

Five Element Theory



Presented by:

Thaddeus Fenner

Kepler College Free Webinar Series

www.SignsInLife.com

December 8th, 2012, 1pm PST

Before we start...

- Much material has been released in English about Chinese and Asian astrological systems in general in recent years. However, most of this information is largely popularized and woefully incomplete. Some of this is intentional. My aim is to provide as accurate a picture as possible of the Five Elements in the time available. Hopefully, we will have time for questions at the end of the presentation.
- Please keep an open mind when absorbing the Five Elements concept! Patience with yourself is required.

Today's Details, Dec. 8th, 2012, 1pm PST

Hour	Day	Month	Year
Stem: 5 Yang Earth	Stem: 10 yin water	Stem: 8 yin metal	Stem: 9 Yang Water
Branch: VII Fire Horse <i>Horse in the Stable</i>	Branch: IV Wood Rabbit <i>Rabbit Leaving the Forest</i>	Branch: XII Water Pig <i>Farmer Pig</i>	Branch: V Earth Dragon <i>Rain Dragon</i>
Combined Fire <i>Heavenly Fire</i>	Combined Metal <i>Bronze Mirror</i>	Combined Metal <i>Brooch Pins</i>	Combined Water <i>Flowing Water</i>



What are the Five Elements???

- They are not necessarily elements at all but symbolize a larger meaning—they are the “crossroads” between the transformation of energy from one form to the next between yin (feminine) and (masculine) yang. There are yin and yang manifestations of each of the Five Elements and they are:

- Wood Fire Earth Metal Water



Before we start...

- My astrological interest began at a young age, with the Chinese animal signs being a major interest, although I am primarily a Western astrologer.
- Most of this presentation is geared toward the beginner or someone who wants to obtain a basic understanding of how the Five Elements work.
- The operation and understanding of the Five Elements is known as simply the Five Element Theory.

Five Elements cont'd

- The Chinese name for Five Elements is “*Tzu Ping*” and does not necessarily indicate Five Elements used for astrology.
- There are various other Five Element systems in use besides Chinese/Asian astrology: Traditional Chinese Medicine, Acupuncture, Martial Arts, Feng Shui, etc.
- This discussion of Five Elements leads us to a better understanding of the Chinese system of astrology known as The Four Pillars of Destiny or “*Ba Zi*” (translated as eight characters) and Tibetan astrology.

Five Elements cont'd

- Concepts and philosophies such as Fate, Taoism, the I-Ching, “Chi” (as a universal energy and life force that flows through everything) and the balance/imbalance of the feminine and masculine forces of yin and yang are recommended for a better understanding and application of Chinese astrology in general.
- We can practice, practice and practice any form of astrology that we wish but we can never really learn it all. The goal is to arrive at a reasonable level of understanding.

The Constructive or Generative Cycle

- This involves the “potential” of one element “becoming” the very next element in the sequence
- We have the potential of Wood to become Fire and I think that we can all understand that.
- Fire creates ash which eventually becomes Earth. Earth contains Metal—even trace elements—and Earth is mined for Metal.
- (There is a difference in moist Earth and dry Earth as to it's support or production of Metal.)

This is similar to the classical “4 element” process of antiquity: The Triplicities

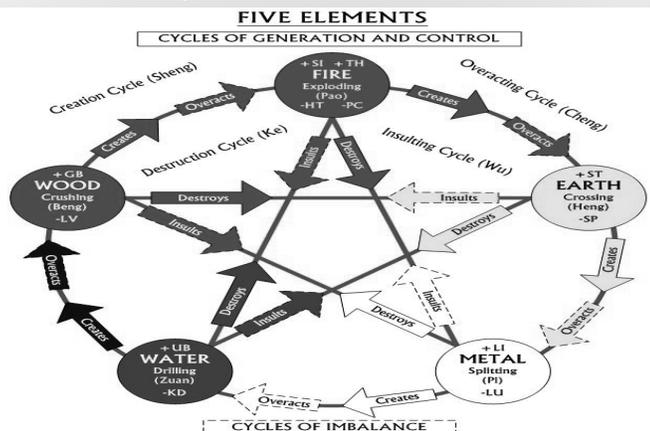
- Fire-Hot moving to Dry “Summer”
- Earth-Dry moving to Cold “Fall”
- Water-Cold moving to Wet “Winter”
- Air-Wet moving to Hot “Spring”



