

# From "Six Contract Spring" to "Six Harmonies Tower": The Auspicious Significance of the Number "Six" in Traditional Chinese Culture

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**Abstract:** This article explores the cultural symbolic meaning of the number "six" in the idioms "Six Contracts for Spring" and "Liuhe Tower", as well as its profound connotations in traditional Chinese culture. Firstly, by analyzing the idiom "Six Contracts for Spring", its literal and symbolic meanings are explained, emphasizing that "Liuhe" represents the six directions between heaven and earth, symbolizing the harmony and prosperity of the universe, while "Tongchun" symbolizes the revival of all things and the universal vitality. Secondly, this article analyzes the symbolic significance of Hangzhou's "Liuhe Tower" as a historical and cultural landmark, revealing that the tower serves as a link between heaven and earth, reflecting the cosmology in traditional Chinese culture and the concept of harmony in human society. Furthermore, this article explores the auspicious meaning of the number "six" in Chinese culture, and analyzes the important role of "six" in expressing smooth, unobstructed and other beautiful wishes, based on its similar pronunciation to the word "flow". Finally, this article summarizes the multiple symbols of the number "six" in traditional Chinese culture, from language, philosophy to art. Numbers are not only used as counting tools, but also carry profound cultural meanings about harmony, smoothness, and perfection. Through these analyses, this article demonstrates the uniqueness of digital symbols in Chinese culture and their significant impact on people's daily lives.

**Keywords:** Six Contract Spring; Liuhe Tower; Number 'Six'; Chinese Culture; Auspicious Significance.

## 1. The Cultural Significance of the "Six Contract Spring"

The "Six Contract Spring" consists of two parts, namely "Liuhe" and "Tongchun". Liuhe "refers to the six directions between heaven and earth, usually including east, south, west, north, up, and down. These six directions cover the spatial scope of the universe. Here, Liuhe "is not limited to geographical orientation, but broadly refers to the entire universe and its various levels. 'Tongchun' refers to the revival and vitality of all directions and existences under the breath of spring. Spring, as the first season of the four seasons, is a symbol of the revival and flourishing of all things in nature. 'Tongchun' means that in this warm and hopeful season, all life and existence are reborn and prosperous. Therefore, the literal meaning of "Six Contract Spring" refers to the spring season in which all beings and directions in the universe radiate a sense of spring together, symbolizing universal recovery and harmony.

### 1.1. The Cultural Symbol and Philosophical Concept of "Six Contract Spring"

The "Six Contract Spring" is not only a description of a natural phenomenon, but also conveys profound cultural symbols and philosophical concepts. Firstly, there is the concept of 'harmony and unity in the universe'. In traditional Chinese culture, the universe is a harmonious and unified whole, where all things are interconnected and interact with each other. Through the concept of "Liuhe", idioms emphasize the balance and harmony between heaven and earth. The six directions symbolize the entirety of the universe, while 'Tongchun' symbolizes the collective revival of all things in the breath of spring, reflecting the coordination and symbiosis of all things in heaven and earth. Next is the unity of nature and society. Spring is the season for the revival of

all things, symbolizing vitality and hope. In Chinese culture, spring is not only a natural change, but also a symbol of social life. Through the "Six Contract Spring", the desire for peace and prosperity in the entire society, country, and even the world is expressed. Just as the scent of spring is universal and warm, idioms also express the hope for universal well-being - that both nature and human society can share this spring filled happiness together. At the same time, it also symbolizes "auspiciousness and blessings". In the traditional cultural context of China, spring is the beginning of a new year, symbolizing new hope and new life. Through the "Six Contract Spring", people convey their wishes for a better future, hoping for a harmonious and prosperous world. It is the expectation and sustenance of all beautiful things in the future, reflecting the Chinese people's mentality of advocating harmony, pursuing stability and prosperity.

### 1.2. The Natural Symbols and Humanistic Meanings of "Six Contract Spring"

Spring has important symbolic significance in Chinese culture, not only as a season of seasonal changes, but also as a synonym for vitality, revival, and hope. In agricultural culture, spring is the season for sowing, symbolizing the beginning and conception, while the "six contract spring" emphasizes the universal revival brought by spring. This revival is not only a natural phenomenon, but also symbolizes social renewal and individual hope. Firstly, it implies the revival of all things. Spring is the season for the revival of all things and the rebirth of life. All plants begin to sprout and grow, and animals also begin to reproduce. This process demonstrates the power of life and infinite possibilities. The 'Six Contract Spring' expresses the universality of vitality and hope, meaning that both nature and human society can be revitalized under the nourishment of spring. At the same time, the "Six Contract Spring" also symbolizes the cycle of

seasons and the meaning of humanity. In traditional Chinese culture, the change of seasons is closely related to the cyclical changes of life. Spring is a time of renewal, symbolizing the beginning of a new stage in life. Therefore, the "Six Contract Spring" is also used to express expectations for the future and a new life. Spring is often seen as a beginning, full of unknown opportunities and hope.

