

Yang Symbols of Change

易之陽卦

These four trigrams all have a predominantly yang nature.



Creative

Heaven. Energy. Persistence.

This is the ideal of pure yang energy; the spiritual, creative power that drives the Universe. It is dynamic and inexhaustible. It is noble, it rules. It also symbolizes metal, and struggle. In the family, it is the father, the fertilizing seed.



Arousing

Thunder. Stirring things up. Shock.

This is the first manifestation of yang in the world, the spark fertilizing the yin field. It is the dragon. It arouses excitement and alarm. It brings movement, it is a great road. It is decisive, but it can be impetuous. It symbolizes birth, hatching, and budding. As the eldest son, it represents longevity.



Abyss

Water. The Gorge. Risk.

This is yang in the centre of the yin field. It represents danger; the chasm which turns water into churning rapids. It is also the rushing flow of water through the chasm. It requires plunging in to the flow with full commitment. It brings moisture. It is the moon. As the middle son, it represents courage.



Stilling

Mountain. Restraint. Stopping.

This is yang at the peak, it represents natural limits and the completion of a cycle. It binds things and brings them to a stop. It is still and quiet, meditative and reflective. It is also hard and obstinate. It represents doorways and openings, a footpath. As the youngest son, it represents the boundary of the family.

Yin Symbols of Change

易之陰卦

These four trigrams all have a predominantly yin nature.

Receptive

Earth. Space. Yielding.

This is the ideal of pure yin; the material world that supports and gives substance to all the patterns of Heaven. It is humble and impartial. It represents service, nourishment and shelter. It is void and unresisting. As the mother, it is the womb of the Universe.

Penetrating

The Wind, Wood. Rooting. Ground.

Here yin enters and creates a space at the base of the solid yang above. This is gentle and subtle, yet persistent; like roots growing into the ground, or a breeze stirring the branches. It is compliant. It disperses things. As the eldest daughter, it represents nourishing and influence.

Cohering

Fire. Radiance. Clinging.

Yin finds the heart of yang. This represents light, consciousness, and the discrimination that consciousness enables when things are illuminated. It is the sun, and lightning. It is also burning, the relationship between fire and its fuel. It brings warmth and dryness. It is the sword. As the middle daughter, it represents maturity.

Open

The Valley. Stimulating. Joy.

Yin has reached the top. This is the deep lake that fills the valley, it is the vapour that rises from the surface of still water. It encourages exchange and interaction. It is responsive and spontaneous, and it brings pleasure. It symbolizes communication. It is a sorceress. As the youngest daughter, this represents light-heartedness.