

4.3 Divining the Wu Xing Ruler of a Book

As a fun exercise with numerology, note the total page count of any book from your home bookshelf. For this exercise, do not count unnumbered pages. Thus, turn to the back of the book and look for the final printed page count in that text.

Book Title:

Author Name:

Last Printed Page Number:

Divide that last printed page count by 5.

Last Page Number:	$\div 5 =$	Quotient:	Remainder:
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Note the remainder. If the page count divides evenly into 5, then the numerical assignment is 5, and the corresponding Wu Xing or ruling agent of change that governs the book is Earth.

The numerical assignments for the Five Phases of Change, or ruling agents of changing, are provided in Table 4.10.

一 1	二 2	三 3	四 4	五 5
水 Shui WATER	火 Huo FIRE	木 Mu WOOD	金 Jin METAL	土 Tu EARTH

Table 4.10. Numerical Assignments for the Five Phases of Change

Note the Phase of Change corresponding with this Book Title:

My book *The Tao of Craft* (2016), not counting unnumbered pages, shows a total page count of 586. Divide 586 by 5. The quotient is 117. The remainder is 1. Per Table 4.10, the numerical assignment of the value 1 is the phase change Water. Thus, the *Tao of Craft* is governed by the Wu Xing agent of change, Water. Turn to the section “Water (Shui): Returning” in Chapter 6 to consider the corresponding characteristics of the book.

Water is The Abyss, which characterizes the book's esoteric and occult topics. The virtue it seeks to impart, per Wu Xing correspondences, is wisdom.

Funny enough, the phrase “be like water” or “上善若水 (shàng shàn ruò shuǐ)” from Chapter 8 of the Tao Te Ching is often used to express the whole of the Tao—supreme beneficence is to be like water. Water benefits all things without trying to benefit all things; it dwells in a way that is loathed and unwanted, and thus Water is the perfect exemplification of the Tao.

Holistic Tarot shows a printed last page count of 874. $874 \div 5$ equals a quotient of 174 and a remainder of 4. The number 4 corresponds with the Wu Xing phase of change Metal. Per this divinatory exercise, *Holistic Tarot* is governed by Metal. Metal corresponds with logic, reason, and more analytic methods. Per Wu Xing correspondences for Metal, the virtue that *Holistic Tarot* tries to impart is incorruptibility. Some of its negative traits are being cold, aloof, or insensitive, though in the positive, it's cerebral and urbane. In terms of state function per Dong Zhongshu (179 – 104 BC), Metal corresponds with the Minister of Education, which resonates with *Holistic Tarot's* intent of being a reference manual.

Turn to Chapter 6, look up the entry for the corresponding Phase of Change for your book and take notes on the phase change correspondences, which in turn reveals the metaphysical properties of this book:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Try this numerology and bibliomancy exercise on several books, determining their ruling phase change per the Wu Xing, and consider the metaphysical implications such an exercise reveals about those books. Turn to Chapter 6 and scan the metaphysical correspondences for that Wu Xing phase to see what resonates, and what general insights you can gain about the soul of that book based on its Wu Xing ruler.

After running this exercise on several books from your shelf, you'll have gained proficiency with the Plum Blossom numerology method.