

THE ELECTRIC DRAGON

USER'S MANUAL

THE ELECTRIC DRAGON

This is not a game. This is not a time to be excited, or feverish, or competitive, however you might act when you are playing a game.

This is a time to relax. To quiet the mind.

To recall a time when you were receptive to mystery. To change.

This is the *I Ching*, the Chinese Classic of Change, the Classic of the Chameleon. The Electric Dragon.

It is one of the most ancient extant books in the world. Even Confucius regarded it as a work of great antiquity, and he lived some two thousand five hundred years ago. There is no conclusive proof of authorship. It is believed that the basic Text was composed by King Wen (1150 BC) and his son Duke Chou. The Commentaries, also called "The Wings," have been attributed to Confucius and his disciples.

But the authorship matters little today. For the Book of Change has become much more than a book attributable to any human hand. Talk to people who have used it extensively, who have spent hours in quiet contemplation with it. They'll tell you it is like conversing with another being, a being extremely sensitive to their moods and needs. The Book of Change is uncannily able to *pay attention*. There is a presence in the room with you.

Notice the way such people handle their copy of the *I Ching*. Without self-consciousness they hold it gingerly; they turn the pages gently and with clean hands. It is almost as if they were consulting a preternaturally wise child, someone who inspires awe but requires a great deal of care.

You will not see such people dropping the book, or tossing it on the table.

Why do they behave this way?

Program © 1984 by Stephen Walton
User's Manual by Steve Rasnic Tem

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The ancient Chinese consulted it in matters of military strategy. Confucius consulted it so frequently that the leather thongs binding the tablets which were inscribed with his copy wore out three times. He once claimed that if he were to live fifty more years he would devote all of them to its study.

He was one of the world's great philosophers. Why would such a man behave this way?

Jung found it "uncommon significance" as a method of exploring the unconscious. He referred to it as one of the first efforts of the human mind to place itself within the universe. This was no parlor game; he took it quite seriously.

He was one of the world's great psychologists. Why would such a man behave this way?

Perhaps you've always thought of the *I Ching* merely as a magician's trick, a novelty used by parlor fortunetellers, or an exotic bit of cultural archaeology.

It is a book of divination. In one sense at least. It has been said that common minds use it to predict the future, while sages use it to understand the present. The Book of Change is an attempt to explain chance happenings, those events in our lives which cannot be explained in terms of cause and effect. *Change* is its principle concept, the movement between the cosmic forces of yin and yang.

Face up to it. Change distresses us. It is that power which can grant us wealth and fame, but it is also that universal force which destroys our crops, kills our families, and alters the feelings of those we thought loved us. It is a force we do not understand, and all struggles to determine its rules seem fruitless.

And yet the Chinese Book of Changes attempts just that: to determine the rules of change.

The belief which permeates this work is that the text of the hexagram, if that hexagram is properly selected, becomes a true picture of the user's psychic condition. Seemingly unconnected events are believed to be connected. Jung called this principle "synchronicity," a peculiar interdependence of objective events.

The *I Ching* is a kind of mirror, a *doppelganger*. It is an explanation of how things work.

Originally, selecting the hexagrams for interpretation was quite an involved process. The questioner threw yarrow stalks, or coins, and by a mathematical process each line of the hexa-

gram was arrived at. The arrival of this computerized version, The Electric Dragon, changes all that. Everything takes place at electronic speeds: you merely choose the "moments" at which to press a key, which leads the program in its creation of the hexagrams and the moving lines. Your mind is free to concentrate on the essential meaning. There is no paper and pencil for calculating the hexagram or taking notes, no coins or stalks, and the Book itself resides in the memory of the computer. The relevant texts may be brought to the screen at any pace you desire, and the readings can be saved for later review, together with any comments you might wish to add. This enables you to recreate a reading at any time; many people believe that this diary function rivals the obtaining of the original reading in importance.

The Classic of the Chameleon. The Electric Dragon. The dark worm, the snake of the unconscious sloughing its skin year after year. Rejuvenation. Change.

