

Water in Western and Chinese Culture

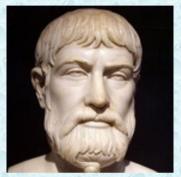
A Comparative Survey

by

Dr. Manfred Kubny

Water in Human Culture

Global admiration of water



Poet Pindar Πίνδαρος (522/518-446 BC) Ode Olympia, Strophe 1

"In all good things of nature, nothing is better than water; it brings and sustains life"

Laozi 老子 (6th cent. BC) Dao De Jing 道德經 "The Dao and its Virtue" 上善若水。水善利萬物。 Shàng shàn ruò shuǐ. Shuǐ shàn lì wànwù.

Highest good is like water: Water benefits the myriad things of the world.

Jewish-Christian
Living Water

Greece

Latin: Materia Prima

Greece Roman

Four Elements

Paracelsus (1493-1541)

The Genius or Spirit of Water

Beginning of Water Research

Johann Dryander (1500-1560)

Beginning of Water Cures

Family Hahn (fl.17./18.cent. AD)

Vinzenz Prießnitz (1799-1851)

Christoph Hufeland (Hydrotherapy)

Sebastian Kneipp (1821-1897)

Beginning of Water Business

Friedrich Hoffmann (1660-1742)

European Mineral Water Indust.

Pre



Dmitri Iwanowitsch Mendelejew (1834–1907)

Post

Evidence based Water Science

Soviet (1930 cont.)

Magnetism & Water

T. Vermeiren (fl. 1945)

Patent for Magn. & Water

Boris Derjaguin (1960 cont.)
Polywater

Jacques Benveniste ()
Memory of Water

Gerald Pollack

4th Stage of Water: EZ of water

Ecological glance to water

Viktor Schauberger (1885-1958)

Deification of water

Masuro Emoto (1943-2014)

Water has a message

Water Supply & Business

Value Added Water (since 1950) Filtered Water, Vitalized Water Desal-Industry, Water Fotography

Epoche	State of Development
Pre-Han 漢 Until 221 st BC	Animism, Creating of 5 phases system; Water regulation; early landscaping by Feng Shui 風水.
Han 漢 221 BC - 200 AD	Huang-Lao- 黄老 Daoism, combination of Confucianism and Daoism creates all pattern to explain the world. Water is mainly on of the 5 phases.
Post-Han until end Tang 唐 960 AD	Development of danist longevity technics (養生 yangsheng)
Song 宋 960-1200 AD	Realistic Neo-Confucianism ("Investigating the objects" 科物 kewu). Qi 氣 is materia. Discovering of magnetism. "Emptiness and Qi" 虛氣 (xu qi), "Structure and Qi" 理氣 (li qi)
Ming 明 (1368-1644)	Idealistic Neo-confucianism ("Everyone is a expression of the same heart"). Life force is immaterial and moral. "Good Knowledge" 良知 (liang zhi) of nature.
Qing 清 (1644-1911)	Assimilation of Western scientific exploration and ideas into the Chinese worldview.

General Accepted Attributes of Water

Water is the origin of all creation.

Water is everywhere.

Water is energy.

Water is climate.

Water is living space.

Water is edible and natural stimulant.

Water is a remedy.

Water is not even water.

General Accepted Attributes of Water

- Water is following courses.
- Water spontaneously flows downward.
- Water is a carrier (detritus or information).
- Water is soft, yielding and uncontending.
- Water takes any shape.
- Still water becomes level.
- Still water clears itself of sediments and becomes reflective.
- Water is "mirroring"鑑 (jian) something.
- Water is difficult so see.
- Intelligence is related to water.
- Water is Yin 陰. Fire is Yang 陽.
- Water is representing change, mountains are representing continuity.

Words for water in different languages

Indo-European

English "Water"

German "Wasser"

Islandish "Vatn"

Celtic/Scottish/Irish "Uisge", "Uisce"

Russian "Вода" (voda) [spoken: [Wada"]

Polish "Woda"

Baltic (Lutanian) "Vanduo"

Sanscrit Languages Singhal: "watura"

Latin

Spanish/Italian "aqua"

> French "eau"

Other

Greece "Nero"

Hebrew "maïm" מים

> Turkish "Su"

Apache "tū"

Hindu "jal" जल

Chinese

Mandarin "Shui"

> 水 (shui)

Japanese

Hiragana "Mizu"

水 (みゆ, mizu)

Hebrew-Christian Tradition

- Water is Materia Prima.
- "... and the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." (2)
- Life is a product created by spirit and water.
- The living body is "spirit in water."



