

10.4 Invoking Queen Mother of the West



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From 山海經, *Classic of Mountains and Seas* (1368 – 1644 woodblock printed edition)

In this practicum you will be calling out to Xī Wáng Mǔ, the Queen Mother of the West. If you haven't already, start by reading the section "Xī Wáng Mǔ, Goddess of the Wu" in the text, pages 804 – 817. Also read the Chapter 10 end notes 104 – 119, which can be found on pages 907 – 910.

The Oracle will be the medium through which the goddess delivers her message to you. An optimal time for this will be between a waning crescent moon and the dark moon, just before the new moon. The darkness is symbolic of the numinous void Wuji 無極 that she came from and her role as Wujimu 無極母, divine mother of the numinous void.

Work by candlelight. Select an evening hour after sunset. I would recommend as close to your bedtime as possible, as you will be continuing the divinatory process into your dream state.

Switch off the electricity in the room and illuminate with candles. Candle color is not significant. Go with what you have on hand. Light incense. Sit in stillness for a moment

to ground and center yourself. Take deep, slow breaths. Wait until you are fully relaxed, feeling empowered, and psychically receptive.

We'll be using the second line from hexagram 35, Jin, as the invocation prayer. Note that we're omitting the two-word divinatory statement “貞吉.” That leaves us with the following recitation:

There is progress and there is sorrow.	jìn rú chóu rú	晉如愁如
May I now receive Her blessings.	shòu zī jiè fú	受茲介福
All Hail the Queen Mother.	yú qí Wáng Mǔ	于其王母

The beauty of reciting it in Mandarin is the rhythm and the perfect tercet of the poetic verse. The poetic form adds power to the recitation. However, reciting in English will work just fine. Likewise, you can translate the lines and recite in your native tongue.

Essentially, the meaning of your recitation is first an acknowledgement that you've had your ups and you've had your downs, followed by your petition to the goddess. You are calling out to the Queen Mother and asking that she hear your call.

This practicum will guide you through a short form of the traditional yarrow stalk method we learned back in Chapter 7. Like the long form, begin with a bundle of 50 stalks.



Set down one vertical stalk and as you do so, recite the invocation prayer.

Divide the bundle in two. One goes atop, one goes below.

From below, pick up one stalk and place it between your ring and pinky finger.

Invocation Prayer:

There is progress and there is sorrow.	Jìn rú chóu rú
May I now receive Her blessings.	Shòu zī jiè fú
All Hail the Queen Mother.	Yú qí Wáng Mǔ



The visual of the stalk formation resembles the frame of the word for shaman, 巫. The two figures of 人 dancing around the frame represents the dance of the shaman, and here, the shaman occupying two minds—your own and the mind of a god.



Pick up the bottom bundle and proceed to group the stalks into groups of 4. Once you have a remainder of 4 or fewer, set this remainder bundle aside.

Pick up the top bundle and again group into 4s until you have a remainder of 4 or less.

The sum of the remainder from the bottom bundle plus the remainder from the top bundle will be either 5 stalks left or 9 stalks left. If you don't get exactly 5 or exactly 9, then there was a miscalculation, and you'll need to review your count. Below, check the table cell corresponding with your **First Count** results.

First Count	Resulting Line		✓
5 stalks	Yin		
9 stalks	Yang		

If the total stalks for the First Count was 5, then draw a yin line for Line 1 of your hexagram. If the total stalks was 9, then draw a yang line.

Set aside the 5 or 9 stalks from that remainder pile. They will not be counted in the next operation.

With what's left, either 45 or 41 stalks, repeat the process once again to yield the Second Count.



Set down one vertical stalk and as you do so, repeat the invocation prayer.

Divide the bundle in two. One goes atop, one goes below.

From below, pick up one stalk and place it between your ring and pinky finger.

Invocation Prayer:

There is progress and there is sorrow.
 May I now receive Her blessings.
 All Hail the Queen Mother.




Jìn Rú Chóu Rú
 Shòu Zǐ Jiè Fú
 Yú Qí Wáng Mǔ



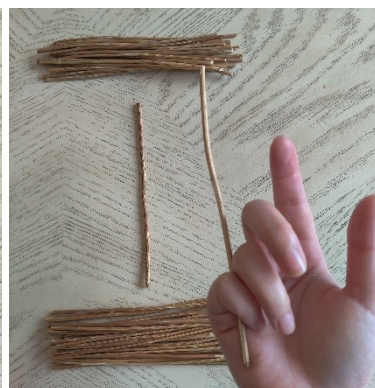
Pick up the bottom bundle and proceed to group the stalks into groups of 4. Once you have a remainder of 4 or fewer, set this remainder bundle aside.

Pick up the top bundle and again group into 4s until you have a remainder of 4 or less.

The sum of the remainder from the bottom bundle plus the remainder from the top bundle for this Second Count will be either 4 stalks left or 8 stalks left. If you don't get exactly 4 or exactly 8, then there was a miscalculation, and you'll need to review your count. Below, check the table cell corresponding with your **Second Count** results.

