

A Fu Talisman Cast in the Medieval Cloud Writing Style

The following Fu talisman uses only glyphs, symbols, and principles covered in *The Tao of Craft* to demonstrate the application of the book’s instruction in actual sigil crafting. This document will guide you through the design of a Fu talisman cast in the medieval cloud writing style.



The beginning of Chapter 3 gave historic context to crafting Fu talismans in the cloud writing style, a sigil crafting style that dates back to 400 AD (relevant pages: 61-63). Appendix F in the book further covers cloud writing as a talismanic style. In Chinese, essentially each Chinese character (representing a key idea or component to the objective to be achieved) that a practitioner might incorporate into a sigil design is assigned its own glyph, crafted by the practitioner and to resemble “the condensation of clouds” (see top of page 63).

This PDF instructable is a supplement to the book and will guide you through one way of interpreting how to approach casting sigils in the cloud writing style when you’re a practitioner using Western languages rather than Chinese. This PDF instructable will guide you through how to cast a paper talisman to achieve a specific objective, anything from helping you curb an unwanted habit or increase mediumship or psychic ability to finding serenity and inner peace or improving your musical or athletic abilities.

“The Condensation of Clouds”

Historic examples of what sigils in the cloud writing style look like are provided in the book, so please be sure to read the relevant sections noted above. As noted in Appendix F, a practitioner might craft his or her own glossary of Fu Wen in the cloud writing style for essential Chinese characters that practitioner commonly uses in sigil crafting, and then keep that glossary in a Book of Methods for reference. The crafting of a Fu talisman is essentially the selection of a combination of Fu Wen cloud glyphs, arranging them together into a house, like the one pictured in Figure 3.4 on page 63, and then proceeding with the charging and empowerment of the talisman.

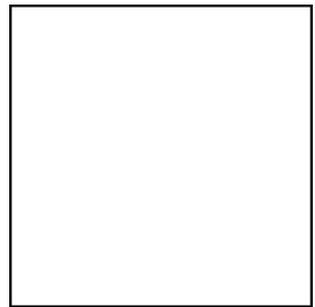
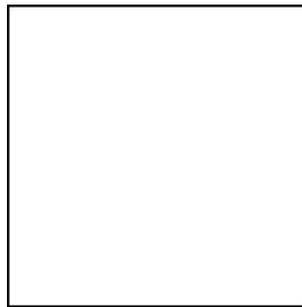
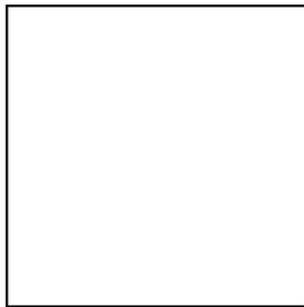
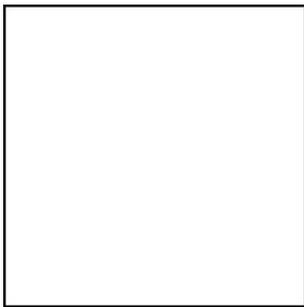
Since there is no precedent for how the cloud writing style might be applied when using a Western language to craft Fu sigils, we will have to make it up. As I see it, there are two main ways. The first is to assign glyphs for each letter of the alphabet and then use (for example in the English language) the 26 glyphs to form words and then sentences. That seems tedious. The alternative is to assign glyphs for the grammatical parts of a complete sentence. For example, you would craft a glyph for a subject, a glyph for a verb, etc. and then assemble them together into a Fu talisman that, in a sense, is a pictorial representation of a statement. This document will instruct in the latter method.

FU TALISMAN IN THE CLOUD WRITING STYLE

To start, define your objective. What is it you want your Fu talisman to achieve? Write it out in long form below. The free-write will help you conceive the necessary glyphs later on.

From what you have written above, identify a primary subject, which is likely to be you or the name of the beneficiary. (Beneficiaries are explained in Note 14 of the endnotes on page 539; it is first referenced on page 97 and further explained beginning on page 221.)