Hebrew-Christian Tradition

The Living Water

The wellspring of the *Living* Water is the source of Life.

It creates physical health and mental health.

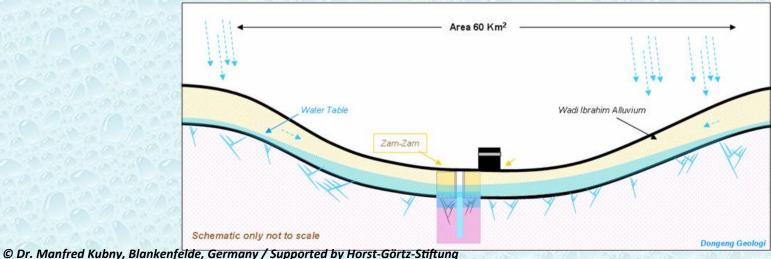
Jewish Mikwe-tradition leads to Christian Baptism.

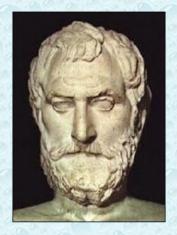
Material and spiritual aspects of human life are unified in water.

Islamic Tradition The paradise is a garden rich of water: The well spring Zamzam









Thales of Miletus (fl. 624-546 BC)

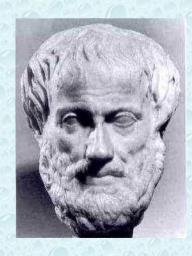
"Water is the principle of all things; all things are created from water and all things return to water."



The Greece Early ideas

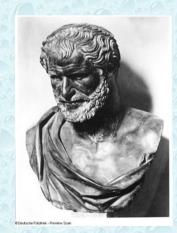
Diogenes Laertius (fl. 3d cent. BC)

"The beginning of all is Water, the cosmos is animated and full of gods.



Aristoteles (384-322 BC)

The Quality of water depends on the earth through which it is moving.



Heraclitus of Ephesus (fl. 535-475 BC)

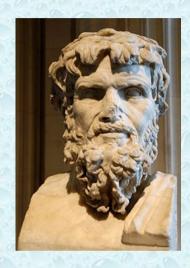
"It means death to the souls, when they become water. It means death for water, to become earth. Earth produces water, waters produces souls. "

The Greece Water outside of the Humoral Pathology



Asklepios
God of Medicine

After a bath in ice cold water the red blooming skin of the patient is the natural symptom of recovering.



Celsus (25 BC - 50 AD)

First definition of different kinds of water in nature and their medical usages.

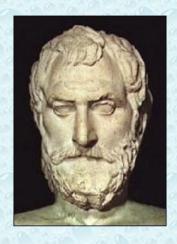
Fully developed medical bath culture in Antique Greece and during the Roman empire.



Plinius the Older (22/23-79 AD)

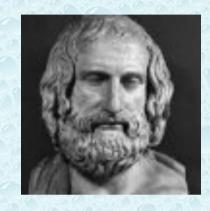
Largest Roman description of the nature of different waters and their medical application.

The Greece Four Elements World Conception



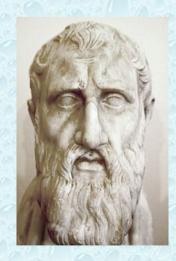
Thales of Miletus (fl. 624-546 BC)

"All substances are aspects of the primordial matter water."



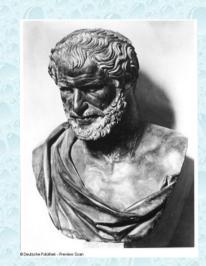
Diogenes Laertius (fl. 3d cent. BC)

"The four elements fire, air, water and earth are equally ranking primordial matters.