Second Count	Resulting Line	✓
4 stalks	Yin  	
8 stalks	Yang 	

Set aside the remainder stalks from the Second Count above the remainder stalks from the First Count. Then gather up all stalks not set aside and proceed with the operation again.



Set down one vertical stalk and as you do so, repeat the invocation prayer.

Divide the bundle in two. One goes atop, one goes below.

From below, pick up one stalk and place it between your ring and pinky finger.



You will have now recited it three times over the course of casting the lower hexagram.



Pick up the bottom bundle and proceed to group the stalks into groups of 4. Once you have a remainder of 4 or fewer, set this remainder bundle aside.

Pick up the top bundle and again group into 4s until you have a remainder of 4 or less.

Like the Second Count, the Third Count will yield either 4 stalks or 8 stalks. The resulting number of stalks will instruct whether a yin line or yang line has been produced. Below, check the table cell corresponding with your **Third Count** results.

Third Count	Resulting Line	✓
4 stalks	Yin 	
8 stalks	Yang 	

The three counts have now yielded a trigram. Note the trigram.
This will be the lower trigram of the final divined hexagram.



Third Count	Lower Trigram	
Second Count		
First Count		

You have now completed the FIRST OPERATION resulting in the Lower Trigram. Gather up all 50 stalks again and start the operation over once more.



Set down one vertical stalk and as you do so, repeat the invocation prayer.

Divide the bundle in two. One goes atop, one goes below.

From below, pick up one stalk and place it between your ring and pinky finger.

Invocation Prayer:

There is progress and there is sorrow.
May I now receive Her blessings.
All Hail the Queen Mother.

Jìn Rú Chóu Rú
Shòu Zǐ Jiè Fú
Yú Qí Wáng Mǔ



The visual of the stalk formation resembles the frame of the word for shaman, 巫. The two figures of 人 dancing around the frame represents the dance of the shaman, and here, the shaman occupying two minds—your own and the mind of a god.



Pick up the bottom bundle and proceed to group the stalks into groups of 4. Once you have a remainder of 4 or fewer, set this remainder bundle aside.

Pick up the top bundle and again group into 4s until you have a remainder of 4 or less.

The sum of the remainder from the bottom bundle plus the remainder from the top bundle will be either 5 stalks left or 9 stalks left. If you don't get exactly 5 or exactly 9, then there was a miscalculation, and you'll need to review your count. On the subsequent page, check the table cell corresponding with your **First Count** results.

First Count	Resulting Line		✓
5 stalks	Yin		
9 stalks	Yang		

If the total stalks for the First Count was 5, then draw a yin line for Line 1 of your hexagram. If the total stalks was 9, then draw a yang line. Set aside the 5 or 9 stalks from that remainder pile. They will not be counted in the next operation. With what's left, repeat the process once again to yield the Second Count.



Set down one vertical stalk and as you do so, repeat the invocation prayer.



Divide the bundle in two. One goes atop, one goes below.



From below, pick up one stalk and place it between your ring and pinky finger.

Invocation Prayer:

There is progress and there is sorrow.
May I now receive Her blessings.
All Hail the Queen Mother.

Jìn Rú Chóu Rú
Shòu Zǐ Jiè Fú
Yú Qí Wáng Mǔ






Pick up the bottom bundle and proceed to group the stalks into groups of 4. Once you have a remainder of 4 or fewer, set this remainder bundle aside.



Pick up the top bundle and again group into 4s until you have a remainder of 4 or less.

The sum of the remainder from the bottom bundle plus the remainder from the top bundle for this Second Count will be either 4 stalks left or 8 stalks left. If you don't get exactly 4

or exactly 8, then there was a miscalculation, and you'll need to review your count. Below, check the table cell corresponding with your **Second Count** results.

Second Count	Resulting Line	✓
4 stalks	Yin  	
8 stalks	Yang 	

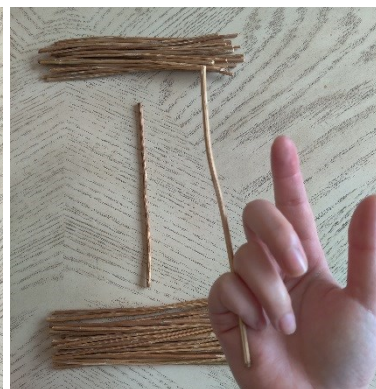
Set aside the remainder stalks from the Second Count above the remainder stalks from the First Count. Then gather up all stalks not set aside and proceed with the operation again.



Set down one vertical stalk and as you do so, repeat the invocation prayer.



Divide the bundle in two. One goes atop, one goes below.



From below, pick up one stalk and place it between your ring and pinky finger.

Invocation Prayer:

There is progress and there is sorrow.
May I now receive Her blessings.
All Hail the Queen Mother.

Jìn Rú Chóu Rú
Shòu Zǐ Jiè Fú
Yú Qí Wáng Mǔ

You will have now recited it three times over the course of casting the lower hexagram.






Pick up the bottom bundle and proceed to group the stalks into groups of 4. Once you have a remainder of 4 or fewer, set this remainder bundle aside.



