

IN YOUR FACE

WHAT'S YOURS SAYING ABOUT YOU?

A modern guide to determine
anyone's character and emotional history

EMISCH OGHMA

Cover photo by the author of his gold-leaf coated sculpture.
Because it was made from unfired clay, this “ideal face”
sculpture was – like a human face – impermanent.



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In Your Face

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I dedicate this book
to my two awesome sons,
who have supported me
from the beginning.



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CHAPTER ONE

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE FACE?

HELPING YOU UNDERSTAND THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU



When we look at a face, what do we see?

We see the shape of the face and its features – eyes, ears, nose and mouth – and maybe an expression appearing glad, sad or mad. Maybe they are excited to be there with you!

But what if there is much more you could be reading in that face? This book will help you interpret a person's character and emotional history – and life potential – simply by looking carefully at the shape, features and expressions of their face. That's the promise behind *Siang Mien* (translates to *face reading*), a Chinese Ming Dynasty system of interpreting faces.

I have created this easy-to-use guide

with a modern, Western audience in mind. Read on and learn what your face is saying about you....

How did the *Siang Mien* masters do that?

That is a very interesting question.

The elaborate *Siang Mien* system was created over many centuries of observations and practice.

The masters were certain the human face records every emotional reaction you've ever had, from birth. Emotional responses to situations – for example, think of a smile or a frown – create muscle memories that over time create deeper facial lines. The stronger and more pronounced the line, the more often

that emotional reaction has occurred in that person. The masters also taught that certain birth characteristics indicated karmic (previous life) patterns. So each person's face reveals a combination of pre-destined and acquired character and potential.

Siang Mien masters isolated the facial shapes, features and contours into categories inspired by the four elements of Air, Fire, Water and Earth. After many centuries of observations, they could attribute a meaning or pattern to each facial characteristic.

Ancient Chinese society treated *Siang Mien* with deep respect. When a child reached age ten (entering the auspicious double digits), a master would categorize

the youngster's head shape and features to decide what profession the individual would be best suited for: warrior, merchant, domestic, farmer, bureaucrat, etc. Similarly, no business transaction, no potential marriage matching, could take place without a *Siang Mien* interpretation.

Is this Chinese system merely a historical oddity and example of how people can be consciously – and subconsciously – judging others, possibly inaccurately?

I personally believe there is definitely something to this ancient system. I've been studying faces for over 30 years, interviewing people, watching their facial expressions and seeing how the face moves in reaction to emotions. I've found it uncanny how often *Siang Mien* has proven right, and is seldom wrong.

Read on to understand someone, simply by looking at their face. You will be able to recognize and interpret physical attributes that disclose the person's character and past emotional reactions. Because *Siang Mien* is both art and science, it has many complications and some apparent contradictions, so how one aspect relates to another may differ from person to person. Ethnicity will

also play a role – for example, what is considered wide, long, short or narrow in one race may be average in another.

I have devised a way of simplifying the *Siang Mien* principles, teaching them in an understandable, modern way. We'll be taking a step-by-step look at the face, interpreting the areas and features, beginning with an overview of a few key concepts....

When meeting a person, do you make eye contact while talking to them?

It is only fair that the person you are analyzing is open to your attention. Making direct eye contact is the best way to identify if the person is open to a facial analysis. When you look a person in the eye, it shows your interest and confidence. If they do not return your gaze, then they are most likely not open to interpretation. Best to respect their privacy.

What was the first thing you notice about that person's face?

If you notice their eyes first, then start there: note what type of eye they possess. Did you notice their ears or shape

of their forehead first? Maybe their nose?

Tip: The most pronounced characteristic of the person's face will determine an entry point for your analysis.

For example, if the person has a big nose or small nose, and you notice the nose first, start there. Realize that the person has had that nose all their life, and any comments made about the person's nose – good or bad – would have yielded a much-repeated positive or negative emotional response.

Are the lines in a person's face deep and pronounced?

Each emotional response will be recorded in areas of the face. Repeated responses of a similar nature produce deeper lines, with tighter contours.

These repeated muscle movements can also alter the face noticeably: a person who always raises one eyebrow will eventually appear to have a slanted forehead.

We all have character lines around our eyes and around our lips. Many have furrowed brows: these lines can be in different directions on the face. As you progress through the book, you'll learn

that lines around the eyes slanting upward show a happy, carefree response to life. Lines slanted downward from the eyes show a more melancholy history.

