



# The Taoist I Ching (Shambhala Classics)

*Liu I-ming*

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The  
*I*  
*Ching*

,  
or "Book of Change," is considered the oldest of the Chinese classics and has throughout history commanded unsurpassed prestige and popularity. Containing several layers of text and given numerous levels of interpretation, it has captured continuous attention for well over two thousand years. It has been considered a book of fundamental principles by philosophers, politicians, mystics, alchemists, yogins, diviners, sorcerers, and more recently by scientists and mathematicians.

This  
first part of the present volume is the text of the  
*I*  
*Ching*

proper—the sixty-four hexagrams plus sayings on the hexagrams and their lines—with the commentary composed by Liu I-ming, a Taoist adept, in 1796. The second part is Liu I-ming's commentary on the two sections added to the  
*I*  
*Ching*

by earlier commentators, believed to be members of the original Confucian school; these two sections are known as the Overall Images and the Mixed Hexagrams. In total, the book illuminates the Taoist inner teachings as practiced in the School of Complete Reality.

Well  
versed in Buddhism and Confucianism as well as Taoism, Liu I-ming intended his work to be read as a guide to comprehensive self-realization while living an ordinary life in the world. In his attempt to lift the veil of mystery from the esoteric language of the  
*I*  
*Ching*

,  
he employs the terminology of psychology, sociology, history, myth, and religion. This commentary on the  
*I*  
*Ching*

stands as a major contribution to the elucidation of Chinese spiritual genius.

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