Zenon of Kiton (333-262 BC)

Pneuma is a 5th
Element.
Air and Fire are active
and Pneuma like.
Earth and Water are
passive and Pneuma-



Heraklitus of Ephesus (fl. 535-475 BC)

"The Materia Prima is fire. "

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The Greece Humoral Pathology





Element	Fire	Air	Water	Earth
Attributes (Aristoteles)	warm and dry	warm and humid	cold and humid	cold and dry
Humores (Galen)	Chole (Yellow Gall Liquid)	Sanguis (Blood)	Phlegm (Slime)	Melanchole (Black Gall Liquid)
Temperament	choleric	sanguinic	phlegmatic	melancholic
Humoral Attributes	passionate	sanguine	languorous	sad
Organ	Liver	Heart	Brain	Spleen
Mental	excitable, rage	agile, impulsive, optimistic	even tempered, not excitable	pessimistic, introvert
Physics	active, pneuma-like light	active pneuma-like light	passive Pneuma-unlike heavy	passive Pneuma-unlike heavy

The Fountain of Youth Water and the Hope für Salvation



Is the Fountain of Youth an enhanced concept of the Hebrew-Christian idea of the living water?

Medieval Times until Renaissance



(1098-1179 AD)

Jewels are produced by fire and water, therefore are containing them.



Paracelsus (1493-1541 AD)

All minerals are born in the element water and after becoming fully matured are returning into water.

The Tris Principa (Salt, Sulfur and Mercurius) therefore are a product of the Genius in Water.



Jacobo de'Dondi (1318-1389 AD)

Revived the ideas of Aristoteles concerning the discussion about the nature of water.



Johann Dryander (1500-1560 AD)

First analytical examination of water by the destillation of water and the further investigation of the remaining substances.

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Renaissance and later



Johann Gottfried Hahn (1694-1753 AD)

Early Water Healer, who cured prominent people and was ennobled for that.



Sir John Floyer (1649-1734 AD)

In his book Psychrolusia he established water as a panaceae driving the sharpness out of the body, and invented the physical inurement by cold water.



Johann Siegmund Hahn (1696-1673)

Wrote the first lecture book about the concepts of water cure.

That book influenced Sebastian Kneipp.



Friedrich Hoffmann

Friedrich Hoffmann (1660-1742 AD)

Created the most successful pharmacological product made out of the remaining substances after destilling water:

The Hoffmann Drops

Renaissance and later



Etienne Francois Geoffroy (1672-1731 AD)

Deduced hygiene principle from the nature of water.



Vinzenz Prießnitz (1799-1851 AD)

Was a farmer who healed patients by his own water cure. For that he was accused to practice witchcraft and wizardry.



Eucharius Ferdinand Christian Örtel (1765-1850 AD)

Founded the Association of Water Drinkers which was suppressed by the Bavarian Government as a subversive organization.



Remigius Fresenius (1818-1897 AD)

Developed the precipitation analysis for water.

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Water in Homeopathy

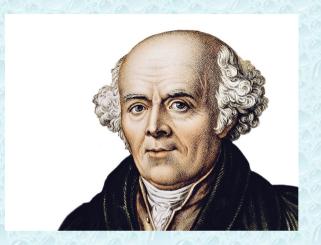
Essay written during the year 1821:

"Wie können kleine Gaben so sehr verdünnter Arznei, wie die Homöopathie sie vorschreibt, noch Kraft, noch große Kraft haben?"

"How it is possible that small applications of diluted medicine, like it is prescribed by Homoepathy, are still comprising highest efficiency"

(In) Schmidt, M. Josef und Kaiser, Daniel: Samuel Hahnemann - Gesammelte kleine Schriften. [Samuel Hahnemann - Collected Short Essays] Heidelberg [Karl F. Haug-Verlag] 2001, pp. 722-726.

Samuel Hahnemann (1755-1843)



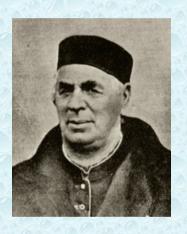
Water is a diluting agent.

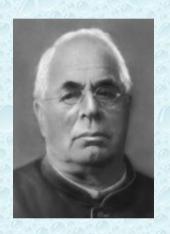
It has a pyrolising effect.

It is freeing the active ingredient from material contamination.

The active ingredient is volatile.

Sebastian Kneipp (1821-1897) The pop star of all water healers











Suffered tuberculosis in younger years and administered a successful self-medication inspired by the publication of the family Hahn.

Driven by that experience he developed an homogenous system of applicable water cure procedures.

