

Elements present:	Result:
What do you love doing? What are you good at doing?	Passion
What are you good at doing? What can you be paid for?	Profession
What can you be paid for? What does the world need?	Vocation
What does the world need? What do you love doing?	Mission

The combination of any three of the four principal elements falls just short of the ultimate goal of *ikigai*, and such a condition is usually accompanied by an acute mental-emotional imbalance. By contemplating the specific nature of that imbalance, one may become fully conscious of the missing aspect and take active steps toward restoring it to one's life, family, society, and world. When three of the four principle elements are present, but one is entirely absent, dangerous instabilities may arise within the lives of all so affected. Such individuals may appear superficially successful, but because of the inherent dangers of such a condition, it becomes urgent to identify the missing aspect and to restore balance.

Most traditional explanations of *ikigai* explain only the positive aspects while ignoring the darker. I wish to acknowledge:

- An anonymous Chinese colleague and scholar for his insightful personal explanations of "The Little Black Book", as it is known to East-Asian conspiracy theorists and dark actors
- *The Art of War*, by the ancient Chinese philosopher and military strategist Sun Tzu

I have incorporated insights from the preceding into the following table. To better know and manifest the light, we must also learn to identify and vanquish the dark.

	3 elements present:	Missing element:	Corresponding mental/emotional state and its consequences:

A	<p>What do you love doing? What are you good at doing? What can you be paid for?</p>	<p>What does the world need?</p>	<p>Satisfaction, but feeling of uselessness by doing what the world does not need; in extreme cases, guilt, derangement, or insanity from the misuse of one's talents for perpetrating discord, disease, death, and destruction. <u>Psychopathic predation:</u> People in this condition frequently fall prey to psychopaths within the power hierarchy, who seek out victim-accomplices who may be highly technically proficient but lack a firm sense of ethics. In extreme cases, once compromised, these unfortunate people may be blackmailed, further compromised, and then trapped within a dark web of progressively treasonous conspiracies.</p>
B	<p>What are you good at doing? What can you be paid for? What does the world need?</p>	<p>What do you love doing?</p>	<p>Comfortable, but feelings of emptiness by pursuing a profession/vocation for which you lack passion. Thus lacking passion, one may be tempted to seek out addictive substances, casual sex, or other reckless activities that temporarily overwhelm one's awareness of this inner void.</p>
C	<p>What can you be paid for? What does the world need? What do you love doing?</p>	<p>What are you good at doing?</p>	<p>Excitement (and complacency?), but sense of uncertainty consequent to imperfect performance of one's tasks without competence, skill, and/or knowledge. <u>Educational system breakdown:</u> Young people in this condition are especially prone to falling victim to colleges and universities who offer inflated professional credentials not backed by real competence, expertise, or knowledge; such credentials lead to uncertainty and insecurity when their essentially fraudulent nature becomes increasingly evident to all. In the worst cases, schools, universities, and other institutions are infiltrated by cultural saboteurs who indoctrinate students in self-destructive ideologies calculated to create chaos and social decay. When over-inflated or fraudulent credentials are promoted by mainstream institutions and by government agencies, this is a sign of terminal societal collapse as incompetence, dishonesty, fraud, and corruption become rampant among all sectors of society.</p>
D	<p>What does the world need? What do you love doing? What are you good at doing?</p>	<p>What can you be paid for?</p>	<p>Delight and fullness, but no wealth consequent to offering one's labor and skills without receiving fair compensation. Due to perverse economic incentives built into our current global economic system, the greatest challenge of our era is to create new ways for idealistic, ethical people to circumvent the present system and to be paid fairly for their accomplishments. Struggling with poverty presents one with constant temptations to compromise one's ideals. In the worst cases, such idealists are targeted by a psychopathic control system that attempts to punish such resisters while rewarding their victim-accomplices who fall within category A of this table.</p>