

DANCING WITH THE DANU DECK

By Robert Ball

March 6 & 7, 2004 was the first ever offering of Tolling's Danu Deck class in Victoria thanks to Trish Richards who organized the course and Bonnie Hardy and Cathy Bannink who provided their space for us to meet and eat.

The eager and willing students of this delicious and sumptuous feast for the mind and body were **Trish**, I couldn't find a place to park, **Richards, Bonnie**, I've got a question Tolling, **Hardy, Cathy**, you haven't spelt my last name right, **Bannink** and Robert, you mean I can actually ask for support, **Ball**. Tolling was accompanied by his able assistant **Kay**, this is such a wonderful setting, **Meierbachtol**.

We started our day with the usual five element Chi Gong exercises and were filled with light and energy to tackle the day.

Tolling gave us an insight into the history of the designs on the Danu Deck cards, which were created by an artist on Lasqueti Island, **Sylvia Tucker**, who basically channeled all the pictograms through dreams without conscious knowledge of Chinese Medicine Theory. Tolling then interpreted the designs to match the meridians.

We were then transported back to our kindergarten days when we discovered these neat little colored scissors and fourteen equally colorful Danu Deck cardboard sheets, out of which we would be birthing seventy-one coaster-like Danu Deck cards.

Tolling told us that this process would make the Deck "our own". What he didn't tell us was we would grow blisters on the inside of our thumbs and index finger and not be able to hold a pen or use a knife and fork for lunch or for the next week!

We spent the rest of Saturday learning the significance of each of the cards in the deck with "live" demonstrations performed on the over-eager student. Of course we were all amazed at the accuracy that Tolling was able to probe our deepest secrets and fears.

There is a unique design (picture) for each meridian; there are five copies of that design, one copy for each of the five elements (fire, earth, metal, water and wood) that is a total of sixty cards (twelve times five). There are five cards for the Governing Vessel and five cards for the Conception Vessel, again one copy for each element, or ten more cards. And finally one very special card called the Tao card. A grand total of seventy-one cards! Yikes, how am I going to remember all this! Actually it came easily with the Jin Shin Do® background.

Since you only use seven cards in a reading the probabilities are much lower for the Tao card to show up, but when it does, watch out, because it means you are on the right path, even though you might not think so.

The Practitioner first shuffles the cards to impart their energy and then reverently gives them to their client to shuffle who finally cuts the deck and places them face down on the

table. The Practitioner then removes the top five cards one by one and arranges them in the shape of the five-element pentagon starting with the season that is current. In our case it was Spring or Wood. Starting with the current element card, each card is interpreted in terms of their physiological and psychological significance, as we understand them in Chinese Medicine.

Next, the sixth card, called the “Confirmation Card”, is revealed and placed in the middle of the pentagon. It sums up the reading and pulls all the five element aspects together. It is a synthesis and basis for the future.

The seventh card to be revealed is the “Action Card” and shows the action necessary to bring the reading to fruition.

Of course, by this time your client is in a state of shock and wonder and is ready for a treatment.

Each of the Danu Deck card images has Jin Shin Do® points associated with them. For instance the Kidney card has “Bubbling Spring (K1)”, “Great Bell (K4)” and “Soul Strolling on Verandah (K23)” represented.

The seven cards that have been “chosen” by the client reveal the meridians and possible points that you could use in their treatment. Pretty nifty eh?

So most of the second day was spent practicing giving each other readings and then following up with a rejuvenating treatment.

By the way a couple of other highlights were the two pot-luck lunches that we ate together, and thanks to Bonnie and Cathy for the refreshments throughout the day and special Earth Element cookies for nourishment.