Victor Schauberger (1885-1958) Water and Ecology

Different kinds of water

Phenomena of the quiescent trout in flowing water

Full and half water circulation

Ripe and unripe water

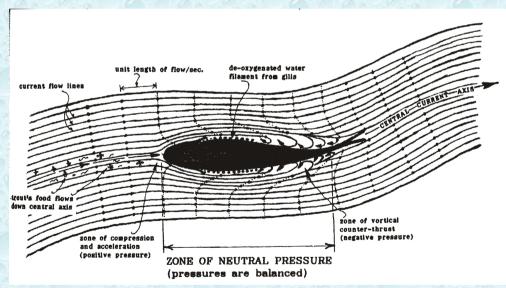
Cycloid movement of water

Implosion versus explosion

Diamagnetism and levitation

Healing water and living water





Early European Mineral Water Industry

Quantity of millions of pitchers

Full pitchers Half pitchers Old pitchers Sum of all

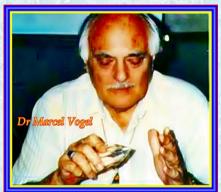


20th. Century



V<u>ladimirowich</u> Deryagin (1902-1994)

speculated about the Polywater.



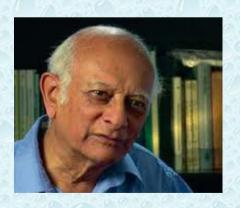
Marcel Vogel (1917-1991)

speculated about the transfer and store of Information in fluid crystals.



Jacques Benveniste (1935-2004)

speculated about the Memory of Water.



Rustum Roy (1924-2010)

discovered molecular structures of different seize and quality in water.

Shuwen Jiezi 說文解字 Compiled 100 – 121 AD by Xu Shen 許慎 (58-148 AD)

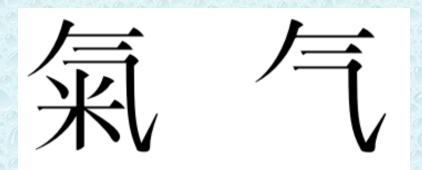


"Water"水 (shuǐ)

"Water is a standard." 水者準也。 (Shui zhe zhun ye.)

亅 才 水 水

Lifeforce Concept Qi 氣



Qi is a life force concept with multiple meanings concerned to different fields of knowledge.



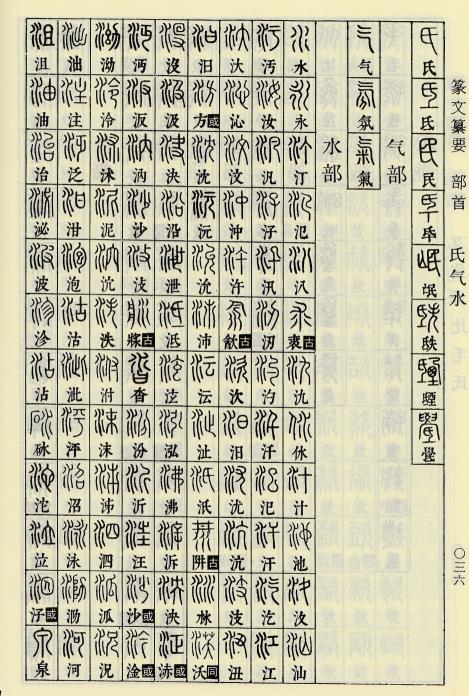
"Curling vapors rising from the ground and forming clouds above" [Wieger]

Kangxi Zidian 康熙字典

"Dictionary of the Emperor Kangxi"

Compiled 1710 - 1716 AD

List of entries for "Water"
水
(shuǐ)
at all
516 entries



Classifications of water

Qinding Gujin Tushu Jicheng

欽定古今圖書集成

"Emperial Collection of Ancient and New Graphs and Writing" 1700-1725 AD

> Entries for "Water"水 (shuǐ)

As "Water" 水 (shui) in the section "Environmental Divination" 堪與 (kanyu) Chapt. 25-28

As "Pools and Swamps" 池沼 (chizhao) in the section "Technical Knowledge and special Abilities" 考工 (kaogong) Chapt. 124-128

As "Strange Phenomena of Water" 異水 (yishui) in the section "Numerous Phenomena" 庶微 (shuzheng) Chapt. 133-134

"Great Yu Controls the Waters" 大禹治水 (Dà Yǔ Zhì Shuǐ)

Yu 禹 (fl. 2200-2101 BC) successfully devised a system of flood controls that were crucial in establishing the prosperity of the Chinese heartland.

