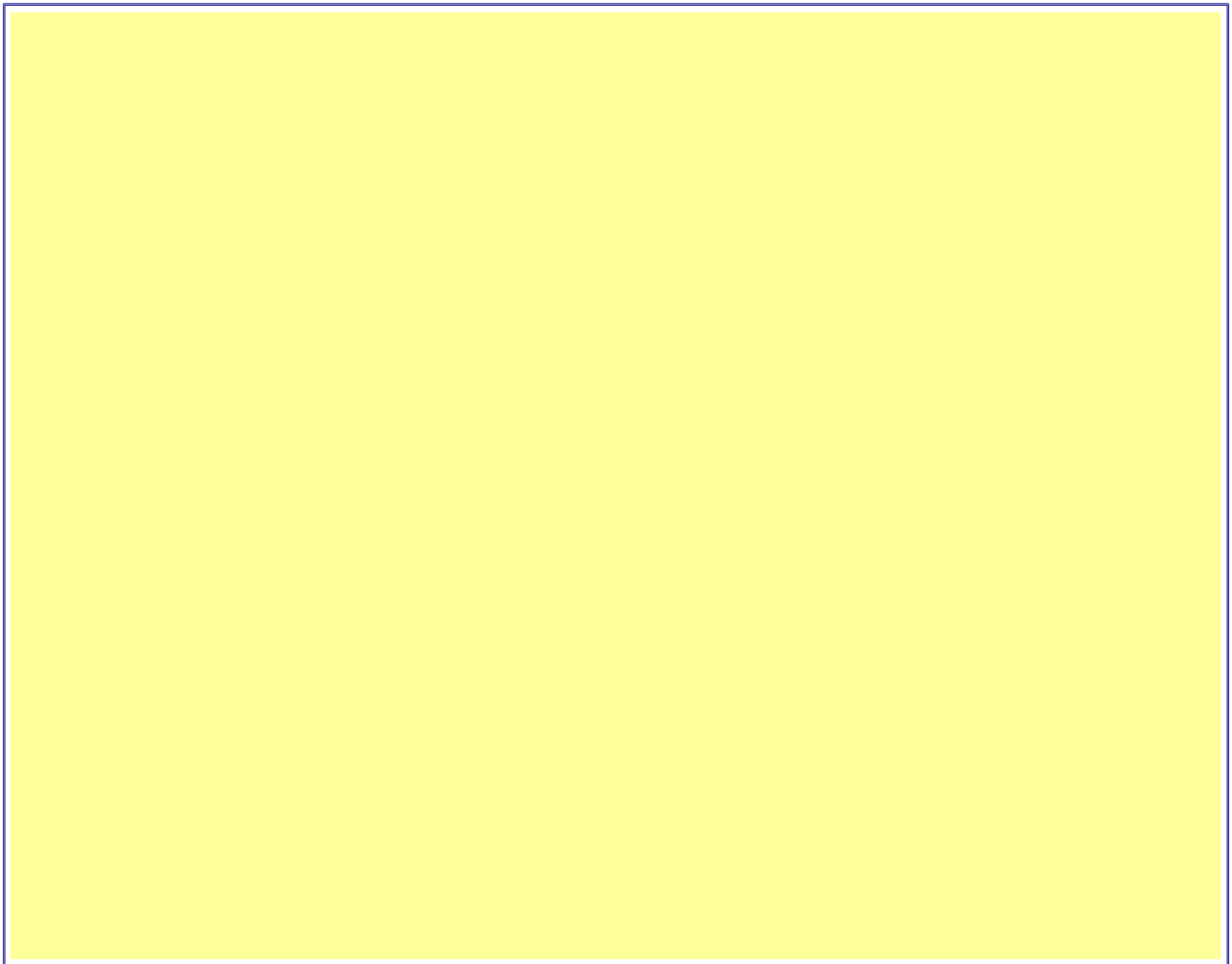
It's one among many ways that humanity has discovered, across all cultures and times – like meditation (sitting or moving), vision questions, dreaming, painting, singing, sitting at the feet of a great teacher...

Divination has things in common with all of these, and naturally works in harmony with all of them, because it comes from the same universal human root.

Why is it important to be attuned in this way? What difference does it make to daily life?

- less reactivity – not just coming from the 'small self'
- more authenticity
- freedom to make creative changes

And from personal experience...



... so all these things are also what divination is for

## Guidance – how we 'get the message'

### Synchronicity

...is generally defined as a *meaningful coincidence*: a moment where inner and outer worlds connect, and the outer world symbolises inner meanings.

A classic illustration of synchronicity comes from Jung's essay, *Synchronicity: An Acausal Connecting Principle*:

"A young woman I was treating had, at a critical moment, a dream in which she was given a golden scarab. While she was telling me this dream I sat with my back to the closed window. Suddenly I heard a noise behind me, like a gentle tapping. I turned round and saw a flying insect knocking against the window-pane from outside. I opened the window and caught the creature in the air as it flew in. It was the nearest analogy to a golden scarab that one finds in our latitudes, a scarabaeid beetle, the common rose-chafer (*Cetonia aurata*), which contrary to its usual habits had evidently felt an urge to get into a dark room at this particular moment."

