

Hello all,

Welcome to Volume 1, Issue 4 of *Alternativz*, an *occasional* journal of complementary and alternative solutions for health, well-being, performance, and longevity. This article, titled ***Global Warming – A Metaphysical Perspective***, was originally published in the Summer 2011 issue of *The Empty Vessel* and examines the phenomenon of global warming in light of Taoist physics. [Wuji Qi Gong & The Secret Of Immortality](#) offers a related discussion where-in these “mechanics” are presented in the context of human health and aging. Though troubling, I hope you find the article of interest.

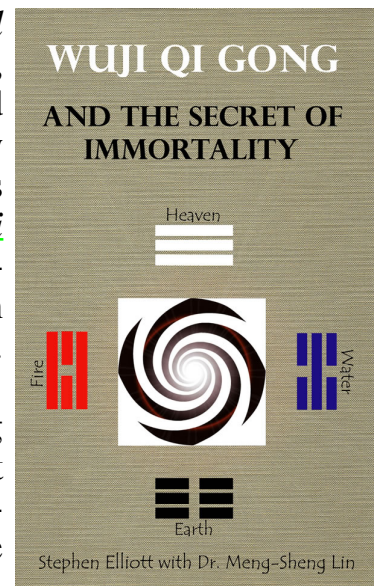
In 1979, The National Academy of Sciences estimated that a doubling of carbon dioxide levels from that of pre-industrial times will result in a global temperature increase of between 1.5 and 4.5 degrees Celsius. In 1985, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) affirmed these estimates.

In a December 1989 Report to Congress, the EPA estimated that by 2100, sea level will rise by .5 to 2 meters due to melting glaciers and icecaps. Also, that a 1 meter rise in sea level will result in a loss of about 10,000 square miles of US coastal area. The report also projects changes in global climate patterns. These include increasing temperatures, changing rainfall and other weather phenomena. Some models forecast hotter dryer weather for parts of the planet that are already hot and dry increasing the expanse of existing deserts. Other areas may experience dramatically increased rainfall and tidal inundation.

This month the National Snow And Ice Data Center released a report that ice coverage of the Arctic Ocean has receded to 24%, further than at any time since NSIDC began collecting satellite data (1979). When asked about the implications, [Walt Meier, in a September 20th interview with PBS’s Ray Suarez](#), said that previous estimates like that in the 1989 EPA report cited above, predicted that the Arctic Ocean would be free of ice by the end of the century, a “reality” that our grandchildren or great grandchildren might see. However, the rate of recession over the time of record now suggests that it could be so within 20 years.

Increased carbon dioxide and the resultant “greenhouse effect” is credited with global warming, the primary source of the CO₂ increase being the combustion of fossil fuels. CO₂ levels have increased ~35% since their pre-industrial revolution levels, contributing to a global temperature increase of about 0.74°C since the late 19th century. The linear trend for the past 50 years is 0.13°C per decade, nearly twice that of the past 100 years, demonstrating a sharp upward trend.

On the current path of fossil fuel consumption, by the end of the 21st century, carbon dioxide levels can be expected to be 75 to 350% above preindustrial levels. ([Source:http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/globalwarming.html](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/globalwarming.html)) Population growth and industrialization of the planet are driving the numbers ever upward.



Using a medical analogy, carbon dioxide is the present focus of global warming science, but is CO₂ the problem or a symptom? For that matter, is global warming itself the problem or a symptom of some larger planetary change? Is it possible that there is a greater metaphysics at work, one that involves the essential balance of Yin and Yang on planet Earth?

and Earth need agents to do their bidding in the world. For this reason they create Fire and Water, which they produce through their union, Fire inheriting its top and bottom lines from Heaven and its middle line from Earth, and Water inheriting its top and bottom lines from Earth and its middle line from Heaven.

