

Drawing a Chinese Fortune Stick 抽靈籤

When a believer faces a crossroads in his or her life, they may seek divine answers. The ancient tradition of using Chinese fortune sticks is a way for these people to converse with the gods. If you wish to ask god a question, you may participate in the ritual by following the steps below to find god's answer.

當信眾在人生的交叉路口時，會尋求神的指引。在道教傳統上靈籤是用來與神溝通的方式之一。如信眾希望神明可以為你指點迷津，可以試試看抽靈籤喔！（請看以下步驟）

I. Request to draw a Chinese fortune stick 請求神明賜靈籤

1. Tell the god your name, address, birthday and your question or wish.

告訴神明你的姓名、地址、出生日期及你的問題或願望。

2. Throw the divination blocks to find out if god will allow you to draw a Chinese fortune stick.

擲杯詢問神明是否願意賜籤。

3. If the god says yes (Shing-bwei, where one block has the flat side facing up, the other facing down), draw a Chinese fortune stick from the lot tube.

如為聖杯，請直接抽一支靈籤。

4. If the god says no (Yin-bwei, where both divination blocks have flat sides facing down), or simply smiles (Chiu-bwei, where both flat sides face up) it is not the right time for you to be making this request. You may formulate a different request and start over with step 1.

如果為陰杯或笑杯代表目前時機不對，你可以再問其他問題並重新擲杯。

II. Verify that you have drawn the correct Chinese fortune stick 確認靈籤

5. Once god allows you to draw a stick, place it on the altar table while you seek further approval. The divination blocks must then be tossed again to find out if this is the stick the god intends you to have. If three Shing-bwei are thrown in a row, this means it is the right stick.

一旦神明允許你抽靈籤後，請將抽完的靈籤放在桌上。這時，信眾需要擲出三個聖杯，確定此為神明應許的靈籤。

6. If one throw is Yin-bwei or Chiu-bwei, it means this is not the right stick. Please place this Chinese Fortune Stick to the side (do not put it back in the lot holder to ensure it won't be drawn again). This requires that a new stick is drawn and the divination blocks thrown again until god approves of the stick you have drawn. Repeat steps 5 and 6 until three Shing-bwei are thrown in a row.

如果擲出陰杯或笑杯，代表桌上的籤並不是正確的籤。請將這支靈籤放到旁邊（勿投入籤筒以免重覆抽到）。這時信眾需要重新抽籤並得到三個聖杯，方能得知正確的籤詩。

III. Match the Chinese fortune stick to the fortune 拿到對應的籤詩

7. After god says 'yes' three times in a row to the stick you have placed on the altar, find the fortunes cabinet. Each Chinese fortune stick corresponds to one of the drawers in the cabinet. Open the corresponding drawer and take out one slip of paper. This paper has a fortune written on it that answers your questions.

在神明允了三個聖杯後，你可以拿著籤到櫃子找相對應的籤詩。籤詩上寫著一首詩，此詩為回應信眾問題的解答。

Chinese fortune sticks 靈籤

Chinese fortune sticks, also known as I Ching sticks, are 40 to 50 cm long and usually made of bamboo. Written on each lot is a number that corresponds to a slip of paper with a fortune written on it. To find your fortune, you must ask god which Chinese fortune stick you should take by using divination blocks.

靈籤通常是由40-50公分長的竹籤做成，籤上刻著數字，方便信眾找到對應的籤詩。當你面對人生的難題時，你可以擲杯詢問神是否可以抽靈籤，請求神為你指引。

Fortunes cabinet 籤詩櫃

Cabinet in which fortunes are kept. Each Chinese fortune stick corresponds to a specific fortune.

寺廟的櫃子通常放著不同的籤詩，可讓信眾依照籤上的數字，找到正確的籤詩。



Lot holder 籤筒



Fortunes cabinet 籤詩櫃