

REFLECTION IN THE WATER-MIRROR:  
TURNING THE TIDE OF DESTINY

水鏡  
回天錄  
白話解

## Huangdi (Yellow Emperor)

# 黃帝 (續)(Continued)

宣公上人講於1987年10月30日

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黃帝又教人民造屋宇、營殯葬，解決人民食、衣、住、行及生死問題。百姓得以安其居，樂其業，中華民族從此邁向文明，黃帝之功不可沒。

他的臣子倉頡（具四眼）仰觀天象，俯視山河大地之形，細察飛禽走獸的足跡，觸發靈感，而創造出象形文字，並作「六書」，這是中國有文字的開始。在此之前，人民只會結草繩來記事，大事結大結，小事結小結；自此之後以文字記載。

另一位臣子大撓，又發明以天干地支來記算年月日的方法，造了甲子；天干有甲、乙、丙、丁、戊、己、庚、辛、壬、癸十數；地支有子、丑、寅、卯、辰、巳、午、未、申、酉、戌、亥十二數。以天干、地支相配，六十年為一輪，稱為一甲子。如此循環使用來記載日期，很是方便，即便是四千多年後的今天，仍然有人使用。黃帝又命伶倫定律呂（即樂律），容成造曆法，又與精於醫道的歧伯討論醫術，而有了醫書黃帝內經。從此教化大興，百姓親和，天下歸心。他的聖德廣被，至今五千年，子孫仍蒙他的恩澤，堪稱為中國歷史上的第一位聖君。

The Yellow Emperor also taught people to build houses, managed funerals and burials, and solved

the issues of clothing, eating, living, travel, and the matters of life and death. The common people then lived and worked in peace and contentment. Henceforth, Chinese people advanced toward civilization. The merits and achievements of the Yellow Emperor cannot be forgotten.

His official, Cangjie (who had four eyes), observed astronomical phenomena, surveyed the shapes of the mountains, rivers and earth and examined in minute detail the tracks of birds and beasts. These phenomena inspired him to create pictographs and compose the “the six categories of characters”. This marked the beginning of writing in China. Prior to this invention, people would tie knots in straw rope to record events: big knots for big and important events and small knots for minor events. Ever since this invention, writing was used to record events.

Another official, Darao, invented the method of calculating and recording the year, month, and days by using the combination of the Heavenly Stems and Earthly Branches. He created the sexagenary cycle; the ten Heavenly Stems are jia (first), yi (second), bing (third), ding (fourth), wu (fifth), ji (sixth), keng (seventh), xin (eighth), ren (ninth), kei (tenth). The Earthly Branches are zi (first), chou (second), yin (third), mao (fourth), chen (fifth), si (sixth), wu (seventh), wei (eighth), shen (ninth), you (tenth), xu (eleventh), and hai (twelfth). Matching the ten Heavenly Stems and twelve Earthly Branches makes a cycle of sixty years, called one jia-zi. Using such a cycle to record dates is very convenient. Even to the present day, which has been more than four thousand years since its invention, people still use this system. The Yellow Emperor also commanded his official Lin Lun to create patterns for music and Rongcheng to create the calendar system. Through his discussions of medicine with Qibo who was an expert in medicine, the Yellow Emperor composed the book, *The Medical Classic of the Yellow Emperor*. From then on, the teachings and culture flourished. All citizens were compatible with each other, and the minds of the people were united. His sagely virtues benefited all. Although it has been five thousand years since his time, his descendants still reap benefits from him. He is truly considered the first sage-emperor in Chinese history.

The Yellow Emperor passed away after a reign of one hundred years. After his

黃帝在位百年而崩，死後葬在陝北橋山（陝西省黃陵縣），現有黃帝陵供人憑弔；每逢清明時節，即民族掃墓日，很多人都到黃帝陵去祭拜，以表示追遠不忘之意，後人尊他為中華民族的始祖。

