

**HADI SUMORO**

# **NAVIGATING LIFE'S UPS & DOWNS**

**THE CORE PRINCIPLES OF BAZI**



**BOOK 1**

This book is dedicated to all Feng Shui, BaZi, and Chinese Metaphysics enthusiasts who want to delve deeper into the world of BaZi. Whether you're just starting or have been passionate about these topics for years, you'll find valuable insights, practical tips, and fascinating knowledge within these pages. Let's journey together into the world of BaZi and uncover the wisdom and power it holds for transforming our lives.

# Navigating Life's Ups and Downs

The Core Principles of 八字 BāZi, the Four Pillars of Destiny, Book 1

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## PREFACE

When this book was written, the author embarked on an incredible journey in Chinese metaphysics, including Feng Shui (life's optimization), life reading (life's overview), and divination (life's strategy), among others. When asked about what makes learning and applying Chinese Metaphysics remarkable, the response is that it provides ultimate peace, satisfaction, and a sincere sense of connection when helping others. This is the essence of Chinese Metaphysics, often overlooked when pursuing wealth or knowledge. Please note that the greed of accumulating wealth or knowledge can easily blur that the Chinese Metaphysics application intends to help others.

When talking about the 八字 BāZì system, it is often associated with fortune telling. While this association is not entirely incorrect, it is misleading. Fortune telling is often tied to expectations, but a proper BaZi reading should not emphasize expectations. Instead, it should focus on shaping and strategizing current actions to prepare for challenging times ahead and to thrive in favorable times to come.

### Setting the Correct Learning Attitude

Understanding Chinese Metaphysics requires a holistic view. Holistic means focusing on the whole picture rather than the sum of its parts. It suggests that everyone is different and will face situations differently, yet everything is interconnected. In



Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), for example, a reference to an organ does not directly point to the specific organ. It is a symbol that shows the connection of the organ's system to any related parts of the body. An acupuncturist does not always place needles on your back when you have back pain. This interconnectedness is a key aspect of Chinese Metaphysics, which underlines the holistic approach. This is one crucial point in learning BaZi, where many practitioners fall into an abyss of endless details without understanding the big picture. The first learning attitude the author suggests is to keep the focus on the whole picture as clear as possible. In learning BaZi, the big picture is the Qi flow of the chart. Before finding the flow, do not jump into a specific character, symbol, or star meaning. Just because a chart has a positive star, it may not be as effective if the element does not support the flow.

So, why are you learning 八字 BāZi? If your learning goal is to amass wealth and fame without the intention to help, such learning will be meaningless. In fact, does such a practitioner even care if the reading is accurate? The author does not suggest that receiving compensation is wrong. However, it's crucial to prioritize helping others wholeheartedly over personal gain, fame, or proving the infallibility of a particular method. Let's always keep in mind the well-being of those we are helping and approach every situation with empathy and

kindness. This is the true essence of Chinese Metaphysics, a practice that can bring about positive change in the world.

### Understanding a Better Learning Approach

The BāZì system is ancient and complex to learn, and it is often not structured when imparted to the next generation. Many classics were written with poems, creating different interpretations for readers or next-generation practitioners.

Many are lost in the process of learning! Here is a simple question: Who or what is always correct? As a practitioner, can you guarantee that your chosen method is always spot on?

Should a practitioner learn and apply multiple methods?

Learning is an investment, but mastering multiple school systems can be costly, not to mention time-consuming and confusing, as some schools contradict each other.

The author suggests a constructive attitude of learning, oriented towards humility and research, and supported by patience in compiling, analyzing, and correlating one's life history. It is crucial to keep in mind that the client or person being read is always the correct one! Hence, testing and validating readings with one's life history is advisable. The question arises of approaching readings for young individuals who have not yet accumulated sufficient life history, such as babies. While some charts may have a clear flow and a correct reading can be done without checking life history, others may

have unclear flows, element conflicts, or appear too balanced. In such cases, it is essential to exercise patience to research similar charts and be humble in the learning process. It is also reasonable to recognize that the confidence in the analysis may be less than 70% accurate and take a step back to develop the necessary skills. Practicing humility will foster an open mind, enable one to learn from mistakes, and grow into an accomplished BaZi reader. Remember, the idea of helping others must always be prioritized in any BaZi reading.

