

29 A Fool in Heaven

The ancients often divided the year into 12 months of about 30 days each and then divided the ecliptic into 12 sectors, each with a constellation so that people could read the celestial calendar and associate each month with one of these representative constellations. [This was not a universal practice. For example, the Chinese divided the ecliptic into 28 sectors, each with a specific constellation.] The Egyptians had a 12-month solar year of 30 days each month with a 5-day epagomenal month at the end for the end of the year. Because of the discrepancy of 1/4 day each year, the calendar drifted and had to be adjusted by an intercalary month every 120 years. By Ptolemaic times under Greek and Mesopotamian influence they added the 1/4 day so as to eliminate the calendar drift, but the people resisted this until it was imposed by the Romans under Augustus.

With Egypt's warm dry climate Egyptians divided their year roughly into three seasons: Nile flood (akhet) [June to September], emergence of land and crops after the flood (peret) [October to January], and dry season harvest (shemu) [February to May]. The New Year began with the heliacal rise of Sopdet (Sirius, a star associated with Isis), which was an event that usually coincided with the onset of the flood season.

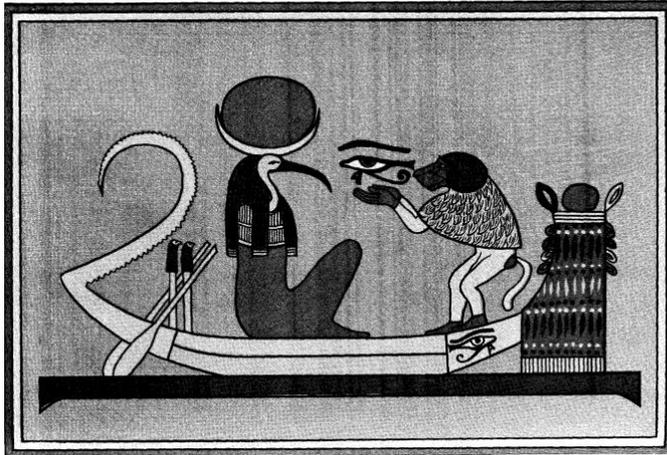
The Egyptians also followed a lunar calendar and generally timed their popular festivals to the lunar phases, a sequence that was never quite tuned to the solar calendar (despite the trick that Thoth did to combine the two on the Senet Game Board.)

The 12 celestial "Houses", plus the 5 visible planets, plus the 3 "big ones" -- Sun, Moon, and World (Earth) covered 20 of the 22 Trumps and Hebrew Letters. The two left over stood for Man (Hanged Man) and Heaven (Fool). We have discussed the symbolism that found its way into the Hanged Man Trump. Now we must examine the role of the Fool and his relation to Heaven.



Above are some examples of the Fool in various Tarot Trump decks.

The Fool in ancient Egypt was the baboon totem of Thoth. Thoth's other totem was the ibis, a wading bird found along the Nile. It became associated with the papyrus reeds from which the Egyptians developed their papyrus "paper" for keeping records. This then became the natural totem for Thoth as the "inventor" of writing and record keeping, which was a major advancement in communication technology and the foundation of scientific technological progress as well as management of a large government. So the conservative ibis totem represented the dignified and orderly, scholarly and managerial aspect of the High Priest. But Thoth's other aspect was free from all such restrictions -- a total liberal. Egyptian humor turned the baboon into the totem for the scribes responsible for copying important sacred texts and official documents.



Thoth's baboon assistant would keep the Lunar Eye and provide it when Thoth as an ibis needed to use it for the calendar or other purposes. Egyptian hieroglyphs are complex like Chinese characters. Despite rigorous discipline scribes often made mistakes, so the Foolish Baboon became their spiritual totem.