Lines at the very ends of the mouth can either turn up or turn down. For a person who is often happy, smiling and laughing, the edges of their mouth will be turned up. The person who is sad, depressed or generally feeling miserable will often frown, so the lines at the edge of their mouth will be turned down.

**Okay, now take a minute,
look in the mirror and smile**

Do you see and feel how the edges of your mouth go up? Good! Notice the lines at the ends of your lips are turned up. Now frown – you can feel how the edges of your mouth go down. Notice those lines turn down too.

Now imagine doing that thousands of times, edges of mouth up, edges of mouth down. Imagine over the years how this would create a crease at the edge of your mouth. You are probably concluding correctly that if you had smiled 10,000 times more than frowning, this would imprint an upturned crease at the edges of your lips.

As you live your life, these repeated

emotional responses are stored as muscle memories that create the lines and contours of your face. Your emotional history can therefore be read by an observant, trained eye.

While you are reacting to whatever situation it is that causes your face to react, up or down, typically you are not aware or noticing what your face is doing. The other person can see what your expression is; you cannot, unless of course you are looking in a mirror.

When we interpret a person's face using the *In Your Face* system, there can be a number of considerations or anomalies to take into account. For example, very seldom do you find an exact head shape match. Usually a person's head has aspects of two or more head shapes. Their features and areas also may contain contradicting information. Much will be up to your interpretation.

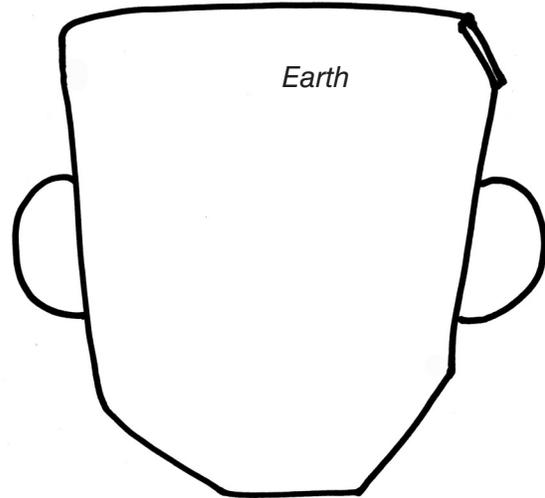
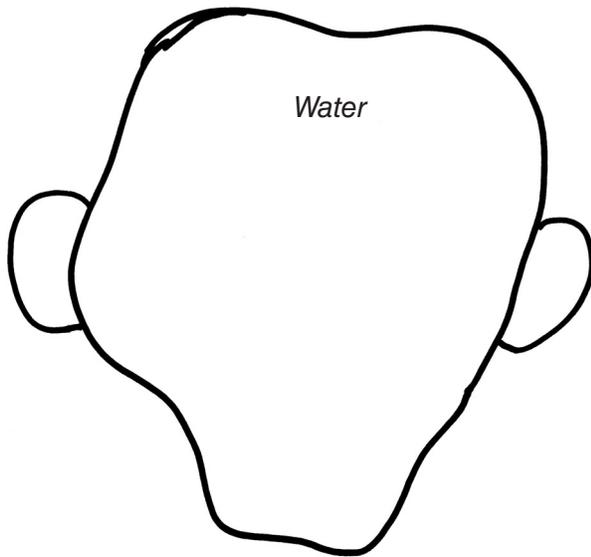
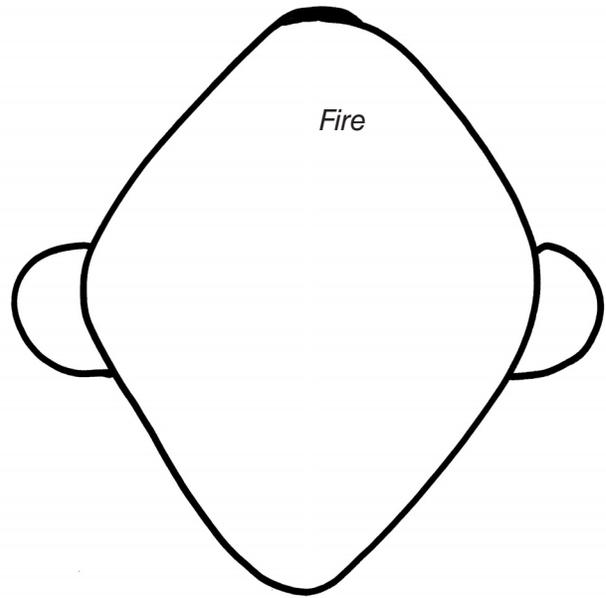
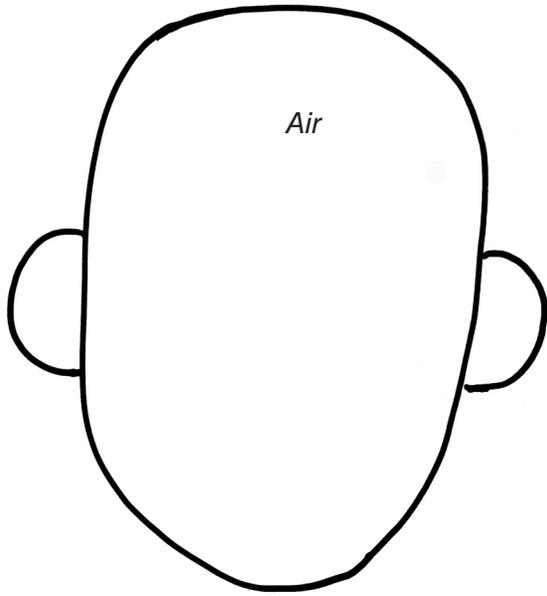
Sometimes one person will have two different eye shapes, so their personality will have a blend of the traits.