Seeking inspiration and guidance from the phrase “like the condensation of clouds,” hand-draw a glyph to represent each of the four concepts noted below that make up your specific intent or objective.



Subject

Glyph representing your name or name of the beneficiary.

Verb

Assert the desired action to be taken. What action will the Fu sigil trigger?

Object

Person or thing affected by the action described in the verb.

Adverbial Phrase

How the action in the verb will be executed. E.g., timing, location intentions, etc.

Here is an example to demonstrate. The defined objective is for John Doe to gain access and entry into the Celestial Ninth Kingdom (hypothetical non-physical realm) by invoking Delta Deva (hypothetical name of a divine spirit I made up for this example).



John Doe



Access / Entry



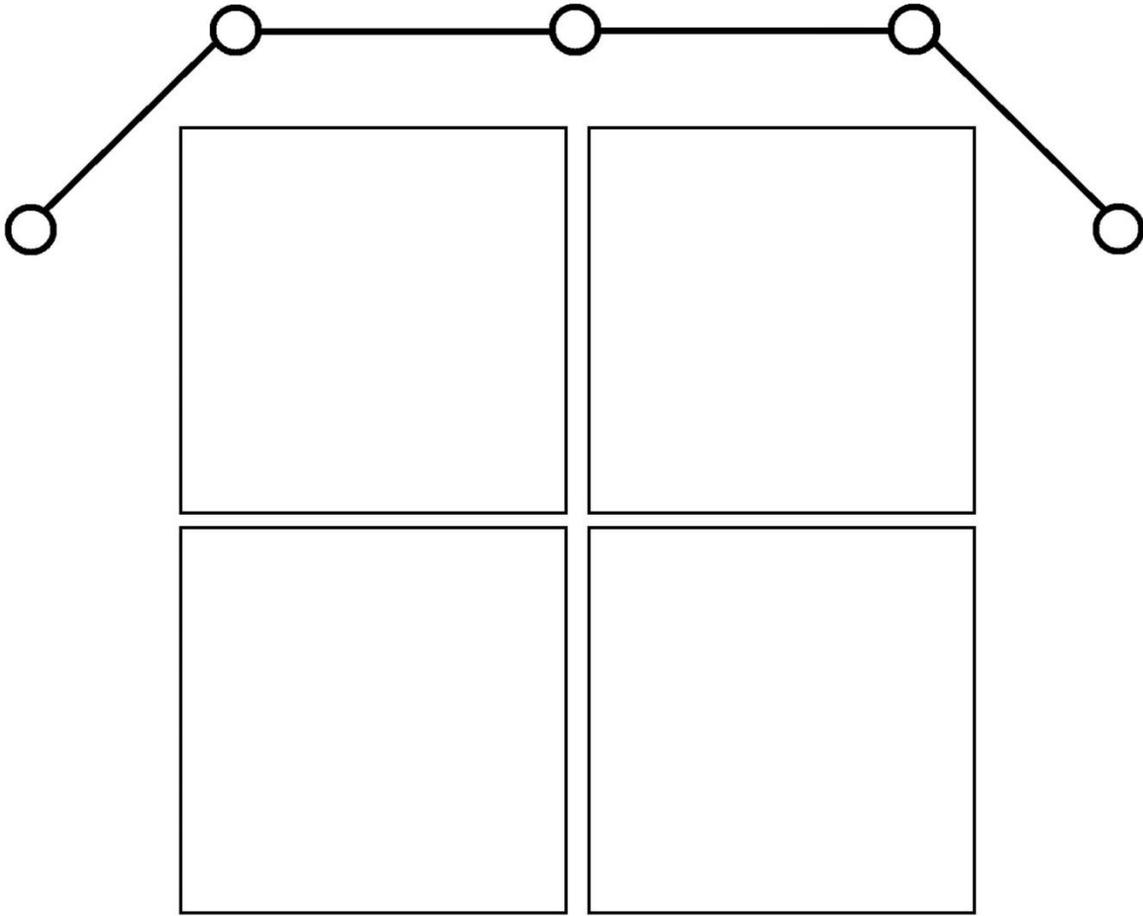
Celestial Ninth Kingdom



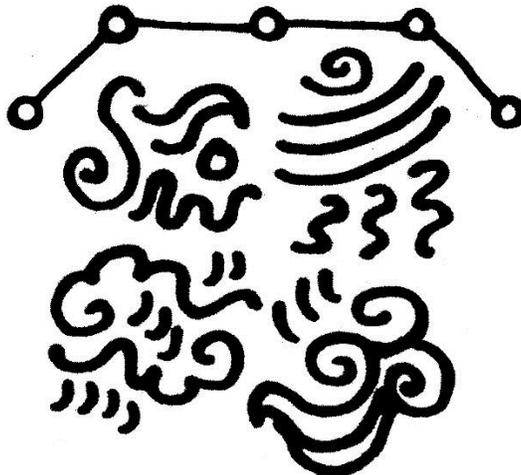
Invoking Delta Deva

FU TALISMAN IN THE CLOUD WRITING STYLE

Next, assemble the four cloud glyphs into the below recommended arrangement. The circle-connected-by-lines house or framework is inspired by Fu sigils featured in the *Taoist Canons*, circa 400 A.D. See Figure 3.4, page 63 for a historic example. In the top left, put the Subject; top right, Verb; bottom left is the Object; bottom right is the Adverbial Phrase.

