

## 7.4 Trying Aleister Crowley's Coin Toss Method

In Liber 216, Aleister Crowley gives his personal method of I Ching divination. He advises to obtain “6 Chinese coins” where 5 shall be of one type of metal and 1 of another.



Coin Type 1  
*Yang Side Up*



Coin Type 1  
*Yin Side Up*



Coin Type 2  
[Changing Line]



Coin Type 1  
*Yin Side Up*



Coin Type 1  
*Yang Side Up*



Coin Type 1  
*Yin Side Up*

One approach here is to use 5 coins of one denomination (pictured above as Coin Type 1) and the 6th coin of a different value (third one from the left, Coin Type 2), and preferably one made of a different alloy. For example, 5 of a copper alloy and the 6th one of silver. Crowley recommends that the coins should be wrapped in black cloth when not in use and “no other should lay his hand upon them. For they swell with thine aura when used with sincerity and repetition.”

If you cannot source 6 Chinese coins, he recommends **six flat sticks, one side painted with a solid line and one side painted with a broken, with one of those six sticks marked in a special way**. “Care for thine sticks as though they were coins.”

Face East, clear your mind, and “call upon what god ye will.” Visualize yourself filling with pure light. Keep the coins in your black cloth bag. Extract them out one by one for each toss. That way you are drawing the coins at random.

Toss the first coin (or stick) by itself and note the result, yin or yang. If it is “Type 2” the one unique type out of the six total, then it will be a changing line, so mark it with an “X” in the right-most cell below.

**Line 1** Result

(Yin or Yang Line):

Toss the second coin or stick and note the result.

**Line 2** Result

(Yin or Yang Line):

Toss the third and note the result.

**Line 3** Result

(Yin or Yang Line):

Toss the fourth and note the result.

<b>Line 4</b> Result (Yin or Yang Line):	
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Toss the fifth and note the result.

<b>Line 5</b> Result (Yin or Yang Line):	
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Toss the six and final coin or stick. Note the result. There should only be one of these six line results marked with an “X” in the right-most cell. That will be the one where you had drawn “Type 2.”

<b>Line 6</b> Result (Yin or Yang Line):	
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On the subsequent page, draw out the hexagram result as the Primary Hexagram and note which of the six lines yielded the Changing Line. (This would be the toss where you had drawn the “Type 2” coin or stick.)

**The Changing Line will designate the direct answer to the situation, an answer from the Tao.**

	Primary Hexagram	X	Transformed Hexagram
<b>Line 6</b>			
<b>Line 5</b>			
<b>Line 4</b>			
<b>Line 3</b>			
<b>Line 2</b>			
<b>Line 1</b>			
	HEXAGRAM #:		HEXAGRAM #:

## PRIMARY HEXAGRAM

THE ORACLE | **Hexagram Theme Summary.** The initial box of text in the hexagram entry summarizes the divinatory message. This will give you a brief recapitulation of your reading. Copy down what resonates from “The Oracle” boxed section of your Primary Hexagram. (Line space on subsequent page.)

THE TRANSLATION | **Bold Text.** These are the translations of the hexagram statements. Read these statements as riddles that you need to solve. **Annotations and Commentaries.** The rest of the text in the Oracle section are my annotations and commentaries to supplement the translations. The annotations help to offer some hints on how to solve the riddles of the bold text. Free-write your interpretation of these cryptic messages.

After reading “The Oracle” message, reflect on your impressions of the message. Does it resonate? Did something not make sense? If you’re still confused, read the Oracle again, this time slower, much slower than you would ordinarily read text. Deliberately slow down and phrase by phrase, consider the symbolism.

Create a two-column table for yourself and in the left column, list out any short phrasing from the Oracle that you immediately understood the meaning of, especially anything that jumps out at you and takes a hold of your attention. For any phrases that continue to stump you, write it down in the right column under “I do not understand.”

I understand.	I do not understand.
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

							
Qián HEAVEN	Duì LAKE	Lí FIRE	Zhèn THUNDER	Xùn WIND	Kǎn WATER	Gén MOUNTAIN	Kūn EARTH

Lower Trigram Result:

**Lower Trigram.** Review the metaphysical correspondences for the lower trigram from Chapter 5 of the text. The lower trigram can often indicate people or personalities involved, the human factor, physical environmental factors and influences, or what's at the foundation. Take note of this trigram's correspondences and list them out in the space below. Free-write your first impressions on what this lower trigram is telling you, per the above-noted correspondences, about root causation, foundations, and origination points as it relates to your question.

[illegible]

What is the Wu Xing correspondence to the Lower Trigram? Note it below in the box to the left, then turn to its entry in Chapter 6 of the text and take note of its associations.


Upper Trigram Result:

**Upper Trigram.** Review the metaphysical correspondences for the upper trigram. Upper trigram indicates karmic, spiritual, or predestined influences. This is Spirit. The Upper Trigram reveals Heaven's Will and direct counsel coming to you from Spirit.

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What is the Wu Xing correspondence to the Upper Trigram? Note it below in the box to the left, then turn to its entry in Chapter 6 of the text and take note of its associations.


Does the Wu Xing correspondence of the Lower Trigram nourish, yield to, or weaken the Wu Xing correspondence of the Upper Trigram? You can find these alchemical references in Chapter 6. Note the alchemical reaction between these two Phases, or Movements.


## CHANGING LINE & TRANSFORMED HEXAGRAM

Read the Line Text of the Changing Line from the Primary Hexagram. Copy down verbatim, word for word, the Line Text from your single Changing Line.


Read the Line Text of the Changing Line from the Transformed Hexagram. Copy down verbatim, word for word, the Line Text from your single Changing Line.


Combine the two Line Texts from the Primary and the Transformed Hexagrams. Read the annotations and commentary for the Changing Lines of the two hexagrams. Presume that this riddle will directly answer your question presented. How do you solve this riddle to get the answer? **What is your interpretation of this message from the Tao?** *Line space on subsequent page.*

## 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.