

A Story about Chen Tuan



I told a story about the celebrated taoist Chen Tuan to my students in the Four Pillars Correspondence Course. I am happy that a lot of them responded with enthusiasm. I decided to put together our discussion and give it out to my interested visitors.

Joseph Yu

The Touching Story

Ying Li's comment

Olga Garcia's comment

Robert Schmitz's comment

Boris Jursic's comment

Marianna, Judy Adler,
Monica's comments

Antoinette's comment

Diane Bitter's comment

El King's comment



Mary Bax, Elaine, Carl Grover's
comment

Lesley, May-Britt's comments

Fiona's comment

Foon Chick's comment

Janean and Urs Bitzi's comments

Carol's comment

This is a story found in an ancient book.

One day, a woman went to Chen Tuan asking when her husband would be home. Chen Tuan was not at home and one of his disciples did the divination.

He said, "Your husband has gone for a long trip and according to the divination, he will encounter misfortune. It is very difficult to escape."

The woman cried on her way home. When Chen Tuan met the woman, he asked what happened. The woman told her about the divination. Chen Tuan said, "Don't worry. Your husband will be home tomorrow. Prepare his favorite food and go to invite your neighbors to join you and your husband. Think of how happy it will be tomorrow. Tonight, talk to your husband through the moon. He will be able to hear you."

The woman did what Chen Tuan told her to do. The next evening, when all the neighbors were in her house chatting, her husband came home.

Later, he told his wife he almost died the previous night. In his dream, he heard his wife calling for him. He woke up just in time to find the hotel was on fire. He escaped but lost all his belonging.

What is the moral of the story?

Joseph

Dear Master Yu,

This is a beautiful story.

Ever since I started to study 4 Pillars of Destiny, one of the key inquiries for me has been what do you say to someone who is asking about your reading for their chart. Particularly when there is a period when the luck is very "bad".

Ever since I read this story when you posted it on the Professional YiJing list, it has helped me tremendously in answering the question: "What do you say to someone when the luck is not good?"



This story tells us that the outcomes of our life is not determined by luck. Luck can help, but our choices can make a huge difference. By understanding luck and being able to predict it, it allows us to take appropriate actions and make the right choices. It's like navigating a ship, there maybe shallow water where danger is hidden, and then there maybe paths where the streams will help us.

Knowing where danger lies and where we can catch a helping stream (or wind) will help us to make the right choices that yield most desirable outcome.

However, if we interpret dangerous water (bad luck) as hopeless, that will sure put the person into despair, like in this story what the student did, then nothing can be done about the situation when it is most critical that some corrective action is required to overcome the situation.

I believe part of achieving mastery in Chinese metaphysics is to also develop the ability to present our readings in a way that will empower our clients to take the actions that improve the chances for desirable outcomes in their lives.

I have derived a great deal of satisfaction to see my friends feel empowered by my readings for them.



Some finally start to embrace themselves and begin to use man luck to overcome the challenges posed by their chart.

I have also sadly watched as a person I know who reeked his life right in front of me while I could not tell him that he was treading dangerous water and needed to turn around and head a different direction.

I so appreciate you bringing stories like this to us. It is such an important part of our development into mastery in Chinese metaphysics. I truly feel blessed to have found a teacher like you.

Best regards,

Ying Li

Dear Joseph,

Thank you, it is a beautiful story!

The moral of the story is not forget to take care of Man Luck!

Blessings

Olga



Dear Joseph,

I agree with Olga that we must not forget man luck. The Four Pillars, the Yi Jing divination show potentials, probable outcomes. But even a high probability includes the possibility of the opposite to happen.



If we despair, then the higher probability will manifest. If we work hard, make strong wishes and put our trust in the good, then things will eventually turn to the good no matter how high the probability for a bad outcome was.



After all, there are people winning the lottery every day, at a chance of one to one million!



Robert Schmitz

Dear Joseph,

thank you for this amazing story. It shows me a way of divination, I feel we all are supposed to go. Sometimes we find in oracles what we personally judge as 'bad news', but who knows?! It could be a big blessing in the life of someone. So it reminds me, that I am always in charge for a brother or a sister also living in this world. They are here to stand their adventures, and fortunately they are not alone. Because I can probably help with my knowledge, my experience and my advice. It is the offer of an caring brother, not a must to take my advice.