Yu made a system of irrigation canals which relieved floodwater into fields, as well as spending great effort dredging the riverbeds.



Chinese Medicine
Basics



Qi (Ch'i, Chi)

Every traditional Science is investigating the lifeforce Qi. Qi is the Materia prima.

陰陽

Yin und Yang

五行

(wuxing) Five Phases

The concept of Yin Yang and the Five Phases contain all phenomena of the physical world.

General accepted attributes of water

	Qi Life	Knowledge	Righteousness
Water and Fire	氣 (qi)		
Plants	氣 (qi) +生 (sheng)		
Animals	氣 (qi) +生 (sheng)	+志(zhi)	
Humans	氣 (qi) +生 (sheng)	+志(zhi)	+ 義 (yi)

Confucianism

"Oh Water! Oh Water!" 水哉,水哉。 (Shui zai, shui zai.)

Water as a model for right virtue and good reputation.



Confucius 孔子 (551-479 BC)

"That is water from an ample source …."

"If a thing has no source, it is like rain water."

"Exaggerated reputation is like water without source."

"Thus a gentlemen is ashamed of an exaggerated reputation."



Mencius 孟子 (372-289 BC)

Philosophical Daoism Laozi 老子 (fl. 6 cent. BC)

上善若水。水善利萬物而不爭, 故几于道。

Highest good is like water: water benefits the things of the world and does not fight. Hence it is very close to the Dao. [Dao summarizes all actions of 氣 (qi).]

混兮, 其若濁。

Turbid, like muddied water.

天下莫柔弱于水,而攻堅強者莫之能勝,以其無以易之。弱之勝強,柔之勝剛,天下莫不知。

Nothing in the world is more weak and soft than water, yet nothing surpasses it in conquering the hard and strong – there is nothing that can compare.

Everyone knows: The weak conquers the strong and the soft conquers the hard.



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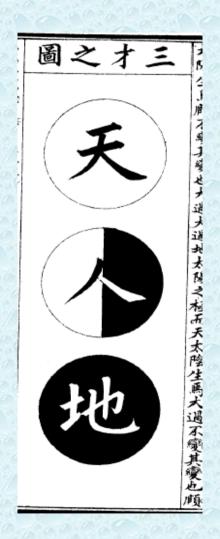
All downwards flowing and therefore accumulating water is called:

All upwards moving (evaporating) water and therefore visibly dissoluting water is called:

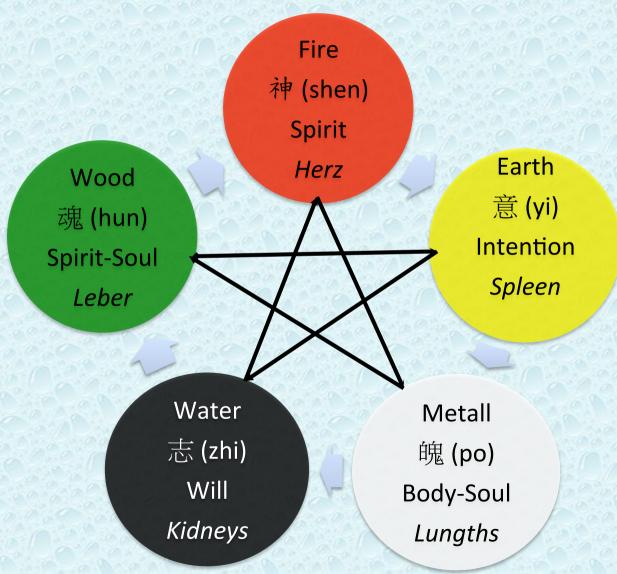
"Yin-Water" 癸 (gui) [Abbr. -W]

Water in Nature

陰陽 Yin Yang Paradigm



Huanglao 黄老 Daoism (since 1st BC) Five Phase System





Water in Chinese Culture Aspects of the Element Water

Philosophical Daoism

Huanglao 黄老 Daoism (since 1st BC)

