

Partial Blueprints for a Daoist Time-Machine

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Moving farther into the imaginal, through geomythology, immortal realms and transtemporal being, Chén Tuán's superstory points towards still other possibilities and potential actualizations. This might be thought of as another installment of "Chén Tuán's Dreamscape" and "Chén Tuán's Imaginarium," or perhaps it is the Imaginarium of Dr. K and the Black 5 decryption code. This relates to the possibility of a Daoist time-machine. While the latter is usually assumed to be mechanical in nature and to use conventional "laws" of (Newtonian) physics, it is possible that it is only loosely related to materiality as encountered, perceived, and apparently known. While having some potential connection to something like modern theoretical physics, it is more (or less) about the possibility and lived experience of what might be thought of as "alchemical somatics" (transformational embodiment) and transpersonal, transtemporal and perhaps even non-localized consciousness. The proposed Daoist time-machine relates to timeless modes, modes of timelessness. It encourages and ideally inspires us to consider Daoist and "non-Daoist" sources and expressions through a time-filter, one in which we imagine something beyond ordinary temporal modes.¹ Perhaps this represents a chronograph and photometer of immortality, that is, a way of (not)measuring time and light.

Based on my preliminary investigation and experimentation, I offer the following "fragments for a Daoist time-machine":

(1) Pure Chamber
(2) Mystical Cranial Locations
(3) Bird-Man Mountain
(4) Talismans for Entering the Mountains
(5) Gourd
(6) Three Islands
(7) Eight Trigrams and Sixty-four Hexagrams
(8) Ritual Space
(9) Spherical Astrolabe

Fragments for a Daoist Time-Machine²

¹ For some relevant dimensions of Daoist material and visual culture related to time-travel, which may represent still other parts of my proposed Daoist time-machine, see Needham et al. 1983; Baryosher-Chemouny 1996; Little 2000; 2011d, 2014b; Huang 2012; Despeux 2018.

² The sources are as follows: (1) *Lingbao wuliang durén shàngpǐn miào jīng fútú* 靈寶無量度人上品妙經符圖 (Talismanic Diagrams of the Upper Chapters of the Wondrous Scripture on Limitless Salvation of Numinous Treasure; DZ 148; ZH 203; abbrev. *Durén jīng fútú*), 3.2b; (2) *Zázhu jiéjīng* 雜著捷徑 (Miscellaneous Shortcuts from Various Authors), as contained in the *Xiūzhēn shíshū* 修真十書 (Ten Works on Cultivating Perfection; DZ 263; ZH 883), 18.2a; (3) *Xuánlǎn rénniǎo shān jīngtú* 玄覽人鳥山經圖 (Scriptural Diagram of Bird-Man Mountain via Mysterious Perception; DZ 434; ZH 283), 5a. See also DZ 1032, 80.20ab; (4) *Bàopǔzi nèipiān* 抱朴子內篇 (Book of Master Embracing Simplicity; DZ 1185; ZH 980), 17.21-22a; (5) Author's collection; (6) *Xiūzhēn tàijǐ hùnyuán tú* 修真太極混元圖 (Diagram of the Primordial Origin and Great Ultimate for Cultivating Perfection; DZ 149; ZH 877; trl. Baryosher-Chemouny 1996 [French]), 8a; (7) Author's collection, adapted from various sources; (8) *Wúshàng bìyào*

