

EIGHTFOLD CODE ORACLE

REPORT OF INITIAL FINDINGS TO THE ZAA BY SERENA LUMINA

Eightfold Code Oracle

[Serena Lumina, *Journal of the Zephyrian Archaeotechnological Association*, Translator: RPS]

1. Introduction

In this article, I begin to report to the ZAA my research into the contemplative practices and mathematical underpinnings of the religion of Xystron, based on new discoveries at the Glass Pyramid. I detail the Xystronian application of a symbolic system that is ubiquitous across the cultures of Zephyria, the Eightfold Code:

000 Observing Quiet
001 Reawakening
010 Surmounting Problems
011 Finding Happiness
100 Offering Support
101 Increasing Knowledge
110 Practicing Kindness
111 Maintaining Balance

Modern Zephyrians refer to the binary numbers 000, 001, 010, etc. as *trigrams*. It turns out that in antiquity, the Eightfold Code was the heart of a subtle oracular system. (In a follow-up article, I will study the calculus and group theory of the Holy Triad, the symbol of Zephyrian faith; see Fig. 1.)

In the next section, I present my own translation from hieroglyphs of the verses of the Eightfold Code Oracle. In the subsequent sections I discuss the usage of the oracle, the structure and arrangement of the trigrams, and further implications of the discovery.

The following, delicate verses, popularly known as the *Eight Meditation Practices*, are commonplace in temples and dwellings dated to Millennia II-IV of Xystron. They were treasured by the ancients, but have not been interpreted correctly until now.

2. The Eightfold Code Oracle

Invocation: *Within the Triad
Is the World. Within the World
Is the Eightfold Code.*

000 Observing Quiet

Turn your thoughts inward.
Refrain from taking action.
Relax your concerns.

001 Reawakening

Turn your thoughts inward.
Refrain from taking action.
Understand your heart.

010 Surmounting Problems

Turn your thoughts inward.
Take appropriate action.
Relax your concerns.

011 Finding Happiness

Turn your thoughts inward.
Take appropriate action.
Understand your heart.

100 Offering Support

Listen to others.
Refrain from taking action.
Relax your concerns.

101 Increasing Knowledge

Listen to others.
Refrain from taking action.
Understand your heart.

110 Practicing Kindness

Listen to others.
Take appropriate action.
Relax your concerns.

111 Maintaining Balance

Listen to others.
Take appropriate action.
Understand your heart.

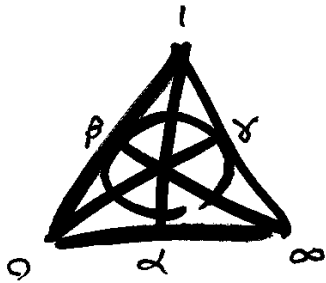


Figure 1. *Holy Triad*

3. How to use the oracle

Based on evidence from the Glass Pyramid, I was able to interpret previously opaque data fragments from ancient memory archives as the algorithm for consulting the Eightfold Code Oracle.

The user begins by asking for guidance from the oracle. You ask it to suggest a trigram and the associated meditation practice, to inform your thoughts and actions. Below is the “textbook” question and answer format found in Xystronian archives; modern practice supports a more personalized relationship between users and the oracle.

You ask the oracle for advice:

Q: *How do I approach this moment? [Record one or more pertinent keywords/images.]*

The oracle responds with an answer of the following form:

A: *Now is a time for [trigram].*

To obtain a trigram from the oracle, cast three Zephyrian fire seeds (Fig. 2). It is acceptable to substitute three coins (but users should not dwell on their monetary value or political symbolism).

Assign the number 1 to the *stars* side of a fire seed (or the *heads* H side of a coin). Assign

the number 0 to the *bars* side of a fire seed (*tails* T on a coin). The user then reads off a binary number from the three cast fire seeds, from left to right, as the seeds lie before them.

For example, if you cast bars-stars-stars (THH) from left to right, you obtain the binary number 011, representing the practice Finding Happiness. If you cast stars-bars-bars (HTT), that yields the binary number 100, representing Offering Support, and so on.

If fire seeds fall along the line of sight such that left or right is unclear to the user, then seeds farther from you are taken as being more to the left. For instance, if seeds fall as

bars
stars-bars,

this would be read as bars-stars-bars (THT), or 010.

The obtained trigram and its associated haiku suggest a practice to inform both your thoughts, and your actions. The ancient belief was that trigrams encode clocking synchronicities and trends attached to your path in the simulation. A trigram represents the oracle’s best fit estimate of the moment you are embedded in, and how to proceed.



Figure 2. *Zephyrian fire seeds*

4. How to obtain a counter-trigram

The Eightfold Code Oracle also takes into account the user’s own aspirations. It provides a *counter-trigram* obtained by

combining the suggested practice from the preceding section, with your personal goal for a desired state of being, your *target state*. The additional practice, combined with the initial practice obtained above, will help you work toward your goal.