I realise, I have always to bless, never to judge and most important: I have always to give advice how you can probably help yourself to stand outstanding situations and how you can probably release your own frontiers in your life to fly more exciting and enriched circles in this universe.

The man in this story is really wealthy. Because his wife is taking so much care of him. What a wonderful, rich relationship must they have, that he dreams of her, when he has to stay away. And she helps him to survive. They can really trust into their future, this connection of love is very strong.

I wish as ull good luck on our own circles

Boris Jursic

Dear Master Yu,

Thank you for this wonderful story.

I agree with everyone, this beautifully shows us the power of man luck, the necessary ingredients to make changes in our life. It shows how we can achieve the impossible through desire, believe and expectancy.

Also as Ying Li mentioned, this story is a reminder for all of us about our moral obligation to our clients, to have a clear understanding of these arts (incl. FS and Yijing) and the law of nature.

With our advice we plant a thought into our client's mind and with this we set a motion....we can build or destroy!

Warmest regards

Marianna

Dear Joseph,

I agree with Ying, Olga, and Robert that man luck is important; to be proactive rather than reactive is of utmost importance. We must learn to guide our clients in the proactive mode as much as possible as did Chen Tuan. We should be able to help people find a positive, effective action to go along with the difficulty we see for them in their heaven luck. I also agree with Monica. Love is very powerful.

Judy Adler

The moral of the story is that love is strong and what is difficult is not impossible.

Monica

Dear Joseph

I agree with everyone else about not forgetting man luck. The disciple's reading was actually correct ?he told it the way it was shown to him. The bad part is that he gives the woman a problem without providing a solution or hope. His teacher's approach was different. The moral of the story is, don't tell someone the problem without offering a solution and don't leave them feeling helpless.

I have a modern story of the opposite. Where good luck is turned into a nightmare because of man luck.



This man with a lot of power in his chart and obsessed with status and money was depressed because his mother and brother controlled his finances through a trust account. He wanted to sue them to get control of the money. His chart just doesn't allow for a favourable outcome.

I told him to forget about suing them and rather concentrate on better communication with them and to perk him up, I told him in which months things would start to look brighter for him. What did he do? He took that information and decided to sue his own family in the "better" months that I'd given, firmly believing that because luck was on his side, he was immune from any consequences of trying to grab power and money.

He lost the court case, he lost a lot of money and damaged almost irreparably his relationship with parallel and resource which is so important in his chart. Did he appreciate that his actions caused his troubles? No, he phoned me to say that my prediction was wrong because he should have won the court case if his luck was good in those months:-))

The lesson I learnt from this, is that even if the luck looks good, it is still important to make people realise that while the potential for good luck is there, it is entirely up to them whether they fulfill that potential.

Antoinette



Dear Judy,

Very well said! I agree with all of you completely. So often clients are looking for a "quick fix" with little or no effort on their parts.

Diane Bitter

That there is enormous responsibility from the diviner in how they phrase things to their clients. The way you phrase your interpretation could affect things for better or for worse.

Know your art very well, try to give options.

EI

Joseph,

This beloved ancient story will always stay close to my heart. I have told it already a dozen times. To me the moral of the story is the power of gratitude, the connection to the Divine. Instead of asking, we thank him for answering as this wife did when she prepared the meal for her husband's homecoming.

The prayer, Grace before meals, has become my mantra. 'Bless us O Lord, for these thy gifts which we are about to receive from thy BOUNTY'.

As I struggle with acquiring knowledge of the 4 pillars, I give thanks for the day when the light will go on.

Mary Bax



Hi Joseph

I think Chen Tuan revealed how powerful the moon is. Saying that by talking through the moon [heaven] she was able to change her husband's earth luck.



Regards

Elaine



The moral of the story is to give hope for a potentially horrible situation instead of slapping someone in the face with a more probable reality.



All is well,



Carl Grover

Dear Joseph,

This is a lovely story. It shows that we should listen to our unconscious where so many myths and legends are waiting to be discovered. Often we can puzzle over a problem for weeks without finding the solution because we are concentrating too hard on it and putting too much energy into that concentration.

If we relax and observe what our dreams are telling us we will get a different response. By calling to her husband through his dream, the wife was able to save him, speaking to him through the bond of love which joins them. I am sure that they were very happy for a very long time.

Kind regards,

Lesley

Dear Joseph and List,

Your story is just brilliant. It really brings about the power of synchronicity or more known as the collective conscious. We are never alone, and the power of our mind is so incredible forceful.