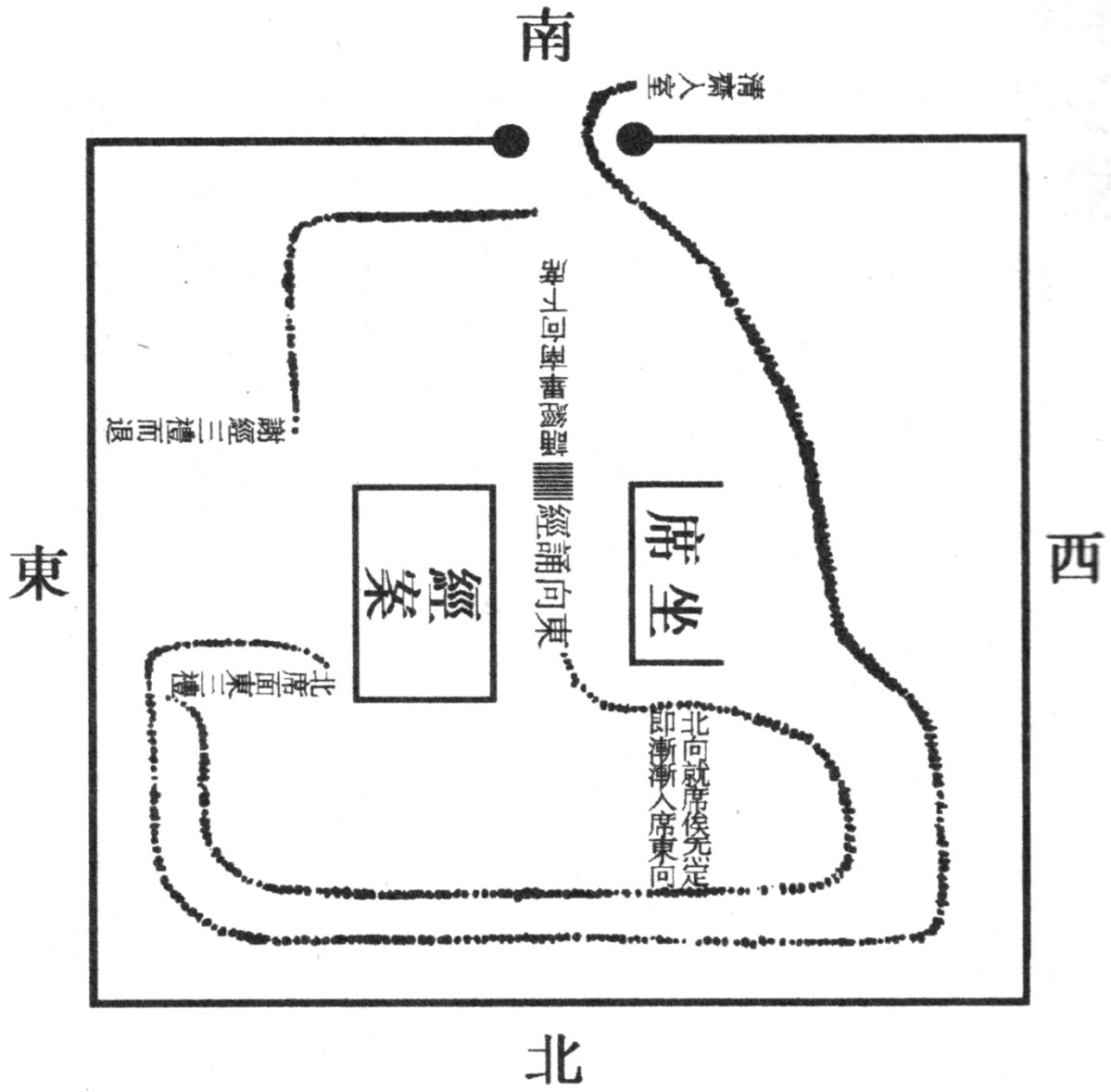
As of future-past, I have not yet produced a functional version of the proposed time machine. This may be because the sequencing is incorrect. I am fairly certain that the maps (#1-3, 6-8) are right, and that the portkeys (#4) and actual spacecraft (#5) are viable. It also seems like one needs a star-chart and astronomical measurement device (#9). That is, as far as I can determine, we need some knowledge of atmospheric and aperture science for the proposed time machine. The identified portals and corresponding access/axis-points (#2, 6 and 8) also seem correct. My team is still working to determine the correct design and configuration, specifically the way that the parts fit together in sequence.³ While I believe that the present design is operational, the following also seems plausible: 04, 03, 01, 02, 05, 07, 08, 09, 06, with quinary numerics being primary. I encourage other Daoist psychonauts to explore additional alternative sequences. If my dog and I (or my wife and her friends) have happened to disappear by the time that you read this, you will know that it works.