As another example, if a person has a good high round forehead but his eyebrows show weakness, the strong forehead will cancel out the weak eyebrows. If there are many signs all pointing to a certain disposition (i.e., turned down

lips, two eye lines down, attitude lines converging, and a heavy groove in the forehead), for certain these strongly support the proposition that this individual is a pessimistic, grumpy and disappointed-with-their-life type of person.

Unless there is some dominant feature, as we mentioned above, typically we look first at the head shape. Then the features – forehead, cheek and chin combinations – will indicate a more overall type of character. For instance, a person's pointed forehead, high angular cheeks and pointed chin, would indicate someone with lots of drive and determination, but without much thought about emotional consequences. By contrast, a person with a high rounded forehead, mid-range rounded cheeks and a square chin would be someone with considerable compassion and understanding, for this is the face of Buddha.

We'll start with basic head shapes in the next chapter.





CHAPTER TWO

HEAD SHAPES AND THEIR INTERPRETATION

AIR, FIRE, WATER, EARTH

There are four basic head shapes, identified as Air, Fire, Water and Earth. Very seldom do we find someone with a pure, single head shape – typically a person has a combination of two or even three head shapes. To determine what percentage there is of each head shape, look at the head as a pie plate, see what portion or slice of the pie is what shape, then what percentage that is. The head shape with more than 50% of the total is the dominant shape.

To determine the category or categories, examine all sides of the head: the top, chin and jaw, and the sides. Is the jaw line rounded, pointy, square or even wavy?

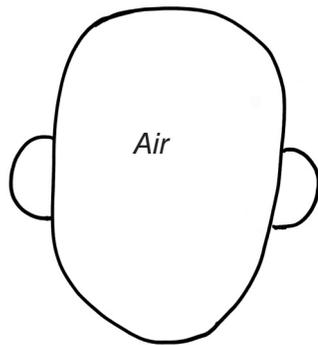
Making a sketch can be helpful. Draw a line from where the bottom of the ear attaches to the tip of the chin – this gives a contour of the cheek.

Write down your preliminary observation: for example, “mostly Air-face, with Earth-face-like chin” or similar.

On the following pages, we’ll go over the four head shapes in more detail, explaining what each shape reveals about the person.

Please remember that as you study the attributes associated with each face shape and the other features, you will see that some attribute may seem quite negative, but this can be overridden or balanced by other seemingly more positive

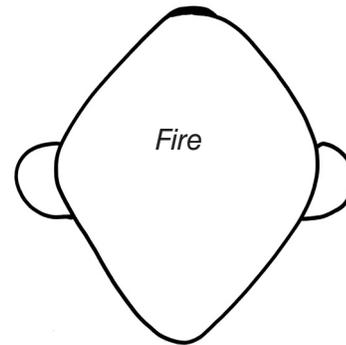
attributes. For example, a pointed forehead or a wavy bumpy forehead generally are considered as undesirable characteristics (the most positive thing that comes to my mind is foreheads like that help keep hats on in windy weather). But a wide square chin with a pointy head is considered a ‘mountain face’ which is very positive as this person would strive for the best at everything but use a logical, systematic approach to getting what they want.