I also think it shows that there is always more than one reality, depending on how you choose to take in the information. Ex. two people both getting the information that they have got cancer. One will become very negative and immediately think of death, while the other will take it as an opportunity to change his/her lifestyle and become healthy in body, mind and spirit and living a healthy happy life many years from the diagnosis.

May all your beautiful souls continue to make such a magnificent difference in life.

May-Britt

Joseph

You are as usual very wise. There are many ways of dealing with any situation - one can give into despair, go into denial or, as the lady in your story did, work with what you have to bring about the best possible outcome.

Nothing happens in isolation. There was not just one person in your story, but several, all interacting together. It is very tempting, I think, with 4p to take just the snapshot of the person whose chart one is reading in isolation but of course "no man is an island" and it is our interaction with others that unfolds the story of our lives.



In your story it was not just the woman's love that saved her husband, but also his love for her, his response to her. Look deeper still and it is the compassion of another that drives the loving impulse and her curiosity together with the oracle's knowledge that brings about her impulse to communicate. There were four people in the story, each with a part to play in the drama and so the moral, for me, is that we are not just symbols on a page but living, breathing human beings, each making our contribution within the great wheel, for good or for ill. And, as others have said, it is our individual choices that make the difference.

Fiona

Dear Master Yu & list

I would say there are several things we can learn from this story.

Clients who come for readings usually have something on their mind that concerns them greatly and they are often feeling negative and looking for reassurance.

The divination was accurate, however, the woman assumed the worse. The disciple said it is 'very difficult', not impossible. Yet she heard misfortune and became more negative. Clients sometimes don't listen properly.

So whilst the reading was good, it did not offer guidance or reassurance. Chen Tuan offered reassurance and guidance that turned around the woman's negative attitude to a positive one. His interpretation of the reading was brilliant and helpful.



The mind has powerful qi - in Chinese thinking the 'mind' is not in the head, it is in the heart.



When we do readings, we need to imagine we are in the place of the client. Whilst we might use our heads to get an accurate reading, we need to work from the heart to give guidance that is helpful, caring and compassionate. We must nurture the trust that is placed in us in that time - its a sort of hit and run intimacy.



A good reading gives information about the situation, a brilliant one also brings messages of love and hope. The future is created in each moment. Guidance on creating your human(man) luck by finding the best path with heaven luck!



Regards,



Foon

This story reminds me of the taiji. I think it reminds us to look at the whole picture instead of bits of the picture. Yes, we have man luck but not just for the person the reading is for....also for the person doing the reading. The student saw the eye of yin within the yang and thought it was the whole picture. The teacher saw the whole picture which includes the bad within the good and the man luck the wife provided as well as the man luck of the husband paying attention to his wife's call, the neighbors joining in on the homecoming celebration and perhaps even the student giving them reason to be concerned in the first place.

Janean



Hello all,



An interesting story about a great Taoist Master and elucidator of the I Ging. As far as I know Master Chen Tuan highly recommended the study of the Pre-Heaven (unmanifest) aspect of the I Ging. Doing so one can avoid the possible problems that can happen in the Post-heaven aspect (manifest) of life.



From this view there are two kind of fate or destiny: the external and the internal. The internal fate is usually not visible in common chart reading. However special individuals can read the "internal destiny" and therefore can give guidance to avoid danger. This is what Master Chen Tuan did in the story.



Best wishes



Urs Bitzi

Hi Urs,

This is very interesting. It seems to fit the story.

What is being implied here? The reading shows what has already been manifested, and how things will be played out... Is it being implied that at one point the manifested reading was unmanifested and it came to being because of internal look. --so if one can change their internal outlook, the manifested can be changed?

How does Master Chen Tuan see internal destiny, does he use the I Ching for this?

EI

Hello EI, Sheila...

We are going to dive into the subject of Taoist metaphysics. The predictive systems we study were developed from it. My simplified understanding is: Chen Tuan's achievement and teaching was that the original mind can stay in the pre-heaven state of energy and therefore unnecessary problems can be avoided. I think by that things do not enter into the state of time and space. Or they can even return into a save "area-time" again when handled by an achieved master.

Chen Tuan passed down the understanding and training of that. This is my impression from the study of a book about Chen Tuan. (Chen Tuan: The Life and Teaching of two Immortals Vol II by Ni Hua Ching)

Chen Tuan really transmitted the hypernating power of life. The application is very percious especially when we are in difficult life cycles (as myself). So we do not aggravate life conditions further when 4-Pillars forecast stormy weather.