無上秘要 (Secret Essentials of the Limitless; DZ 1138; ZH 1076), 52.1a; and (9) “Zhōutiān xuánjī tú” 周天璇璣圖 (Diagram of the Jade-cog and Armil of the Celestial Cycle), as contained in the *Xìngmìng guīzhǐ* 性命圭旨 (Imperial Decrees on Innate Nature and Life-destiny; JHL 67; JH 5; ZW 314; QYC 12; trl. Darga 1999 [German]), 9.572. Note that a spherical astrolabe also is referred to as an armillary sphere.

³ We also must remember that many a former or future Daoist has moved through these portals into/out of timelessness, often disappearing and reappearing in broad daylight.

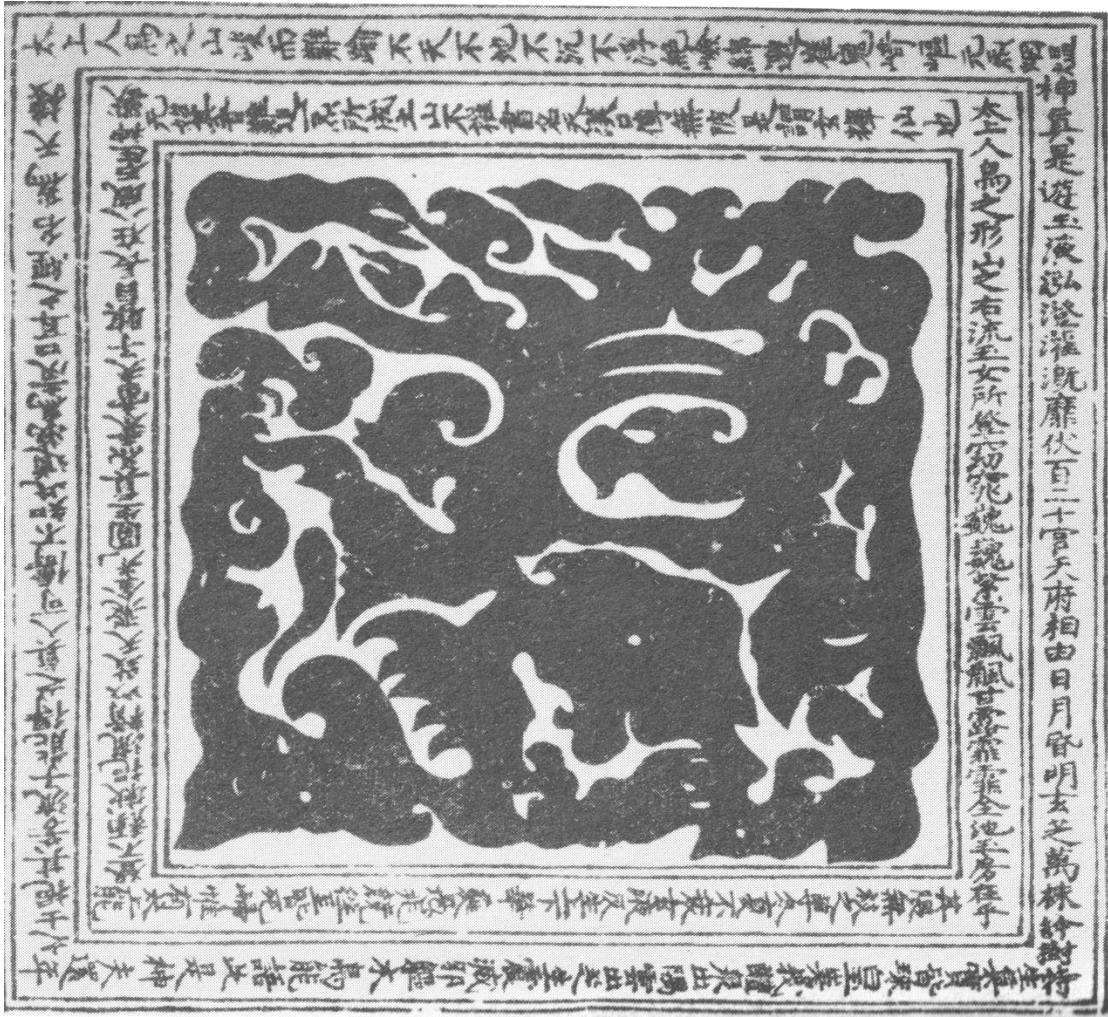
PURE CHAMBER



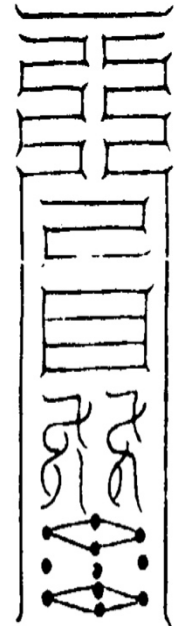
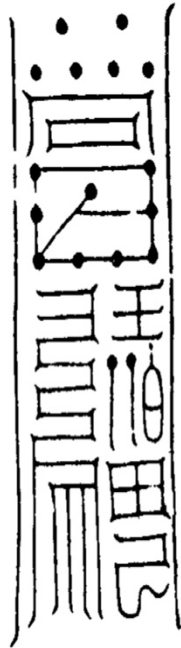
MYSTICAL CRANIAL LOCATIONS