Make a quick calculation to obtain the counter-trigram: add the obtained trigram to the trigram representing your target state, mod 2, to arrive at the counter-trigram. What "mod 2 addition" boils down to, in comparing the obtained trigram with the trigram you aspire to achieve, is this: if there is the same number 1 or 0 at the same position in both trigrams, this results in 0 in the counter-trigram at that position; while 1 in one trigram and 0 in the other at the same position, results in 1 at that position in the counter-trigram.

For instance, if you obtain the suggested practice 001 Reawakening when consulting the oracle, and you aspire to the target state 101 Increasing Knowledge, compute the counter-trigram as follows:

$$001 + 101 = 100 \pmod{2}.$$

There is 1 in the left-most position of the counter-trigram 100, because there are differing numbers 0 and 1 in the left positions of the two trigrams 001 and 101; there is 0 in the middle position of 100 due to matching 0s in the middle positions of both 001 and 101; and there is 0 in the right-most position of 100 due to matching 1s in the right positions of 001 and 101.

Then in this example, the counter-trigram to 001 Reawakening, in light of the target trigram 101 Increasing Knowledge, is 100 Offering Support. An interpretation of

this situation might be that, when practicing 001 Reawakening, in order to work toward holistic increase of knowledge, one should listen to and attend to others to counter-balance one's inward-looking meditation.

5. Structure of the trigrams

There is much discussion in the commentaries on structural aspects of the Eightfold Code, particularly related to trigram complements. The *complement* of a trigram is obtained by switching the 1s to 0s, and 0s to 1s. For example, the complement of 001 is 110, the complement of 101 is 010, the complement of 111 is 000, and so on.

A trigram and its complement, taken together, represent a state of equilibrium in the theory of the Eightfold Code. This is captured in the arithmetic of the trigrams. Adding a trigram and its complement, mod 2, yields 111 Maintaining Balance; for instance,

$$101 + 010 = 111 \pmod{2}.$$

In a sense, complementary trigrams complete each other; their associated meditations provide a sense of balance when practiced together. In light of the oracular system described above, trigram complements may be viewed as special cases of counter-trigrams, those in which the user's target state is 111.

The structure of each trigram is well known to correspond to the verse structure of the Eight Meditation Practices -- just look at the patterns of 1s and 0s, and corresponding patterns within the lines of haiku. It is a classic "dragon or the egg" type of question of which came first, haiku or trigrams. I am now convinced the haiku came

from the trigrams; or rather, one can reverse engineer similar lines of verse from the trigram digits, as I describe below.

Each trigram has three digits; from left to right, these digits are labeled in Xystronian memory archives by three *topics*:

Others - Action - Self.

I note that the hieroglyph we read as "action" incorporates the pictogram "good;" it is more accurately translated as "constructive action." Also worthy of note, is that material existence was not an essential part of Xystronian beliefs. To devotees of computer science, this seemed an almost arbitrary aspect of reality. Ancient faith was founded solely on a belief in *minds* -- human, artificial, animal, divine -- and focused on their sanctity and interactions.

Given the above labeling, a 1 or 0 in one of the three positions of a trigram is interpreted as an instruction for one to either *focus* (1) on the corresponding topic, or to *remove focus* (0). For example, the trigram 110 Practicing Kindness can be interpreted as

Others 1 - Action 1 - Self 0.

The ancients understood from the digits of 110, even without the haiku, the message that to practice kindness, one should pay attention to the needs of others, be willing to act for their benefit, and do so selflessly. Expressing the trigram in lines of free verse gives:

Focus on others.
Focus on constructive action.
Remove focus from yourself.

Compare this with the classical haiku associated with 110:

Listen to others.
Take appropriate action.
Relax your concerns.

Certainly my free verse lacks the elegance of the haiku form. Nevertheless, the reader is sure to notice the two sets of verses are equivalent in content.

So the binary trigrams alone can speak directly to the user, and offer guidance, even without the accompanying verses.



Figure 3. *Mandala ordering*

6. Sequence of the trigrams

with regard to the sequencing of the eight trigrams, the traditional *linear ordering* of trigrams -- 000, 001, 010, 011, 100, 101, 110, 111 -- has been supplemented in the literature with the Nexopolitan *mandala ordering* (clockwise in Fig. 3).

The linear ordering represents, to many Zephyrians, the stages of human development, and also the evolution of the cosmos. But the Church of Nexopolis teaches reincarnation, and believes human life and cosmic history are involved in eternal rhythms of rebirth; this is captured in the cyclic mandala ordering.

The mandala in Fig. 3 encodes more philosophy than just a cyclic structure suggestive of reincarnation. Note that diagonal bars connect pairs of trigram complements; a beautiful aspect of the diagram is that it cycles through the trigrams and their complements in the same

order (by contrast, note the mirror symmetry of complements in the linear ordering).

