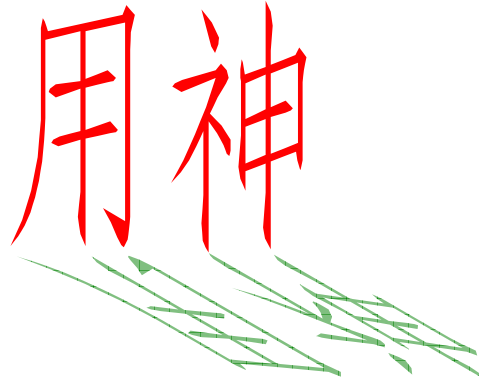


- Four Pillars of Destiny -

- Four Pillars of Destiny and Useful God -

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Tapping into the right temperament and behavior for good fate - Plus and minus emotions according to Wuxing -

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Element or Divine Deity

One of the most rewarding dynamics about your Four Pillars of Destiny horoscope is that it will lay bare your most desired element – called Useful God, or Spirit of Focus – and the most daring element in your chart – called Annoying God and able to obstruct smooth fate progression. The process of establishing your Gods may be easy and straightforward or challenging, much depending on chart dynamics, but once you identified your favorable and unfavorable elements, you can follow their typical pattern of ten (Heavenly Stems) or twelve (Earthly Branches) years, months, days and hours and see how you respond to their recurrent waxing and waning properties.

Then, supposing Metal is the Useful God, do we tell our client to wear white colors, silver jewelry, surround himself with dome shaped physical objects? This discourse handles the subject of locating Useful God in a Bazi chart and gives suggestions for the appropriate behavior and temperament associated with your beneficial and unfavorable elements. Before we do, we need discuss what Bazi pertains to and what Useful God is *not*.

Supposing we completed a Bazi chart only to find an absolute lack of one element, for example the Water element. It is then only unfortunate that it still seems common practise for most practitioners today to advise the person to then introduce the missing element Water in his life. Popular belief has it – and persistingly so this will be also the prevalent practise of some of even the most proficient consultants still today - that it is most important to have a *balanced* Four Pillars chart, or when balance is off, it is at least imperative to regain balance for a Four Pillars structure. Matters may be a little more subtle than this.

While we of course still do not like to act against a certain balance, we need to strongly point out that while balance is most important in Traditional Chinese Medicine, it will be a little less so in astrological matters. Seen from a horoscope, the structure may be unbalanced, but still it may promote good flow of Qi. In Bazi, balance is what needs to be sought or at least not gone against, but we need to make a slight adjustment in understanding what exactly we understand by the term *balance* and in how we need to assess balance and bring a person to achievement.

Here we see two of the most insufficient, but persistent, applications of Four Pillars:

- Most practitioners aim to seek balance perse, in an automatic assumption almost that this is what Yin and Yang is all about, weighing Yin and Yang as quantity.
- Most still assume that a perceived unbalance can be corrected by applying Wu Xing 'cures', so by either introducing or eliminating certain physical objects, colors, shapes or forms according to the elements they found missing or abundant.

Both are supposing that Bazi works from external factors and chart unbalances could then be adjusted by external factors. We rather more take the position that, if a problem was not caused by a color or a physical object, the solution should not be expected to come from colors or physical objects. If, on the other hand, our Bazi chart happens from internal factors, matters pertaining to Useful God and Annoying God should be dealt with internally.

Apart from understanding that Yin and Yang will be never balanced – because we can at the most say that Yin and Yang will be *seeking* to acquire balance -, in our Four Pillars studies we need yet learn to furthermore distinguish between Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal and Water as just inanimate elements, or as Shén 神, Spirit. Another way of saying this, is that the element of Fire may function as just one of the Five Transformations in your chart, i.e. one of Wǔ Xing 五行, but once we are

interested in improving fate and destiny, we may - from a specific point onward in our assessing the Bazi dynamics in your structure and in order to instigate flow of Qi - decide that Fire is the element you crave most, in which case Fire will then need be looked upon and applied as a Deity. An *element* is from a different order than a *Deity*. We can assign Fire to be your Useful God – or Spirit of Focus – regardless if Fire is absent in your chart or totally dominant in your structure. Bazi is about acquiring internal flow of Qi before anything and the element to obtain this is your Useful God.

Staying with our example of a client that totally lacks the Water element in his chart, it is quite possible that he indeed needs Water in his life, but it is equally possible that we will find that the lack of Water was in fact a desirable situation, because Water may be the most challenging factor in his life, i.e Water could be his Annoying God. Then also, supposing your client is in need of Water, we will see that just merely using Five Transformation attributes of Water in color, or using physical objects according to Wu Xing attributes for Water, may not have the desired effect in your client's life.

Basically in Bazi, we like to see Daymaster able to *survive, manifest* and *achieve*. Daymaster by itself being a phenomenon in the relative world, he will be existentially captured within the realm of time-action-space, which domain is a world of friction so that he will be meeting challenges, both from external and internal source. He then needs overcome such external and internal 'challenges' and the Bazi chart reveals how Daymaster may typically go about doing just that. A Bazi chart shows Daymaster and his internal environment, the other elements in the chart. If a person not aware of his Bazi chart or its intrinsic dynamics, Bazi chart can be 'against' Daymaster, Daymaster can act 'against' the chart and it is at the core base of Bazi to overcome dynamics of then obstructed fate.

For astrological purposes we need to somewhat redefine the term balance, because strictly speaking, in Four Pillars the term balance can also point to a seemingly 'unbalanced' situation, where the perceived unbalanced situation was in itself in fact just another form of balance – equilibrium -, in a way perhaps providing a life with the exact challenges one would need in order to accomplish things. It perhaps requires you to contemplate on what 'balance' means in Traditional Chinese Medicine – or within the realm of physical, mental and spiritual health matters – and what 'balance' pertains to as an astrological term.

Surely, then, elements that are favorable to you can help obtain balance in your Four Pillars structure, but in the strictest sense – and against popular teachings still - it may not be amongst our most essential tasks to seek to restore balance in a Bazi chart if this means that we were merely counting or quantifying the elements just by way of their absence or abundance in a chart. Instead, it becomes our most sacred task, as diviners, to ensure *smooth flow of Qi* in a chart. What would be popularly regarded balance, may then come in second.

The element needed most in a life may therefore not at all be the lacking element, but the lacking element may instead be the most unfavorable element, i.e. the element that obstructs a life most.

What we seek in Bazi is to assure smooth flow of Qi in a structure, and - provided it is available in the chart -, the element that is best equipped to do that may then be (still not in all cases) referred to as Useful God, or Yòng Shén 用神.

Yòng Shén is the most sought after deity in one's chart, as opposed to the least wanted deity Jì Shén 忌神, which will instead 'attack' a life and which will be

referred to as Annoying God. It is very well possible that the lacking element in a person's chart would also be his Annoying God.