### Basic Understanding of Life and Karma

The author would also like to include a brief write-up from Willy Haryadi Priatna, a well-known supranatural practitioner from Indonesia. In addition to helping thousands of clients, he shares many experiences through his YouTube channels: Three Anomaly and Detective Astral. His writing below will focus on life and karma.

“Why are we born in this life? This is an intriguing question, yet no definitive answer has been given throughout the ages. It’s like answering the question of which comes first: the egg or the chicken. Nobody knows when life started aside from the Big Bang and when life will end, let alone human evolution. Assuming our limited capacity to grasp and interpret the reality of human life, then the simple answer to why we’re born is

to perfect our soul and keep working on our karma until it reaches the point where we don't have to live in a flesh and bone vessel as humans on this planet. We are more than just flesh and bone. We are genuinely a consciousness. Consciousness knows no limit and keeps evolving. Tangible life or physical dimension is merely just one of the schools for consciousness growth.

Karma has been described thoroughly, mostly in Buddhist and Hindu teachings. To put it simply, karma is a consequence. Karma knows no good or bad, only constructive or destructive path to the consciousness evolution process. Everything in the universe is karmic. The Big Bang itself happened, and the consequence was the birth of the universe as we know it. As time goes by, the creation and destruction of space elements (planets, stars, galaxies, and so on) keep happening as a consequence. Although karma knows no difference between good and bad, it has some constructive vs destructive standards. It is still a mystery as to who or what has the authority to set a standard of constructive or destructive. Simply put, constructive means progress, and destructive means stagnancy or a setback. To put it universally, there's 'something' higher than what our

mind can grasp, which has all the authority of the standard procedure and executing it.

Karma related to a past life can be explained simply as an unfinished business or debt. Still, it covers a massive amount of time, whereas 'business or debt' is often associated with someone's lifetime. For example, someone who lives in the year 1400 could repeat the same mistakes, which will cause them to be reborn again and again until the present day.

Bad Karma equals the destructive act of someone in their lifetime, causing a setback to their consciousness progress. The unique thing about bad karma is that it's often dealt with love in the next life. The term an eye for an eye is unsuitable for this situation. For example, A killed B in his lifetime. It doesn't work to deal with that karma by setting it up for B to kill A in the next life.

What usually happens is A and B will be reborn as close relatives, and A will have the chance to give love and care to B in the next life, or whatever the setting is.

One thing I learned from my experience is that suicide, which has been fuelled by despair, is never a good solution. Such an act will present a significant setback in someone's life, which means they immediately make their business unfinished."

The author frequently received the following questions: “Why am I unlucky?” “What makes my life special?” “What’s the meaning of karma and life purpose?” The author certainly hopes that Willy’s writings can address these questions from a different perspective.

The author does not see life as lucky or unlucky. The path that God gives is unchangeable. However, with a flexible mindset, one can go through life with the least resistance, have a better quality of life, and optimally regulate karma. One can receive corrective guidance on mindset development by utilizing the service of an accomplished BaZi reader or learning BaZi itself.

### Chapter Overview

This book follows a technical approach to the theory, using research-based life histories as examples. In most chapters, the author associates Chinese characters with English words, including pinyin (the romanization for the Chinese language, also known as the spelled sounds). However, the book’s explanation gradually transitions to English as it progresses. Chapter One discusses the basics of the Chinese Metaphysics system. Analogous to the mathematics, there are numbers and operations. For example, the Chinese animal zodiacs (the earthly branches) can be thought of as numbers, while their interactions are mathematical operations. Since this is the basis of Chinese metaphysics, all Chinese astrology, feng shui, and

divination methods will utilize the same concept but with a different approach in application. The first chapter addresses the fundamentals from the logical side rather than the mythological aspect.