Best Wishes

Urs

Dear Master Yu,

A deep and profound story which tells us to keep our minds eye open for sometimes by ignoring the messages which come to us from nowhere are the most intuitive and real guiding us through life. It also says everything occurs in a moment, once the moment is lost everything may be lost too. Listen to the wind - it has the answers.

Do post more stories once in a while.

Thank you

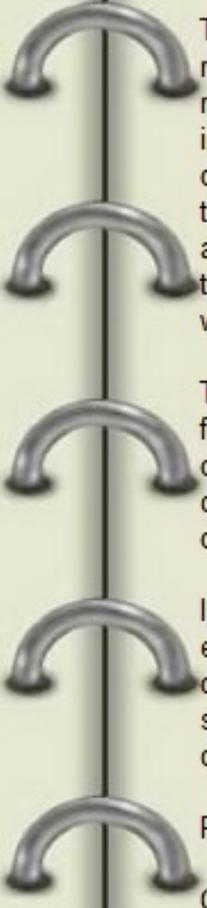
Tripti

Dear Joseph and All,

This is my understanding of the moral of the story. The art of life reading requires wisdom and understanding in order to be helpful to others.

All of the people in the story are necessary to achieve the outcome. The disciple played the part of getting the wife's attention with regards to the danger her husband may face. The master gave hope and instructions for useful actions such as "talking to the moon".

The woman used her qi to project all of her collected love, and worry to send the message to the husband (to the moon covers a lot of territory). A homecoming was prepared anticipating what would draw him back home. The neighbors added their qi to the belief that the man would be able to return home.



The man caught the qi in his dream and he responded in a way that saved his life. A reading can't ever weigh out every nuance of interaction which effects outcome (how many drops of water does it take to put out a fire?) I think that is why we can only look at a death after the fact and retrace the probable strength of the interaction of the elements. We may still be wrong after we think we know.

To want to control life and get the best outcome for ourselves is a natural fantasy. To think we can pay someone who "knows" when this will occur and grantees the outcome is outright dangerous behavior.

I believe qi is continuously transmitted by everyone. My daughter and I find each other by calling to each other in our minds when separated in the airport. Try it, its fun. The power of our minds (qi) will be used as we direct it.

Regards,

Carol



This article was published in Master Joseph's Yu website:

<https://www.astro-fengshui.com>

Check other articles and find valuable knowledge in the courses and seminars in our Feng Shui Research Center! Welcome and enjoy!

Joseph Yu B.Sc. 余若愚 was born during the second world war in a small village in South China. He spent his childhood as a country boy and did not receive any formal education until he came to Hong Kong at the age of eleven. A lot of people suggest to him that he should create a story of learning Astrology and Feng Shui in early childhood from a monk as do many a famous Feng Shui Master. He prefers to tell the truth.

Yu studied Mathematics and Physics in the University of Hong Kong in the early 1960's. He abhorred all kinds of superstition and vowed to destroy such absurd beliefs of ignorant people. He then frequented libraries, trying to find fault with Astrology and Feng Shui from ancient books. The deeper he went into the subject, the more excited he became about the rich legacy of ancient Chinese culture.

Whether or not to become a professional astrologer and geomancer or continue in the fields of mathematics and physics, became a constant dilemma. Astrology and Feng Shui have been viewed as superstition by their skeptics. Astrologers and Feng Shui masters have been linked with fraud for centuries.

Someone wrote in his book, "If more knowledgeable men provide true Astrology and Feng Shui services, the ignorant and fake 'professionals' will vanish." Sharing the same view, Yu decided to provide useful services and correspondence courses at an affordable price.

While Joseph Yu was a mathematics teacher after his graduation, he was lucky to have as his neighbor one old Feng Shui master. This old master was very kind to disclose a lot of secrets of the five arts to him even though he was not one of the old master's apprentices.

In one Chinese New Year party at the old master's home, the master said to his disciples, "This young man, though not officially under my care, has learned more than most of you because he has a logical mind and dares to argue with me on various issues."

The old master passed away a few months later. Joseph Yu did not feel comfortable in the company of the disciples of this good master. He is grateful, but circumstances make it impossible to express his gratitude towards the master who passed on to him a lot of invaluable knowledge.