In Bazi we want the Daymaster to survive, to perform and enjoy steady progress through which he can then achieve.

A life may come with feeble opportunities and persistent challenges when the Four Pillar structure itself does not produce the Useful God.

If the Useful God is not produced from within the actual Four Pillars, it is an indication the more that the chart may host the Annoying God in a strong position.

Yòng 用 Use, useful, employ, apply.

Jì 忌 Envy, be jealous of, fear, dread.

Shén 神 God, deity, divinity, spirit, soul, vitality, energy.

Having arrived at this point, you may appreciate how from the perspective of the Useful God principle, balance in the chart itself may not be the most important in a life, but rather smooth but definite flow of Qi is most essential for a life. The Useful God is to ensure smooth flow of Qi and a good life and it becomes imperative to be able to unmistakably identify the Useful God.

If Fire was identified as the Useful God – and provided it is supported by the Bazi structure -, Fire will then in this sense have changed its properties from a mere element into that of a deity.

If you find it difficult or unacceptable to at all associate internal energies with deities, you may just read deity as 'organ and meridian charged' energies, happening at a physiological, rather than 'astrological', level.

Rather than seeking conventional balance, balance in a Bazi sense points to the function of identifying the defect in a chart and finding ways to go around this effect, so that eventually its obstructing properties will have been made disfunctional.

In Bazi, are we looking at an astrological chart, or is the Bazi chart an imprint of prevailing environmental energies at the time of our first breath, such prevalent energies having 'charged' our organ and meridian energy accordingly.

Bazi is a physiological system, long before it may be handled as conventional astrology. At the time of your first breath, planet earth had proceeded on its annual orbit around the sun, charging your internal system accordingly, so that, rather than gazing at external elements, by your Bazi chart you are looking into your organ and meridian household.

Even if we then not locate the Useful God in the Bazi structure itself, we may try to create it by releasing the temperament and behavior associated with the desired element from inside ourselves and still aim to accomplish in life.

If Fire is the desired element, you may then decide to have Fire carried to a life by using red colors, sharp pointed physical objects, or if Fire is the beneficial energy, you may ask your client to be releasing the temperament and behavior associated with Fire, thus the Heart Qi, by this very much in fact committing 'acupuncture without needles'.

Please read "Additional charting in Four Pillars" on our website for further appreciation of system.
<http://www.heluo.nl/articles/AdditionalChartingInFourPillars.pdf>

Archetypes

The concept of Useful God is most vital in Bazi, but it is not uncommon that at the beginning stages of your Bazi studies, it will perhaps remain just that, one of many concepts. It will take sustained studies, deep reflection and experience having done many charts to fully see this point.

We need to identify the Useful God for a Four Pillars structure, and the Useful God needs to be produced by the Four Pillars structure itself. If we decided that Fire is the most needed element and Fire was identified the Useful God, but if Fire is not available in the basic Four Pillars structure, then if we were to encounter Fire through any Luck Pillar – Ten Year Luck Pillar or any year-, month-, day- or hour Pillar – this Fire is not considered Useful God. We need then accept that any Fire can but function as one of favorable elements, its influence perhaps notable but short-lived.

It is very fortunate when the Useful God is found in the chart, but we have to immediately add that merely finding the Useful God available in the basic structure may in itself be not sufficient, without also assessing its strength, health, location.

Strength and vitality of elements in a chart are then decided by time (season, i.e. month of birth, but also hour of birth), location (where in the chart do we locate the element) and environment (e.g. Daymaster or Useful God being otherwise sustained by other elements in the chart). Function and availability of the elements in a chart will be then further decided by vicinity, if the element is clashed away or being held up by a combination, being generated or assisted or under control.

If Fire is the identified Useful God, but we do not find any Fire in the structure, then Fire becomes somewhat dysfunctional in an astrological sense and we may consider choosing the next favorable element that we find available in the structure. However much the second most desired element may then be found in the chart, this can then not render the same effect for a life as would be true for a Useful God.

It means we would enjoy the Useful God to be produced and well protected by the Four Pillars structure and we would enjoy then finding the Useful God in good position. If not, we need to wait for the right timing.

Again, balance in a chart may not be taken to mean that all Five Transformations are equally present in a Four Pillars structure, as balance should be much more understood as a situation by which all favorable elements appear in the structure and are readily available in relation to their location and health.

Terms such as Useful God, Annoying God, Helpful God and Hostile God are to be taken way beyond their apparent elemental level. I propose we do not look upon Fire as just one out of Five Transformations, when we found that Fire is the Useful God. We must attach personalities, archetypes, alteregos – or whatever else you may visualize to gain at least an understanding of their true dynamic and function - to these terms and understand that the Five Transformations carry a spirit – a 'charge', an agenda - of their own, each one with own temperament and behavior.

We need to personify the elements in our life. Once we do this, we will see their true face and influence. Again, Four Pillars has been referred to as astrology. This would assume external factors to influence our life. To me, a Bazi chart is the closest assessment we can get into a person's organ and meridian Qi, where Fire governs the Heart and Small Intestine, the Liver governs the Liver and Gallbladder and so on. As we learn to assign meridians, organs, body functions and body parts to any of the organs, it is a small step to see that 'organs produce emotions' and to then find the right type of behavior by understanding the plus and minus emotions induced by the organs. Useful God is about *releasing the right behavior from within*.

Assessing Useful God

Nothing is written in stone. Once you have experienced yourself with the here proposed assessments for Useful God, later you may be yet moving away from all of this and apply more sophisticated approaches in order to secure good flow of Qi and find alternative ways around certain obstructions in Qi flow.

For purpose of this article we consider the Useful God to be of excellent health when it is found in the month Branch finding good fruit in the month Stem. It is still fortunate if we find a fully functional and strongly influential Useful God contained in the year, day or hour Branch, but decreasingly so in comparison with a Useful God that was found in month Stem and/or month Branch. A Useful God in the year Pillar would be fairly out of reach of Daymaster as it may also easily come under attack by incoming Luck Pillars.

A Useful God in Life Stages 1,4,5 and 6 will be considered timely. Even though an element in Life Stage 9 will be considered in storage, Life Stage 9 is still considered to host some Qi. However the year progresses and rendering certain elements weaker than others, none of Wuxing will be ever absent. All other Life Stages are weak and untimely, Void Stage (Life Stage 10) being weakest of all.

It may be extremely weak when the Useful God appears only as the minor Qi contained in an untimely year or day Branch, when it means that it cannot be found also anywhere else in the chart, as this would indicate that the Useful God will be likely under attack also from a better positioned element that is against it.

