

8.2 Small Victories, Gain by Gain Mantra

Hexagram 9: Xiao Chu. Cultivate Gently

密雲不雨

MÌ YÚN BÙ Yǔ

密雲不雨

自我西郊

Zì Wǒ Xī Jiāo

自我西郊

風天小畜

Fēng Tiān Xiǎo Chù

風天小畜

Dense clouds, no rain—
From my western bounds,
gentle wind, clear sky, gain by gain.

The Judgment lines from Hexagram 9 serve as a mantra recitation to achieve a consecutive series of small victories. Endeavoring for small victories will lead to achievement of the magnum opus you seek. This is that Chinese proverb, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step” from Chapter 64 of the *Tao De Jing*.

When you are feeling discouraged, invoke the higher powers of the Tao to rekindle your motivation and keep you going. This mantra helps you to overcome the daily struggles of staying on task. It’s divine assistance in the little steps to pave the way for something greater.

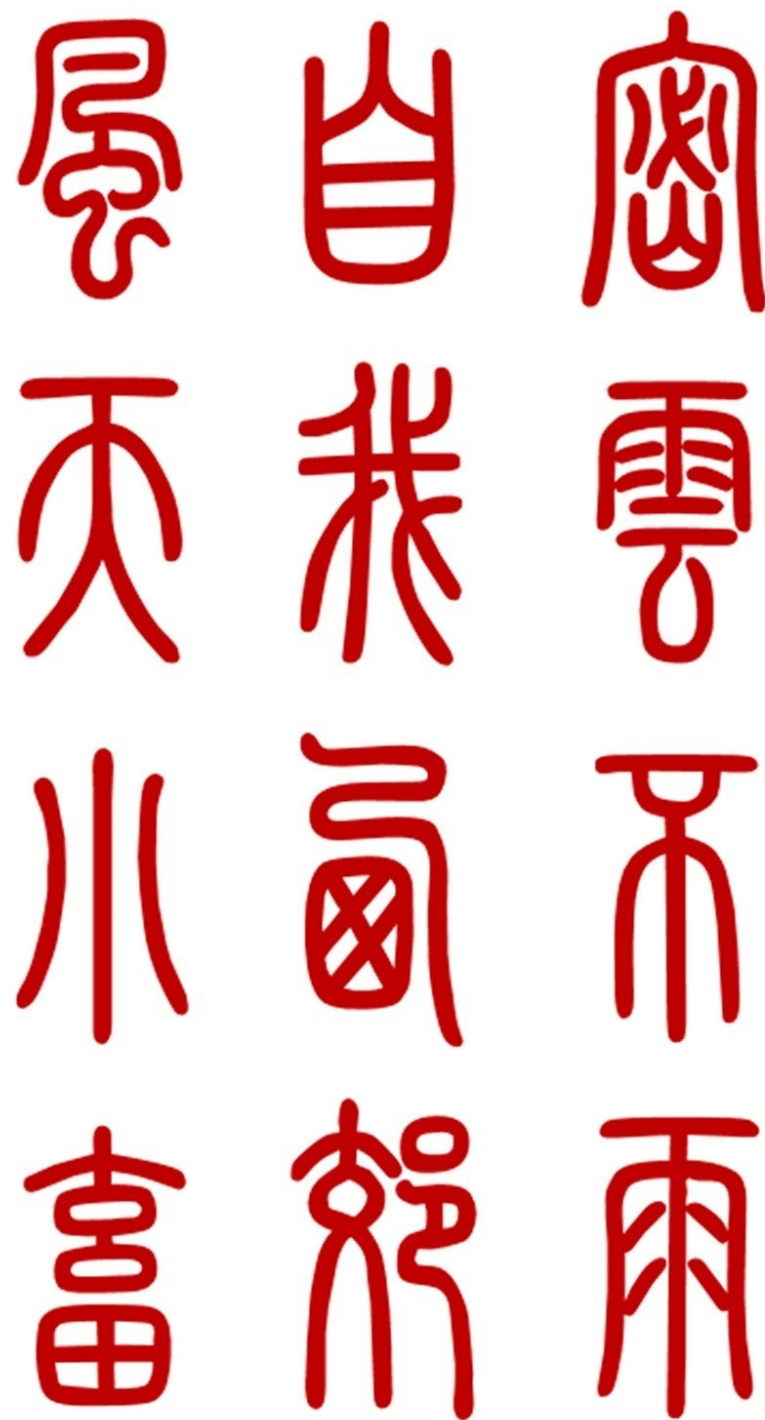
The lines in Chinese are poetic. The rhythm and aesthetics of the verse adds to its power, so I recommend recitation of the mantra in its classical form. The English translation is provided so you know what you’re saying.

“Dense clouds, no rain,” is an acknowledgement that you’re feeling unmotivated and lethargic right now. As a rainmaker, this recitation sets up the forces to produce rain to come—dense clouds predict rain, which is an auspicious symbol of an abundant harvest.

Intend “From my western bounds” to mean forces of divine support from the Queen Mother of the West. West is also symbolic of the correspondence to innovation, creativity, and fertility, per the Lo Shu magic square.

“Gentle wind, clear sky, gain by gain” is an affirmative prayer—may the going be clear, may the Divine give you the gentle nudges you need to push forward, and may you achieve the progressive series of small undertakings.

This practicum is a personal art project. Recreate the Oracle bone script calligraphy from the subsequent page as a painting you hang in your home. The painting is both an inspirational reminder of that proverb, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step” and also a talisman that brings victories and gains into your life, bit by bit. The mantra holds talismanic properties that will bless you as a rainmaker, clear your path of obstacles so your journey is peaceful, attaining all the successes you seek, one by one.



“Dense clouds, no rain—From my western bounds, gentle wind, clear sky, gain by gain” mantra written in Chinese oracle bone and seal script, top down, right to left. Oracle bone script is an ancient style of Chinese writing dated to the Shang and Zhou dynasties. Seal script is a direct descendant from oracle bone script, circa the Qin dynasty, and used ceremonially during the Han.

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