AIR-FACE

An Air-face is commonly seen as an oval face, but it can also be round, or quite oblong. All these would be considered Air-face.

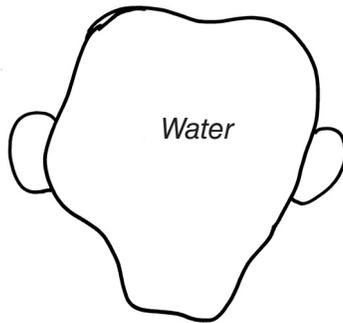
The Air-face has no hard angles. The top corners of the forehead are rounded as are the jawbone and the chin. There are no distinguishable corner angles, only curves.



FIRE-FACE

Fire-face has pointed, angular shapes – such as a triangular chin, pointed forehead, and straight line from ear to chin. A full diamond shape is a pure Fire-face.

The best way you can tell is to examine the cheeks from the ear to the chin; there will be a straight line. Look also for the top of the head and the chin to taper to a sharp point.



WATER-FACE

The Water-face shape has irregular curves. There are not any really sharp angles and nothing is straight. Instead all is curvy (like flowing water) and can be different on each side of the face. The cheeks may not be even – one cheek may be more pronounced than the other.

The jaw line will be wavy. The Water-face typically has very irregular curves with no hard angles.

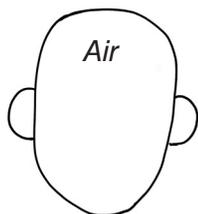


EARTH-FACE

The Earth-face has very distinct angles – a squarish or rectangular shape, with the top corners being almost 90-degree angles.

The jaw line is very angular and the chin is very squarish. The Earth-face can be very narrow or very wide, but will always have very angular corners. Some may have the jaw bone running totally parallel to the chin.

INTERPRETING EACH FACE TYPE



Air-face characteristics

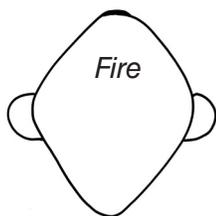
Air-face people tend to be very positive. They also are very forgiving, compassionate, considerate and caring people. They have a sense of justice, are very loyal, trusting and trustworthy.

One way to think of Air-face people is their light-hearted nature, not taking the world so seriously. They seem to be looking on the bright side of life, and are overall quite positive. That's

not to say that they don't have negative feelings and emotions, because you can see some oval-shaped person who has heavy jowls, heavy brow and the corners of the lips turned down. That would show a very sad and negative emotional history.

Air-face people can be gullible and naïve. They tend to want to be in more groups. Not always

sticklers on details, they may miss a lot of things – they may not see what is really there. Air-face people are capable of heavily projecting their own personal desires and thoughts onto others. People with this head shape are often very creative, daydreaming people.



Fire-face characteristics

Fire-face people are very passionate, enthusiastic go-getters, often quite energetic. Fire-face people like to get to the crux of the matter as quick as possible, electing to find the best, quickest solution to problems. Fire-face people can be very judgmental and they can have fits of outrage, lose control of their temper easily, perhaps even committing violence – they have potential to be the most vicious of all of the

possible face shapes. Fire-face people may dramatically display how they feel.

They may not care to hear the whole story, often having vague early judgments on situations. Sometimes their decisions are very abrupt, coming from a cold unfeeling, narcissistic perspective. Yet they are very brave, having courage and a willingness to commit fully to whatever they set their sights on.

Fire-face people are more apt to be in the military, police force, firefighting, paramedics, first responders. They are looking for adrenaline. Those with this head shape can also be very easily persuaded and can be gullible – they may not think things through until it is too late.

Water-face characteristics

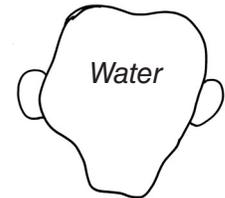
Water-face people are very emotional, very compassionate, very caring, nurturing and loving. They can also be very sad, and can be very depressed.

Many people with Water-faces can have emotional problems throughout their life, never able to get over traumatic situations they have encountered. Water-face people live with

dramatic emotions, but they are very understanding, compassionate and empathetic to other people's emotions. Water-face people are often supportive and very willing to contribute to a group effort.