Five Phase System

Aspects	Phenomena
Direction	North
Season	Winter
Physical process factor	Coldness
Biological Evolution	Storage
Colour	Black
Zang-(Storage)-Organ (Yin)	Kidneys
Fu-Organ-(Palace)-Organ (Yang)	Bladder
Sensory Organs	Ear
Tissue	Bones, Teeth, Nerves, Hair of Head
Emotion	Fear
Sounds generated by humans	moaning
Smell	Putrid
Taste	Sweet



Complementary Relationship between Water and Fire

Water



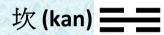
Fire

Scientific Daoism

Ontology by the eight Trigrams







shuĭ 水

hǎo

Èr

уī

"Water is good: 既濟 (jiji)

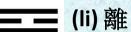
Assembling Nature 合 (he)

Two, one"

Water over Fire

Perfect arrangement







Fire over Water

未濟 (weiji) Chaos

huŏ

huài

Yī

_ èr

"Fire is bad: One, Two"

Disaggregating Nature 散 (san)

Scientific Daoism Substance-Function Paradigm

"Substance" 體 (ti) and "Function" 用 (yong)



Water is the "substance" 體 (ti) and the waves of water are its "function" 用 (yong).

versus

Buddism 佛 (fo) says:

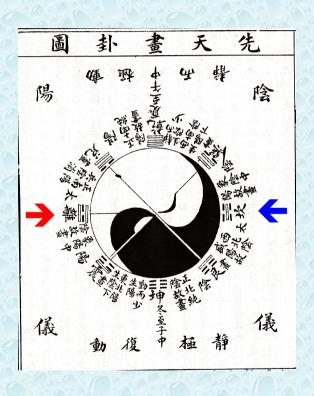
The wind is the "reason" 因 (yin) and the waves of water are its "effect" 果 (guo).

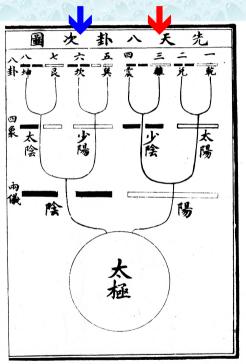
"Reason" 因 (yin) and "Effect" 果 (guo)

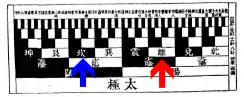
Complementary Relationship between Water and Fire

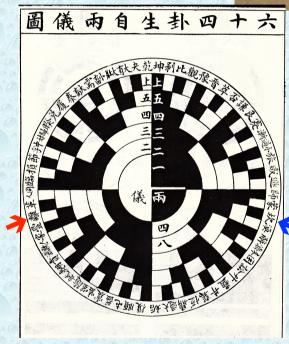
Scientific Daoism Ontology by the eight Trigrams







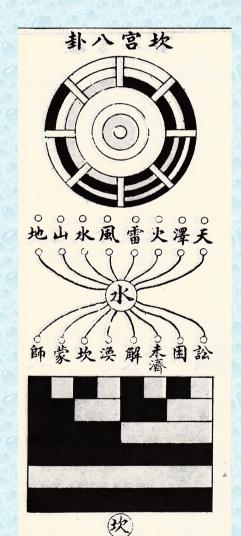




Water, Fire and the lifeforce Qi 氣 (qi)



Song Yingxing 宋應星 (1587-1666)



Water and Fire are direct expression of Qi in the visible world

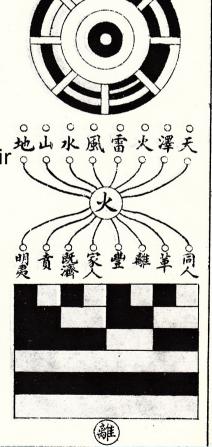
They have no exact form and are constantly scintillating between the state of Qi and their own physical manifestation.

Water is a "full" manifestation of Qi. Fire is an "empty" manifestation of Qi.

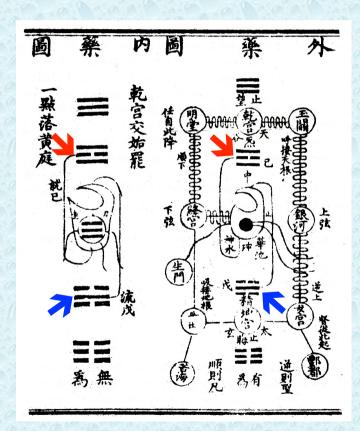
The combination of both elements creates life.