贊曰：軒轅黃帝 中國祖紀  
鑿戰蚩尤 造指南器  
發明農業 養蠶耕地  
教化大興 不遺餘力

「軒轅黃帝，中國祖紀」：黃帝原叫做軒轅，被擁護為帝以後，因其德如土，而被稱為黃帝。後人尊他為中華民族的始祖，而稱自己為「炎黃子孫」。

「鑿戰蚩尤，造指南器」：他和南方蠻族蚩尤大戰時，被困於霧中，就以南極吸磁的原理而發明指南車，大破蚩尤；蚩尤被誅，四海歸順。所謂四海之內皆兄弟也，以後人稱炎黃子孫，皆為同胞。指南器是中國三大發明（指南針、火藥、印刷術）之一，可惜後人沒有把它發揚光大，錯用它為羅盤，專為看陰陽宅、風水的工具。但傳到歐洲後，西洋人將它變成航海的工具，所以哥倫布才能發現新大陸。

「發明農業，養蠶耕地」：在黃帝之前，中國是遊牧部族，散居各地，過的是遷徙往來無定處的遊牧生活。黃帝成為天下共主之後，便發明耕耘的工具，教民耕稼，順四時之所宜而種植百穀草木，開始過耕田食穀的農業生活。黃帝的正妃嫫祖，又教人民養蠶織布。所以百姓穿有衣、食有粟，衣食無虞，安居樂業。

「教化大興，不遺餘力」：他們兩個人將所有的精力都用來教化人民，男耕女織，使人人自

death, he was buried at the Bridge Mountain in Northern Shan (currently Huangling County of the Shanxi Province). The Yellow Emperor's mausoleum was set up there for people to grieve and pay respects to him. In particular, on the Memorial Day for the Ancestors, many people will go to the mausoleum and bow to him as a way to remember him. His posterity reveres him as the Chinese nation's first ancestor.

*Praise:*

**Xuanyuan, the Yellow Emperor, was the first ancestor of China. Battling against Chiyou, he created the South-Pointing Chariot. Through the invention of agriculture, raising silkworms and cultivating the land, He spared no effort in teaching people how to flourish.**

**Xuanyuan, the Yellow Emperor, was the first ancestor of China.** The Yellow Emperor's original name was Xuanyuan. After he ascended the throne, he received the title of Yellow Emperor because his virtue was as great as the Earth. His offsprings revered him as the first ancestor of the Chinese nation and name themselves "the descendents of Yandi and the Yellow Emperor."

**Battling against Chiyou, he created the South-Pointing Chariot.** When engaged in fierce battle with Chiyou, the Yellow Emperor was stranded by heavy fog. By utilizing the principle that magnets were attracted to the southern direction, he invented the South-Pointing Chariot and defeated Chiyou, who was later executed. People in all the territories pledged allegiance to him. There is a saying, "All people in the world are brothers." These people later called themselves "the descendants of Yandi and the Yellow Emperor" (a saying that refers to the Chinese people) and considered each other siblings. The South-Pointing Chariot is one of the three great inventions of Chinese civilization (compass, gunpowder, printing technology). It is a pity that no one enhanced its use; it is now underused as a feng shui (geomantic) tool only for determining housing sites. However, after this technology was passed to Europe, Westerners turned it into a navigation tool. Subsequently, Columbus was able to utilize this tool and discovered the new continent.

**Through the invention of agriculture, raising silkworms and cultivating the lands.** Prior to the Yellow Emperor, the Chinese people were nomads scattered all over the land, who lived in various places as they moved around. After the Yellow Emperor became the ruler, he invented agricultural tools and taught people to farm and to plant grains and vegetables according to the four seasons. People then started living an agricultural lifestyle, by farming and eating grain. The Empress, Leizu, also taught people to raise silkworms and to weave clothe. Therefore, the citizens had clothes to wear and grain to eat. They had no worries about clothing and food and enjoyed a good and prosperous life.

**He spared no effort in teaching people to flourish.** The Empress and Leizu used all their energy to teach and transform the citizens, creating a culture where men cultivated the fields and women wove clothe so that everyone was self-sufficient. As a result, the nation advanced steadily and securely. Therefore, Confucius praised the Yellow Emperor as having "labored physically and mentally" for his people. The Yellow Emperor managed national affairs to benefit his citizens without sparing any energy or being the least bit lax.