Moreover, the positioning of Useful God in the year Pillar will be a feeble situation, because it can be easily clashed away by any Luck Pillar, be that for a ten year Luck period, or just a year, month, day or hour. Also a Useful God in the Heavenly Stems, but without root, is to be considered less superior to a Useful God that appears in the Stems, but with root. We will try to locate the Useful God as close to the Daymaster and in as best shape as we can.

Generally speaking, and just to first position the idea of Useful God because there are exceptions, if we need to choose between a Useful God found in the year Pillar and the month Pillar and with all other considerations equal, then we go for the Useful God in the month Pillar. Given the choice between hour and day Pillar, we would select the Useful God in the day Pillar. But it is not this straightforward.

We now know that the location of the Useful God is important. Besides this, we need to consider time. The Useful God should be timely, it should be preferably rooted, it should be supported and it should be of sufficient influence when it is found in a Branch. The latter meaning, that if the Useful God is found contained in a Branch and it is just a minor God (20% or 30%), then it is of poorer influence, especially if it finds no allies.

It is said that, if we cannot locate the Useful God in the Four Pillars, we simply need to wait until it becomes available as a favorable element through one of the Eight Luck Pillars, or by means of an annual-, month-, day- or hour Pillar, but such situation would of course be still fairly undesirable and feeble, for reason that any achievement coming from this will be great perhaps but shortlived. Then also, in case the Useful God could not be found in a structure and we had to rely on the second best favorable element, and this favorable element is poorly located or too weak, then this situation will be quite unfavorable to a life. We must therefore not passively await the right time, which would once more have us rely on external factors, but we may look to release any desired energies from within ourselves in temperament and behavior, and we can do so by understanding which organ be associated with what temperament, see further down at plus and minus emotions.

It is possible that two elements engage in clash. When the Useful God is attacked, this may topple balance, proportionate to the astrological environment.

Determining aspects of weakness and strength in a chart, as well as unlocking the Useful God, must belong to the most difficult parts in assessing a life. In fact, any fate and destiny reading can only commence after the Useful God and Annoying God have been unquestionably determined. We must also ascertain that the Useful God is available. Sometimes we may need alter between two elements to act as our Useful God at different times.

Usually, but not always, if Daymaster is too weak, we try to find elements that will assist or generate the Daymaster. On the other hand, we will usually try to find weakening elements to come to the aid of a Daymaster that is too strong.

Once we identified the Useful God, it becomes fairly easy to locate the Annoying God. Still at the initial stages of the system, and as our first acquaintance, we could make the somewhat blunt statement that mostly, but not always, the Annoying God will be the element controlling the Useful God, but having said this we immediately add that there are known exceptions. We need read any chart by its own merits.

Life will be good in an astrological sense during Luck Periods when the Useful God is generated or being strengthened, while the Qi flow in a chart may be toppled during Luck Periods when the Useful God is harmed, like when it is under control, being drained or involved in a clash. All this yet in proportion to other – vital – observations.

Although a person may rely on the Useful God throughout life, the Useful God may combine with another element, in which case it may be removed from the structure and cannot be of assistance, i.e. when there is only one Stem or Branch that contains the Useful God. Once the Useful God is identified we may examine the life of a person and look for periods in which the Useful God is compromised in any way.

We need be attentive when the Useful God is involved in a clash.

The right behavior

The Useful God is used primarily to identify the right behavior or temperamental traits that we would then need see *released from within the person*. Once we identified the Useful God, we can also suggest what career to pursue, have the client focus on the right God (Parallel, Resource, Output, Wealth or Power), wait for the right time or live in the right place.

If Metal is identified as the Useful God, we will primarily advise the person to bring out Metal behavior from within, while the person will have hardly or no advantage of wearing the right color – white in case of Metal -, because colors are of hardly or no influence at all. You can still advise your client to wear colors or surround himself with forms and shapes of his most favorable element, but you need to first establish Useful God in behavior. In order to fully grasp what is said here and to see how ‘things within the same group move each other’ and mostly energy in a physical object will be devoted just to sustain itself, please review our article “Shapes and Forms in Feng Shui” on our website.

Again, where a Bazi structure’s obstructions would not have been caused by colors or objects, you must disregard colors and objects to be of any influence. ‘Qi heals Qi’ means, what is wrong in Qi, we need to adjust with Qi. We here refer to the Qi hosted in organs and meridians, which will be how we assess behavior and temperament since we know that ‘organs produce emotions’ and ‘what lies inside must externalize’. This was not to say that we have no use for colors or physical objects, but further down the list of priorities as released temperament and behavior becomes primary.

Qi will be locked in by physical objects, so although still resonating in the belonging element, most Qi will be locked in and devoted to sustain the physical object itself. It follows that not much effect can be expected if we were to suggest our client – be that in Feng Shui or Four Pillars – to use physical objects that come under his Useful God. If in the first place, astrological problems were not caused by physical objects, then what to expect from physical objects if we need overcome astrological obstruction. Understanding this comes under the very foundation of your profoundness and will ultimately set you aside from mere analysis, or merely being an expert.

Primarily, requirements for Useful God need be reduced back to the belonging behavior and this behavior handsomely released from within the person. If the Useful God is Metal, the person must produce Metal from his own Qi, thus activating his Lung energy by inviting the plus emotions associated with Metal. This will trigger the Lung meridian to then release the plus Metal temperament and this signifies the Useful God and will further promote internal flow of Qi.

Part of this type of Qi may be still released by adopting a Metal career in which the person will be involved in constant decision making and masterminding. Metal is mobility and motion, so the person must engage himself in Metal type activities. The person can also move to the West or Northwest. However, compared to the understanding that the Useful God must come available by behavior released from within the person, all these may become effectful to a certain degree but they are still very much secondary or tertiary.

Once more, in assessing what a life needs in order to have great achievement, it is not so much balance what we seek. We can still seek balance – for example by not going against it -, but this will come in more when we interpret a life, or in reading a person’s life.

We can have balanced charts, strong charts or weak charts in all types of variety, but however balanced our chart may be, if we do not understand the Useful God dynamic to the full as described here, we may have not triggered the chart. What happens if a chart is perfectly balanced, what does it mean to a life. Is it fortunate and should we seek it?

According to a basic Bazi principle, referred to as "Sickness and Cure", a person can have spectacular achievement only when his chart is unbalanced.

The line of reasoning here is that a weak chart will come under a lot of internal and external challenges. Daymaster will now look for ways to escape, to survive, to manifest and to achieve and so Daymaster will adopt certain goals that satisfy this need.

If a chart is completely balanced - for example with a strength factor of 195 and a weakness factor of 200 -, the life may be deprived not just of challenges, but as a result of this 'balance' it may lack too spectacular achievements. Therefore, a person with a balanced chart shall need to yet aim towards certain specific goals, be that creativity, the generating of money or seeking authority.

Furthermore, imagine a completely balanced chart, it can only meet with elements through Ten Year Luck Periods, or annual-, month-, day- or hour Pillars that will topple the balance and leave the Daymaster at fault.

