## Summary of Steps

- STEP 1. What is the hexagram associated with your Western astrological horoscope sign? Refer to Table 3.2. For the astrologers among us wrinkling their noses at sun signs, you are free to complicate this exercise by adding in analysis of your moon and rising signs alongside the sun. Why stop there? Check for the midheaven as well. Read "The Oracle" message for that hexagram. Example. Pisces corresponds with hexagram 29. "The Oracle" section opens with a summary judgment of the hexagram. Text in bold are the translations, the riddles for you to solve.
- STEP 2. Which two lines of that hexagram correspond with your horoscope sign? Refer again to Table 3.2. Read the two Line sections from that hexagram entry. *Example*. Note how hexagram 29 covers Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces. Of the six lines, Line 5 and Line 6 are specific to Pisces. For Line 5, turn to the section in hexagram 29 noted as the "Fifth Line." The text in bold is a translation of the original Zhouyi. Subsequent to that are supplemental annotations.

## 3.1 The Hexagrams Ruling Your Birth Month

Find the two Lines of the hexagram that correspond with your horoscope sun sign, per Table 3.2. For example, I am a Libra, so the two Lines that correspond with my sun sign Libra are Lines 1 and 2 of hexagram 58. Highlight the box on the subsequent page. Find the entry in I Ching, The Oracle for that hexagram corresponding with your sun sign. Read "The Oracle" message for that hexagram. Copy notes from the Oracle message into the space below.

四正卦 Sì zhèng guà Four Perfected Hexagrams	震給 Zhèn mìng Thunder Hexagram 51 Zhen	離校 Lí zuó Fire Hexagram 30 Li	兒糕 Duì duŏ Lake Hexagram 58 Dui	坎 葉 Kăn chéng Water Hexagram 29 Kan		
主四時 Four Seasons	春 Chūn Spring	夏 <i>Xià</i> Summer	秋 <i>Qiū</i> Autumn	冬 <i>Dōng</i> Winter		
主四方 Four Directions	東 <i>Dōng</i> East	南 <i>Nán</i> South	西 Xī West	北 <i>Běi</i> North		
上爻. Shàng yáo Line 6	芒種 Mángzhòng Blossoms Form Jun. 5–7 Gemini	白露 Báilù White Dew Sep. 7–9 Virgo	大雪 Dàxuě Heavy Snow Dec. 6–8 Sagittarius	驚蟄  Jīngzhé Insects Awaken Mar. 5–7 Pisces		
五爻. Wǔ yáo Line 5	小満 Xiǎomǎn Green Buds Form May 20–22 Gemini	處暑 Chùshǔ Dissipating Heat Aug. 22–24 Virgo	小雪 Xiǎoxuě Light Snow Nov. 22–23 Sagittarius	雨水 Yǔshuǐ Spring Showers Feb. 18–20 Pisces		
四爻. Sì yáo Line 4	立夏 <i>Lìxià</i> Start of Summer May 5–7 Taurus	立秋 <i>Lìqiū</i> Start of Autumn Aug. 7–9 Leo	立冬 <i>Lìdōng</i> Start of Winter Nov. 7–8 Scorpio	立春 <i>Lìchūn</i> Start of Spring Feb. 3–5 Aquarius		
三爻. Sān yáo Line 3	穀雨 Gĭyŭ Gathering Rain Apr. 19–21 Taurus	大暑 <i>Dàshǔ</i> Great Heat Jul. 22–24 Leo	霜降 Shuāngjiàng The First Frost Oct. 23–24 Scorpio	大寒 <i>Dàhán</i> Great Cold Jan. 20–21 Aquarius		
二爻. Èr yáo Line 2	清明 <i>Qīngming</i> Bright and Clear Apr. 4–6 Aries	小暑 Xiǎoshǔ Coming Heat Jul. 6–8 Cancer	寒露 <i>Hánlù</i> Cold Dew Oct. 8–9 Libra	小寒 Xiǎohán Coming Cold Jan. 5–7 Capricorn		
初爻. Chū yáo Line 1	春分 Chūnfēn Vernal Equinox Mar. 20–22 Aries	夏至 Xiàzhì Summer Solstice Jun. 21–22 Cancer	秋分 <i>Qiūfēn</i> Autumn Equinox Sep. 22–24 Libra	冬至 <i>Dōngzhì</i> Winter Solstice Dec. 21–23 Capricorn		

Table 3.2. Four Perfected Hexagrams and the Twenty-Four Solar Terms

Continue into the hexagram entry until you are at the two Lines corresponding with your horoscope (sun) sign. In the example of Capricorn, after turning to the section of *I Ching, The Oracle* on hexagram 29, Kan, The Abyss, continue past "The Oracle" section to the First Line text and the Second Line text.

