

11 Wind Divination and the I Ching

Wind divination, called Fēng Jiǎo 風角, is a traditional method of divination dating back to the Han dynasty. Fēng 風 is wind and Jiǎo 角 is a horn, in reference to the music and cadences of the sound of wind. Sounds of the wind are categorized into five tones, corresponding with the Wu Xing. King Wen's Later Heaven arrangement of trigrams are superimposed over the Lo Shu magic square so that each trigram corresponds with one of eight directions.

On a windy day, sit outside with compass in hand and feel the wind. Which direction is it blowing from and which direction is it blowing toward? Adjust your position until the wind is blowing directly on your face, and note the directionality.

DATE OF WIND DIVINATION : _____

LOCATION OF THE DIVINATION : _____

WIND BLOWING TOWARD THE : _____

WIND COMING FROM THE : _____

If you are facing due north and the wind is blowing on your face from the north, then it is a north wind. A north wind corresponds with the trigram Water, generally considered ominous. A north wind signifies a “chilling” of luck. In contrast, if you are facing due south with the wind blowing on your face from the south, since it corresponds with Fire, it's considered fortuitous. A south wind signifies a “warming” of luck. An east wind (you are facing due east and the wind is blowing on your face) corresponds with Thunder, and the Wu Xing phase of Wood, so great change is coming. A west wind, corresponding with Lake, brings advancement after a productive gestation phase.

Table 5.15 Fēng Jiǎo Wind Divination Directional Correspondences

TRIGRAMS	HX. #	WIND	FORECAST
Wind over Heaven	9	Northwest	Storm is brewing. Unseen influences. Make preparations: conserve and preserve.
Heaven over Wind	44	Southeast	What had been suppressed now re-emerges with a vengeance. Negotiate compromises.
Fire over Water	64	North	After a peak comes a decline. Waning period to come. Pray and seek divine guidance.
Water over Fire	63	South	Auspicious omen for minor affairs. The gods are pleased. Chaos becomes order.
Earth over Mountain	15	Northeast	Cull away excess. Do not take major risks at this time. Favorable outcome despite obstacles.

Mountain over Earth	23	Southwest	Turbulence. Move slowly and methodically. Brewing political strife. Social conflicts.
Thunder over Lake	54	West	Alliances bring prosperity. Wet conditions bring a delayed harvest season.
Lake over Thunder	17	East	Supreme good auspices. Advantageous timing and positioning. Progressive movement.

Per Table 5.15, note the Forecast of the wind:

For the five tones, this will call for some intuition. A quick tempo higher-pitched wind corresponds with Wood. The phases change in the order of Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal, and Water. At the opposite end of the range, a slow tempo lower-pitched wind corresponds with Water. Listen intuitively to whether the wind sounds cheerful or ominous.

Personify the wind, conceptualizing it as sentient. The pace, vigor, momentum, sounds, and rhythm of the wind express its emotions. Personifying your observations of the wind as emotional values, note what you are intuiting about it. Ex. Sensations of happiness, joy, calm, or relaxation can forecast peaceful times to come; an ominous howling, erratic pacing, or feelings of anxiety sensed from the wind can forecast challenging times to come.

Astrological considerations for the date and time of the wind is also accounted for, and historically, the sexagenary calendar of heavenly stems and earthly branches were used. Thus, a southeast wind in the winter would be interpreted differently from a southeast winter in spring. Geomancy, or feng shui, was also considered. The land formations at the site the wind is heard and their feng shui correspondences were factored in as well.

Based on those possible factors, add research and analysis to your divinatory assessment, and log your impressions in the space below. (*Continued on next page.*)

Wind divination is an invaluable technique to cultivate, no matter what tradition of mysticism, shamanism, or witchcraft you practice. It teaches you to listen to the land. In turn, among society you learn to listen to the voices that aren't shouting, but who have important, truthful messages to convey. At the end of the day, a shaman is someone who has to possess a deep understanding of people. An incidental result of mastering wind divination is a skill for listening to and understanding people.