On the other hand, and for a chart that some would still refer to as unbalanced, it can only be that certain elements that are needed will eventually come in, be that through Ten Year Luck Periods, or year-, month-, day- or hour Pillars.

Much more than balance, it becomes important to identify certain Luck Periods, and to develop a capacity to take advantage from their influence.

Prevalent Qi

The prevalent Qi in a Pillar is in the Heavenly Stem. The Branch supplies the support, which is another way of saying how Stem action requires Branch support.

The strongest Heavenly Stem will be a month Stem that finds root in the month Branch. The second strongest choice would be a month Stem that finds root in the day Branch. As a matter of priority, the hour Pillar then comes before the year Pillar, because next to the month Pillar, the hour Pillar can be examined for strength and 'vibrant Qi' in a chart.

If you need to choose between a Useful God in a month Stem (example Yang Water Power) or a Useful God contained in a month Branch (example Yin Water contained in Zi Branch), you choose the Useful God in the month Branch. The reason being that, when the Useful God of Water comes in through a Luck Period Stem (ten years, one year, a month, a day or even a double-hour), the person can tap into greater – more accessible - fortune, than with Water coming in through a Luck Period Branch.

We will further explore the world of Useful God and we will assume that Water is the Useful God to a weak Yang Wood Daymaster.

We will start with the strongest Useful God and gradually work our way down to a Useful God that will be decreasing in strength and health, until we will arrive to a situation that the Useful God is not present in the Four Pillars structure.

All will be depending on chart, rather than rules and an article like the one here could hardly include all techniques that would have us further bargain on its statements, which would require more indepth instruction and more responsible formal training. Do not take best choice, second best choice and so on as a presentation of rigid rules. There will be always additional considerations, like those we will encounter when we include clashes, pairings, directional influences or triangular combinations. It is to give you a first impression of how wonderfully dynamic Bazi is. After you have acquainted yourself with the here given assessments, you will find that more advanced approaches may come in later, helping you to throw the previous approach overboard.

Still, as we proceed, please have pen and paper handy and actually take down each and every description presented here. When you repeat this process over a prolonged time, while you continue your study and while you do this each time you assess a Bazi chart, this will help you visualize and reflect and truly overcome some of the more known limitations of beginners and even some of the masters.

You will learn these basic principles with the sole aim of gradually abandoning them. In later stages of your study, after these principles have become second nature, you will start seeing exceptions to these rules that may alter your observations.

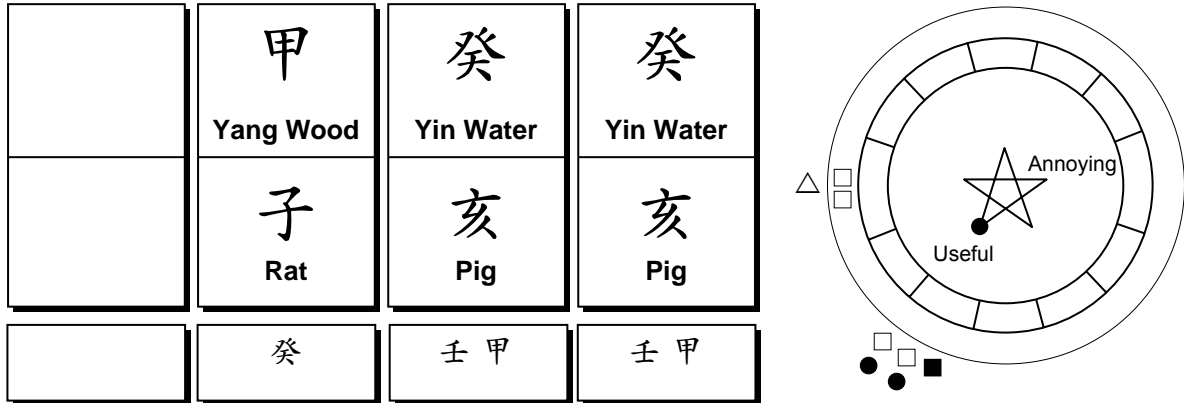
We will first take the example of a Yang Wood Daymaster born in Pig month. Water in Pig month is Life Stage 4. In this example, the Useful God is Yin Water in the month Stem, fully supported by root in the month Branch.

In this academic situation, the Useful God also appears in the year Pillar, however, between the month and year Pillar, the year Pillar is of less use because it is too far from the Daymaster. Yet, it will tremendously add to the already well positioned Useful God.

Where we project the Wuxing circle with the five Star, \triangle is Daymaster.

Timeliness and location of the Useful God

Most superb will be a Useful God in Life Stage 4 or 5, that appears in the month Stem with root in the month Branch. This is an example of most superior time and location.



Daymaster Yang Wood is shown by taking \triangle to the Wood domain along the five star. Month of birth is Pig which is a Yin Branch and shown by yet taking \bullet to the Water leg within the five star. If you were to use circles for the Heavenly Stems in the upper segments of the Pillars and squares for the elements contained in the Branches and position the two Heavenly Stems of Yin Water and the three Water Stems contained by the Branches in this structure along the Water leg of the circle with the five star, please note that you would show timing, but you would not show their original location in the Four Pillars structure. Besides timing, location is most important. For better appreciation of this approach, read 'Additional charting in Four Pillars' at www.heluo.nl and apply what you find on your own Bazi chart.

Useful God in the month Stem means that the most favorable God is readily available, and readily visible to all. Stems pertain to action, events and people, either or not finding sustenance in the Branch. Useful God contained in the month Branch means, that the Daymaster is greatly supported by the season. If month Stem and month Branch agree, the function will be superb and this will be obvious. Fortune becomes even stronger when, in addition to this, we also find the Useful God in the day Branch. At the same time, the here above example is just an academic one. In fact, we could reason that this chart produces too many Useful God elements – from a certain point onward rendering the chart too strong -, which may soon lead to confusing situations, Daymaster not able to focus well. We are here discussing just the theoretical foundation concerning availability, location, vicinity, while not looking at an actual life. In fact, for a real life, we would actually prefer only one – healthy and well protected - Useful God to appear in the chart.

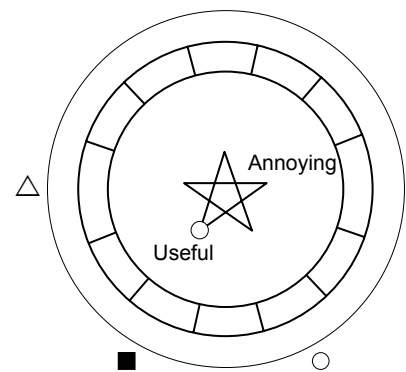
It is still fortunate to find the Useful God in the month Stem, but with root in the Day Branch or in the hour Branch, and to a somewhat lesser degree in the year Branch. Once more, if this situation occurs, a Useful God found in other Pillars but in Life Stages 4 or 5 will be superior to a Useful God found in Life Stage 1,6 or 9.