Water-face people can be moody, though very seldom angry. They can be confused, can be easily scattered, and may

lose control of their composure. Water-face people emotionally break out in public more than other face shape people would.



Earth-face characteristics

Earth-face people tend to be very stable, pragmatic, constructive and logical.

They look for solutions in a methodical, organized way to find the best result. It doesn't matter if it's the quickest solution, as they are tending to look for a more permanent solution. They can be very stubborn, and non-yielding.

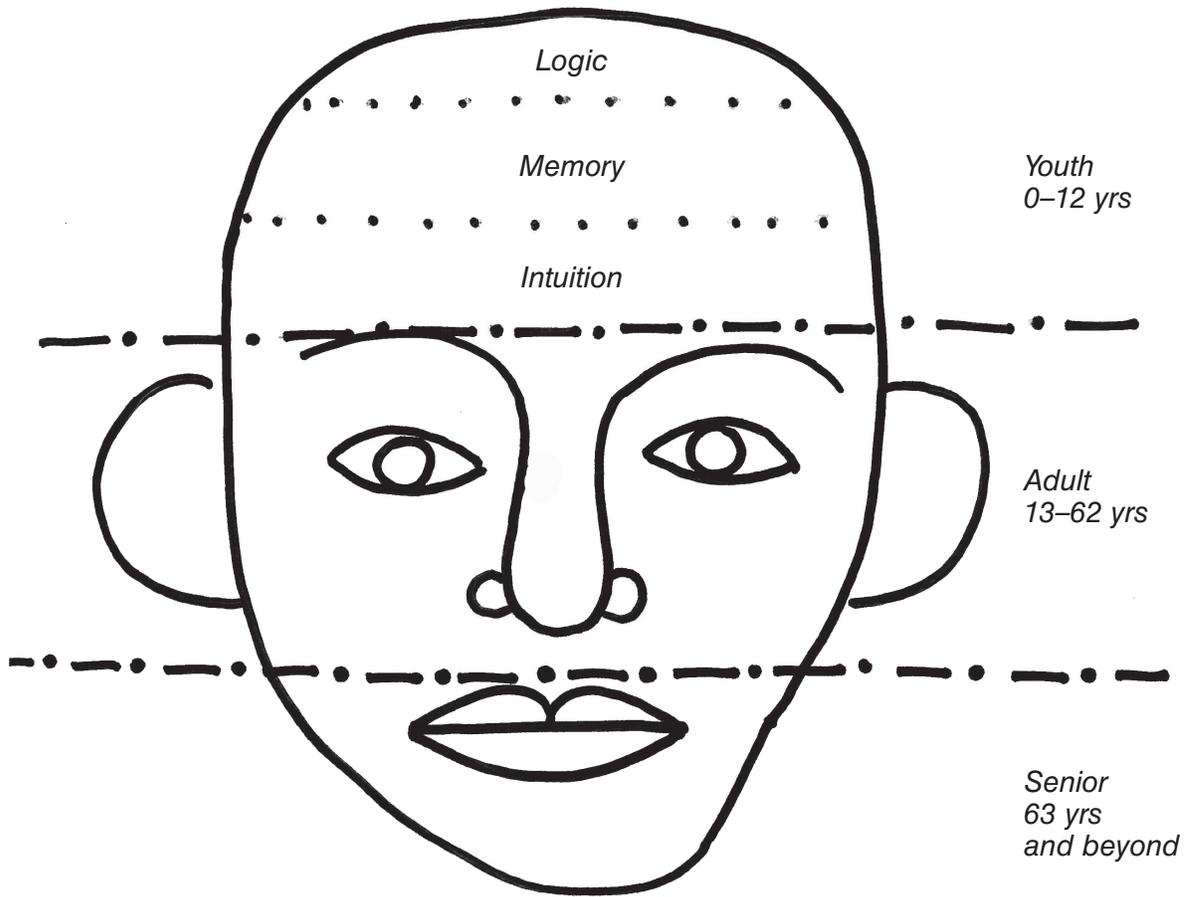
Earth-face people see things their way, as the only way. The Earth-face person usually has the willpower and the fortitude to carry through with the things they want to do. These people stay on course, they do not easily quit, they don't get swayed, they are very loyal, very supportive of their loved ones.

Earth-face people take pride

in the way they look, and how things in their world are organized to their liking.