BIRD-MAN MOUNTAIN



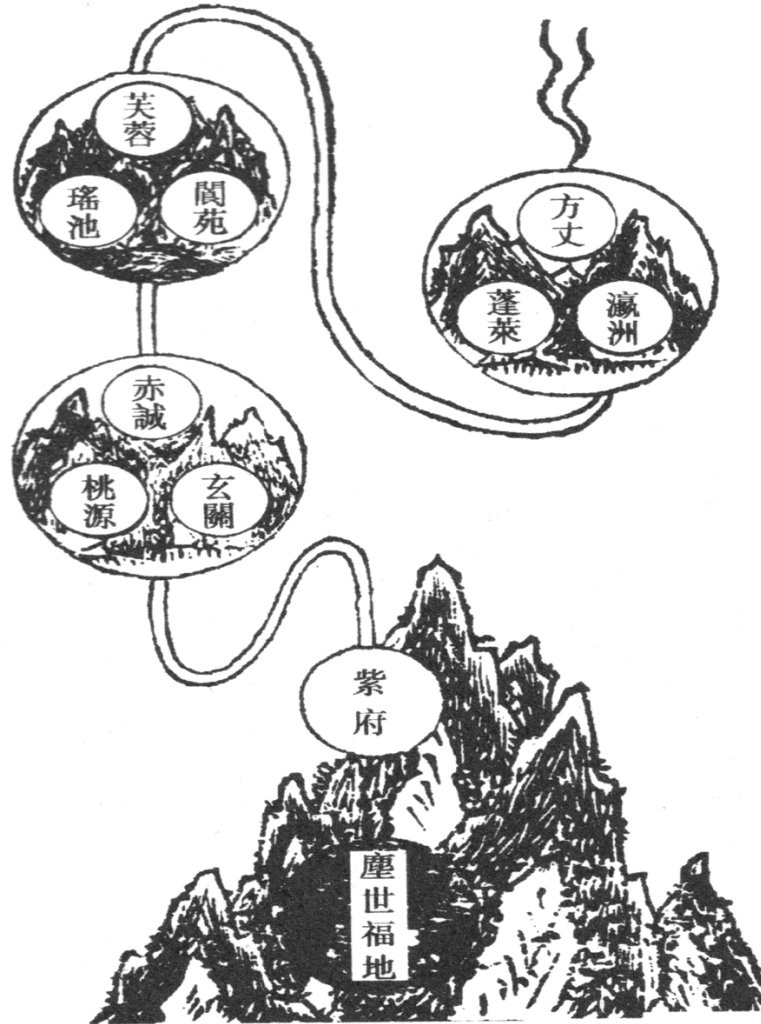
TALISMANS FOR ENTERING THE MOUNTAINS



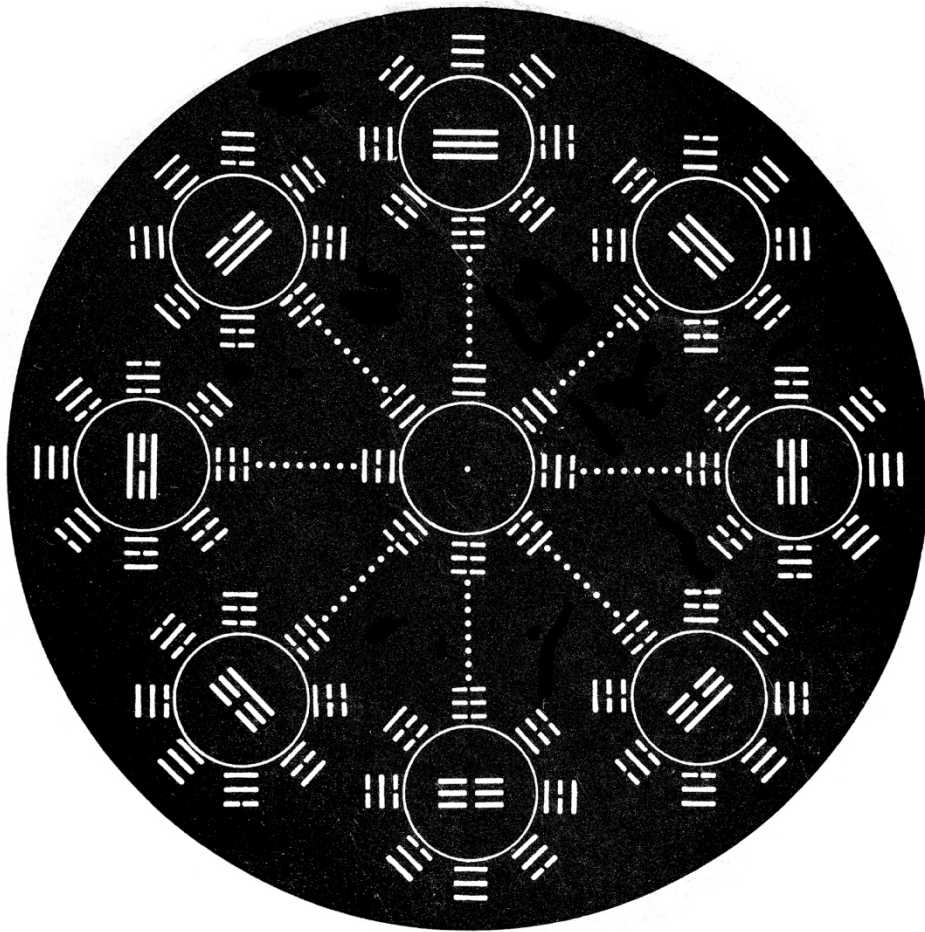