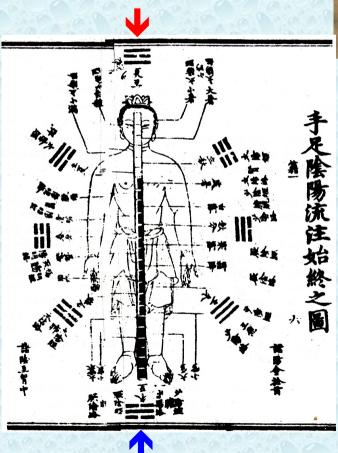


Complementary Relationship between Water and Fire



Scientific Daoism Longevity Technics





Zang Shu 葬書 "Book of Graveyards"

Water in Chinese Life Sciences Traditional Chinese Landscaping Feng Shui 風水 "Wind and Water"

氣乘風則散,界水為止。古人聚之使不散,行之使有止,故為之風水。

Qì chéng fēng zé sàn, jiè shuǐ wéizhǐ. Gǔrén jù zhī shǐ bù sàn, xíng zhī shǐ yǒu zhǐ, gù wèizhī fēngshui.

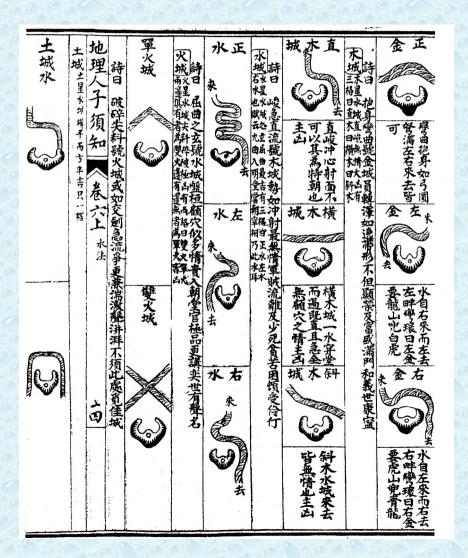
If Qi is riding the wind, dispersement will happen,

if it is confining the water, stillstand will be the result.

People of ancient times accumulated [Qi] and didn't provoke dispersement, they guided it to stillstand.

That is the reason [the technique] is called Wind and Water.

Improving life conditions



Water in Chinese Life Sciences Traditional Chinese Landscaping Feng Shui 風水 "Wind and Water"

In Feng Shui the water is the authentic expression of Qi in nature.

Following the water ways from the mountain peak to the valley gives knowledge about the Qi of the natural landscape.

Detecting a natural or creating a virtual "Water-Dragon" 水龍 (shuilong) to improve life quality.

Accumulating water means to accumulate "Vital-Qi" 生氣 (shengqi).

The structure of water ways defines the quality Of the environment.

Ideal pattern of The environment

Water in Chinese Life Sciences Traditional Chinese Landscaping Feng Shui 風水 "Wind and Water"



Samples of excellent arrangements of water ways for ancestor worship and professional career.

Slow moving water is benign.

Torrent water is malign.

治 (zhi)

To regulate, administrate, irrigate, treat, medicate.



"Fullness" "Completion" 實 (shi) "Emptiness" "Depletion" 虚 (xu)

Chinese Medicine Water as a Medical Model



Main Therapeutic interventions

"to draen" 瀉 (xie) "to replenish sth."浦 (pu)

Classification of Acupuncture Points

"Source Points"源穴 (yuanxue) "Dwell Points"井穴 (jingxue) "Brook Points" 滎穴 (yingxue) "Transport Points" 腧穴 (shuxue) "Streaming Points" 經穴 (jingxue) "Assembling Points" 合穴 (hexue) "See of Qi" 氣海 (qihai)

Categories of Medical Water

Chinese Pharmacology Benzao Gangmu 本草綱目 "Register of Roots and Herbs"

天水 (tianshui) Waters from Heaven

地水 (dishui) Waters from Earth

Unspecified Water

13 kinds of water

Rain water Dew Spirit Water

31 kinds of water

Spring water

Mountain water

Water processed by Human

Additional mentioned liquids classified as water, like processed water, organic liquids, cell water, Poisoning water, waste water etc.

