

4.2 Bibliomancy and Plum Blossom Numerology

Focus on the question you'd like the Oracle to answer through a form of bibliomancy and Plum Blossom numerology. Close your eyes and continue to stay focused on the inquiry. With your eyes still closed, turn to a random page in the shaded hexagram translations section of *I Ching, The Oracle*, with a general thought to opt for a page number over 100. Anchor your pointing finger onto the selected page. Open your eyes to see the page number.

Page # you landed on:

Divide the page number by 8. Note the remainder. (The quotient is the number of times the dividend can be evenly divided by the divisor. The remainder is the amount left over in the dividend that does not divide evenly into the divisor.)

Page # you landed on:

÷ 8 =

Quotient:

Remainder:

To demonstrate with an example, I closed my eyes and opened *I Ching, The Oracle* to a random page, and placed my index finger onto page 222. That number 222 is the dividend. I divide that number by 8, which is the divisor.

$$222 \div 8$$

The long division results in a quotient of 27 (the dividend 222 can be evenly divided into the divisor 8 a total of 27 times) and a remainder of 6.

Your remainder is the numerical assignment of a trigram per the below table:

一 1	二 2	三 3	四 4	五 5	六 6	七 7	八 8
							
乾 Qián HEAVEN	兌 Duì LAKE	離 Lí FIRE	震 Zhèn THUNDER	巽 Xùn WIND	坎 Kǎn WATER	艮 Gèn MOUNTAIN	坤 Kūn EARTH

Table 4.9. Numerical Assignments for the Eight Trigrams (Plum Blossom Numerology)

This is the lower trigram. In the example of a remainder of 6, the number 6 is assigned to the trigram Water. The resulting trigram from the bibliomancy exercise is Water. Had the page number divided evenly into 8, your trigram result would be 8, which is assigned to Earth.

Close *I Ching, The Oracle* again, close your eyes, focus on the question, and open the book and anchor your pointing finger to a page. Note the page number. Again, divide the page number by 8 and note the remainder. The numerical assignment, which will be 1 through 8, is the resulting hexagram. If your page number divides evenly into 8, then the numerical assignment is 8, and the trigram result is Earth.

Page # you landed on:

In my reading, the second time I opened to a random page, the page number was 140. Thus: $140 \div 8$. Remainder = 4. The remainder from the long division of 140 divided by 8 is 4 (the quotient is 17). Per Table 4.9, the number 4 corresponds with Thunder. The upper trigram of my hexagram result is Thunder. The resulting hexagram is Thunder over Water, or hexagram 40.

Upper Trigram:	Your Hexagram Result:
Lower Trigram:	

Take notes on the Oracle message corresponding with your Hexagram Result:

Close the book a third time, open to a random page, and for the third and final time, note the page number. However, for this third page number, divide by 6 to yield the changing line.

Page # you landed on:

For my example, I turned to page 214. I divide that page number by 6 and note the remainder. If the page number divides evenly into 6, then the changing line is Line 6.

214 \div 6. Remainder = 4.

The remainder from $214 \div 6$ is 4 (quotient was 35). Thus, after reading The Oracle section of hexagram 40, I'll turn and read the Line text for the Fourth Line.

Page # you landed on:	$\div 6 =$	Quotient:	Remainder:
-----------------------	------------	-----------	------------

Copy down the Line text translation corresponding with your Remainder number:

Read the explanatory annotations for that Line text and free-write in your own words how you interpret this Line text, considering it in the context of the Hexagram Oracle message:

[illegible]