In our view, Bazi is not conventional astrology. Both Bazi and Nine Star Ki much more pertaining to your physiological imprint at first breath. What lies imprinted in your Bazi structure is your inborn organ and meridian Qi. In the above example of a Yang Wood Daymaster born in the November Pig month, we may say that Daymaster is a Kidney motivated person by month of birth. Daymaster will be interested in studies and self-improvement. We will then assess the function of all other elements, examine their timeliness, vibrancy, clustering to ensure flow of Qi rather than obstruction. Since we are interested in the person to enjoy smooth internal flow of Qi between organs and meridians, we will resort to page 15 and onward to find the appropriate behavior and temperament. We would inspire you to study Wuxing and emotions, for example by doing websearches into Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Next best choice is a Useful God, still in Life Stage 4 or 5, that appears in the month Branch, but without fruit in the month Stem. It is then better if the Useful God contained in the month Branch is at least engendered by the month Stem, in this case Metal, with a preference for the month Stem then not being the Annoying God. Or we would also appreciate if the Useful God is accompanied by another favorable element in the month Stem – e.g. the Helpful God -, but all then preferably in their timely Life Stage.

Here also appears our first example that we cannot cage Bazi in fixed rules. Although Yang Metal in the month Stem protects the Useful God Yin Water contained in Rat Branch, it also clashes with the Yang Wood Daymaster, thus obstructing the flow of Qi. It will be a task to have the Qi from the month Stem transmit to Daymaster. Flow of Qi lies beyond the scope of this article, but it is to show that nothing is written in stone.

	甲 Yang Wood	庚 Yang Metal	
		子 Rat	
		癸	



	甲 Yang Wood	戊 Yang Earth	
	子 Rat	子 Rat	
	癸	癸	

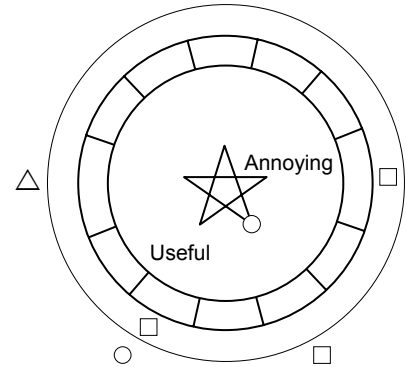
However, when the Useful God is in the month Branch, but the month Stem is the Annoying God or the Hostile God and the Useful God also appears in the day Branch, we still choose the Useful God in the month Branch, but this will later affect our Life Reading. Here, for sake

of clarity, we will not be looking at other functions, such as Pairings and Clashes.

The Useful God in the day Branch will however greatly support the Daymaster and carry physical strength to Daymaster.

If we continue on this line of approach, next best choice would be a Useful God in Life Stage 1,6 or 9, that appears in the month Stem with root in the month Branch. For this example we still use a Yang Wood Daymaster, but we changed month of birth to Monkey, as you will find indicated also on the Metal leg of the five star. Monkey Branch is the birth Palace of Water, Life Stage 1.

	甲 Yang Wood	壬 Yang Water	
		申 Monkey	
		庚 壬 戊	



Monkey Branch releases Water in Life Stage 1. Here, again a situation could occur where we have the Useful God in Life Stage 1,6 or 9 in the month Branch, but without fruit in the month Stem. Once more we would then prefer that the Useful God contained in the Branch is at least engendered by the month Stem, or that the Useful God is produced by the day Branch.

For this particular example, I want you to note also that the intrinsic flow of Qi within the Monkey Branch is highly supportive to the Useful God of Water. Monkey Branch contains Earth that will engender Metal, that will engender Water which is the Useful God. Here the Annoying God Earth (Wealth) is redirected to give life to Daymaster's Power (Metal), which will strengthen his Resource (Useful God), which will ultimately lead to achievement.

Another situation, less strong but still healthy, is when the Useful God appears in the day Branch, with fruit in the hour Stem.

壬 Yang Water	甲 Yang Wood		
	子 Rat		
	癸		

This example gives the Useful God in the day Branch. Useful God will be here not supported by the month Branch, but it finds fruit in the hour Stem. This will still give sufficient support to the weak Yang Wood Daymaster. Note that the month Pillar is now vacant to perhaps host unfavorable Gods.

癸 Yin Water	甲 Yang Wood		壬 Yang Water
	子 Rat		
	癸		壬

While we then altogether removed the Useful God from the month Pillar, we would then prefer the Useful God at least in the day Branch with fruit in the hour Pillar and in later instance a Useful God in the day Branch with fruit in the year Pillar.

壬 Yin Water	甲 Yang Wood		
子 Rat			
癸			壬

With no Useful God in the month or day Pillar, we would then choose a Useful God that appears in the hour Branch, but with fruit.

If we find the Useful God in the hour Stem, but without root in the hour Branch, we would still prefer that it has root in the year Branch.

Finally, we would even still enjoy the Useful God when it only appears in the year Pillar, preferably as the year Stem or as the major God in the year Branch, but even if we locate the Useful God only as a minor God in the year Branch, the condition that the Useful God should be produced by the original Four Pillars structure is still being met. However, we need to realize that, with the Useful God located less and less fortunate according to timing and location, we definitely increased the chance that the Annoying God takes in the stronger locations and borrows good timing.

Qi heals Qi

We could do without some of the favorable elements, but we can't do without the Useful God. Useful God is about doing the right thing (Man) at the right time (Heaven), in the right place (Earth) and in the right spirit (Dao), mingling with the right people (De). Once you synchronize these, you will have established a channel for Qi transmission. Still note how we can internally 'charge' and element.

Heaven Luck	The right timing	Since it is not possible to change your astrological outlook, you can only rely on the right timing.
Man Luck	The right action	Establishing or re-establishing balance, i.e. to bring personal magnetism in accordance with prevailing Heaven and Earth currents. Act according to your Useful God. Include Useful God in behavior, temperamental traits, food intake, exercise.
Earth Luck	The right place	Choose the right location, direction, geography to live, sleep and take up initiative. The realm of Classical Chinese Feng Shui.

Although Wu Xing are all encompassing, the famous Chinese semi-classic Huai Nan Zi has it that: "Things within the same group move each other".

Like anything else, you will find that Qi of colors and physical objects is divided into five subgroups pertaining to Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal and Water*. However, their intrinsic Qi cannot be understood to be of the same quality or the same resonance as the Qi of Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal or Water in your chart, i.e. energy stored up in organs and meridians.

There is an obvious difference between the inanimate Wood resonance of a rectangular physical object and the Qi of Wood invested in your Liver meridian.