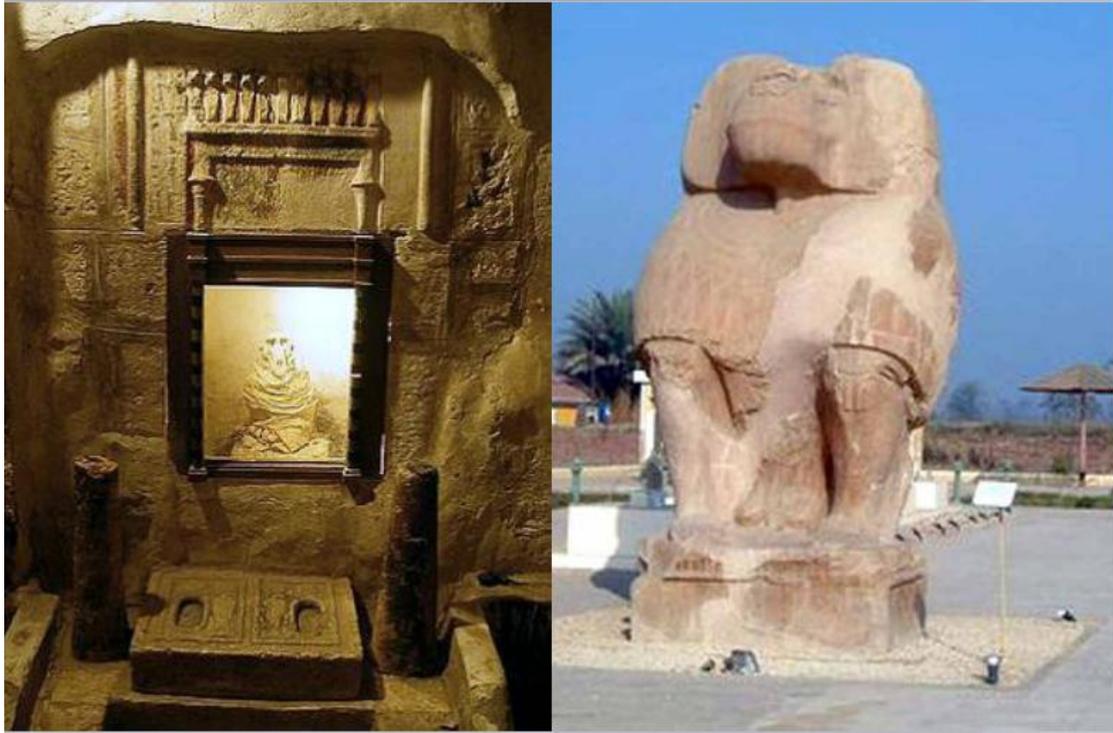


Egyptian scribes at work copying texts under the “watchful” eyes of their baboon totem.



Baboons would yelp and jump about as the sun came up, so Egyptians thought of them as worshiping the sun and doing morning exercises.

Thoth's main sacred place in Egypt was at Hermopolis, a site called by Egyptians "Khemenu", the city of the Eight Primordials. This was located right in the center of Egypt between North and South and represented the heart chakra of Egypt. There was once a huge temple there, but it has all disappeared except for a pair of megalithic stone baboons that stood in front of it. (You can see by the little sign in the photo how big the statue is compared to a human.) One is now headless. Nearby is an underground necropolis in which Egyptians buried mummies of ibis birds and baboons. There were once as many as a million such mummies there. Now they are all removed (or burned in a fire). All that remains is a sarcophagus for the head priest of the Great Temple and a little chapel in which a little baboon monk has sat for the last 3500 years.

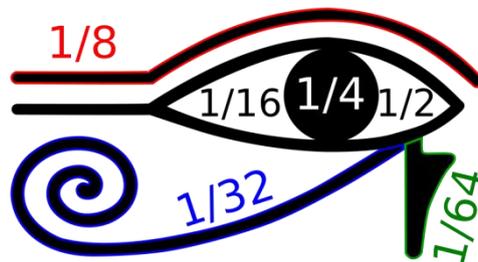


The cave chapel is quite small, and in front of the baboon is a dais with two footprints on it. They are the size of a child's feet. On each side is a little pillar representing the Egyptian letter "b", which is a pictograph of a standing leg. The two pillars spell the name "Baba", the baboon totem first son of Isis who lived in caves (baba) and practiced meditation and yoga, completely uninterested in politics or social prominence. Above the baboon's head are two Sekhem glyphs (willfulness) and a row of cobras with solar disks on their heads (see the same row of cobras on the Osiris-Magician Trump card). Both Isis and Nephthys could at times transform into baboon totems (Baba) or into hawk totems (Horus).