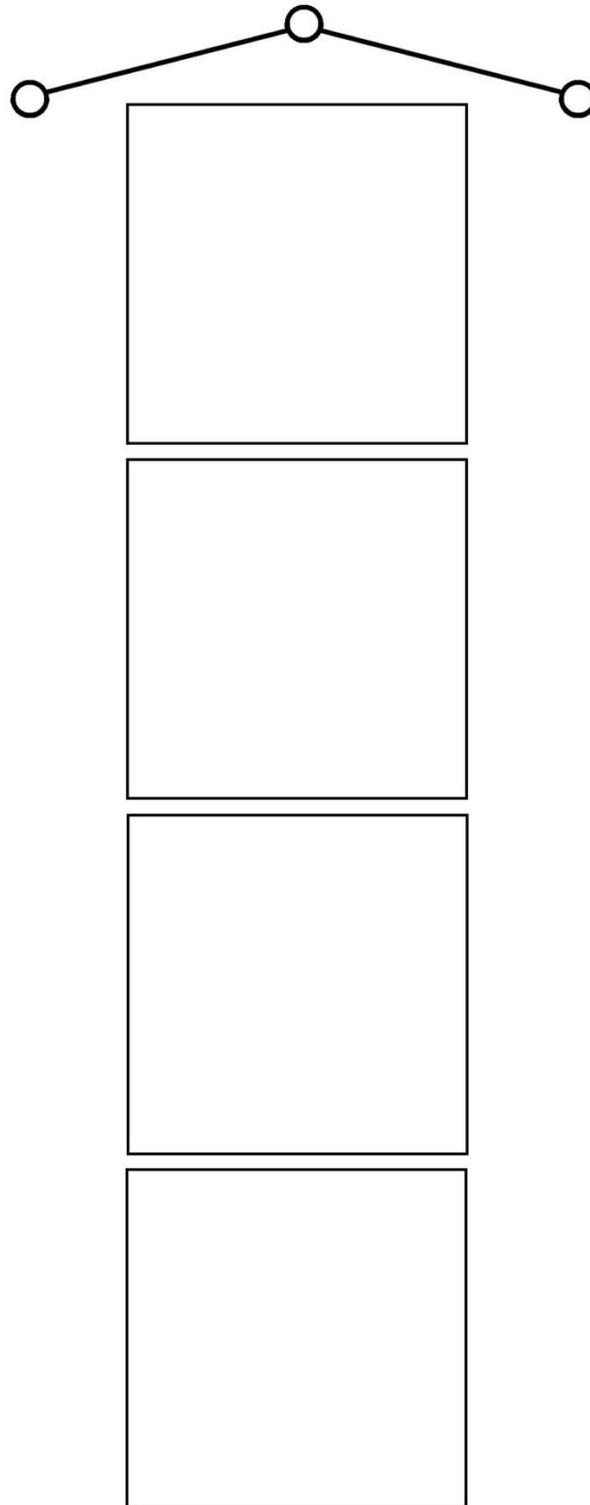


In the hypothetical given for demonstration, here is what the completed Fu sigil might look like:

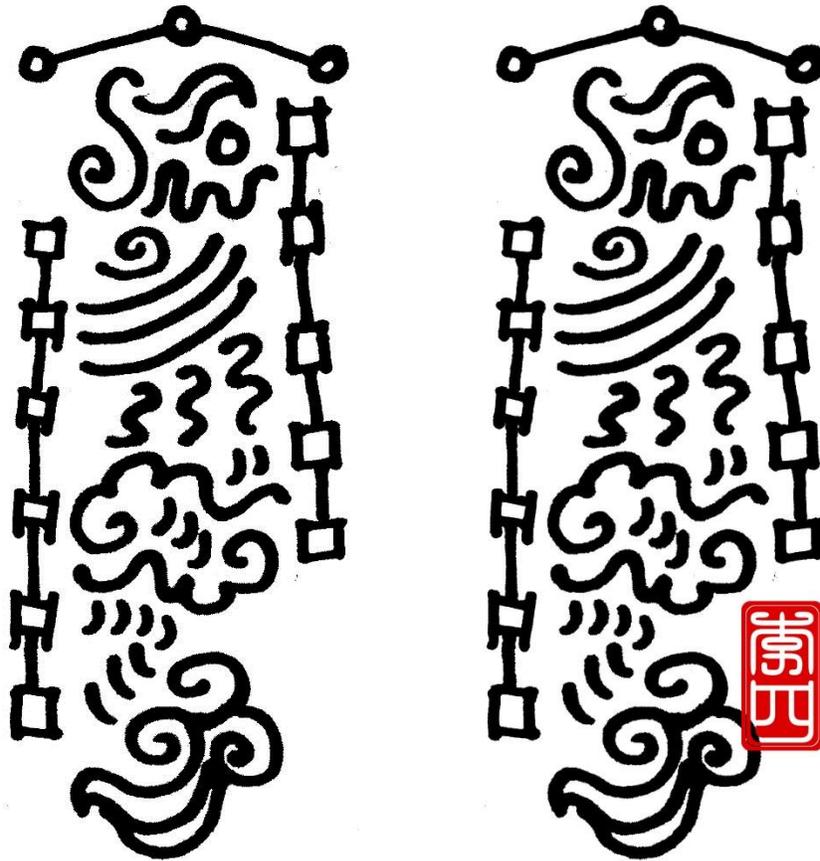


FU TALISMAN IN THE CLOUD WRITING STYLE

Below represents an alternative arrangement for the sigil. This house for the sigil is based on the ontological trinity, noted on page 90 of the book and illustrated in Figure B.25 on page 343. From top to bottom, arrange the Subject, Verb, Object, and Adverbial Phrase glyphs you created.



Note that the boxes in the provided template diagrams are for reference only. The completed sigil would not have any boxes. Be sure to erase or remove the boxes from the final draft of your sigil. In the below example, yin and yang (or more specifically, yang) amplifiers are added. Refer to the discussion starting on page 91 and corresponding with Figure 4.24 in the book. Here, eleven yang amplifiers are added, with the numerology of eleven corresponding with the heavenly or celestial realms, which supports John Doe's objective for the talisman.

