

Understanding the Elements 5 Element & 3 Cycles Relationships

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Understanding the elements

For those enthusiasts who want to scratch a bit deeper, this is a concise lesson in Understanding the Elements, a very important aspect of all, that helps one understand and appreciate the relationship between one Gua and another, as well as forms a basis for better understanding of Chinese Metaphysics.

There are two aspects

1. Understanding what each Gua, trigram or number is all about
2. Understanding how each Gua or trigram reacts to another.

You can refer to the Gua calculator & Relationship finder for more details

The 8 Guas

- There are 8 Guas in all.
- Each of the 8 Guas have an element that determines their character and relate to an element present in nature, hence absorb all their traits.

Yin Wood 4	Yin Fire 9	Yin Earth 2
Yang Wood 3	5 Earth	Yin Metal 7
Yang Earth 8	Yang Water 1	Yang Metal 6

The 5 Elements

- There are 5 elements and 2 polarities.
- Based on their element & polarity each one has a quality of its own and behaves differently with another.

Yin Wood 4	Yin Fire 9	Yin Earth 2
Yang Wood 3	5 Earth	Yin Metal 7
Yang Earth 8	Yang Water 1	Yang Metal 6

The 3 Cycles

The reactions referred to are based on the 3 cycles of

1. Production
2. Weakening
3. Controlling

Production Cycle

- Earth produces metal
- Metal produces Water
- Water produces Wood
- Wood produces Fire
- Fire produces earth



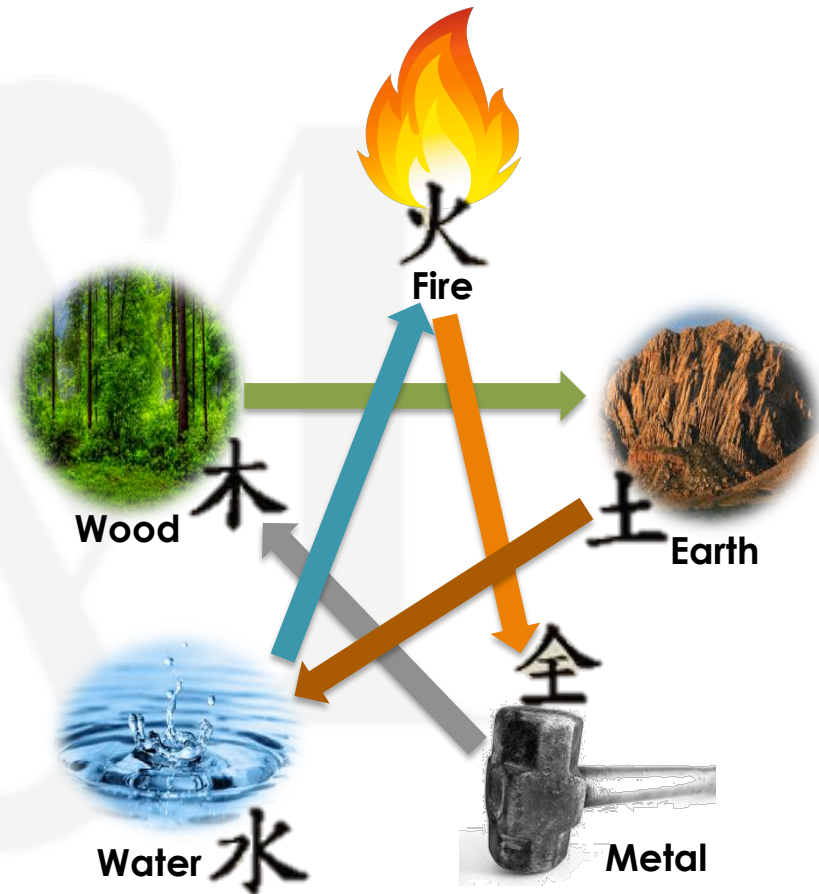
Weakening Cycle

- Earth weakens fire
- Metal weakens earth
- Water weakens metal
- Wood weakens water
- Fire weakens wood



Controlling Cycle

- Earth controls water
- Metal controls wood
- Water controls fire
- Wood controls earth
- Fire controls metal



How one Gua relates to another

GUA RELATIONSHIPS

1. Friend

When another Gua is the same element as you, we see it as a friend.

- 1 is a friend of 1 (water)
- 2 is a friend of 2, 5 & 8 (all are earth)
- 3 is a friend of 3 & 4 (both are wood)
- 6 is a friend of 6 & 7 (both are metal)
- 9 is a friend of 9 (fire)

2. Produces You

The element that produces you is good for you. It nurtures you and gives you health and confidence.

- 6 & 7 metal produces 1 water
- 9 fire produces 2, 5 & 8 earth
- 1 water produces 3 & 4 wood
- 2, 5 & 8 produce 6 & 7 metal
- 3 & 4 produce 9 fire

3. Controls You

The element that controls you is the husband for a woman. It represents your focus and power.

- 2, 5 & 8 earth controls 1 water
- 3 & 4 wood control 2, 5 & 8 earth
- 6 & 7 control 3 & 4 wood
- 9 fire controls 6 & 7 metal
- 1 water controls 9 fire

4. You Control

The element that you control is the wife for a man. It represents your wealth and what is your grasp..

- 1 is a friend of 1 (water)
- 2 is a friend of 2, 5, & 8 (all are earth)
- 3 is a friend of 3 & 4 (both are wood)
- 6 is a friend of 6 & 7 (both are metal)
- 9 is a friend of 9 (fire)

5. You Produce

The element that you produce represents ones output, speech, expression and talent. It is what one nurtures and looks after.

- 6 & 7 metal produces 1 (water)
- 9 fire produces 2, 5 & 8 (earth)
- 1 water produces 3 & 4 (wood)
- 2, 5 & 8 earth produces 6 & 7 (metal)
- 3 & 4 produce 9 (fire)

Summary of Relationships

Gua	Element	Friend	Produces you	Controls you	You control	You produce
1	Water	1	6, 7	2, 5, 8	9	3, 4
2, 5, 8	Earth	2, 5, 8	9	3, 4	1	6, 7
3, 4	Wood	3, 4	1	6, 7	2, 5, 8	9
6, 7	Metal	6, 7	2, 5, 8	9	3, 4	1
9	Fire	9	3, 4	1	6, 7	2, 5, 8