Chinese Medicine

The Concept of Qi in Modern Chinese Sciences

"Energy Carrier Transporting Life Informations"



"Informational Wave Motion Producing Ordering Effect"

Qi (Ch'i, Chi)

"Infrared Radiation of the Audio-Frequency Range"

"Magnetic Information of the Audio-Frequency Range"

"Subatomar Flowing Signals" (or.) "Flux of Microinformations"

"Infrasonics", "Flux of Biological Ions", "Visible Effect of Radiance", "Soft Effect of Radiance"

Water in Western Culture

Scientific Approaches Concerning Water

Evidence based approach to disclose water secrets by physical and chemical research.

Benveniste, Chaplin, Pollack, 4th state of water Water has hitherto unknown abilities, for instance a memory.

Euphoric approach by the eulogization of water

Water is miroring the mental condition of the human being. (Emoto) Water has to be worshipped (Emoto)

Commercial approach

Production of drinkable water

- a) Drinking water in order to survive:

 Desalination and other water supply technologies
- b) Drinking Water in order to improve
 Production of value added water, vitalization of water
- c) Mineral- and Healing Water Industry

Water in Western and Chinese Culture

Similarities between both cultures

Western Science of Water	Classical Chinese Philosophy
Negative and positive charges between earth and heaven	"Yin and Yang" 陰陽 duality between earth and heaven
Coherence	"The same Qi is resonant to each other" 同氣相應 (Tong qi xiang ying.) [Yijing 易經 "Book of Changes"]
"Life is spirit in water." (Jewish) Light is animating water.	"Water and fire" 水火 (shuihuo) complementarity in Daoist longevity technics of the "Inner Elixir" 內丹 (neidan)
Ability for selfregulation	"Preserving the unity" 抱一 (baoyi) in Daoist longevity technics; primate of simplicity
Water is containing vibrations.	"Substance and Function" 體用 (tiyong) paradigm
The vacuum isn't empty.	"Emptiness-Qi" 虛氣 (xuqi) paradigm of Zhang Zai 張載 (1020-1077)
Biological fields, water structure, crystal and life	"Structure-Qi"理氣 (liqi) paradigm of Zhu Xi 朱熹 (1120-1200)
Water is containing life information.	"Good Knowledge" 良知 (liangzhi) paradigm of Wang Yangming 王陽明 (1472-1529)

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Water in Japanes Culture

Shintoism 神道 What is a Kami 神?

Water as an object of worship

The concept of 神 (kami) gives Japanese people the possibility to enhance and modify their believing by an individual selected aspects.

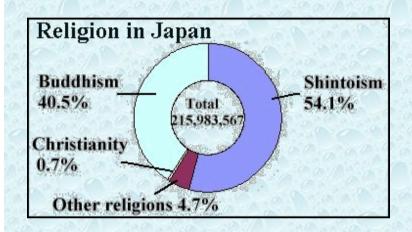
Motoori Norinaga 本居宣長 (1730-1801):

"A kami is anything that can fill us with wonder and awe."

Water in Japanese Culture

Shintoism 神道

Water as an object of worship



"New Religions" 新宗教 (shinshūkyō)

Seichō-no-le (jap. 生長の家) "House of Growth" Ōmoto-kyō (大本教) "Teaching of the Big Resource" Sekai Kyūsei Kyō 世界救世教 Church of World Messianity

Year 2017

Japanese Population 126.000.000

Members of Religious Societies 210.000.000

"New, New Religions" 新新宗教 (shin shinshūkyō)

Sukyo Mahikari 崇教真光 "Worship of the True Light" Gedatsu-kai 解脱会 "Nirwana Association"

Water in Japanese Culture

Water as an object of worship



Asian people, who are praying to water.

Does the worshipped water fullfills the role of a

Kami Mizu 神水?

Masuro Emoto 江本 勝 (1943-2014)



Water is storing informations: It Knows!

Water is mirroring the psyche of human beings.

Water crystals are the entrance to another dimension

Words are not created by human, they already existed before them: Seichō-no-le 生長の家

All human are expressions of the same heart:
Ming 明 (1368-1644) Idealistic Neoconfucianism
Humans are part of the water.

Water has a message.

The cure is based on a dialogue with water.

Water in human Culture

Shrinking natural water supply

The real water problem