Through the "Six Contract Spring", we can see people's pursuit of an ideal life. This beautiful life is not only about material abundance, but also about spiritual harmony and peace. In Chinese culture, harmony is a very important value, especially social harmony and family harmony, which are often considered the foundation of happiness. The "Six Contract Spring" not only literally expresses the universal revival of spring, but also carries a deeper meaning in that it embodies people's aspirations for an ideal social state and is endowed with a deeper humanistic meaning, that is, whether it is families, communities, or countries, they can find a path of harmony and prosperity in the atmosphere of spring. It is a vision of longing for peace, prosperity, and happiness.

At the same time, in many traditional Chinese festivals, especially during the Spring Festival, people often convey the blessings of "six contracts for spring" through various means. For example, activities such as posting couplets, setting off firecrackers, hanging lanterns, and paying New Year's greetings are all expressions of welcoming the arrival of spring and hoping for good luck, harmonious families, and smooth careers in the new year. The "Six Contract Spring" is not just a blessing for spring, it has deeply penetrated into people's lives and become a symbol of their longing for a better life and pursuit of a harmonious society.

The phrase 'Six Contract Spring' is not only an idiom describing natural phenomena, but also conveys philosophical ideas in Chinese culture about the harmony of the universe, social prosperity, and the revival of life. Through this idiom, it expresses that spring, as a season symbolizing recovery and hope, can universally evoke harmony and prosperity in the world. At the same time, it also embodies people's yearning for a better life and their expectations for social and national peace and stability.

## 2. The Cultural Significance of the "Liuhe Tower"

Liuhe Tower "is a symbolic landmark name in traditional Chinese culture. It is not just a physical structure -" a tower ", but also carries rich cultural, religious, and philosophical connotations. In order to comprehensively understand the cultural significance of the "Liuhe Pagoda", this article will analyze it from two aspects: the concept of "Liuhe" and the symbolic meaning of "tower" as an architectural form.

### 2.1. The Cultural Background of "Liuhe"

In traditional Chinese culture, the term "Liuhe" has profound symbolic meanings, usually referring to "heaven, earth, and four directions", specifically the six directions of east, south, west, north, up, and down. This concept is closely related to cosmology, worldview, and philosophical thought. The symbolic significance of Liuhe, in ancient Chinese philosophy, usually represents the harmony and unity of all things in the universe. The six directions of heaven, earth, four directions, and up and down together form a perfect whole, symbolizing the overall harmony between nature and human

society. In the Book of Changes, "Liuhe" also holds a very important position, representing the philosophical idea of the unity of heaven and man, emphasizing the balance and communication between heaven, earth, nature, and human society. [Cao Bohan: Revised Edition of General Knowledge of Chinese Classics, Beijing New World Press, 2023 edition, p. 96.]

The concept of Liuhe and "harmony" contains the ideas of "harmony" and "unity". It emphasizes that whether it is the operation of nature, the order of the universe, or the behavior of human society, the principle of harmony should be followed. Liuhe is therefore regarded as an ideal state, an ideal balance between heaven, earth, and humans.

Therefore, "Liuhe" itself is a symbol of harmony between heaven and earth, embodying humanity's pursuit of a perfect world order. This concept is often associated with wishes for auspiciousness, stability, and smoothness.

### 2.2. The Symbolic Meaning of "Tower"

As a form of architecture, towers have extremely rich symbolic significance in Chinese culture. Towers are often the center of religious and cultural activities, not only possessing practical functions, but also containing profound cultural and philosophical connotations. In traditional Chinese religion and culture, towers are often seen as a link between heaven, earth, humans, and gods. The tower stands tall and has a complex structure, symbolizing the connection from the ground to the sky. It has the function of guiding people's hearts upwards. Towers are usually closely related to religious buildings such as Buddhism and Taoism, representing divinity and solemnity, and serving as spiritual sustenance. The tower is also related to the order of the universe. The tower shaped structure usually presents a layered form, symbolizing the gradual progression from low to high and from shallow to deep, symbolizing the hierarchy and orderliness of the world. In religious thought, the tower is not only a holy place for protecting gods, but also a communication bridge between people and gods. People express their respect for the gods and their desire for peace and tranquility through the construction of towers.