The Constructive or Generative Cycle

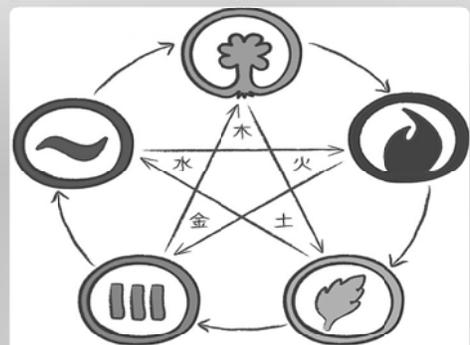
- Metal flows like Water when heated, think of lava and good water contains various amounts of Metal in it. Metal also can contain Water, such as a metal bowl.
- Water generates Wood—without it Wood cannot grow or survive.
- The reverse of this cycle is the “weakening” cycle. For example, too much water can excessively drain and deplete metal, water's parent element.

The Cycles of the Five Elements



The Constructive Cycle

- Questions???



The Destructive or Controlling Cycle

- Wood controls Earth—it uses Earth to nourish itself—excessive Wood will deplete the soil
- Earth controls Water because it absorbs it. Excessive Earth will drain up and use what little water is left.
- Water controls Fire as it simply puts out the flames. Too much heat can be curtailed by Water.

Some examples

- Will a little bit of soil (yin earth) destroy an entire lake (yang water)?
- What is needed to curtail excessive forest growth? Yang Metal (man-made cutting) and/or Yang Fire (lightning, forest fires, drought through excessive Sunlight)
- Can Earth put out the Fire? Yes, because Earth can deplete the parent element of Fire.
- Can a bucket of Water be used to put out a house Fire? All things being equal Yang is stronger than Yin or rather, more pronounced in a chart.

The Destructive or Controlling Cycle

- Fire controls Metal—Metal cannot stand being melted out of shape.
- Metal controls Wood because Metal can cut up and carve Wood. Metal is needed to control Wood overgrowth.
- When the Controlling cycle is reversed we can see the interaction from the “wealth” perspective, for example, Water is the “wealth” of Earth making it productive and Fire is the “wealth” of Water as warm water is useful to living things.

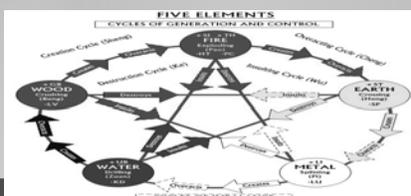
The Elements and their Associations

- **WOOD**—Green, East and Spring. Jupiter and The Signs of the Tiger and Rabbit. The organs are the liver, eyes and ears. Wood is Anger, Creativity, Kindness and is Scholarly, Conservative and Generous. Wood represents Relationships, Children and Medicine. Sight. Intention of Creativity (Ko Hashiguchi).



Sometimes there can be too much of a good thing and too much of a bad thing

- Yin and Yang can tell the story of the quality of relationships between the elements. These relationships are known as The Ten Gods in Four Pillar system, Yin and Yang of each element relating to one another. The Ten Gods are “personality types,” so to speak but that topic is the subject of another presentation!



The Element of Wood cont'd

- **Yang Wood Jia** is trees, forests and wood furniture. Progressive, Dependable, Straightforward, Upright, Determined, Persuasive, Dignified, Scholarly, Angry.
- **Yin Wood Yi** is branches, vines, plants, grass, fungus, herbs fabrics and paper—anything without a trunk. Adaptable, Shrewd, Intelligent, Original, Charming, Manipulative.



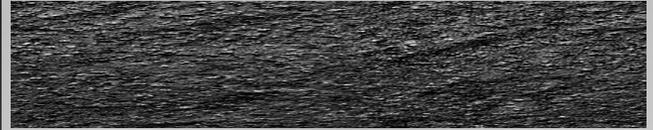
The Elements and their Associations

- **FIRE** is Red, South and Summer. Mars and The Sun The Signs of the Snake and the Horse. Fire is bitter, organs are the heart and tongue, circulation and blood pressure. Touch Happiness, Hysteria, Intellect, Education, Fame and Reputation. Courteous and Honest. Intention of Expression. (K.H.)



The Element of Earth cont'd

- **Yang Earth Wu** is dry earth, mountains, rocks and boulders, immovable. Solid, Stable, Quiet, Procrastinators, Trustworthy, Loyal, Keeper of Secrets, Strong Silent Type, Lack Expression, Ponderous, Materialistic.
- **Yin Earth Ji** is moist soil for cultivation. Rich and nourishing. Nurturing Type, Tolerant, Resourceful, Hidden Talents, Focused, Disciplined, Follows the Rules, not to be pressured.