Earth-face people are generally leaders, they possess great willpower and many people will listen to them. People with this head shape can gain the confidence of others easily, and may have charisma to perpetuate loyal followers.







CHAPTER THREE

THE THREE FACIAL AGES

YOUTH, ADULT, SENIOR

As we read for potential/capacity and for emotional history, we need to bear in mind that a face changes considerably over a lifetime. The person's potential and capacities will be revealed more fully in stages over a lifetime – starting with only the top area of the face being reliable to read for a child, and progressing over time down to the mouth and chin area in older ages. As well, we cannot expect someone who is quite young to display the same depth of emotional history as would an adult or a senior, and in the same areas.

YOUTH AREA

The top of the forehead down to the temples and the eyebrow is associated with the youth stage of your life – from 0 to 12 years old. This zone indicates the

person's mental capacity. We further divide this section into three parts:

- very top, corresponding to logic
- middle, corresponding to memory
- area of the eyebrows, corresponding to intuition.

ADULT AREA

The bottom of the eyebrows to top of the lips, including both ears, is associated with your adulthood, from about 13 to 62 years old.

Here we can determine a person's luck, favor or fortune, their abilities and inability to overcome obstacles. We see how they cope with adversity, and cooperate with one another.

SENIOR AREA

Covering the top of the lips to the bottom of the chin, this area associates with capacity in the senior part of your life, from 63 and beyond. The length and shape of lines and contours relates to how a person will experience their senior years. Will they enjoy it or not?

Look for emotional history at the appropriate section for the age of the person you are reading. Look at the face, its pattern. Notice size and proportion, the contours and features: height, width, depth, thick or thin. Noticeable angles and dents, or developing lines, are indicators of harsh emotional responses stored there. The area they are in will reveal at what age the trauma happened.



CHAPTER FOUR

THE MARKS OF THE FACE

THE FOUR MAJOR LINES

There are four major lines, ridges or creases in your face that say the most about you. They are indicators of your most repeated responses.

Creases between the eyebrows (#1 on diagram). These creases show how you deal with anger. They are pronounced when a person is angry.

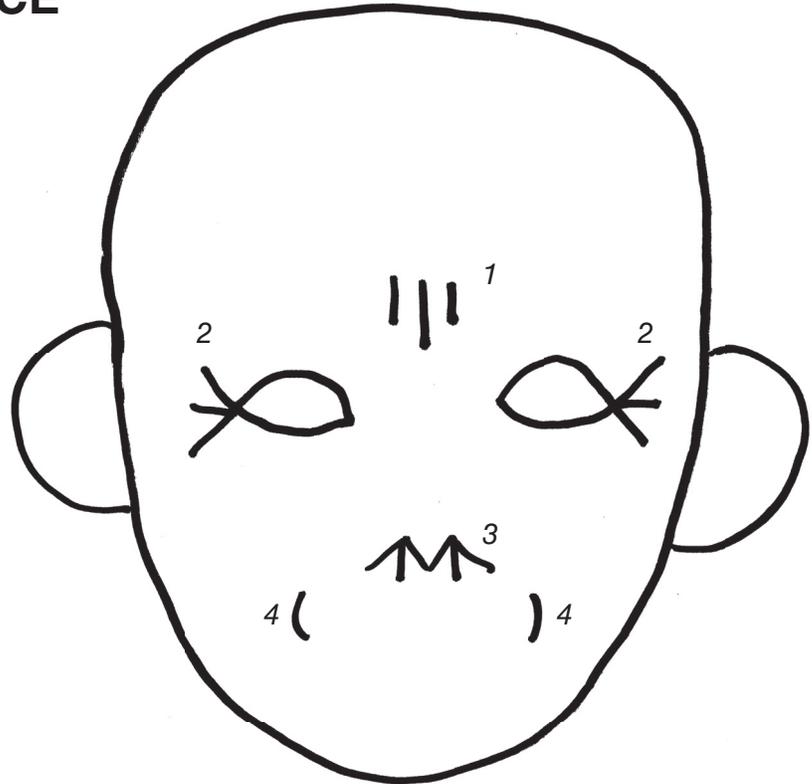
Lines at the outer ends of the eyes (#2 on diagram). These lines are indicators about a person's ability to deal with life situations. Positive or negative reactions are revealed here.

Ridges on your top lip (#3 on diagram). Ridges below your nose show

face observers what type of attitude a person has.