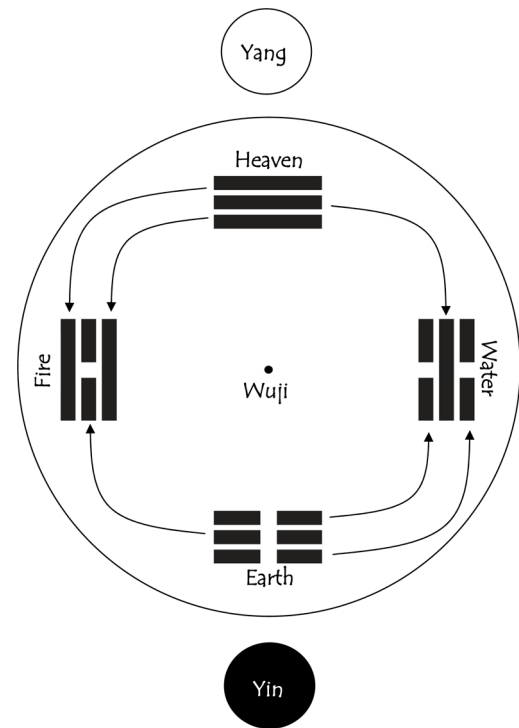
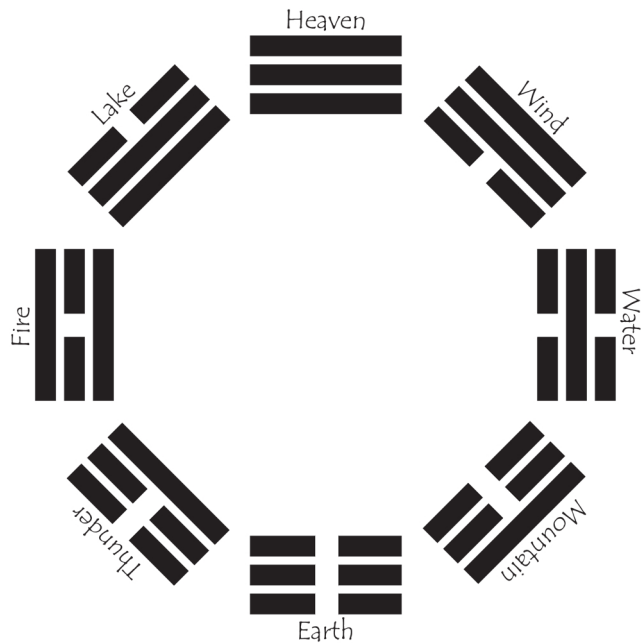


Figure 1: The “Ba Gua” or “Eight Trigrams”

Figure 2: The Primordial Elements Suspended Between Yin And Yang

To explore this question let us turn to the 7000 year old Bagua - the 8 Trigrams at the heart of the China’s most revered book, the Yi Jing or “Book Of Changes.”

The Bagua is thought to have been created by Fu Xi, one of China’s legendary Emperor Immortals circa 5000 B.C.E. It holds many meanings and secrets. A central animus of the Bagua is an essential metaphysical model of nature – its manifestation and mechanics.

Suspended between the forces of Yin and Yang, the Bagua is composed of the pure and most primordial elements Heaven and Earth, which due to their purity remain inert. To overcome their immobility Heaven

Fire is Heaven’s agent – Fire is 2/3 Heaven and 1/3 Earth. Water is Earth’s agent –Water is 2/3 Earth and 1/3 Heaven. Their impurity endows them with their characteristic nature and dynamism. For this reason Fire and Water are able to move, adapt, and change. In a pure meta-physical sense they are “alive”. Fire’s essential “role” is that of converting Yin (Earth - matter with substance, for example “wood”) into Yang - Heaven, the ethereal, “gas”. It does this through the act of “burning”, a process by which the Yin and the Yang are “recycled”, Yang ascending to Heaven and Yin returning to Earth.

Water’s role is that of converting Heaven into Earth. This action can be seen in the growth of flora and fauna, which as they grow, amass both Water and Earth (elements) and reach toward Heaven. The process of birth and growth (life as we know it) depends on Water - specifically “precipitation”. Precipitation brings Yang essence from Heaven, inseminating life with Yang force.

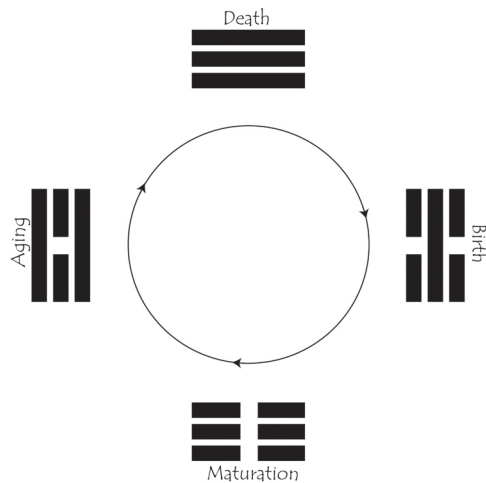


Figure 3: The Four Primordial Elements Describe The Wheel Of Life

Together, the 4 Primordial elements describe the wheel of life, birth (germination), growth, maturation, and death. The cycle applies to flora and fauna alike, both kingdoms having examples of annuals and perennials.

