

Kongzi Duiyi

Confucius Reading the Book of Changes is a popular topic in Chinese lore, depicting the perseverance of Confucius studying despite his stature and increasing age. He reaffirmed King Wen of Zhou's objective to use the *Yijing*, *The Book of Changes* as an ontological doctrine, legitimizing it as proper knowledge rather than the craft of shamans and fortune-tellers. The most well-told portion of this story is about how the cowhide binding of the bamboo scroll disintegrated with wear and tear, that he had to have it replaced three times – a sign of how frequent and how thorough he was in analyzing the classic text.

The piece today is a signature of the Sichuan guqin school, and is loved by students of all guqin traditions old and new for its bold use of double-zhuang to imitate the sound of a person reciting a book out loud (perhaps with a hint of dozing off). This modern score also is significantly modified from the original version, as the original version requires the player to switch back and forth on string tunings in every new section for the large half of the piece. The frequent change of modality in this piece is also significant to the theme of the *Book of Changes* itself, and how the 64 trigrams are arranged and presented, evolving from great separation towards perfect harmony, and back again.



On a classic theme of reading and recluse:

*Two scrolls of the Daoist Canon and a
three-foot sword;
A nine-section bamboo cane and a seven-
stringed qin.*

(From *The Collected Poems of
Ancestral Master Lü* 《呂祖詩集》)

Photo by the author, 2005.

孔子讀易

孔子讀易 Confucius Reading The Book of Changes

From Qinxue Beiyao (2004),
Score by Juni Yeung

Standard Tuning 正調

[illegible]

英語琴統初階