Just as change obsesses us, the dragon haunts, for it is the manifestation of inner knowledge, the unravelling of the mystery, the excavation of our secrets.

Now insert your Electric Dragon diskette, and gaze into this ancient mirror.

USING THE ELECTRIC DRAGON

The users of the Book of Change were taught that this great work, when not in use, was to be wrapped in a clean cloth and placed on a high shelf. Such advice still seems quite appropriate in an age of computer diskettes. Keep your diskette in its sleeve and handle it carefully!

Find a quiet place and time to consult The Electric Dragon. Your utmost concentration will be required. Some prefer the evening hours. Quiet your mind. Make yourself receptive.

If you wish, place your computer on a table facing south in the middle of the room. You may use incense if that is your desire.

How To Begin

Insert your DOS diskette and turn on the computer. When A> appears, replace your DOS with The Electric Dragon diskette. Type in "ICHING", and press the ENTER key.

The Electric Dragon will now appear on your computer screen.

It will gaze at you a brief time before showing you a list of options, a menu, to choose from.

The Menu

Your options are:

Consult the Oracle
Review a Reading
Study a Hexagram
Review Last Reading
Turn Prompts (On/Off)
End This Session

The up and down cursor arrow keys (8↑ and 2↓) enable you to move up and down this list of options, highlighting each one. Pressing the ENTER key while an option is highlighted activates that option.

When you are finished consulting the oracle for the time being, simply choose the last option on the menu and activate it. The "Turn Prompts On/Off" option allows you to choose whether you want additional lines of instruction to appear on the screen (Turn Prompts On) which will help guide you through your early use of The Electric Dragon. We suggest that you leave the prompts on until you are thoroughly familiar with the program. Then turn them off—eliminating distractions of any kind makes the oracle more effective.

At first you will have no need to "Review a Reading" or "Review Last Reading." We will discuss these options later.

Study a Hexagram

A good way to familiarize yourself with the way The Electric Dragon presents its material is to select the "Study a Hexagram" option. This allows you to study each of the 64 hexagrams which make up the I Ching. The Electric Dragon will present you with a numbered list of the first 32 hexagrams along with their names (1. The Creative, 2. The Receptive, etc.). Type the number of the hexagram you wish to study (and press ENTER), or simply press the ENTER key to see, and choose among, the remaining (33 through 64) hexagrams.

You will be shown the hexagram you selected in the upper left corner of your screen. The question box at the upper right

is blank, since you are in the study mode. Below these is The Judgement, which discusses the meaning of the hexagram as a whole. This is not the entire reading, however. The up and down cursor arrow key will guide you through the reading. Pressing the down cursor arrow key (2↓) several times will take you to The Image, which reflects a more advanced interpretation and understanding taken from the Confucian Commentaries. Pressing the down cursor arrow key several more times will take you to The Lines, which is text focusing on the significance of individual lines of the hexagram. Each line is either broken (a yielding, Yin line) or unbroken (a firm, Yang line). Under certain circumstances they become moving lines, moving in the direction of their own opposites, where they merge and form a second hexagram. Lines 2 and 5 often are of special significance. Note how the individual lines in the hexagram are highlighted as they are discussed in the text.

Pressing the up cursor arrow key (8↑) will take you back toward the beginning of the reading. The HOME key will take you back to the very first text in the reading. Pressing the END key will end this particular reading of the text and return you to the STUDY A HEXAGRAM menu.

You may want to study several hexagrams in this manner to familiarize yourself with The Electric Dragon before you ask the oracle your first question.

Consult the Oracle

A proper consultation of the oracle involves quieting the mind, composing it so that you may fully concentrate on your question.

Take some time to think about the proper wording of your question. The either/or type of question must be avoided. The best results are obtained when you are quite specific. And remember that the I Ching seldom replies with how much time will elapse before an event occurs, so try to set a limit on the amount of time involved (Example: What is likely to happen to my wife during the month of June?). Other examples of the proper form of questioning are: How may I obtain happiness for my daughter? What stops me from building my new house? and If I were to go into partnership with Harry Morgan, what would be the result?