One peculiar feature of the baboon totem animal in Egypt is that it usually wears a primitive cloak made of leaves. Look again at the photos of the giant baboon statue, the sun-worshiping baboons, and the scribal totem baboons. I have not seen any discussion of this strange feature that seems to suggest a primitive emergence of civilization among these apes. I found this very unusual, and it triggered memories of my studies of ancient China's **Book of Changes**.

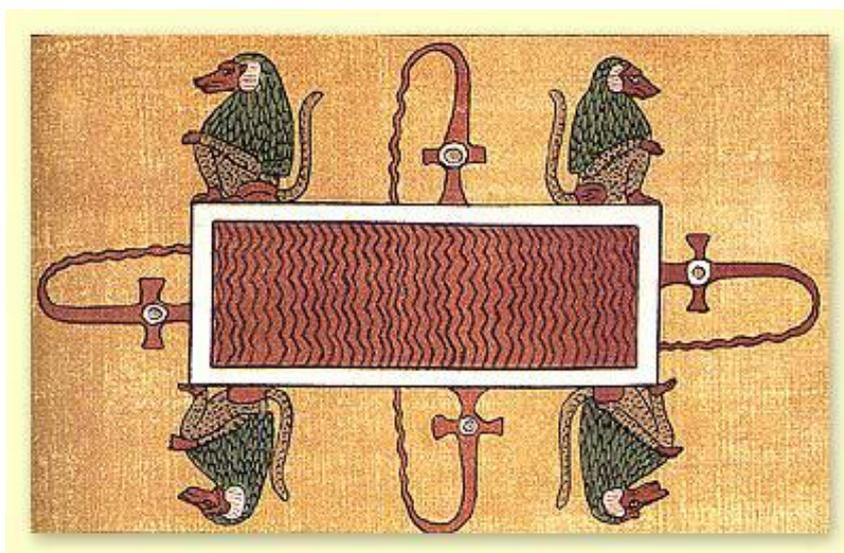
In the Chinese traditional view of their "prehistory" the **Book of Changes** emerged in very ancient times when a primitive humanoid studied nature and discovered that everything has a fundamental structure that is always in perfect balance. This mythical individual was called Fu Xi (Foo See), but in the **Book of Changes** text itself, his name is written as

Bao Xi (Baw See). These are probably just transliterations of a foreign name. In ancient times “b” and “f” were very close and only reflected dialect differences. It was said that later, in the beginning of the Zhou dynasty King Wen discovered a cyclical process by rearranging the design originally cognized by Fu Xi. There are two striking qualities to this myth. The first is that these designs are actually arrays of numbers written in a binary code. The only other example of a truly binary number system I have seen used in very ancient times was the Egyptian mathematical system that used both a base ten and a base two system combined together to do calculations. Furthermore, the Egyptians from extremely ancient times symbolized their binary system with the Lunar Eye of Horus-Ra that went through phases.