Physical objects will be therefore hardly or not able to generate, strengthen, control or drain the Qi elements in your chart, in other words the resonance of colors and physical objects perform in a different realm and will not be able to compete with the far greater resonance of Heavenly Stems and Earthly Branches as found in timing, action and direction.

Since your life was not brought forth by physical objects, or color, shape and form of Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal or Water, any imbalance found in your chart cannot be countered by use of colors or physical objects. The element associated with your Useful God becomes much more than Wu Xing of objects. It becomes a deity on whos temperamental quality your destiny depends.

In order to release your Useful God to the fullest, you must rely on behavior associated with its element. If Fire is your Useful God, you may wear red colors, but it would be best to tap into temperament of Fire, such as propriety, performance, spirituality, hospitality and other plus emotions as you will find discussed elsewhere in this article.

However, most important to reach good fate and destiny is to understand that it is not sufficient to just only activate your own Useful God. Like anything else in life, it is all about a two-way street. For example, if my horoscope says that I will enjoy support next month, I shall still have to move into the world in order to collect this support. Moreover, and to do the trick, I shall also have to lend *my* support *to others*. Let's therefore define the principles in more detail.

* See articles "Shapes and Forms in Feng Shui" at our website.
<http://www.heluo.nl/articles/ShapesAndFormsInFengShui.pdf>

Once you identified your Useful God and Annoying God, how to approach? How to actually bring your Useful God to life to the fullest, without indulging in colors and objects. Where some may at the most give you the principle as 1a and 2a, let us look at the full spectrum where Useful God and Annoying God are concerned. Where 1a and 2a are the foundation, 1b and 2b is what makes it functional. If you look to activate your Useful God to obtain smooth internal flow of Qi and good fate, this is what you do.

1a You need to release your Useful God as temperament and behavior from within yourself.

1b You need to also release *your own Useful God* as temperament and behavior from within others.

2a You cannot release your Annoying God as temperament and behavior from within yourself.

2b You can also not release your own Annoying God as behavior from within others.

Behavior can be taken fairly wide as long as you understand that you need release the plus emotions in case of Useful God, and you cannot release the minus emotions related to Annoying God. What it means, each organ produces plus and minus emotions, all proportionate to your physical, mental, emotional and spiritual condition.

If Power is your Annoying God, it does not mean that you will not be able to engage in leadership, because you can if you otherwise mind dynamics in your chart. It means that you must avoid the negative traits linked to that authority. Consequently, if Power is your Annoying God and it comes under Wood, the negative authority may come as aggression, intolerance and boldness. If Power is your Annoying God and it comes under Metal, the negative authority may come as rigidity and being too demanding or moralistic.

If Metal is your Useful God and you are a teacher, you will best teach from an efficient and engineering type of didactics, while – so as to do the trick – you will release Metal from within your students also by taking them into the Metal realm, e.g. you teach in order to help build a new group of teachers. If Power is your Annoying God, you will be reluctant to release the associated minus emotions from within yourself, while likewise, if for example you need fire an employee, you will not scold the person as this would release *your* Annoying God from within the person, damaging the person's organ associated with *your* Annoying God.

In order to fully incorporate Useful God in your life, you need to:

- Ceaselessly release your Useful God Qi from within yourself through behavior and positive activity.
- Release your Useful God Qi from within others through behavior and activity.
- Avoid releasing your own Annoying God Qi from within yourself.
- Avoid releasing your own Annoying God Qi from within others.
- Choose a career that will promote the release of your Useful God from within.
- Live in an area (geography, topography, climate) that breathes your Useful God.
- Choose a direction to sleep in or act into that is related to the Useful God.
- Marry a partner with your Useful God as his or her Daymaster or with a chart that has your Useful God well sustained.

In last instance, and perhaps for emotional convenience or psychological effect, you can choose to wear Useful God colors close to your skin, or surround yourself with the appointed physical objects as to their shape and form. However, remember that Qi will be locked in physical objects and that physical objects will mostly emit Qi amongst themselves. It is always and under all circumstances good to release plus emotions of all organs.

Summary Useful God

- When the most fortunate, most needed, element is found in the Four Pillars structure, this is called Useful God.
- When the most fortunate, most needed, element is not found in the Four Pillars structure, we need to identify the second most needed element from the Four Pillars structure. Then this second best choice becomes our most fortunate element, but it is not called Useful God.
- We like the Useful God to be strong and well positioned. A Useful God is strong and healthy if it is timely, well located and well supported. If the Useful God is strong (example: month Pillar and otherwise well supported by the environment), it will be sufficiently able to withstand bad Luck Periods. It will be also sufficiently guarded against clashes and combinations.
- If the Useful God is weak (example: it is only found as a minor God in the year Pillar), it will be quite susceptible to attack (either by clashing or by the Annoying God) and this will render a life under challenge, sometimes providing danger to the person.
- Useful God is used primarily to determine the behavior that should be released from within the person. It is also used to read character and temperament, in career choice, compatibility, directionology, divination of do's and do nots in relation to timing and activity. Useful God can be used in assessing health issues and only in last instance Useful God will point to the better colors and physical objects.
- If the Useful God is not produced by the original structure, the second most needed element should at least be well positioned and healthy. If this second most needed element is weak and vulnerable, the life will be very challenging. The Useful God may still come in through the ten year Luck Pillars, but the effect will be great perhaps, but shortlived.
- In terms of life achievement, the most superior Useful God will come in through a Ten Year Luck Pillar. Some charts will produce a Ten Year Luck Pillar producing the Useful God already early in life, other charts will produce the Useful God through a Ten Year Luck Pillar, but only somewhat later in life. Those of us that dealt with poor Luck Pillars in the first ten, twenty or thirty years in life, may very well have experienced great challenge or setbacks earlier on in life, but with the Useful God coming in later, these charts may still have smooth destiny and enjoy great achievement. Those of us who enjoyed Useful God early in life may have enjoyed smooth childhood, but on the one hand we can reflect on the efficacy of an early Useful God as to career, wealth, authority or marriage, and on the other hand these charts will sooner or later produce the Annoying God in Ten Year Luck Periods and most of these people may not be experienced enough in dealings with setbacks once this situation occurs.

Wuxing basic emotions and temperament

The list of Wuxing plus and minus emotions presented here may be used in Nine Star Ki and Four Pillars of Destiny, for diagnosis, assessment and adjustment. It can function as a model for diagnosis, to indicate certain unbalance in a person's physiology, it can be used to correct for certain excess energy, it can be used to inspire people into the appropriate behavior, all depending on their physiologic (astrological) makeup and the requirements for smooth internal flow of Qi between organs and meridians.

Once you set yourself in front of lists like the one here, you need to practice sound judgement and act with discriminating approach, because you need take into account many different factors. For example, your country may warmly promote expressiveness, as a result of which a person that is more withdrawn may soon be 'diagnosed' as timid or even lethargic. Please note that in order to 'survive' some other geographical areas, a person would be required to be silent, so could not be said to be apathic.