The arrival of the dream-scarab, knocking on the window to be let in, was instrumental in releasing this woman from a limited, overly-rational view of the world.

Synchronicity is always something of an invitation to open the window: think of the common experience of 'number synchronicity', where people notice the same digits everywhere – in prices, clock displays, license plates and so on. It's not necessary to attach a particular meaning to this experience; better, in many ways, just to recognise it as a knocking on the window.

Synchronicity isn't made to give us the whole message – it's more like the cosmic 'you've got mail' sign.

### Conversation

Real understanding – really 'getting the message' – comes from *conversation*. That's just how human beings work.

For instance, there's actually no such thing as synchronicity for someone who isn't interested in seeing it. First, you need to be open and available, to *invite* the communication. (Have you ever been the only person in a crowd to see something – a flight of birds, or the shape of a cloud?)

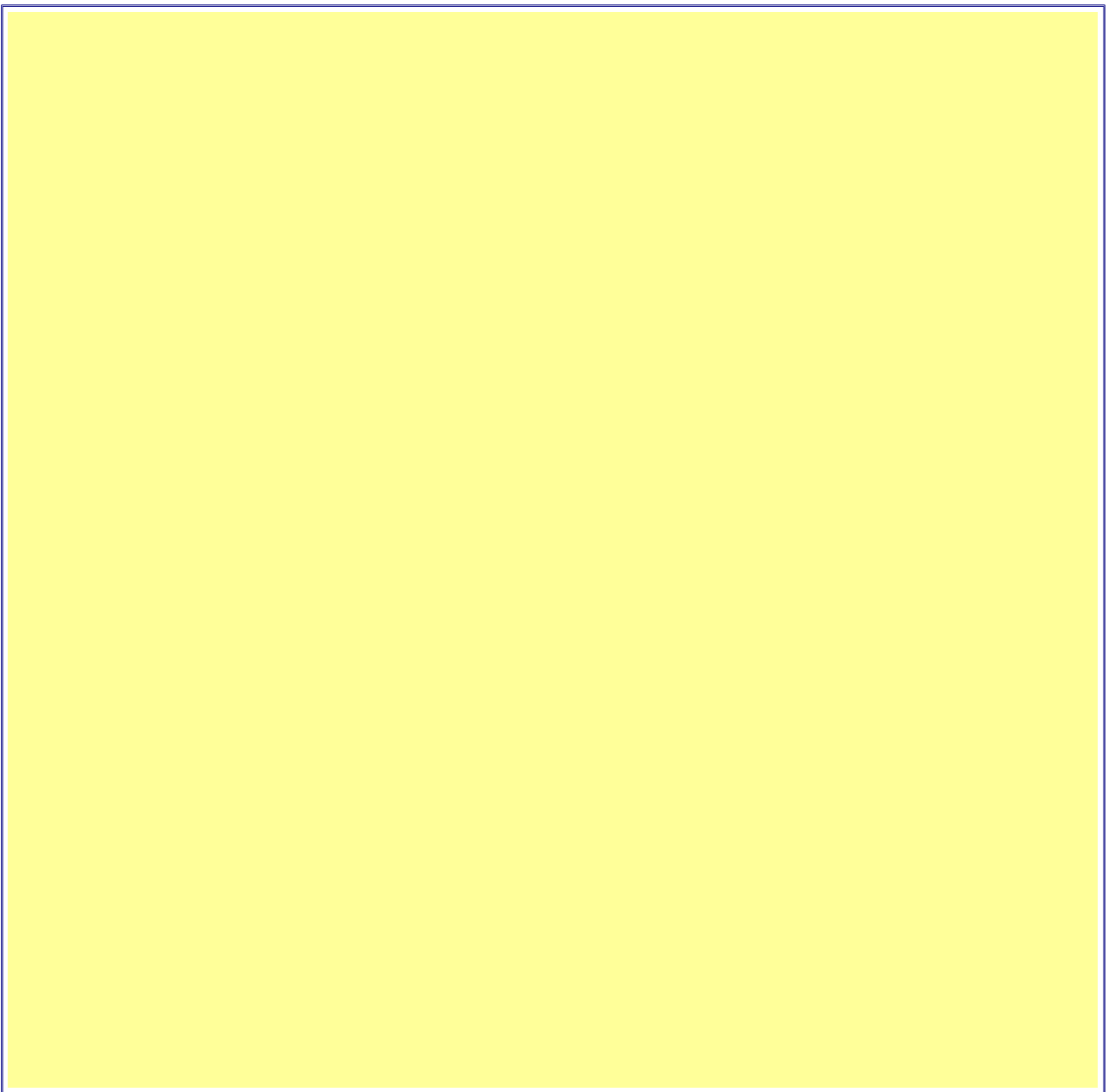
And in the same way, divination is conversation, so it begins with a request, or a question.