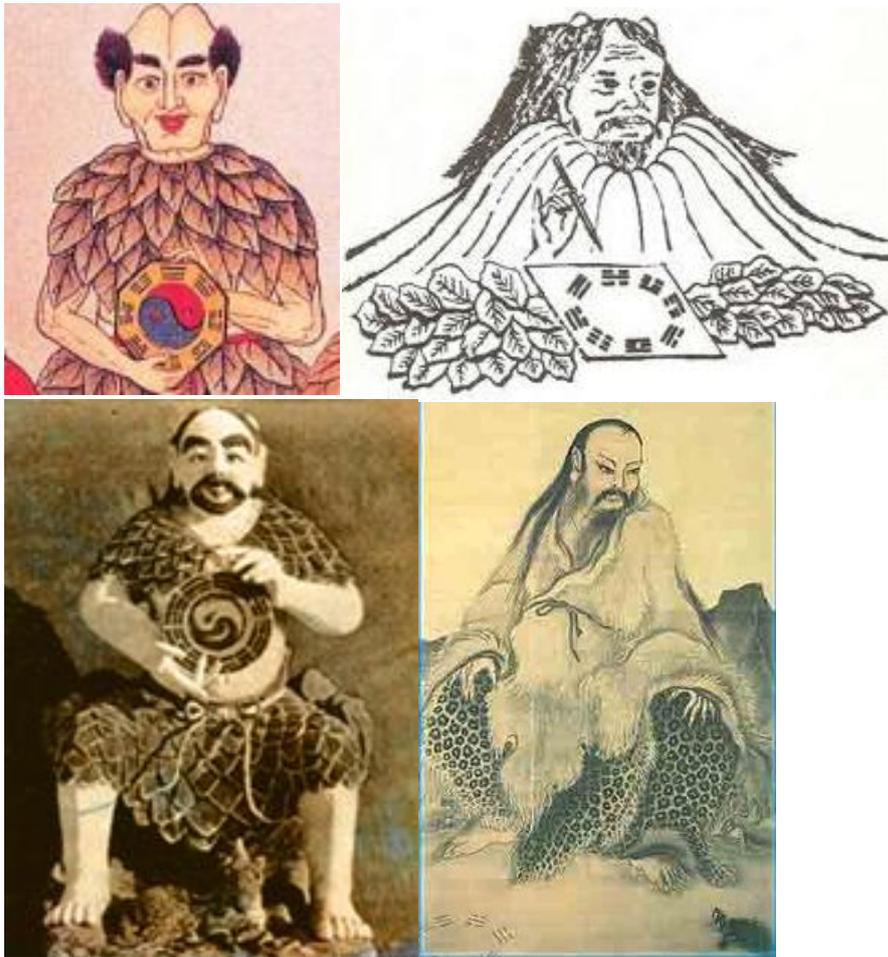


The binary Lunar Eye contains 64 components symbolized by $1/2^n$, where n equals the whole numbers 1 to 6. The sum of the 6 fractions is $63/64$. The missing $1/64^{\text{th}}$ is the limit sum of the convergent series $1/128, 1/256, 1/512, 1/1024, \dots$

Below is a picture of an Egyptian baboon totem spinning around in a pool of fire unscathed. A similar myth exists in China but is about a mischievous monkey, since China did not have baboons. Notice that the baboon wears his cloak of green leaves as he twists about.



Below are some pictures of Fu Xi as generally conceived by the Chinese tradition.



Oddly, none of the pictures shows a true Fu Xi diagram. In the last picture Fu Xi is dressed like a Chinese shaman wearing the traditional leopard skin instead of a leaf cloak, and he looks at a turtle from whose shell design he “discovers” the Fu Xi binary number diagram called the 8 Trigrams. These Trigrams correspond to the 8 Primordials of Khemenu in ancient Egypt.

The time of the New Kingdom in Egypt roughly corresponds to the time of the Shang dynasty when China was first beginning to develop its writing system and carved oracles on tortoise plastrons and sheep scapulae, our earliest Chinese written records. The first archaeological evidence of the **Book of Changes** in China does not emerge until the late Zhou dynasty which is equivalent to Ptolemaic Egypt. There is discussion of number codes that are precursors to the **Changes**, and there is mention several times of using the **Book of Changes** as an oracle in the **Zuo’s Chronicle** (Zuo Zhuan) and the Records of the States (Guo Yu)

(5th century B.C.), but these texts were lost during the turbulence as the Qin dynasty replaced the Zhou (late Ptolemaic period) and “recovered” by scholars from memory (or claimed to be found in surviving archives) during the early Han dynasty (Greco-Roman period). So it remains to be seen whether newly emerging texts from the Warring States period toward the end of the Zhou preserve evidence of the **Book of Changes** in those texts or in newly discovered texts.