Pick up the top bundle and again group into 4s until you have a remainder of 4 or less.

Like the Second Count, the Third Count will yield either 4 stalks or 8 stalks. The resulting number of stalks will instruct whether a yin line or yang line has been produced. Below, check the table cell corresponding with your **Third Count** results.

Third Count	Resulting Line		✓
4 stalks	Yin	 	
8 stalks	Yang		

You have now completed the SECOND OPERATION resulting in the Upper Trigram.



Second Operation	Third Count	Upper Trigram	Hexagram Result
	Second Count		
	First Count		
First Operation	Third Count	Lower Trigram	
	Second Count		
	First Count		

Your final result will be a single hexagram. We won't be observing changing lines.

Read "The Oracle" message for your resulting hexagram. Envision these words as being spoken by the Queen Mother.

LINE 1 OF THE HEXAGRAM | Write out the translated line text word for word. As you write each word from the line text, feel as if your hand is being guided by the Queen Mother's hand over yours.

Approach this line text as a riddle. How would you solve this riddle and convert it into lay terms? Line 1 gives insight to a matter of the mundane, everyday world.

LINE 2 OF THE HEXAGRAM | Write out the translated line text word for word. Feel the goddess's presence as if she is the driver within your body and you've shifted over to the passenger seat. You are still conscious and aware of all that is going on, but what is happening in terms of motor functions is not you—it's her.

Approach this line text as a riddle. How would you solve this riddle and convert it into lay terms? Line 2 gives insight into what it is you must cultivate and grow.

LINE 3 OF THE HEXAGRAM | Write out the translated line text word for word. As you write each word from the line text, feel as if your hand is being guided by the Queen Mother's hand over yours. (*Line space provided on the subsequent page.*)

Approach this line text as a riddle. How would you solve this riddle and convert it into lay terms? Line 3 gives offers clarity on a matter that has been troubling you.

LINE 4 OF THE HEXAGRAM | Write out the translated line text word for word. Feel the goddess's presence as if she is the driver within your body and you've shifted over to the passenger seat. You are still conscious and aware of all that is going on, but what is happening in terms of motor functions is not you—it's her.

Approach this line text as a riddle. How would you solve this riddle and convert it into lay terms? Line 4 offers practical "next steps" advice to take.

LINE 5 OF THE HEXAGRAM | Write out the translated line text word for word. As you write each word from the line text, feel as if your hand is being guided by the Queen Mother's hand over yours. (*Space continued on the subsequent page.*)

Approach this line text as a riddle. How would you solve this riddle and convert it into lay terms? Line 5 is a forecast of the short-term future to come. This is the hexagram ruler.

LINE 6 OF THE HEXAGRAM | Write out the translated line text word for word. Feel the goddess's presence as if she is the driver within your body and you've shifted over to the passenger seat. You are still conscious and aware of all that is going on, but what is happening in terms of motor functions is not you—it's her.

Approach this line text as a riddle. How would you solve this riddle and convert it into lay terms? Line 6 is an important message from your higher consciousness (the Divine Mother herself).

Before you close the session, review what you've just written. What visions are being triggered by the text? Do not force any thoughts or analysis into your mind. Instead, to the opposite. Try not to think at all. Try to *receive*. Endeavor to be *told* what the meaning of the oracle message is, by way of divine insight, and don't critically process the message. What comes through might be nonsensical, or illogical. It might not even flow from the I Ching text in any rational or discernible way. This is training yourself to let synchronicity happen, rather than compelling the divinatory experience to follow a logical flow. (*Space for your free-write provided on the subsequent page.*)

With your pen, trace over each oracle bone script below, writing out the Invocation Prayer to the Queen Mother. Below, top down right to left, is the Invocation Prayer translated into English above.

于	受	罍
其	囍	如
王	尔	楚
夔	福	如

Place this workbook on your nightstand when you go to sleep.

Before you fall asleep, read the divinatory message you received. The six lines altogether will imply a particular setting, like a story. Fill in the details with your imagination and intuition. What is the backdrop and landscape of the oracle message? Take note below before you head to bed.

Recite the invocation prayer one final time.

As you fall asleep, visualize the world that the lines of the Oracle message built. Like focused meditation, keep your thoughts tethered to that visualization.

When you wake in the morning, try to recall your dream. Write down anything that comes to you immediately upon waking. Where did you go? What did you experience?

Next, let's focus on the two trigrams that your hexagram consists of.

If you are at a juncture point in your life where you would like to maintain the status quo, or fortify to build a stronger foundation, then focus on the lower trigram. Turn to Chapter 5 and select a practicum to work with associated with your lower trigram.

If you are seeking to manifest a major change in your life, want significant advancement or improvement to your status quo, then focus on the upper trigram. Turn to Chapter 5 and select a practicum associated with the upper trigram.

When you feel confident that you've understood the message received, repeat this divinatory practice invoking the Queen Mother. Do not seek external validation to affirm what you understand or don't—learn to find that confidence from within, to be self-aware enough to simply know.