Therefore, towers are often used to symbolize "stability" and "solidity". Its majestic posture implies unchanging laws and eternal spiritual values. Therefore, towers are often used as symbols of human faith, expressing people's pursuit of truth, order, and harmony in the universe.:

### 2.3. The "Liuhe Tower" in Hangzhou

The Liuhe Pagoda in Hangzhou, named after the Buddhist concept of "Liuhe Respect", is called the Liuhe Pagoda; Also known as Liuhe Pagoda, it means "four directions of heaven and earth"; Located at No. 16 Zhijiang Road, Xihu District, Hangzhou City, Zhejiang Province. Founded in the third year of the Kaibao reign of the Song Dynasty (970 AD), the original site of the tower base was the southern orchard of King Qian Hongchu of Wu and Yue. Qian Hongchu built a tower in the garden to suppress the Yangtze River tide. The Liuhe Tower covers an area of 890 square meters (about 1.3 acres), and there are 104 iron bells hanging on the eaves and corners of each floor outside the tower. The Liuhe Pagoda is 59.89 meters high, with a brick and stone structure divided into seven layers. The external wooden structure features a tower style eave corridor with eight sides and thirteen layers. There are pot doors on both sides of each level of corridor, and the tower is connected by spiral stairs. The third level's

Sumeru pedestal is carved with various patterns such as flowers, birds, beasts, and fairies. Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty once inscribed words on each layer of the Liuhe Pagoda. On March 4, 1961, Liuhe Pagoda was announced by the State Council of the People's Republic of China as the first batch of national key cultural relics protection units.

The "Liuhe Pagoda" in Hangzhou has a long history and was first built in the third year of Kaibao in the Northern Song Dynasty (970 AD). It was built by King Qian Hongchu of Wu and Yue to suppress the tide of the Qiantang River, and by Zen Master Zhijue. Later, unfortunately, it was destroyed by war. During the Shaoxing period of the Southern Song Dynasty, Emperor Gaozong of Song saw the flooding of the Qiantang River and the people were struggling, so he issued an edict to seek talents and rebuild the Liuhe Pagoda. Monk Zhitan volunteered, stating that he was willing to take on his own labor and not take any responsibility for his official duties. He not only poured out all his possessions, but also went through hardships to seek alms everywhere, touching many kind-hearted men and women. It took him ten years to rebuild the Liuhe Pagoda. Its name contains "Six Harmonies", which is directly related to the concept of harmony and perfection of the universe, symbolizes the unity and tranquility between heaven and earth, and reflects the pursuit of ancient Chinese for harmony in the universe and society. In the Liuhe Pagoda in Hangzhou, the concept of "Liuhe" is not only a literal directional division, but also represents a cultural and philosophical idea, emphasizing harmony and unity between heaven and earth, and between humans and nature. As a part of this city, the Liuhe Pagoda symbolizes humanity's yearning for cosmic order and stability.

As a type of architecture, the "Liuhe Pagoda" is not only built for practicality, but also a concrete embodiment of the "Liuhe" concept in ancient Chinese culture. Through this tower, we can see the emphasis on harmony, balance, and spiritual beliefs in traditional Chinese culture.

The construction concept of Liuhe Tower embodies the pursuit of harmony and unity between nature and human society. It is not only a physical building, but also a tribute to the order of the universe and philosophical ideas. The tower body symbolizes the passage from the human world to the heavenly realm, representing the harmony and unity between heaven and earth. At the same time, Liuhe Pagoda is also the integration of "culture and belief". Liuhe Pagoda is not only a cultural heritage, but also reflects the integration of Chinese people with respect to the order of the universe, religious belief and cultural inheritance. It represents that human beings are seeking comfort in the spiritual and spiritual levels while pursuing the peace of the material world.

Therefore, as a landmark building with a profound cultural background, the cultural significance of Hangzhou's "Liuhe Tower" is not limited to its physical structure itself, but also carries China's traditional cosmology, philosophical ideas, religious beliefs, and human pursuit of harmony and order. Its "Liuhe" naming and the architectural form of the tower together constitute a symbol of the universe, society, and spiritual world, reflecting the ancient Chinese people's ideal of balance, harmony, and unity in heaven, earth, and the four directions.

### **3. The Auspicious Significance of "Six" in Chinese Culture**

The number "six" has a unique and profound auspicious meaning in Chinese culture, often used to symbolize smoothness, smoothness, harmony, and good luck. Its cultural significance is mainly related to the widespread application of the number "six" in pronunciation, philosophical thought, and daily life.