Basic physiology and emotions

It goes without saying that, although some of the emotions here mentioned under minus emotions, our basic physiology would still require us to produce aggression, suspicion, jealousy at appropriate times under appropriate conditions. This is equally true for emotions falling under plus emotions, where a plus emotion when overdone may become inappropriate.

Nine Star Ki and Four Pillars of Destiny

For both Nine Star Ki and Four Pillars of Destiny - for self-diagnosis, understanding a person's current magnetism, whether you are an astrologer, and acupuncturist, a spouse, a parent - use the plus and minus emotions to mirror most prevalent emotions and temperament. Note any stagnant or persistent temperament that would either implode back into the person or explode and where emotions would either desintegrate the self, the other or the environment.

Nine Star Ki

For a 9 Fire born in Spring, we say that the person is a Heart meridian motivated person, with strong Wood properties falling under the Liver. We may assess the plus and minus emotions of Fire to note any deficiencies, or stagnant Fire.

Four Pillars of Destiny

Here we may first refer Daymaster to season of birth, then look at overall chart dynamics to note absent, stagnant or dominating Qi of certain elements. Basically, a Wood Daymaster born in Spring or Autumn would promote different temperament. The list will help you understand a person's basic organ and meridian Qi, where the person would be likely focussing and if you know the person's most favorable element, you may inspire the person to externalize the appointed plus emotions, while you may ask the person to be reluctant to externalize minus emotions linked to his most unfavorable element.

Several observations become important in our classification of any phenomenon according to Wuxing. Before we bring anything to fall under a certain element, it becomes important to note that all elements will be incorporated in all things at all times, be that explicitly or implicitly and to any proportion. One of our tasks is to classify, our next task being to understand that we shall need to let go of any fixed connotations. Once we classify something to come under Wood, deeper reflection will show that there will be Fire, Earth, Metal and Water just the same, however much internalized or stored up. Nothing is solely Yang, nothing is solely Yin and everything changes – nothing is static - are at the very base of Yin-Yang cosmology.

Even concerning plus and minus emotions, some practitioners take a geocentric view where the Fire phase would be derived from brightness as an expression of the sun having reached its highest altitude. Then, with the sun gradually descending and linking Metal either to the evening or Autumn season, Metal righteousness and dignity will come in. Emotions, temperament and behavior are based in physiology, so taking the Egocentric view.

“Organs produce emotions” and “what lies within, must externalize” make sense of the plus and minus emotions belonging to Wuxing.

Whether you perform Nine Star Ki or Bazi, Water is Kidney and the Kidney produces a rich pallet of temperament. Concerning Nine Star Ki, you can look up ‘plus’ and ‘minus’ emotions belonging to your first two Stars. Then also of course verify your condition by yet referring to the other Stars, i.e. organs. You can practise self-reflection by reflecting on this list each day. The list here works for Bazi as well.

- ☺ Associated organ in sound health. Qi flow in body according to Sheng Cycle.
- ☹ Qi of organ compromised to any proportion, *not* necessarily implying disease.

1 Water Kidney, Bladder, reproductive system

☺ Courage, willful, explorative, intuitive, deep, fluent, reflective, contemplating, independent, concentrating, diplomatic, adaptable, cool, serious, careful, insightful, social, selfprotective, industrious, organized, patient, hardworking, intimate, selfassertive, confident, inspired, serene.

☹ Fear, lack of will, unexplorative, isolation, solitude, loneliness, silent, unemotional, stagnant, denounceful, manipulative, stubborn, obstinate, unadaptable, tenacious, worrisome, disdainful, overbearing, insecure, selfconscious, victim, defensive, paranoid, overconfident, isolation.

2 Earth Stomach, Spleen, Pancreas (digestive system)

☺ Trustworthy, sympathy, embracing, steady, solid, delicate, serving, caring, sacrificing, dependent, diligent, delicate, maternal, accurate, supportive, feminine, shrewd, conventional, nourishing, observing, provincial, dedicated, devotion, systematic, detailminded, social, understanding, compassionate, receptive, methodical, reliable.

☹ Antipathy, dependant, meticulous, provincial, conservative, envious, irritated, suspicious, egotistical, cynical, sceptical, jealous, shrewd, irritable, stubborn, discriminating, cool, doubtful, fastidious, sacrifice.

3 Wood Liver, Gallbladder

☺ Compassion, generous, empathic, flexible, tollerant, creative, patience, tolerant, susceptible, stamina, insightful, outgoing, stamina, accessible, active, optimistic, progressive, advancing, frank, straightforward, growing, intensive, passionate, development, intense, sensitive, talkative, passionated, extrovert, uncomplicated.

☹ Explosive, aggressive, inflexible, intolerable, impulsive, brash, frank, bold faced, reckless, impatient, rash, tress passing, hasty, selfpity, upset, alienating, prejudice, preoccupied, unbendable, selfpity.

4 Wood Liver, Gallbladder

☺ Kindness, tender, gentle, prudent, sociable, confident, controlled, reputable, adaptable, liberal, flexible, compassionate, smooth mannered, emotional, harmonious, open, creative, adaptable, social, affectionate.

☹ Impulsive, stubborn, evasive, calculating, uncontrolled, changeable, unadaptable, reckless, hypersensitive, upset, prejudice, changeable, moody, inflexibel, scattered, selfcentered, impractical, manipulative, meticulous, indecisive, manipulative, alienated.

5 Earth Stomach, Spleen, Pancreas (digestive system)

☺ Independent, strong, self assertive, constructive, controlling, indomitable, proud, persistent, humane, determined, resolute, talented.

☹ Haughty, egoistic, bold, destructive, late maturing, stubborn, destructive, forceful, irritated, aggressive, self indulgent, calculating, unadaptable.

6 Metal Lungs, Large Intestine

☺ Righteousness, complete, wholistic, leadership, endurance, organized, stylish, judicious, loyal, faithful, prudent, perfectionist, efficient, magnanimous, dignified, perseverance, convinced, trustworthy, proud, rational, moral ethics, determined, merciful, nobility, considerate.

☹ Depressive, non sociable, controlling, demanding, stubborn, opinionated, sadness, complaining, hurt, melancholy, stubborn, obsessive, rigidity, purist, insulting, sentimental, defensive, calculating, workaholic, offensive, moralist, inconsiderate, tenacious, insecure, merciless, uncompromising, hermit.

7 Metal Lungs, Large Intestine

☺ Stylish, easy going, joyful, happiness, provider, social, flexible, talkative, organized, energetic, sensitive, passionate, polished, entertaining, successful, indulgent, resourceful, expressive, persuasive, uncomplicated, optimistic.