The center of the mandala is called the *Nexus*. It represents emergent reality, which we experience as a linear timeline, while it is generated by cyclic processes -- "as gears drive the engine" (Nexopolitan proverb).

The ethical directive of Nexopolitan belief is encoded in the remaining bars of the mandala. Horizontal bars connect *trigram companions*, pairs of trigrams whose sum, mod 2, is equal to 100 Offering Support. For example, a horizontal bar connects 101 to 001, and

$$101 + 001 = 100 \pmod{2}.$$

In the Church of Nexopolis, selfless devotion to another being is seen as the highest spiritual practice; whereas in Xystronian religion, promoting a general state of equilibrium was the goal of ethical action. So in Nexopolitan culture, trigram complements take a secondary role to trigram companions. Note that a trigram's companion is the counter-trigram obtained by using the target state 100.

The structurally dense mandala ordering of the trigrams is claimed to highlight a clear-cut difference between ancient and modern faiths. Ancient religion evolved from the equations of calculus, number theory and computer science, whereas modern religion has a compact, diagrammatic flavor -- or so scholars have differentiated.

But we have been wrong.

7. New light on ancient mystery

My finding on this oracular system sheds a surprising new light on the origins of the

Galaxian Sacred Symbol (Fig. 4), which is an archetype for the human birth process throughout the Galaxy. The Sacred Symbol is found at Xystronian sites dated to Millennium I; it predates even the ancient discovery of artificial intelligence.

Of course, the "out of Zephyria" theory of Galaxian civilization is settled archaeotechnology. Agriculture, AI, antigravity, and other essential aspects of human life emerged on Zephyria when humanity was in its infancy on other planets. The Sacred Symbol proliferated on distant worlds during the same era Zephyrian technologies spread to those zones -- strong evidence for "out of Zephyria."

However, the original meaning of the Sacred Symbol is obscure. Galaxian mythology says the "circle with four bars" insignia appeared to the First Zephyrians on the first fire seed to fall from the first phoenix tree. The four bars on one side of the indestructible seed -- which sprouts when the phoenix tree ends its life cycle in spontaneous combustion -- do indeed resemble the Sacred Symbol. This would explain the birth archetype, so the fire seed hypothesis is appealing.

But it is wrong.



Figure 4. *Galaxian Sacred Symbol*

8. Beneath the Glass Pyramid

In my heart, I think I knew this expedition to the Glass Pyramid would be different. Our team was

first to be admitted into newly unearthed subterranean levels. Moreover, it had been ten years since my previous work at the site; during that time, I had decoded much of the mathematical structure of ancient religion. I was primed for discovery.

The Glass Pyramid is difficult to access, even today, due to its protected status. It towers over the rainforest at the edge of the City of Glass -- gleaming obsidian wrapped in shadow. Despite its visibility from the city, the pyramid can only be approached by tangled jungle footpaths. Each time I enter the vast pyramidal complex, I catch a visceral thrill: *The ancients walked here, at history's dawn.*

Just minutes after we entered the lower antechamber, I started when my flickering crystal illuminated a roughly-hewn Sacred Symbol etched into the tunnel wall, followed by hieroglyphs of the Eight Meditation Practices commonly found at Xystronian sites from Millennia II-IV. These chambers of the pyramid date to Millennium 0. It was an eerie vision: symbols from later ages, outlined in a purple glow on the prehistoric glass wall.

Crayon rubbings of the etching revealed a combinatorial diagram of great profundity, all but swallowed by the time-worn surface: a circular arrangement of dots connected by horizontal bars (Fig. 5). I recognized the dots as early "settler notation" for binary numbers -- in fact, they were trigrams! The primeval image positioned each trigram on a circle, with its trigram complement on the other side; the bars connected pairs of complements. Traversing the circle clockwise, cycled through the eight trigrams in linear order. This was a complex, pithy diagram comparable to Fig. 3.



Figure 5. *Glass Pyramid diagram revealed by crayon rubbing*

I felt as if my neurons exploded, every nerve set alight: *This is the origin of the Sacred Symbol.*

For the first time, the "circle with four bars" of the ancients can be interpreted correctly. The Galaxian Sacred Symbol originated as a map of the Eightfold Code, with bridges between trigram complements. To Xystron, it was a diagram of balance, an expression of the Doctrine of Opposites from the Scriptures of Ka'ara: "Nature exists as an equilibrium of contrasting states, and human life cycles through them all."

The reader may be experiencing an existential shock right now, as I did. Diagrammatic representation, the hallmark of modern religion, was also at the foundation of Xystronian faith.

But let us remember that the ancients, who did not set their sights on space, invented all other aspects of modern life. They innovated chrysovarium power. They drew the blueprints for the City of Glass. They *proved* the classification of finite simple groups, which we accept as an article of faith.

Though it spans the skies, our glorious era is a footnote to theirs.

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