Heaven, Water, Earth describes the Yin-centric phase of birth, growth, and maturation. Earth, Fire, Heaven, describes the Yang-centric phase of aging, decay, and death. Chinese medicine promotes health and longevity by promoting the Yin phase, the integration and substantializing of the body, and by tempering the disintegrating Yang phase and resultant Fire that would consume it.

Here “balance” of Yin and Yang, Fire and Water, is an essential notion.

When balance is maintained, harmony, health, and life result. When it is not, the result is disharmony, disease, and death. Here I submit that this theory applies not just to the microcosm of humanity (on all levels), but to the macrocosm of the planet at large, what affects one affects the other.

Here we might wonder, is it mankind that is affecting the planet (certainly true) or is it the planet that is effecting mankind? I propose that this is also true. This is an example of the spiraling nature of the matter, one affects the other in a positive feedback loop.

Heaven and Earth have managed the planet since the beginning via their judicious use of Fire and Water to promote life and maintain the balance of Yin and Yang which in the greater scheme of things must remain equal. *Because Fire and Water are ultimately the meta-physical embodiments of Yin and Yang, in the long run they must also ultimately exist in equal measure.*

Fire = Water

When balance is disrupted, disharmony and disease ensue. A reason for this is that Fire and Water become raucous and extreme, rising and falling without temperance.

If either outweighs the other and is left unchecked, the excessive will ultimately destroy the insufficient, resulting in “death”.

With the dawn of humankind’s ability to “make Fire”, Heaven and Earth lost their proprietorship over Fire and Water, for many thousands of years humankind making Fire as we’ve seen fit. But, while we’ve made Fire, we don’t yet possess the ability to makes its complement, “Water”, the most precious element on Earth, for without it there is no life.

While Fire and its fuel - Earth, ultimately depend on Water, for practical purposes Water is finite...Fire is not. Consequently, by making Fire humankind has contributed to the gradual diminishment of Yin (Earth) and the excess of Yang (Heaven). This is not just a notion.

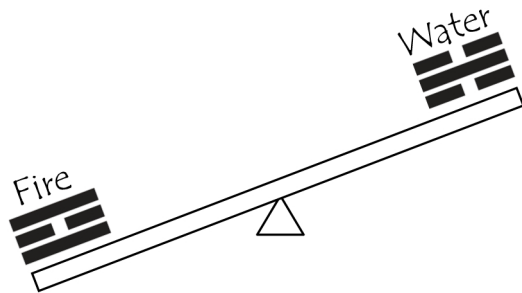


Figure 4: Fire And Water Are Seriously Out Of Balance

It's hard for us to comprehend the volume of Earth that has been burned over the millennia. It is estimated that in 2007 alone, 7 billion tons of coal were burned, and this number is increasing rapidly. Annual oil consumption, currently estimated at 1000 barrels per second, has similarly mind boggling numbers which are also increasing rapidly. Mining and burning of Earth essence contributes to depletion and insubstantiality of the planet and have the opposite effect of naturally occurring processes that would tend to rejuvenate planet Earth and restore its essence. This is obvious enough.

Thank you for your interest,

Stephen Elliott - COHERENCE

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Heaven and Earth *have the imperative* and the power to balance Fire and Water which only they can do. They accomplish this by increasing the amount of Water carried by the clouds. They accomplish this by increasing the area of the Earth's surface that is covered by Water, hence increasing evaporation. They accomplish this by taking Water out of reserve, i.e. glaciers and icecaps, thereby raising sea levels and expanding the area of the planet covered by Water, increased evaporation resulting in increased water borne by the clouds and increased rainfall upon the land.

Under natural conditions, increased rainfall would result in increased organic growth which over a long period of time would restore Earth's Yin essence, thereby returning Earth to a state of balance and quiescence. But organic matter continues to be cleared at an ever alarming rate, again as a function of the profit motive.

In 2004, a team of scientists from the US Geological Survey estimated that if all of Earth's ice were to melt it would raise sea level by 215 feet or about 65 meters above today's sea level. This would reduce the land surface area to a mere fraction of what it is today.