食其力，國家因而安定進步。所以孔子曾讚歎黃帝「勞動心力耳目」，以操勞國事，造福百姓，不遺餘力，未曾懈怠。

又說偈曰：

天生聖者教黎民	飲食衣服日日新
神機妙算平敵寇	雄才大略掃妖氛
風雷變化驚天地	金木交併破魔軍
運轉五行生剋理	文字般若震古今

「天生聖者教黎民」：黎民指百姓。上天降生聖人到世上來，目的是要來教化老百姓，自立更新。「飲食衣服日日新」：黃帝和嫫祖努力更新，使得老百姓食衣住行方面一天比一天進步。

「神機妙算平敵寇」：黃帝的神機妙算無可比擬，因而平定了蚩尤。「雄才大略掃妖氛」：他的智慧高人一等，又會運用計謀，終於掃除了妖魔鬼怪。

「風雷變化驚天地」：他和蚩尤有過數次激烈的戰鬥，戰況的猛烈，連天地都驚動了，造成風雷的變化。「金木交併破魔軍」：金是箭矢，木是箭桿；他又製造弓箭，大破蚩尤的魔軍。

「運轉五行生剋理」：他能運轉五行相生相剋的道理，創出陰陽相配的真理。五行即是金木水火土五種物質。五行能相生：木生火，火生土，土生金，金生水，水又生木。五行也會相剋：木剋土，土剋水，水剋火，火剋金，金又剋木。相生則陽，相剋則陰，變化無窮。

「文字般若震古今」：他的臣子倉頡又創造文字；古人這種智慧，震動古今中外。尤其殷代甲骨文字出土以後，外國人對中國人的智慧都歎為觀止，自認望塵莫及。

*Another Verse:*

**Heaven gave birth to a sage to teach the common people,**

**He provided food, drink, and clothes, every day anew.**

**With wonderful foresight, he defeated the invaders.**

**His outstanding military talents swept away the evil energy.**

**Changes in the wind and thunder startled heaven and earth.**

**Engaging metal and wooden weapons in fierce battles, he defeated the demons' armies.**

**Utilizing the principles of mutual generation and subjugation of the Five Elements,**

**His literary prajna astounds people past and present.**

**Heaven gave birth to a sage to teach the common people.** The “common people” refers to the citizens. A sage was born from heaven to this world in order to teach and transform the people so that they could support themselves and become renewed. **He provided food, drink, and clothes, every day anew.** The Yellow Emperor and Leizu worked diligently to innovate, improving the citizens’ basic necessities of life day by day.

**With wonderful foresight, he defeated the invaders.** The Yellow Emperor’s wonderful foresight was incomparable. Consequently, he was able to defeat Chiyou. **His outstanding military talents swept away the evil energy.** His outstanding wisdom was superior on top of his skillful strategies and coordination. Finally, he swept away the demons and goblins.

**Changes in the wind and thunder startled heaven and earth.** He and Chiyou had several fierce battles, which were so violent that even heaven and earth were startled. Hence, there came the changes in the wind and the thunder. **Engaging metal and wooden weapons in fierce battles, he defeated the demons' armies.** Metal refers to the arrow head, whereas the wood refers to the wooden shaft of the arrow. He also made arrows to defeat Chiyou’s demon armies.

**Utilizing the principles of mutual generation and subjugation of the Five Elements.** He was able to use the principles of the mutual generation and subjugation of the Five Elements to create the principles of matching Yin and Yang. The Five Elements are metal, wood, water, fire and earth; which can mutually generate each other. The wood generates (feeds) fire; fire creates earth; earth bears metal; metal carries water; and water nourishes wood. The Five Elements also subjugate each other. Wood subjugates earth, which can stop up water; water distinguishes fire; fire melts metal and metal destroys wood. When the Five Elements mutually generate each other, the benefit is Yang. When they exclusively subjugate each other, the drawback is Yin. The changes are numerous without limits.

**The literary prajna astounds people past and present.** His minister Cangjie created the Chinese characters. The wisdom of the ancients really jolted the minds of people, both ancient and modern, Chinese and foreign. Especially when the inscriptions on bones and tortoise shells were discovered, the foreigners extolled the wisdom of the Chinese people and admitted that they were too far behind to catch up.