Copy down the First Line text and take down some notes on its meaning:
Copy down the Second Line text and take down some notes on its meaning:
Read the two sub-sections together. These Lines express the prevailing $qi$ energy in the environment during the time of the year that you were born. Free-write what you think the implications of the line text are with respect to your innate disposition:

What's being expressed in those Lines won't pertain to your life path specifically; rather, it's a general projection of the nature of qi at influence at your moment of birth, which inevitably will have impact on the very start of influences of nurture.

To interpret the Line text specific to this exercise, "auspicious" is going to mean that the environment you were born into was generally stable and prosperous. Whereas "ominous" or "inauspicious" simply refers to environments that were harsher and less stable. It can indicate one born into uncertain times, and has no bearing on your personal luck. Rather, it's an indication that the society around you at your moment of birth was going through challenges or upheaval. References such as "there is no blame" or "blameless" are neutral, some aspects prosperous and some aspects unstable.

Let's take a look at Cancer to demonstrate. Cancers will turn to hexagram 30 and read the First Line and Second Line text. Broadly speaking, during this time of year that Cancerians were born into, there's more unpredictable, vacillating forces at play ("footprints show a trail faltering between right and wrong, a confused path"), so to optimize success, Cancerians will want to "honor with offerings," meaning to be more mindful of cultivating personal spirituality.

Continuing on to the Second Line, we see closer ties with ancestors. Cancers are more likely to directly inherit and embody strikingly similar traits to their ancestors (this can mean grandparents or even deceased aunts and uncles whose passing happened prior to your birth).

Month 11	Month 12	<b>Month 1</b>	<b>Month 2</b>	<b>Month 3</b>	<b>Month 4</b>	
Dec. – Jan.	Jan. – Feb.	Feb. – Mar.	<i>Mar. – Apr.</i>	Apr May	May – Jun.	
≡≡						
Hexagram	Hexagram	Hexagram	Hexagram	Hexagram	Hexagram	
24	19	11	34	43	1	
子 Zi	# Chou	Ox Tiger		辰 Chen	E Si	
Rat	Ox			Dragon	Snake	
Water	Earth			Earth	Fire	
Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9	Month 10	
Jun. – Jul.	Jul. – Aug.	Aug. – Sept.	Sept. – Oct.	Oct. – Nov.	Nov. – Dec.	
Hexagram	Hexagram	Hexagram	Hexagram	Hexagram	Hexagram	
44	33	12	20	23	2	
午 Wu	未 Wei	F Shen	酉 You	戌 Xu	亥 Hai	
Horse	Goat	Monkey	Rooster	Dog	Boar	
Fire	Earth	Metal	Metal	Earth	Water	

Table 3.1. Twelve Hexagrams of the Son of Heaven

## **Optional Lunar Month Analysis**

well and look up the hexagram corresponding to your lunar birth month. 

Highlight the

If you know which lunar month you were born in, then take a look at Table 3.1 as

box or	n the pr	ecedin	<mark>ig page</mark> .									
	Read	"The	Oracle"	section	of that	hexagram.	<u>Z</u>	Copy	notes	from	the	<b>Oracle</b>
messa	ge into	the sp	ace belo	<mark>W</mark> .								

In terms of an astrological equivalence to the Western astrological system, this Son of Heaven hexagram will correspond with both your sun and moon signs combined.

For example, my September birthday corresponds with lunar Month 8, so I'd look up hexagram 20 and read "The Oracle" section as a synopsis of my sun sign Libra plus moon sign Leo. I interpret "see and also be seen" from the passage as very Leo while "restate for yourself what your motivations are" feel very Libra. Alternatively, I might look at the month 8 hexagram correspondence in Table 3.3 for another point of view. Per the Gua Qi diagram attributed to Confucius, lunar month 8 corresponds with hexagram 58.