But remember, the I Ching is a book for those who prize

virtue. It is not for the selfish or the greedy or for those who wish to harm someone else. It is designed to help you understand what is happening to you *now*.

After you have decided on the wording of your question you may type it on the screen as indicated (or you may keep the question within if you so desire). In either case, press the ENTER key when you are done, and ready to begin the hexagram.

Press any key to "throw the yarrow stalk." Press it again and again, choosing the moments to press by intuition. Pressing it three times will obtain one line; pressing it eighteen times is required to build an entire hexagram.

Occasionally you will create a "moving line." Such lines will lead to the creation of a second hexagram beside the first, to supplement the reading.

Go through the reading using the cursor arrow, HOME, and END keys, just as you did while studying a hexagram. The Electric Dragon will take you first through one hexagram, then the other. Note how the entire hexagrams and individual lines are highlighted as they are discussed in the relevant texts.

Once you have pressed the END key to end the reading you will be asked if you wish to SAVE THIS READING? Press Y and the reading will be saved on your diskette for future retrieval, along with the date and any comment you wish to make.

A Note on Interpretation

The I Ching, in its wording and in the setting surrounding its use, creates a dream-like atmosphere which requires the utmost use of your powers of intuition in interpreting the text. Every piece has meaning. If the hexagram consists entirely of six nonmoving lines, the image represented by the entire hexagram is of great significance. If one or more of the lines are moving, the interpretation of the lines must also be considered, as well as the meaning of the second hexagram which arises out of these moving lines. If the meanings seem contradictory, the significance of an individual moving line is of greater weight than the meaning of the hexagram as a whole. The meaning of the second hexagram is usually interpreted as a modification of the first hexagram's meaning.

Look for analogous situations to your present condition in the text. The description of a political or military situation

might reflect office politics or business relationships, for example.

But above all, remember that the hexagrams provide a picture of the universe at a particular moment in the stream of change. So if you want a *clear* picture, your mind must also be clear, and receptive.

Reviewing Past Readings

This option permits you to view your past consultations with The Electric Dragon (providing you exercised your option to save them to your diskette). You may use the special scan feature to review all the readings on file, or you may choose to search for a key word from the question that generated the reading. A key word in the question "Will my daughter find happiness this month?" would be "daughter," for example. Pressing ENTER while the option you want is highlighted will activate it for you.

When utilizing the scan feature to view all the readings you use the down cursor arrow to see the next reading on file, the up arrow to see the previous one. The HOME key will take you automatically to the first reading.

Once you find the reading you want, press the ENTER key to review it, the arrow keys to move through the text, and the END key to end the review. While you are in the "scan" mode you can press D and delete any reading from your diary if you so desire. Use the "Return to Main Menu" option to leave the reviewing mode.

The "Review Last Reading" option on the main menu simply allows you to review the last reading you saved.

Ending a Session

Activate the "End This Session" option on the main menu (or press the END key) to close off the consultation. Turn off the computer, and remember to store your copy of The Electric Dragon carefully, as is its due.

REPLACEMENT ORDER FORM

Please use this form when ordering a replacement for a defective diskette.

A. If Ordering within Thirty Days of Purchase

If a diskette is reported defective within thirty days of purchase, a replacement diskette will be provided free of charge. *This card must be totally filled out and accompanied by the defective diskette and a copy of the dated sales receipt.* In addition, please complete and return the Limited Warranty Registration Card.

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If a diskette is reported defective after thirty days but within one year of purchase and the Warranty Registration Card has been properly filed, a replacement diskette will be provided to you for a nominal fee of \$5.00 (send check or money order only). *This card must be totally filled out and accompanied by the defective diskette, a copy of the dated sales receipt, and a \$5.00 check or money order made payable to Simon & Schuster, Inc.*

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OTHER (Please explain) _____

How long have you owned or used this computer?

LESS THAN 30 DAYS _____ LESS THAN 6 MONTHS _____ 6 MONTHS TO A YEAR _____ OVER 1 YEAR _____

What is your primary use for the computer?

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Where is your computer located?

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