

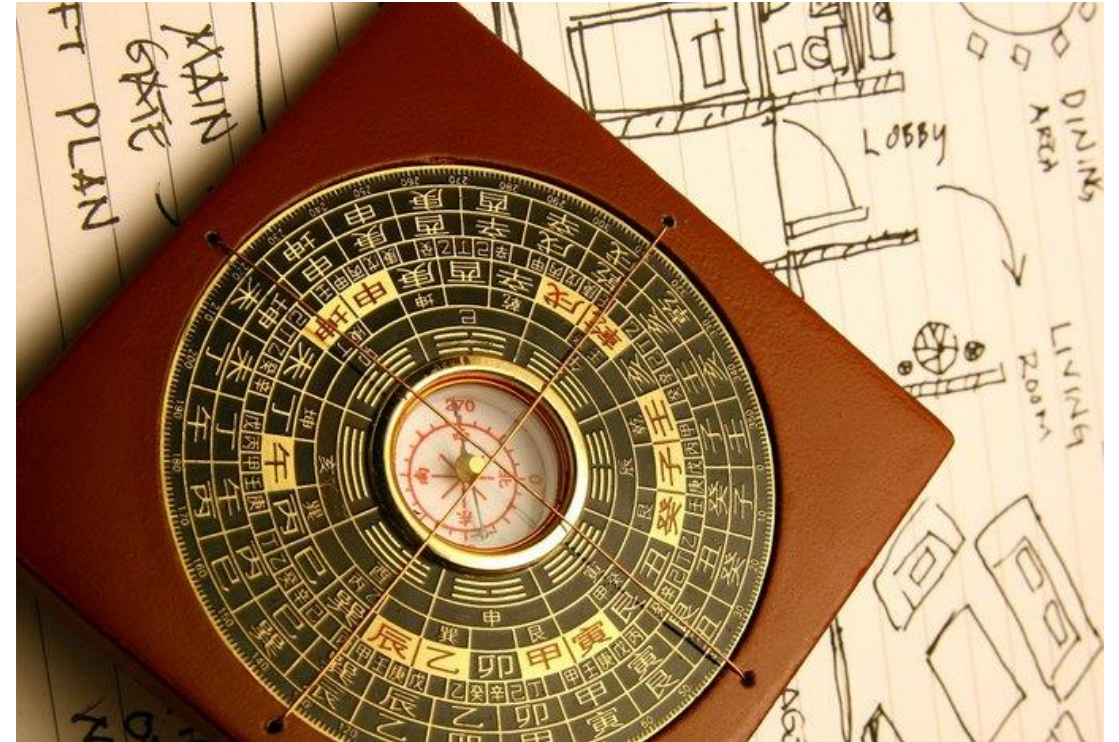
Tutorial 10 Needham

# What did the Chinese know about nature?

GFN1000 In Dialogue with Nature

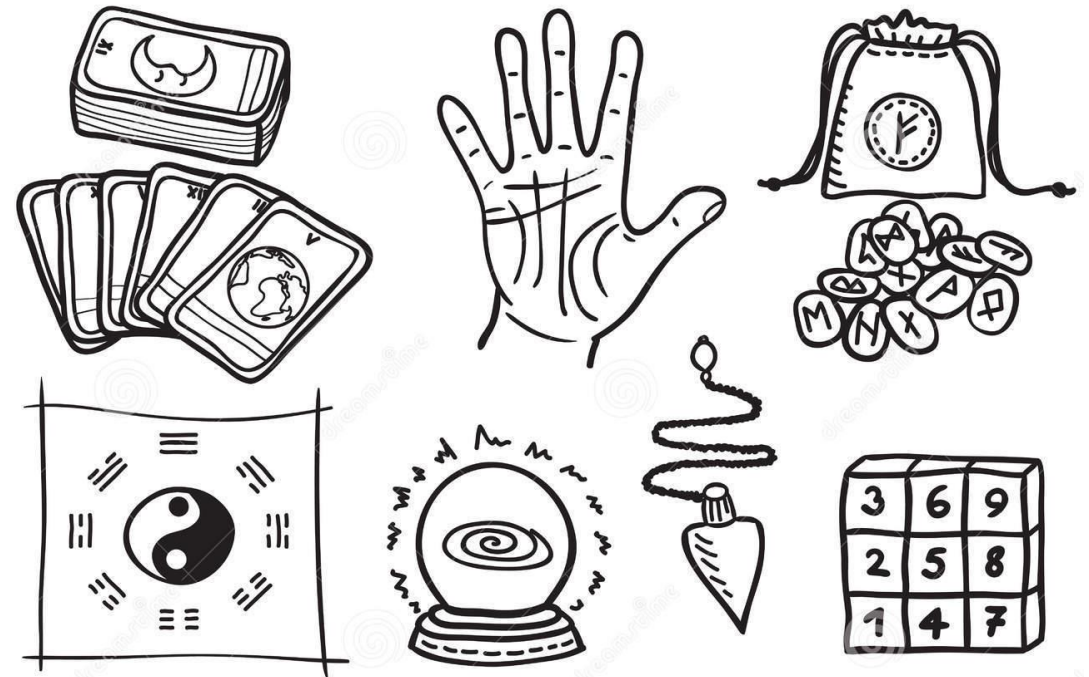
# Content

- Alternative Natural Philosophy
  - The Case of Eight Characters
- Scientific Thought in Ancient China
- Associative Thinking
- Involution



# Alternative Natural Philosophy

- Share with us your experience with traditional practices that cannot be deemed as 'scientific', such as Feng Shui (风水), Four Pillars of Destiny (四柱八字), Purple Star Astrology (紫微斗数), Tarot (塔罗), divination (占卜), astrology (占星), physiognomy (面相), and palmistry (手相), and tell us whether it was beneficial.



# Scientific Thought in Ancient China

- How does Needham demonstrate that there were scientific thoughts in ancient China? ①
- How does Needham understand science, and how is his definition of science different from our current understanding? ②
- Do you think traditional Chinese medicine is scientific? ③④
- Do you think we should employ the reductionist approach in the contemporary study of Chinese medicine? ⑤

# Associative Thinking

- How does number mysticism differ from the scientific view of numbers? ②
- What are the differences between causal thinking and associative thinking? Provide an example to illustrate the distinction. ③④
- What are the differences between the elements of the ancient Greek four-element theory and that of the Chinese five-element theory? ⑤  
①

# Involution

- How does the concept of ‘involution’ in today’s society parallel the agricultural involution in ancient Asian societies? ③
- How does involution affect productivity and innovation in contemporary societies? ④⑤
- What do you think are the root causes of the current trend of involution? Can they be addressed or changed? ①②