The Element of Fire cont'd

- **Yang Fire Bing** is all natural Fire, forest fires the Sun, etc. Strong, Courageous, Leaders, Independent, Proud, Self-Centered, Generous.
- **Yin Fire Ding** is all man-made Fires, candles, campfires, etc. Influential, Motivators, Humorous, Wise, Idealistic, Hardworking, Perfectionists, Critical, Sensitive.



The Elements and their Associations

- **METAL**—White/Silver, West and Autumn. Venus and The Signs of the Monkey and Rooster. Spicy, round. Organs are the Lungs. Sense of Smell. Grief, Surgery, Wounding, Commerce, Acting, Singing, Trade, Success, Justice, Quick, Decisiveness. Intention of Order. (K.H.)



The Elements and their Associations

- **EARTH**--Yellow/Brown, The Center and Seasonal Transitions. Saturn and the Signs of Dragon, Sheep, Dog and Ox. Organs are the stomach, mouth and spleen. Taste, introspection, depression, melancholy, trustworthy, dependable, home, real estate and property. Intention of Harmony. (K.H.) The Ox & Dragon are more “wet” and nourishing for metal. The Goat & Dog are more “dry” earth and less able to support metal.



The Element of Metal cont'd

- **Yang Metal Geng** is iron ore, knives, swords, axes and heavy weaponry, machinery, tools. Disciplined, Focused, Solid, Sharp, Drive to Succeed, Confident, Ambitious, Desire Justice and Loyalty, Can Suffer Grief and Self-Pity, Holds in Emotions.
- **Yin Metal Xin** is refined metal, ornaments, small metal tools, coins, gold, silver, jewelry, trace elements. Sharp Tongues, Good Memory, Sensitive, In Touch with Feelings, Moody, Good with Debates & Details, Does Not Suffer Fools Gladly, Teacher.



The Elements and their Associations

- **WATER**—Black/Blue, North, and Winter. Mercury, (Moon) and The Signs of the Pig and Rat. Hearing and Sound, Salty and irregular shapes. Organs are the kidneys, bladder and reproductive systems. Fears and phobias, emotion, movement, travel, communication and writing. Intention of Curiosity. (K.H.)



Basic Concepts of Ba Zi or The Four Pillars

- Each animal has a main element in the branch and may contain up to two more elements. (ex. The Dragon contains Yang Earth along with Yin Wood and Yin Water. The Dragon is always a Yang sign, and it's stem will always be a Yang element.)
- The Element of the Day Pillar, known as the “Day Master” is the “pivot” of the chart and is considered the most important part of the chart, the spirit of the person. It is said to describe anywhere from 50% to 80% of a persons personality. In extreme cases, the person may barely present any characteristics of the Day Master.

The Element of Water cont'd

- **Yang Water Ren** is groundwater, rivers, lakes, wells and oceans, forceful fast moving water. Carefree, Non-Confrontational, Extroverted, Artistic, Business Minded, On the Go, Temperamental, Compassionate. The Good Samaritan.
- **Yin Water Gui** is gentle rain, dew, mist, fog, snow, pools and small ponds. A bucket of water. Gentle, Kind, Helpful, Humble, Responsible, Fickle, Naïve, Innocent, Traveler.



Table of Elements in the Animals/Branches

Animal Branch	rat	ox	tiger	rabbit	dragon	snake	horse	sheep	monkey	rooster	dog	pig
main element 100 pts	Yin Water	Yin Earth	Yang Wood	Yin Wood	Yang Earth	Yang Fire	Yin Fire	Yin Earth	Yang Metal	Yin Metal	Yang Earth	Yang Water
hidden element 20 pts	none	Yin water Yin metal	Yang fire Yang earth	none	Yin wood Yin water	Yang earth Yang metal	Yin earth	Yin fire Yin wood	Yang earth Yang water	none	Yin metal Yin fire	Yang wood

Basic Concepts of Ba Zi or The Four Pillars

- In Ba Zi there are Four Pillars or four sets of Branch and Stem combinations—this is the same as animal and element
- The Branch or Animal determines the polarity, yin or yang. The element of the animal is a key part of understanding how the animal is. There are 60 animals in all, five elements per animal. This is the sexagenary cycle.
- For each person, thing or event the four pillars are composed of an hour, day, month and year branch. We must correct for the time zone and the hours are according to true solar time.

Example: John born 5pm May 21st 1958

- Below is John's Chart: He has lots of Fire and Earth born in the beginning of the summer in the month of the Snake when Fire is strong.
- One can imagine a landscape, perhaps a volcano or a dry desert with lots of boulders. Fire supports Earth.