☹ Shy, stubborn, stormy, egoistic, extravagant, hyper sensitive, haughty, superior, nervous, complicated, contemptuous, calculating, wanton, over indulged, spoiled, self centered.

8 Earth Stomach, Spleen, Pancreas (digestive system)

☺ Reliable, consistent, seeking, striving, persistent, sympathy, wealthy, comfortable, abundant, fortunate, saving minded, energetic, adventurous, tenacious, willful, curious, revolutionary, self motivating, ambitious.

☹ Suspicious, antipathy, jealous, haughty, scepticism, opinionated, stagnated, self indulgent, avaricious, greedy, possessive, obstinate, straightforward, pretentious.

9 Fire Heart, Small Intestine

☺ Propriety, courtesy, calm, proud, foresightful, honorable, intelligent, successful, generous, charismatic, enlightened, brightness, smooth, wholistic, embracing, tasteful, stardom, medium, hospitable, fullness, intuitive, proud, impulsive, vain, distinguished, colourful.

☹ Inconsiderate, unbenevolent, stormy, self concerned, conceited, impulsive, vain, fickle, superficial, hyper nervous, flamboyant, stormy, silent, over emotional, repetitive, superiority, self concerned.

Not many things strike as more intriguing than behavior and communication. We may yet inspire you into doing websearches on the terms of mutualism and commensalism and to try incorporate this into your daily values for social interaction and get a better feel of what effective communication bodes and how this may relate to your inner physiology. Those searches will likely take you into biology sites, but you can easily translate what you find there to social transactions.

Basic Wuxing in physiologic behavior

You can test behavior and temperament to be mainly physiologic. If by whatever reason my Liver is compromised, my internal Wood Qi becomes disorganized. This may first 'implode' as the minus emotion of aggression. Also, incoming aggression may affect the Liver. It is acupuncture either way, and likewise, my active behavior and social transactions become acupuncture without needles. If I yell at you, the effect on you may be hardly psychological as only a camera may register two people as arguing. On an energy level and if I yell at you from my Liver, the Qi will reach over to directly affect your Liver. If I yell at you but from fear, your Kidney may hurt the next day. Therefore, there has been solid physiological rather than religious foundation to the tenets in *Bushido*, that may help define universal conduct. See how you function as a physiologic unit and how it affects others.

Wood

Benevolence and courtesy

Fire

Propriety and honor

Earth

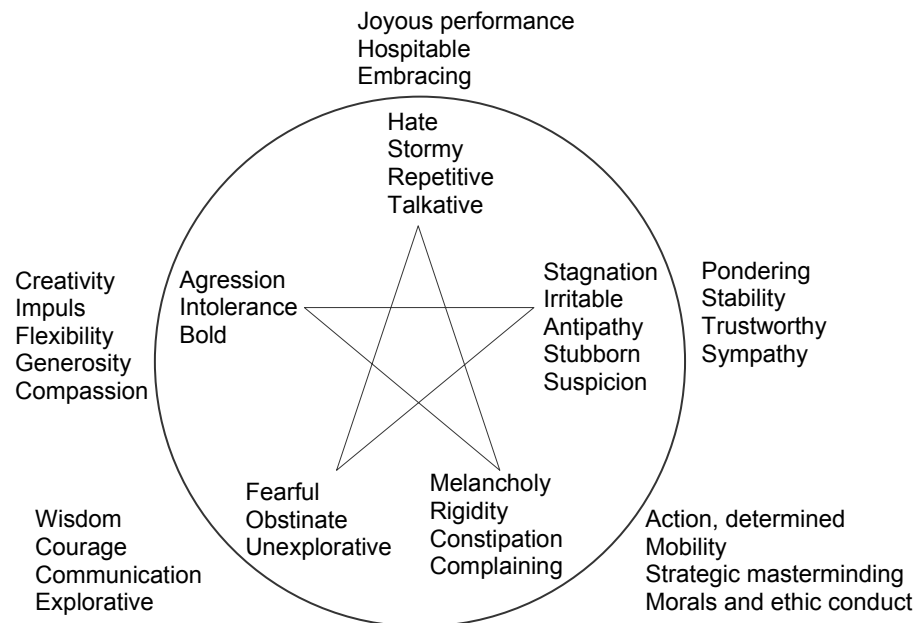
Trustworthiness

Metal

Justice and Rigtheousness

Water

Wisdom



One personality

Perhaps one of the greatest misconceptions of modern society may be the connotation of 'one personality'. We are supposed to develop one personality, to adhere to one religion, cling on to one career, spend our life with one spouse. Traditional Chinese Medicine discourages the idea of one personality. The brain may let us think so, but the brain cannot think. The brain is just a distribution center. Each organ seeks to survive, manifest and achieve. Each of our organs then hosts one or more Shen, living Spirit. As we are free to tap into Akasha, we can channel any archetype (emotion) that was allowed to our 'range' of Akashic archetypes, free at will. If your chart finds obstruction, you should not accept it. You can use your free will to obtain what is not there, by just creating it. Wuxing plus and minus emotions and temperament presents us with an abundantly colored pallet of behavioral traits we can yet choose tap into. Health is pivotal in order to sustain internal flow of Qi over the line of Sheng Qi - supporting cycle - between organs.

Links

Four Pillars computer program

<http://www.fourpillars.net/fpfs.php>

We would like to direct you to the magnificent Four Pillars program by Danny van den Berghe. Obtain the "Four Pillars & Feng Shui 4.2" program as a 30 day trial after which you can register. Danny's program is a must have as it – apart from Four Pillars – also includes a Nine Star Ki daily Star calendar as well as Feng Shui, Yi Jing and Wen Wang Gua functions. The program features a city atlas with Latitude/Longitude function for accurate timing on account of True Local Solar Time, as well as it factors in Equation of Time by default.

Daily Star calendar

<http://www.geocities.com/ninestarki> / www.astro-fengshui.com

We recommend ebook "Nine Star Ki and Nine Stars Calendar" by master Joseph Yu.

Make sure you also join

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/astrofengshui> / <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/chineseastrology>

Book list

See our choice of books at www.heluo.nl

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Please find class schedule, free lessons and articles at www.heluo.nl.

Heluo's Nine Star Ki group:

Please meet us at: <http://www.groups.yahoo.com/NineStarKi>

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"Devoted To Your Destiny In One Peaceful World"

- Harvest For All -

"Explorations with Heluo" is an ongoing series of articles on the subject of time, space and destiny and our attempt to make genuine teachings available to those on a quest to understand Yi. The articles have been published since 1999 and by far most have been derived from actual chapters from the extensive workbooks to our 4-day master classes in our practitioner program "Destiny Consultant".

Teachings find you, because I feel they should have reached us during early childhood, to offer deep gratitude for once having obtained the trust of my teachers and in an attempt to help improve fate and life on this planet.

- Heluo -