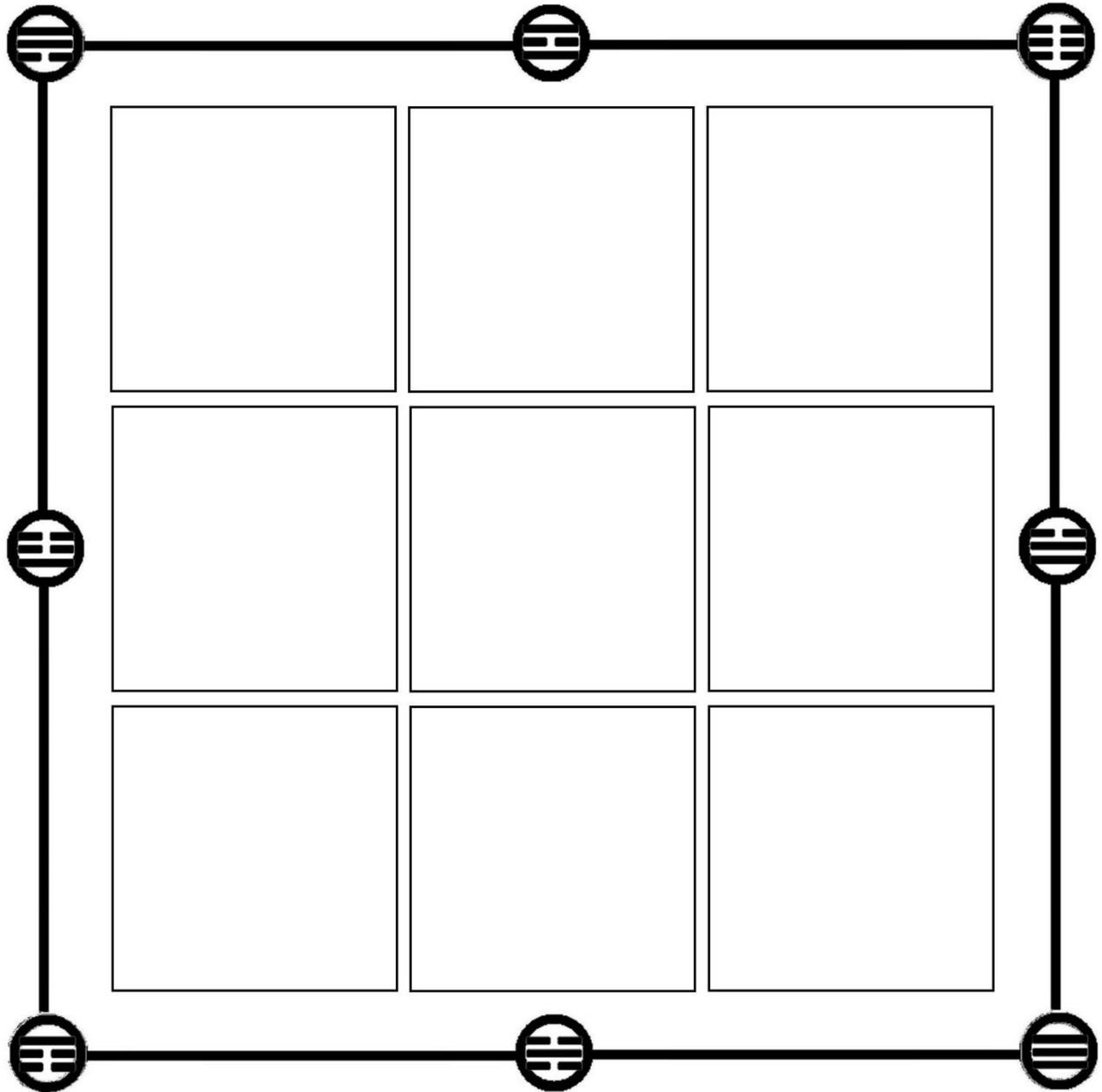


*Illustrated examples of the hypothetical sigil to be crafted.
Above right shows the sigil stamped with the (here, fictional) practitioner's seal.*

A Lo Shu Arrangement for a General Luck Talisman

Recall the Lo Shu Nine-Sector Magic Square explained in the section starting on page 28 of the text. Also see Figure 1.19 on page 30 and Figure 8.7 on page 202 for further reference. The below Lo Shu arrangement for a general luck talisman is based on the metaphysical correspondences of the Lo Shu magic square, which is covered in detail in the book, so let's get straight to the craft. The house or framework incorporates the eight trigrams of the Ba Gua in the Later Heaven arrangement, see pages 23-28 to refresh your understanding of the Ba Gua.