As early as 2008 I published my theories that the **Book of Changes** came to China from ancient Egypt, and that Fu Xi was a Chinese rendering of the baboon totem who kept the Lunar Eye with its binary numbers for his “boss” Thoth. [We have seen earlier in this series of articles that there is evidence that Baba was the real “boss” and the Ibis Thoth figure was Baba’s secretary.] It was a great surprise when a few years later in 2015 I discovered that a large cache of Warring States period Chinese texts written on bamboo strips had appeared on the black market via tomb robbers. An alumnus of Qing-hua (Tsinghua) University purchased them and donated them to the university for their experts to study. Qing-hua set up a research team to restore and publish the texts. It was a difficult task because over 2000 years in the ground left the strips caked with black mud and illegible. Furthermore, the strings or thongs that held the strips together as scrolls long ago rotted away. So the cache was just a jumble of black bamboo strips.

The experts sorted the strips by size and found ways to clean them until the original ink texts were revealed. Then they had to sort them by calligraphy, size, and content to find the correct order for the strips. Fortunately in this particular book the set of strips was unbroken except for one small chip on the end of a single strip. Moreover, the strips were all numbered in sequence, so it was easy to restore the whole book quickly. This became one of the first publications by the Qing-hua team, and it turned out to be a work about how to consult the **Book of Changes**. The calligraphy is ancient, but very beautiful. Nothing else like this book and its system has been seen before. Further more, right in the middle of the book is a large illustration of a monkey adorned with two sets of Trigrams. I immediately acquired a copy and worked out a rough translation. Below is the cover page of my preliminary work that is available as a free download on my website under the Civilization/China section: www.bentylightgarden.com for anyone to study. A Taiwanese fan of the **Book of Changes**, Jack Nanguozi, first

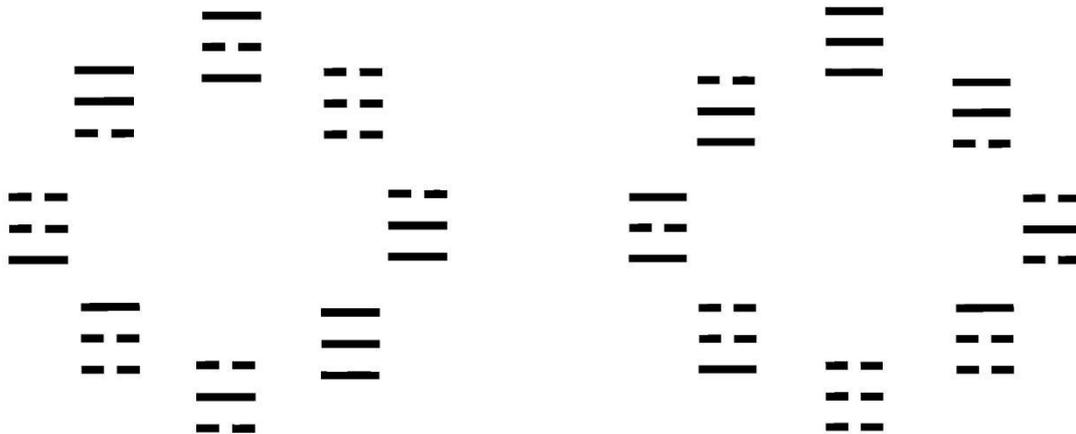
told me about the discovery and also wrote his own set of comments on it in Chinese, which I also drafted into English with my comments.