GOURD



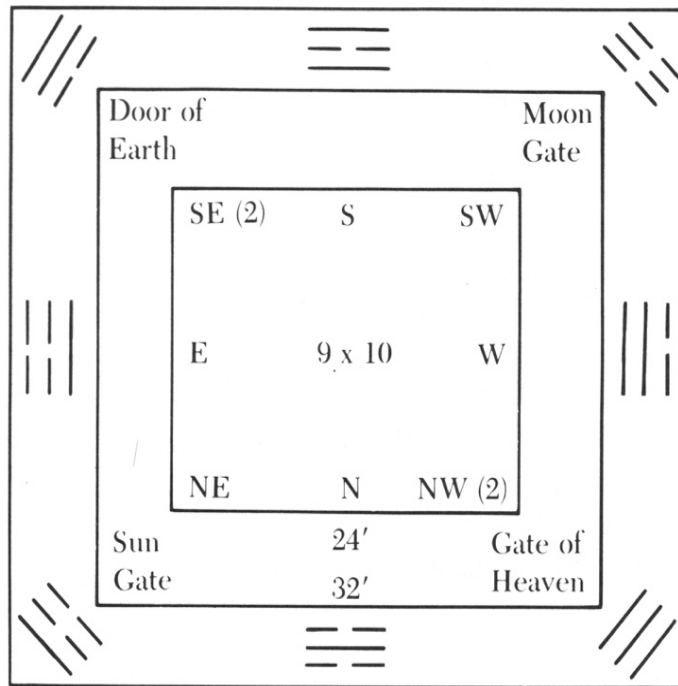
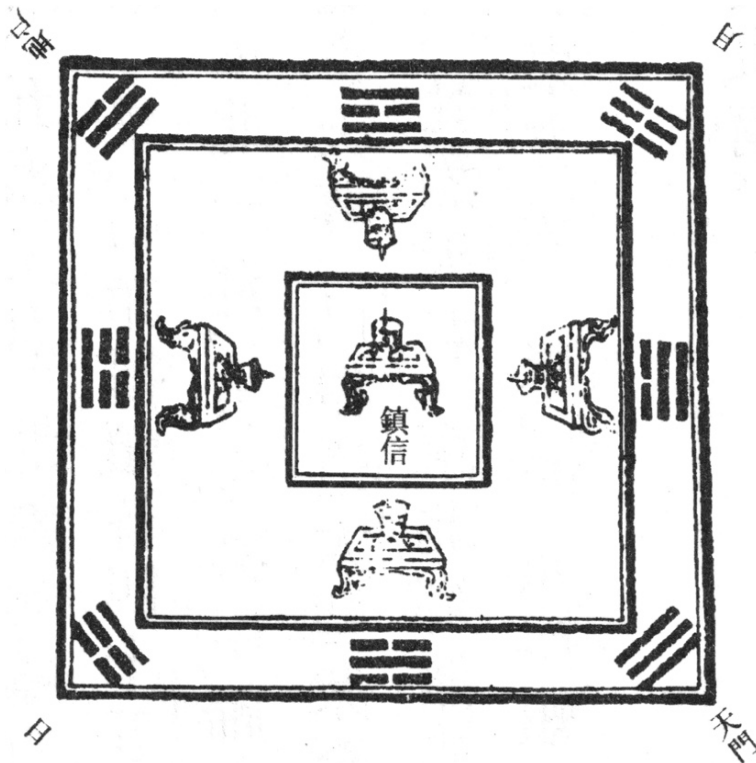
THREE ISLANDS