Hour	Day	Month	Year
Stem: 7 Yang Metal	Stem: 5 Yang Earth	Stem: 4 yin fire	Stem: 5 Yang Earth
Branch: IX Metal Monkey Monkey Eating Fruit	Branch: XI Earth Dog Mountain Dog	Branch: VI Fire Snake Snake in the Pool	Branch: XI Earth Dog Mountain Dog
Combined Wood Pomegranate Wood	Combined Wood Scrubland Twigs	Combined Earth Sand and Clay	Combined Wood Scrubland Twigs

Alice: born 3pm June 12th 1959

- Alice has some of each element in her chart and is a more “balanced” person compared to John.
- One may imagine a lush pasture with a mountain in the background and a stream running through the scene.

Hour	Day	Month	Year
Stem: 10 yin water	Stem: 2 yin wood	Stem: 7 Yang Metal	Stem: 6 yin earth
Branch: VIII Earth Sheep <i>Sheep in a Flock</i>	Branch: II Earth Ox <i>Sea Ox</i>	Branch: VII Fire Horse <i>Palace Horse</i>	Branch: XII Water Pig <i>Monastic Pig</i>
Combined Wood <i>Plant Wood</i>	Combined Metal <i>Gold from the Sea</i>	Combined Earth <i>Ditch Earth</i>	Combined Wood <i>Scrubland Twigs</i>

Gyukar/Nakshatra Five Element Equivalents cont'd

Gyukar	Nakshatra	Longitude	Element	Chinese Element	Direction
9) Chu, Ta chen	10) Magha	00:00 Leo-13:20 Leo	Fire	Fire	South
10) Dre, Ta chung	11) Purva Phalguni	13:20 Leo-26:40 Leo	Fire	Fire	South
11) Wo	12) Uttara Phalguni	26:40 Leo-10:00 Vir	Wind	Fire	South
12) Mezhi	13) Hasta	10:00 Vir-23:20 Vir	Wind	Fire	South
13) Nakpa	14) Chitra	23:20 Vir-06:40 Lib	Wind	Fire	South
14) Sari	15) Swati	06:40 Lib-20:00 Lib	Wind	Fire	South
15) Saga	16) Vishakha	20:00 Lib-03:20 Sco	Fire	Earth	Southwest
16) Lhatsam	17) Anuradha	03:20 Sco-16:40 Sco	Earth	Metal	West
17) Nron, Deu	18) Jyeshtha	16:40 Sco-30:00 Sco	Earth	Metal	West

The Lunar Mansions in Tibetan Astrology

- In Philippe Cornu's *Tibetan Astrology*, “In Tibet, Indian astrology came into contact with a system of Chinese origin and a number of interesting syntheses occurred. This is the case with the *Gyukar*, which are divided according to the four directions and the four intermediate points, and which are also associated with the corresponding Chinese elements.”
- They are interpreted in the usual way, depending on what planets occupy them, according to Cornu. Each *Gyukar* has its specific meaning, similar to the Indian Nakshatras.

Gyukar/Nakshatra Five Element Equivalents cont'd

Gyukar	Nakshatra	Longitude	Element	Chinese Element	Direction
18) Nup	19) Mula	00:00 Sag-13:20 Sag	Water	Metal	West
19) Chuto	20) Purva Ashadha	13:20 Sag-26:40 Sag	Water	Metal	West
20) Chume	21) Uttara Ashadha	26:40 Sag-10:00 Cap	Earth	Metal	West
27)*Drozhin	28)* Abhijit	*05:00 Cap-10:00 Cap	*Earth	*Metal	*West
21) Jizhin	22) Shrivana	10:00 Cap-23:20 Cap	Earth	Earth	Northwest
22) Mondre	23) Dhanishtha	23:20 Cap-06:40 Aqu	Water	Water	North
23) Mondru	24) Shatabhisha	06:40 Aqu-20:00 Aqu	Earth	Water	North
24) Trumto	25) Purva Bhadrpada	20:00 Aqu-03:20 Pis	Fire	Water	North
25) Trume	26) Uttara Bhadrpada	03:20 Pis-16:40 Pis	Water	Water	North
26) Namdru, Shesa	27) Revati	16:40 Pis-30:00 Pis	Water	Water	North