THE GAME CHANGER



The Tsinghua University Bamboo Strip
Yijing Stalk-Divination Manual

Restored, Transcribed, and Edited by Li Xueqin, et al.
Articles by Jack Nanguozi
Translation, Comments, and Articles by Douglass A. White



King Wen Trigram Arrangement

Fu Xi Trigram Arrangement

The outer arrangement around the monkey outside the square box is a close approximation to the King Wen Trigram Arrangement (Fire and Water, Li and Kan, have switched positions) that revolves in a cycle around the monkey and his square world. The trigrams that are attached to the body of the monkey inside the square express a form of the Fu Xi Trigram Structural Arrangement. The head is Heaven, the mouth has the moist Swamp, the chest is Earth, the gut has digestive Fire, the ears/kidneys have flowing Water, the feet have Thunder as they move about, the hands have Mountain as they hold things steady, and the buttocks break Wind with a touch of humor.

This astounding book that has recently appeared out of the ground is solid archaeological evidence of a connection between an ape totem and the Fu Xi Trigram structural system. [Unfortunately we do not know exactly where it was found by the tomb robbers, but the experts confirm that the book is genuine.] Study the formalized traditional Fu Xi diagram, and you will see that it is perfectly symmetrical and balanced showing a simplified picture of the fundamental structure of our cosmos.

For homework find a copy of the **Book of Changes** and study the Chinese binary symbol system, the 8 Trigrams, and the 64 Hexagrams. This is the same ancient technological system that now runs our modern civilization, but nobody pays attention to this fundamental fact. Virtually all our computers and other electronic devices operate using digital binary codes. Binary codes drive our information technology explosion and the evolution of AI. It is the simplest form of computing and perfect for computers to do rapid calculations. It all began (as far as we presently know on this planet) with the Eye of Horus, the 8 Primordials, and the 64 basic **Changes** that began with Baba and Thoth in Khemenu and slowly spread through the world. But this technology is universal and available throughout the universe. Any advanced civilization sooner or later discovers it and begins to explore and utilize it.



The 8 Primordials form 4 Couples.

The males resemble frogs, and the females resemble snakes.
 The frogs represent ancient time. The snakes represent energy.

The Primordial Couples are:

Amen and Amenet; New and Newet; Heh and Hehet; Kek and Keket.

Amen is Invisible Subjective Awareness.

Amenet is its Objective expression as Light.

New is the Urge to Create.

Newet is the Vast Creation of Cosmic Space.

Heh is the Flow of Time.

Hehet is Expanding Evolution over Time in Space.

Kek is Darkness and Solidity compressed in Matter.

Keket is the Innate Bliss Dwelling in the Darkness.



As an exercise, match the Primordials to the Fu Xi diagram. The Light of Amenet is visible only by means of the interactions of Kek’s objective matter particles, which by themselves seem dark. Keket is the subjective feeling of bliss that is discovered deep within the heart of matter when it is fully experienced.

Later Amen evolved into Amen Ra, Amenet evolved into Amenet Mut Hathor, New evolved into Tem the Tower, Newet remained as Cosmic Space filled with stars and galaxies, Heh remained as the flow of time, Hehet became Shesat (Skill)/Seshat (Civilization)/Sekhmet (Ego Strength), Kek became Khenemew (Potter God)/Set (Rocks and Desert), and Keket became Nephthys, Lady of the Temple.

29 Study Questions

* Why did the Egyptian solar calendar drift?

- * Can you think of some reasons why the Egyptians did not much care about the calendar's drift?
- * What is peculiar about the baboon animal totem in ancient Egypt?
- * What did the baboon totem mean to ancient Egyptians? What qualities did he have?
- * What special Egyptian symbol did he have charge of? Can you think of reasons why?
- * Who was Fu Xi?
- * Describe at least two ways in which Fu Xi resembles Baba the Baboon? In China they describe the **Book of Changes** as the "The 8x8, 64 Hexagrams". Oddly enough, in Chinese "8x8" is said as "ba-ba", which happens to be the Egyptian name of Baba, the Baboon Fool character who holds the wisdom of the universe and also means in Chinese that the 64 Changes belong to Baba.
- * For advanced study read my **Game Changer** and study the **Book of Changes**.
- * Study how the Fu Xi trigrams turn into the King Wen trigrams.
- * How does this article relate to the Series Overview?