EIGHT TRIGRAMS AND SIXTY-FOUR HEXAGRAMS



RITUAL SPACE



SPHERICAL ASTROLABE

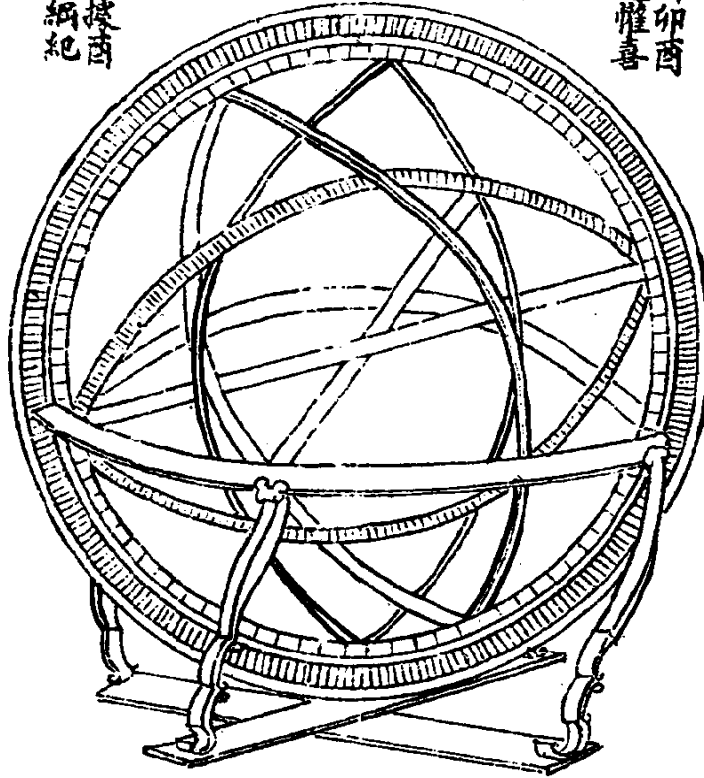
復臨泰壯夬乾兮六陽從左而上下

虎西龍東建緯卯酉
刑德並會相見惟喜

大道分明見此圖
璇璣卯酉法天然
由中道外中全外
自後推前後即前
陽火進來從左轉
陰符退去往西旋
霎時火候周天畢
煉類明珠似月圓

河魁臨卯天星據南
子南午北互為綱紀

始道否觀剝坤兮六陰往右而迴旋



北斗南辰下
眉毛眼底穿
反心行水火
定意採真鉛

陰向真磁滅
陽從眼裡生
這般平易法
因其沒人行