The 27 Tibetan Gyukar or Nakshatra Five Element Equivalents

Gyukar	Nakshatra	Longitude	Element	Chinese Element	Direction
0) Takar, Yugu	1) Ashwini	00:00 Ari-13:20 Ari	Wind	Water	North
1) Dranye	2) Bharani	13:20 Ari-26:40 Ari	Fire	Earth	Northeast
2)Mindruk	3) Krittika	26:40 Ari-10:00 Tau	Fire	Wood	East
3) Narma	4) Rohini	10:00Tau-23:20Tau	Earth***	Earth	East
4) Go	5) Mrigashira	23:20 Tau-06:40 Gem	Wind	Wood	East
5) Lak	6) Andra	06:40 Gem-20:00 Gem	Water	Wood	East
6) Nabso, Gyalto	7) Punarvasu	20:00 Gem-03:20 Can	Wind	Wood	East
7) Gyal, Gyalme	8) Pushya	03:20 Can-16:40 Can	Fire	Wood	East
8) Kak, Wa	9) Ashlesha	16:40 Can-30:00 Can	Water	Earth	Southeast

The Five Elements and M-Theory

String theory is an active research framework in particle physics that attempts to reconcile quantum mechanics and general relativity.[1] It is a contender for the theory of everything (TOE), a manner of describing the known fundamental forces and matter in a mathematically complete system. The theory has yet to make testable experimental predictions, leading some[*who?*] to claim that it cannot be considered a part of science.

In theoretical physics, **M-theory** is an extension of string theory in which 11 dimensions are identified. Because the dimensionality exceeds that of superstring theories in 10 dimensions, *proponents believe that the 11-dimensional theory unites all five string theories (and supersedes them). Though a full description of the theory is not known, the low-entropy dynamics are known to be supergravity interacting with 2- and 5-dimensional membranes.*

Before 1994 there were five known consistent superstring theories (henceforth referred to as string theories), which were given the names Type I string theory, Type IIA string theory, Type IIB string theory, heterotic SO(32) (the HO string) theory, and heterotic E8×E8 (the HE string) theory.

The Five Elements and M-Theory

The five theories all share essential features that relate them to the name of string theory. Each theory is fundamentally based on vibrating, one-dimensional strings at approximately the length of the Planck length. Calculations have also shown that each theory requires more than the normal four spacetime dimensions (although all extra dimensions are in fact spatial). When the theories are analyzed in detail, significant differences appear.

Drawing on the work of a number of string theorists (including Ashoke Sen, Chris Hull, Paul Townsend, Michael Duff and John Schwarz), Edward Witten of the Institute for Advanced Study suggested its existence at a conference at USC in 1995, and used *M-theory* to explain a number of previously observed dualities, initiating a flurry of new research in string theory called the second superstring revolution.

In the early 1990s it was shown that the various superstring theories were related by dualities which allow the description of an object in one super string theory to be related to the description of a different object in another super string theory. These relationships imply that each of the super string theories is a different aspect of a single underlying theory, proposed by Witten, and named "M-theory".

"At One With the Natural Order of Things" cont'd

- "The monad (T'ai Chi T'u) represents the metaphysical principle of unity-in-duality in a world of opposites. This primary symbol of wholeness is composed of Yin and Yang, described by Chuang Tzu as "The Two Powers of Nature." They represent the polar aspects of all interrelated phenomena. The alternation of these two forces produces the processes of nature and the entire universe, visible and invisible. The great sages called the Yang force the movement of the Heavens and the Yin force those energies generated within and by the Earth.

The Five Elements and M-Theory cont'd

- My personal take on this is that quantum physicists have inadvertently discovered something very interesting and intriguing relating to ancient Chinese views of the universe:
- How the Five different super string theories resolve dualities amongst the other theories.
- Dualities here as yin and yang, the five theories as the five elements.
- M-theory takes all five super string theories into account, compensates for their dualities and describes a Theory of Everything which presents a framework that reconciles quantum mechanics and general relativity through particle physics.

"At One With the Natural Order of Things" cont'd

- From observation and intuition, they came to believe that these forces exerted an influence on the earth and all terrestrial life. The Heavenly forces were given the symbolic names Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal and Water." -Bill Watson "Chinese Five-Element (Tzu P'ing) Astrology" August 1996

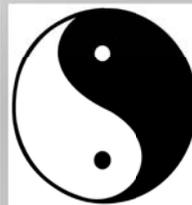
"At One With the Natural Order of Things"

- "Chinese astrological systems, like those of the West are based on the understanding of the created universe as an organic whole, unfolding in space and time. Because there is no absolute separation between events and objects in the space-time continuum, human consciousness and experience is entwined in co-evolutionary development with the natural world and all other parts of the cosmos. The changing relationships between its component parts create cyclic patterns, which can be observed and measured."

Any More Questions??? Thank You!!!

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- "All phenomena can shrink to ten characters (stems) and expand to infinity, to fill the universe."
-Michael Lin, Tzu P'ing Astrologer



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