Chapter Two discusses how a BaZi chart is derived and the basics of the Chinese calendar. The discussion is not tunneled into one direction but addresses several common questions and examples.

Chapter Three explores the components of a BaZi chart. It explains the Ten Gods, or the relationships among elements, with examples. Understanding the Ten Gods is crucial to learning the BaZi system, which provides a foundation for Chapter Four about how a chart is read. The reading approach presented in this book is based on the Zi Píng traditional method with a modern systematic explanation, as opposed to a poetry approach, as in how the Classics were written.

Chapter Five concludes the book with BaZi's application of real-life examples. The presentation is not only focused on one individual at a time but also compares different individuals born on the same day. This will provide perspectives on how BaZi astrology can correlate with each individual.





## CHAPTER 1: THE BASICS

As the title says, “Navigating Life’s Ups and Downs,” we can divide it into two parts. First, life has its ups and downs. Is receiving much money considering an upswing in one’s life? How about receiving a lot of money in the last month of life due to an incurable disease? We can agree that simply receiving a great fortune, as in wealth, does not always define an upswing in one’s life. However, a good life is. A good life means different things for each person. When wealthy, one may seek a loving relationship and expect a good family. When sick, one may seek health and comfort, sometimes better connections to others. When one has a successful career, one may seek wealth, a loving relationship, or fame. Everyone has their idea of a good life, including what is considered an up- or down-swing.

The second part is navigation. When someone is on the low side of life, having a BaZi reading to affirm that one is in an unsupportive luck cycle is just half part. A competent BaZi reader should be able to provide advice on navigating the current ‘unlucky’ situation. When a BaZi practitioner is also equipped with the knowledge of divination skills, such as 奇門遁甲 Qí Mén Dùn Jiǎ, 大六壬 Dà Liù Rén, or other divination methods, then recommendations can be precise to one’s situation.

How about a successful person? Would BaZi reading be valuable for someone at their peak career/business? Most people seeking guidance are indeed experiencing some hardship. However, a very famous singer or actor has their peak time. A great company can go bankrupt. A great product can fail in the market. Timing is a crucial key point in one's life. For example, a husband and wife are doing business together. Their company has been thriving due to the supportive luck in the past five years. By utilizing a BaZi reading, they can create a business strategy to prepare for a slowdown in business for various reasons. If the husband is welcoming an unsupportive cycle, they can put the full ownership of the company under the wife's name. Ultimately, they still share the wealth as husband and wife, and whatever negative cosmic energy that possibly affects the husband's luck can reduce mishaps in the company. This is an example of preparing for the future. So, what is 八字 BāZì?

八字 BāZì is a form of astrology from the ancient Chinese, used to know one's fate and destiny. It helps anyone to live life fuller, optimally regulate their karma, and have the ability to choose the least resistance path in life. The theory has been around since the Han Dynasty (206 BCE – 220 CE), pioneered by a scholar named 王充 Wáng Chōng and then another scholar, 李虛中 Lǐ Xū Zhōng of the Tang Dynasty (618 to 907

CE). These are very early stages of the development of the life reading theory. The earliest effort to systematize and write the theory of BaZi astrology was made by 徐大升 Xú Dà Shēng, also known as 徐子平 Xú Zi Píng, in his book titled 淵海子平 Yuān Hǎi Zi Píng, circa Northern Song Dynasty (960 – 1127 CE).

Zi Ping’s BaZi is a system based on one’s birth year, month, day, and hour, plotted using the Sexagenary Cycle of the Chinese Calendar. An example of a full BaZi chart is shown in Figure 1 below. The birth chart consists of year, month, day, and hour columns at the top, while the luck cycles are shown at the bottom.