#### **3.1. The Auspicious Meaning of Phonetics: Homophonic with "Flow"**

In Chinese, the pronunciation of the number "liu" (li ù) is very similar to "liu" (li ú, meaning flowing and fluent). Due to the similarity in pronunciation, ancient people also regarded the number "six" as "flow", symbolizing smoothness, smoothness, and absence of obstacles. Whether in daily life or in language expression, "six" can convey an auspicious meaning of "smooth and unobstructed". For example, the idiom "Liu Liu Dashun" is a common auspicious phrase that means everything goes smoothly and everything goes well. 'Liu Liu Da Shun' is often used to express wishes, especially during New Year's or special holidays, hoping that others' careers, families, and lives can go smoothly and smoothly; 'Six Blessings at the Door' is another typical auspicious expression, meaning that six blessings come to the doorstep. Blessings often refer to wealth, health, descendants, longevity, peace, and luck. This wish emphasizes a perfect and complete life.

In traditional Chinese culture, the number "six" is also regarded as a symbol of good luck bestowed by fate. In the concept of destiny, six is often a symbol that connects heaven, earth, humans, and nature. Through the number "six", people hope to receive the favor of fate, enjoy the gifts of heaven and earth, and the smoothness of nature. In the traditional concept of "days", six is considered a symmetrical and perfect number. Ancient people believed that "six" symbolized the harmony between nature and the universe. In the symbolic system of numbers, "six" has a strong auspicious meaning and often represents the smoothness of fate and life.

In Feng Shui, the number "six" is often associated with auspicious aura and harmonious layout. For example, in feng shui layout, the six directions are often considered the configuration that best harmonizes the aura. Therefore, "six" is also used as one of the numbers to improve quality of life and enhance good luck.

#### **3.2. The Philosophical Connection between "Six" and the Book of Changes**

The Book of Changes is one of the classics of ancient Chinese philosophy, in which the number "six" plays a very important role. Six is a component of "Yao", each hexagram has six lines, and each line represents a change or state. [Wu Jingzi: "The Scholars", Guangzhou New Century Press, 2022 edition, page 170.] The six hexagrams symbolize the operation and changes of the universe, so the number "six" has profound philosophical symbolic significance in the Book of Changes. Firstly, the "six lines" symbolize the six states of change in life and the six forces in the universe. In the Book of Changes, each change in the line corresponds to a state of life, which may be favorable or unfavorable. The number "six" is therefore closely linked to the balance of change, flow, and dynamics, meaning that both the external world and individual destiny are in a state of change, but this change will

eventually tend towards harmony and balance.

At the same time, the "six" in the Book of Changes represents "change" and "balance". Through the changes in the six lines, ancient people believed that the number "six" had the function of harmonizing various forces and promoting balance in all things. This balance is not only physical, but also a philosophical harmony and perfection. The number "six" symbolizes stability and perfection found in constant change and flow, in line with the philosophical concept of "unity of heaven and man".

#### 4. Summary

From the "Six Contract Spring" to the "Six Harmonies Tower", from the "Six Six Great Shun" to the "Six Blessings at the Door", the number "Six" has always played an important symbolic role in traditional Chinese culture. Its auspicious meaning not only comes from its homophonic characteristic with "flow", but also because it represents the harmony and unity of heaven and earth, the prosperity and smoothness of life.

In traditional Chinese culture, the number "six" is not just a number, it represents the ideal state - smooth, harmonious, and unobstructed. It is people's expectation for a better life, an understanding and expression of the harmony between the universe and nature. Through the number "six", the Chinese people convey a deep longing for success, prosperity and peace. The number "six" means "harmony and unity", which is believed to symbolize the harmony of heaven and earth and the balance of life. The "six contract spring" embodies this pursuit of harmony in the universe; There is also the meaning of "smoothness and smoothness". Through the phonetic relationship between the character "six" and "flow", the number "six" has become a representative of smoothness and auspiciousness, symbolizing the smoothness and smoothness of everything. At the same time, there is also the meaning of

"hope and beauty". Whether it is "Liu Liu Shun" or "Liu Fu Lin Men", they carry people's expectations for a better life, happiness, and success.

From the "Six Contract Spring" to the "Liuhe Tower", the number "six" has a profound influence on the language and culture of Chinese society. It is not only a simple number, but also a cultural symbol that symbolizes auspiciousness, smoothness, harmony, and happiness.

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