

Proposal to correct the Character Names for Tai Xuan Jing

(太玄經) (U+13D00 ~ U+13D05)

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1. Introduction.

“Tai Xuan Jing” Symbols has been assigned to the UCS (U+13D00 to U+13DFFF) by the proposal document N2416 “**Proposal to add monogram, diagram and tetragram characters to the UCS**” and Resolution M42.16 (N2454r.pdf). However, I have noticed that several symbols have been given incorrect names. I would like to clarify this problem and propose to discuss on this issue.

2. What’s wrong with the current Tai Xuan Jing character names?

UCS character names for Tai Xuan Jing assumes that three monograms, namely “—”, “- -” and “•••”, designate Heaven(天), Human(人) and Earth (地) respectively (Fig. 1 N2416.pdf, page 9). This assumption is incorrect.

Each monograms represents Heaven, Earth and Human (天·地·人) respectively in this order. (Earth and Human are swapped). This may confuse the users of Tai Xuan Jing symbols.

3. Proposed Solutions

I propose the following two solutions for this problem

(1) Add the statement that alerts this swapping to the standard.

The statement should tell that the character names for Tai Xuan Jing mistook “Earth” for “Human” and vice versa.

(2) Revise some glyphs and names of Tai Xuan Jing characters in the UCS.

I would like to propose to revise the glyphs and character names for Tai Xuan Jing as follows (this reflects the glyph change of Amendment 1:2005).

UCS		Amd.1:2005 NAME		PROPOSED NAME
U+1D300	☐☐☐	MONOGRAM FOR EARTH	☐☐☐	MONOGRAM FOR HUMAN
U+1D301	☐☐☐	DIGRAM FOR HEAVENLY EARTH	☐☐☐	DIGRAM FOR HEAVENLY HUMAN
U+1D302	☐☐☐	DIGRAM FOR HUMAN EARTH	☐☐☐	DIGRAM FOR EARTHLY HUMAN
U+1D303	☐☐☐	DIGRAM FOR EARTHLY HEAVEN	☐☐☐	DIGRAM FOR HUMAN HEAVEN
U+1D304	☐☐☐	DIGRAM FOR EARTHLY HUMAN	☐☐☐	DIGRAM FOR HUMAN EARTH
U+1D305	☐☐☐	DIGRAM FOR EARTH	☐☐☐	DIGRAM FOR HUMAN

(Note that this problem can not be fixed by merely swapping the glyphs, since the correct glyphs for “Diagram for Earth”, for example, is already encoded in U+268F, “DIGRAM FOR GREATER YIN”.)

4. Background

This “Earth” and “Human” swapping comes from N2416 document (Fig. 1). In N2416, This incorrect correspondence of symbols (“☐☐” and “☐☐☐”) and their names (Earth and Human) comes from the document [Walter, 1986], which is referred at the page 17 of N2416 (Figure 3). However, N2416 also refers [Nylan, 1994], at page 14, which correctly assigns “☐☐” to Human and

“☷” to Earth (Figure 4).

(Note that N2416 mistakenly swaps the glyphs for U+1D301, U+1D302 and U+1D303 in page 21 (Fig. 2 N2416.pdf p.20), but this has been corrected in Amendment 1.)

《太玄經》 <TAI XUAN JING> MONOGRAM, DIGRAMS & TETRAGRAMS - U+1D300..U+1D356

Shou	Ming	Pinyin	USV	UName
☷	地	dì dì4	[U+1D300]	MONOGRAM FOR EARTH
☷☰	天地	tiāndì tīan1dì4	[U+1D301]	DIGRAM FOR HEAVENLY EARTH
☷☷	人地	réndì ren2dì4	[U+1D302]	DIGRAM FOR HUMAN EARTH
☷☰	地天	dìtiān dì4tīan1	[U+1D303]	DIGRAM FOR EARTHLY HEAVEN
☷☷	地人	dìrén dì4ren2	[U+1D304]	DIGRAM FOR EARTHLY HUMAN
☷☷	雙地	shuāngdì shuang1dì4	[U+1D305]	DIGRAM FOR EARTH
☷	土	zhǔ		

Fig. 1 N2416.pdf, page 9

Row 1D3: TAI XUAN JING TETRAGRAMS

	1D30	1D31	1D32	1D33	1D34	1D35
0	☷	☰	☷	☰	☷	☰
1	☰	☷	☰	☷	☰	☷
2	☷	☰	☷	☰	☷	☰
3	☰	☷	☰	☷	☰	☷
4	☷	☰	☷	☰	☷	☰
5	☰	☷	☰	☷	☰	☷
6	☷	☰	☷	☰	☷	☰

Fig. 2 N2416.pdf p.20

The bottom, or Chia line, of the Shou can now be written as T'ien, and is written as an unbroken line, — .
 If the number of stalks in the remainder pile is 4, then there would have been one remainder of Two in the manipulations.
 Two is the number of Jen, and therefore the bottom line is written as a singly broken line, - - .
 If the number of stalks in the remainder pile is 5, this indicates that there was one remainder of Three. Three is the number of Ti; and the bottom line of the Shou is written as a line broken into three, ***

Fig. 3 N2416.pdf, p.17

The resultant graphic symbols look like this:

twice-broken line [corresponding to Man]	- - - -
unbroken line [corresponding to Heaven]	————
once-broken line [corresponding to Earth]	- - - -
once-broken line [corresponding to Earth]	- - - -

Fig. 4 N2416.pdf, p.19

4. Document for Evidence

The 10th page of Xuan-Ku (玄告) of Tai-Xuan-Jing (太玄經) document has the following statements.

「玄一 (first) 摸而得乎天、故謂之有天 (heaven)、再 (second) 摸而得乎地 (earth)、故謂之有地、三 (third) 摸而得乎人 (human) 、故謂之有人」

甲子朔旦冬至無餘分十九歲為一章二十	七章五百一十三歲一會者日月交會一	終也八十一章千五百二十九歲為一統從	子至辰自辰至申自申至子凡四千六百一	十七歲為一元有三百三統終也置一元	之數以章會三統凡九會統數除之終盡焉	一章閏分盡一會月食盡一統朔分盡一元	六甲盡玄之道班氏元與太初歷	相應亦有顛頊之歷焉此之謂也	太玄告第十五	玄生神象二 <small>玄天也神者妙萬物而為言者也二者天地也天地之神物不可得形而見唯象</small> 神象二生規 <small>規者象天之行</small> 規生 <small>二儀而神玄也</small>	三摹 <small>謂三玄之義也</small> 三摹生九據 <small>九據九位各三變三三而九故有九位也</small> 玄一摹而得乎天故謂之有 <small>天謂天也</small> 再摹而得乎地故謂之有地 <small>謂地也</small> 三摹而得乎人故謂之有人 <small>謂人也</small> 天三據而乃 <small>成故謂之始中終</small> 地三據而乃形故謂 <small>之下中上</small> 人三據而乃著故謂之思福 <small>禍</small> 下欲上欲出入九虛 <small>欲猶合也下相</small> 小索大索周行九度 <small>九居居亦</small>	得而各有合而	出入九位之中
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Fig. 5 Tai-Xuan-Jing, page 10.

References

1. N2416.pdf
2. 『太玄經』玄告 (立命館大学蔵) (I really thank Dr. Akiyama Yoichiro and Dr. Nikaido Yoshihiro for obtaining and checking this document.)