Corners of the mouth (#4 on diagram). These are a way of telling if a person has an overall happy or dissatisfied perspective on life.

On the next few pages, we will explain the most commonly observed patterns.



CREASES BETWEEN THE EYEBROWS

Parallel marks are the norm (diagram #1), an indicator that the person has a balance over their anger. The wider apart the marks are, the less often that person gets angry.

A person who has **little bags attached to the parallel marks** (#2) is a person who is demonstrative when they are angry. These individuals let off steam as it builds up, sometimes resorting to violence.

A person who has a **noticeable bulge attached to the marks** (#3) is a person who has a short fuse, with their anger easily aroused, and are quick to demonstrate they are angry. A person with a larger bulge is more often than not going to use violence when angry, most definitely verbal anger, but he or she possibly will resort to physical violence. Be careful!

Diagram 1



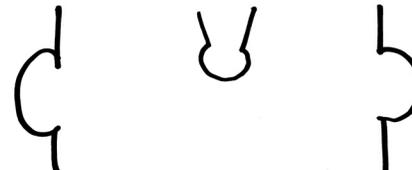
Diagram 2



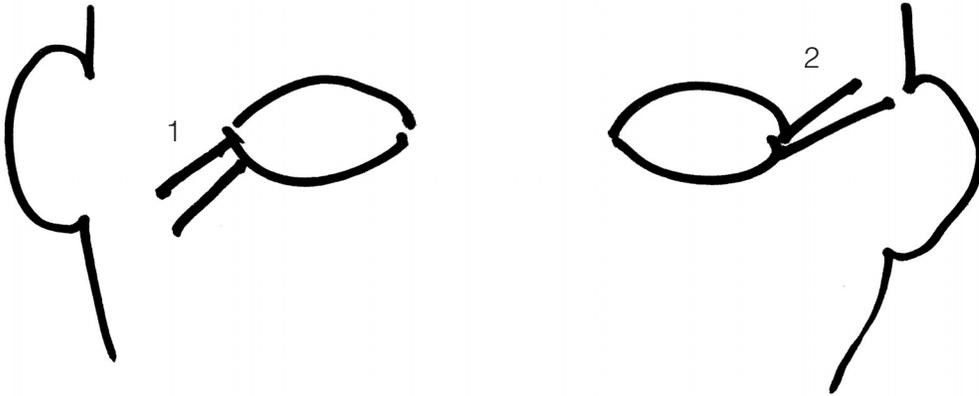
Diagram 4



Diagram 3



A person who has **only one mark** (#4) indicates that this person holds onto their anger, internalizing it until they have an outburst, which is not very controlled. They may seldom show their anger, and often store it away. When they do show anger, you know it.



LINES AT THE OUTER TIPS OF THE EYE

The marks here demonstrate a person's perspective and reaction to their enjoyment of life. Usually there will be two prominent etched lines, and the area between is very important to observe – if it is level, then the person's reactions are controlled. If it tilts up, this indicates positive enjoyment; if it tilts down, this displays negative enjoyment.

Many times there are more than two lines. If so, the deepest ones show the most reacted-to emotional response.

When **two lines are deeply engraved going down** (#1 on the diagram), this indicates to the observer the overall perspective or reaction to life's situations has been negative for this individual.

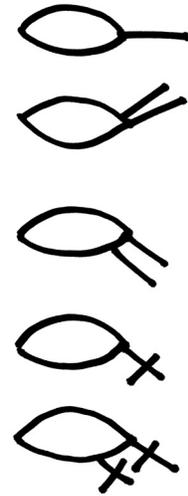
If the **two lines are going up** (#2 on the diagram), this shows that the person has always looked at things more positively.

Could be one or several lines at the outer tips of the eyes

A **single center line**, if it is level, the person has equal up and down emotional reactions.

Two lines above level show this individual has reacted to most experiences positively, with a smile on their face.

Two lines below level indicates that this individual has reacted negatively to experiences in their life, resulting in disappointment and sadness in their experiences.



When you see **lines that cross** at the outer corners of the eye, this will disclose lost loves the person has had. The tighter to the corner of the eye, the longer ago the event. A deeper and more pronounced cross or X shows the amplitude of the emotional reaction.

Therefore, if you see **more than one cross**, each cross indicates a lost love or mourning of a lost love. The first X from the corner would be the furthest in the past; the next would be closer to the present.