Date	Saturday, January 15, 2000				Gender	M					
Time	Local	5:55	Solar	6:03							
八字	Hour	Day	Month	Year							
	癸卯	壬申	丁丑	己卯							
Age	93	83	73	63	53	43	33	23	13	3	
Year	2093	2083	2073	2063	2053	2043	2033	2023	2013	2003	
Stem	丁	戊	己	庚	辛	壬	癸	甲	乙	丙	
Branch	卯	辰	巳	午	未	申	酉	戌	亥	子	

Figure 1 – Example of a BaZi Chart.

In this book series, the same BaZi chart above will be plotted illustriously, and an English translation will be added, as shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3 below. As such, Figure 3 shows the exact content of Figure 1 along with the English translation.



Figure 2 – An Illustrative Presentation of Figure 1's Birth Chart.

八字 BāZì		Hour Jam	Day Hari	Month Bulan	Year Tahun	2000-01-15
Heavenly Stems		癸 Guǐ -Water	壬 Rén +Water	丁 Dīng -Fire	己 Jǐ -Earth	
Earthly Branches		卯 Mǎo Rabbit	申 Shēn Monkey	丑 Chǒu Ox	卯 Mǎo Rabbit	
Luck Cycles	Age	43	33	23	13	
	Year	2043	2033	2023	2013	2003
	Heavenly Stems	壬 Rén +Water	癸 Guǐ -Water	甲 Jiǎ +Wood	乙 Yǐ -Wood	丙 Bǐng +Fire
	Earthly Branches	申 Shēn Monkey	酉 Yǒu Rooster	戌 Xū Dog	亥 Hài Pig	子 Zǐ Rat
	Age	93	83	73	63	53
	Year	2093	2083	2073	2063	2053
	Heavenly Stems	丁 Dīng -Fire	戊 Wù +Earth	己 Jǐ -Earth	庚 Gēng +Metal	辛 Xīn -Metal
	Earthly Branches	卯 Mǎo Rabbit	辰 Chén Dragon	巳 Sì Snake	午 Wǔ Horse	未 Wèi Goat

Figure 3 – English Translation is Added.

Figure 2 illustrates the portion of the birth chart derived from one's time of birth, often also called the natal chart. It is one's blueprint of cosmic energy (Qi). The luck cycles are derived from and interact with the birth chart.

In each time reference, there are two characters stacked. The characters on the top are referred to as the Heavenly Stems (or stems, in short), and the bottom characters (the animals) are the Earthly Branches (or branches, in short). Since every two characters pair, creating a pillar, the BaZi system is also known as the Four Pillars of Destiny. The reader should note the right-to-left orientation of the writing direction, following the traditional Chinese way. The chart may be plotted with a left-to-right orientation in some calculators, articles, or books.

In Figure 2, the characters on the top left of each stem card represent the heavenly stem characters, and the associated element is on the top right. For the earthly branches on the bottom part (the animal cards), the associated elements are shown below the animal, with the main element on the right side unless there is only one element. The Chinese characters' color code also refers to the five associated elements: water is blue, fire is red, earth is brown, wood is green, and metal is grey/white. The characters, animals, and elements will be further explored later in this chapter.

## 陰 Yīn and 陽 Yáng



*Figure 4 – The Tai Ji Yin-Yang Diagram.*

Let us start with the basics: the 太極 Tàì Jí Yīn-Yáng Diagram. Yin and Yang represent two opposite polarities. The construction of the Taiji diagram reflected the pattern of the shadow produced by the ancient Chinese sundial. The diagram also represents nature's continual and persistent change,

where White represents the Yang side, and black represents the Yin side. Please note that there are several variations of Yin Yang diagram, and the readers may find a different version that is shown in Figure 4. Table 1 shows several Yin and Yang references.

陽 Yáng	陰 Yīn
Male	Female
Day	Night
Sun	Moon
Active	Passive
External	Internal
Big	Small
Hot	Cold

*Table 1 - Yin and Yang References.*