## *Creative questions*

*I strongly recommend you personalise this section with your own questions!*

- What are you wondering about?
- What questions do you ask yourself?
- Where in life do you want to feel more connected, more grounded and less reactive?

Scribble down as many questions as you can:

A large, empty yellow rectangular area with a thin blue border, intended for the user to write down their own creative questions.

The question is vitally important because

- it defines what you're asking for, and hence what you're open to receive
- it creates the context that makes it possible to understand and apply your answer
- it can open the way for new, creative ideas – but it can also shut it down.

Questions that might have that 'shutting down' effect:

'Why do I always mess up?'

'Why can't I fix this?'

'How can I fix this?' (Think of the possibilities this excludes...)

'How does he feel?'

'What will happen?'

(Another quotation from Karcher's *Encyclopedia of Divination*:

“The aim of divination is not to reveal an implacable future, but to place you in the process of that future, to connect you with the flow of life through its signs, symbols and spirits.”

- recommended reading!)

*3 tips for creative questions*

(Add your own notes and examples...)

*Ownership*

*Simplicity*

*Emotion*

## Oracles

If divination means asking for signs, opening up for guidance and insight by initiating the conversation...

... then what's an oracle?

**An oracle is a language for the divinatory conversation.**

With goodwill and imagination, you can communicate to some extent without a language. In the same way, you can use your ingenuity to create ways to communicate with the cosmos, receive messages from the underlying truth of things, without an oracle. (You're invited to try one of these ways during the call.)

This is rather like going to a foreign country and communicating by gesture. You can get by... but if you have a shared language, a whole lot more becomes possible.

### *The I Ching, or Yijing*

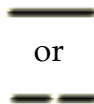
'Ching', or 'jing' means a classic book: it's the same word as in 'Daodejing' or 'Tao Te Ching', the 'Book of the Way and its Power'.

'I', or 'Yi' means Change. In its earliest uses, it has to do with changes in the weather, like the sun emerging from behind clouds. The same word also means ease and fluency.

Before the oracle became the I Ching – that is, before its core commentaries were written and it was given the status of a 'classic' – it was the Zhouyi, the Changes of the Zhou people. As you can see, its 'given name' is simply Yi: Change.

The core of the text was written down some 3,000 years ago, which probably makes this the oldest oracle in use anywhere in the world; it certainly has the longest tradition of continuous use and growth.

As a language of divination, Yi has the simplest possible basic structure:



It's all built from two kinds of line: closed or open, firm or soft, active or passive. (The whole concept of yin and yang grew from here.)



Then... the lines are built up into hexagrams, groups of six lines -



and these are understood as the relationships of natural powers, painted in trigrams (groups of three lines).

The 64 hexagrams of the I Ching are woven together in dynamic structural relationships, like a living cathedral. And they are melded with words – words that themselves are strongly connected with their own ancient image-roots - giving advice, painting vivid miniatures and telling stories, and alluding to great myths and historical heroes.

So the simplest possible beginnings build up into something of extraordinary subtlety and complexity. This maybe goes some way towards explaining how fascinated people become with the oracle. If you have a poet and artist in you, it can talk to them; if you have a structural engineer and a pure mathematician, or a musician or a dancer, it will talk to them, too. It engages with the whole person.

And this is the real reason why people have been coming to Yi for help for some 3,000 years: *it speaks*. People experience it more as a person than as a language.

Nor is this some newfangled notion. The Great Treatise (which dates from around 200BC) says:

‘Yi is a book that cannot be far away.  
Its *dao* is ever-changing...  
Gives warning without and within,  
shedding light on trouble and its causes,  
not as a commander or guardian,  
but as if mother and father drew near.’

## *Questions?*

Does this call leave you with questions to ask or thoughts to share? There is a second free call scheduled for May 10th, and I'd like to use it to answer as many people's questions as I can. Please email yours to me at [hilary@onlineClarity.co.uk](mailto:hilary@onlineClarity.co.uk).

## *Join Clarity as a Friend*

<http://onlineClarity.co.uk/join>

This free membership includes...

- the recording of this call
- advance notice of the next free call on May 10th
- a members-only discount on the I Ching Class
- a beginner's I Ching course
- a friendly and welcoming community

<http://onlineClarity.co.uk/join>

## *I Ching Class information*

**When:**

Every Sunday from 17th May to July 5th at 7pm UK time (same time as today's call)

**Where:**

Your phone, or your Skype account if you have one (either is fine)

**What:**

An in-depth class in practical divination with the I Ching, including...

- 8 teleclasses
- Extra 'reading practice' calls
- Recordings of all calls
- The full course in pdf format
- Call worksheets
- A private, class-only forum

**[Please click here for all the details](#)**