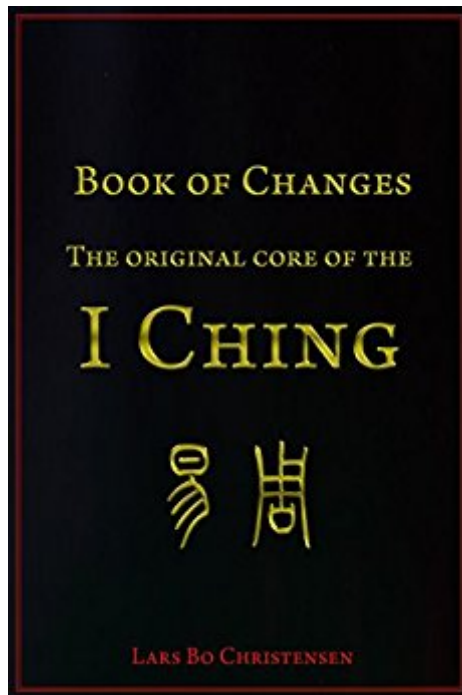




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# Book Of Changes - The Original Core Of The I Ching



## Synopsis

The Book of Changes has always been regarded as one of the most important, but also most enigmatic, Chinese classics. Lars Bo Christensen's coherent and meaningful translation of the original core - the divination manual - can be read by anyone and is supported by extensive evidence and a complete glossary.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For some time I've realized that the I Ching is not so simple to translate. Many years ago I read the Wilhelm/Baynes translation and it was extremely fascinating. Since then I've read 30+ other translations. Some of them have been with me for a while but many were simply ridiculous. And the author of this book is right; it is shameful that the existing translations are so different from each other. That has previously been my biggest problem with the I Ching; there's been so much nonsense and so many inexplicable differences between translators' decisions. Anyways, in spite of the differences in my translations the text has seemed to open up to me over time and I felt for a while that I had come closer to understanding it. However, this new book, which I've just finished

reading, has added a whole new perspective and I'm thrilled, and surprised, that I finally feel I can completely rely on a translation - 100%. Just about every subject of relevance is covered in the book and some ideas and conclusions are new to me. A lot of information is presented, but in a simple and clear language, and it is very well-documented. The translation itself is unusually transparent and the complete word list is packed with interesting explanations. The way every little part of the translation is explained in detail is very convincing because the details fits the overall picture of each hexagram. Sigh.... that's just the problem, now I have to let go of quite a few of my good old well-worn ideas of the hexagram lines. After all, I have gotten used to my own interpretations for many years now (I've used the I Ching since the seventies). But this translation is quite simply a revelation to me. There are two versions of the translation. One with documentation, and a much simpler one placed at the back of the book with only short interpretations added by the author. The simpler translation itself is very easy to read but the interpretations add a helpful perspective. This translation has renewed my interest in the I Ching and I warmly recommend it. I've read the Kindle version on my iPad Air.

It took a little while before I felt I could review this book as it took a little effort to determine how good this translation is. There are already so many out there and they are all different. I have always liked John Blofeld's but I have several other. As LBC cynically points out "if they are all different, how can they be right?" It took some time getting used to completely new concepts for several of the hexagram texts. I can honestly say that I never felt that I understood "The Well" (48), "Abundance" (55) or hexagram 19 which some has named "Approach", but it is nice to finally see the meaning of these three because I was beginning to doubt there was any. I have had a similar understanding as LBC with many other hexagrams, but the lines seem to be very clear on many details that I have not taken into consideration before. In other hexagrams the meaning is similar to other translations but I like the flow and I agree it is coherent. I don't read Chinese but I find it reassuring that the translation is so transparent. It is easy to see that hexagram 9 and 26 are correctly named in this translation, because that's obviously what's in the dictionaries. And reading the comments I find it both refreshing and plausible when LBC claims that the woman in hexagram 38 is divorced! The chapters about the history, principles etc. are very interesting. Some of it you can find in other books like Richard Rutt's and Ed. Shaughnessy's, but there are ideas here I never came across before - for example in the way the yarrow sticks method is explained. Also the conclusions LBC makes about trigrams and hexagrams were very interesting, and new, to me. I read on the homepage for the book that a paperback is coming shortly. I'll stick with the kindle on my iPad though, I like the links to the

hexagrams. My old Blofeld is hardly hanging together anymore, e-books don't wear and tear. I use the I Ching often, to organize my thoughts, so to speak. This translation might just be the one I keep working with.

Very, very good book on a very complex subject. There's no doubt that this subject is close to the author's heart, and that he has spent many, many years on this book, to make the I Ching a household tool, just as a spoon or a knife. Great work, Lars

This is the most clearly written and entertaining book on the I Ching I have ever read. IMHO the author shows a level of understanding and skill that surpasses what I've seen in any other works on this so often misunderstood classic. He has spared no detail to clarify his translation, and the net result is a book I'm sure I'll read and re-read for years to come. The translation is careful and clear, and the arguments for even the most controversial ideas -- there are quite a few -- are strong enough to make me follow along. The way the meaning of this very difficult classic is gradually revealed are sure to surprise you. I am impressed and I highly recommend this book to anyone with interest in I Ching or other Chinese classics. Love.

I have been using I Ching most of my adult life. I used, during a long period, using 3 different translations from different authors, comparing them to get the right meaning. This translation creates finally a synthesis that puts everything in order. And I no longer need 3 translations! THANKS, Lars Bo Christensen!

What 21st Century people should know about The Chinese Book of Change

L. Bo Christensen's translation is excellent, as it is his idea of offering to the reader the "core" of the book, because the reader will have direct contact with the ancient text without the many layers of interpretations which in a sense make obscure our comprehension of the original text. The introduction is clear, deep and concise. It is a book to be read both by academics and non academics. Gabriel García-Añón, Faculty of Translation and Interpreting, University of Granada, Spain.

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