FU TALISMAN IN THE CLOUD WRITING STYLE

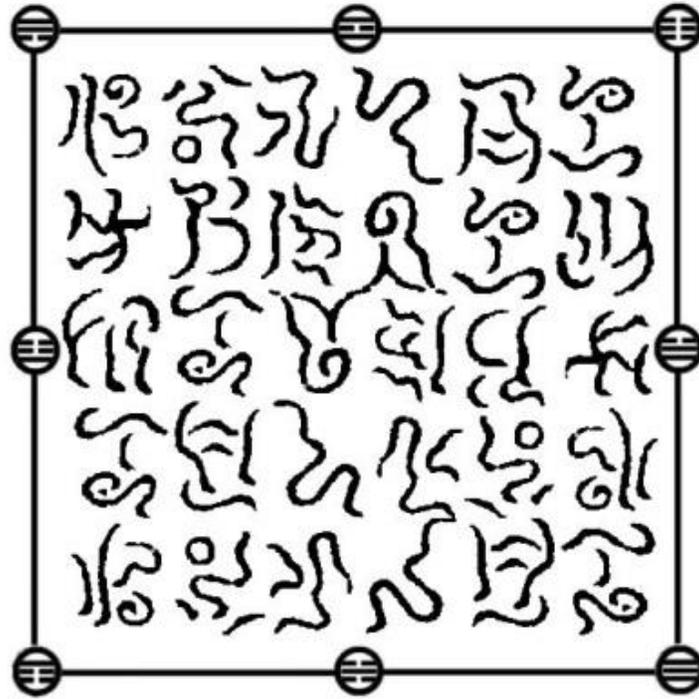


You will design a total of nine glyphs, or Fu Wen, in the cloud writing style and arrange it into the above structure in accordance with the nine sectors of the Lo Shu. For each sector, design a cloud-style glyph that represents your objective, desire, or highest goal for that corresponding area of life.

For example, the top left sector of the nine sectors pictured corresponds with the southeast, or the Lo Shu sector for your personal wealth, resources, assets, financial health, and money matters. So design a glyph in the cloud style that represents your financial goals. The left center sector corresponds with family, ancestry, and one's foundations. This can relate to contact with ancestors, desiring health and happiness for your family, etc. Continue for all nine sectors. Below is an example of a completed sigil

FU TALISMAN IN THE CLOUD WRITING STYLE

in the cloud writing style per the Lo Shu arrangement. Remember: the “squares” appearing in the previous diagram were for reference only. Your completed sigil should omit the reference squares.



Sample Custom Designed General Luck Talisman in the Lo Shu Arrangement



Lo Shu Arranged Cloud Script Talisman Stamped with Practitioner's Seal

Practice Tip

Note Appendix B, the Glyph Design References. Design Fu Wen or a glyph in the cloud writing style for each of the characters, phrases, or deities that resonate with you and draw it into the book next to the corresponding entry for future references. Alternatively, they can be compiled into your personal grimoire. See below book page spread from Appendix B for an example of how you might do this.



In the above sample page spread, the practitioner has written in the Chinese oracle bone script for each character to the left, for future use in sigil crafting, and a personally designed glyph in the cloud writing style to the right of each entry.

The Tao of Craft

To learn more about the history and cultural practice of Fu talismans and sigil crafting in the Eastern esoteric traditions, get your copy of *The Tao of Craft: Fu Talismans and Casting Sigils in the Eastern Esoteric Tradition* (North Atlantic Books, 2016).