



## 9 Small Accumulates/ Gathering the Ghosts XIAO CHU

Accumulate small to do the great; nurture, raise, support;  
breed animals; dealings with the ghost world, autumn sacrifice,  
going to the River-Mountain festival.

### MYTHS FOR CHANGE: THE STORY OF THE TIME

**Charge to the Oracle:** *The new group must have a place to accumulate and gather the souls. Accept this and use the energy of Accumulating the Small.*

Small Accumulates suggests the mating and pasturing of animals and the deep green pastures and wide plains bounded by mountains that set the scene for the autumn procession of the *wu* to the Outskirts Altar to meet the incoming spirits. It is the ceremonies to bring the autumn rains that signal the end of labour and the harvest, held at the Moon Pit, Night Brightness (*ye ming*), on the western outskirts. This marks preparation for the River-Mountain Time, the dances of men and women and their marriages that affirm human community with the spirits and bring the souls into the world. It marks the coming in of a soul from the Ghost River and the time of the Moon Almost Full, when the Changes were consulted. This time is like a shell or womb, a protective covering that will be broken through in spring. Philosophically, this is the nurturing of the 'smallest possible thing' (*ji*), the emergent point that heralds change. It is a quality of the Way that, though now barely visible, will lead on to illumination.

### THE RESPONSE

**Small Accumulates.** Make an offering and you will succeed.

Shrouding clouds bring no rain yet.

'We meet them at our Western Outskirts Altar.'

**Small, XIAO:** little, flexible, adaptable; humility, what is common to all; adapt to whatever happens; make things smaller, lessen; yin energy; the Ghost World; secondary ancestors, families of common

people who till the soil. The old character shows a river dividing two banks, the undifferentiated flow of life between the worlds.

**Accumulate**, CHU: take care of, support, tolerate, encourage; help one another, overcome obstacles; tame, train; domesticate, raise, bring up; gather, collect, hoard, retain; seed, shell, carapace, protection of a germ broken through in spring, protection in the womb. The old character shows a field and two bundles of silk or grass, harvested and stored.



XIAO<sup>3</sup>, the character above, shows three grains of rice or sand or a river between two banks. The character below, CHU<sup>4</sup> or XÜ<sup>4</sup> (2538/102), is composed of silk bundles SI<sup>1</sup> (2) and field with plants TIAN<sup>2</sup> (3): the harvest of silk and crops, also read as XUAN<sup>2</sup>, profound or dark, mystic, mysterious.

Small Accumulates describes your situation in terms of confronting a great variety of things that don't seem to be related. The way to deal with it is to adapt to each thing that crosses your path in order to accumulate something great. Take the long view. Gather, herd together, retain and hoard all the little things that might seem unimportant. Think of yourself as raising animals, growing crops or bringing up children. Be flexible and adaptable. Tolerate and nourish things. The rain hasn't come yet, but the dense clouds that bring it are rolling in from the western frontier. The successful completion of your efforts is not far away.

### THE SCHOLAR SPEAKS

The hexagram figure shows an enduring force accumulated through gentle penetration. Wind moves above Heaven. Turn potential conflicts into creative tension. You need a place to accumulate things, because right now you only have a few. Focus on the inherent beauty of each thing in order to realise its potency. Persist in your efforts through gentle penetration and you will acquire a solid centre from which to move. The rain has not yet come. Praise and let go of what you have now, so the process can go on. The clouds are still spreading. It is not yet time to act.

## THE SHAMAN SPEAKS

**Wind moves above Heaven. Small Accumulates.**

**A time when Noble One brings out the pattern to nurture power and virtue.**

*Spirit works in those who lay out the offerings while it wars in Heaven above. The Intermediaries are working with the Force. Wind and Wood above enter subtly, penetrating, pervading and coupling the fates, while Heaven below struggles on, persistent and unwearyed. This is Wood over Metal: an enduring force accumulates within, penetrating and coupling with the small. The ideal Realising Person reflects this by elucidating the innate pattern in each thing that reveals its power and destiny. Persist and work through inner inspiration. This couples you with a new fate.*

## TRANSFORMING LINES: CHANGE AT WORK

**INITIAL NINE**

**Small Accumulates. The procession to the altar.**

**Returning to the birth of the Way.**

**How could this be a mistake?**

**Wise Words! The Way opens.**

*Your heart will open the Way. The procession to the altar to meet the spirit. You have been lost in a cloud of details, but now you see the Way once more. Don't hesitate to return. How could this be a mistake? The Way is open.*

*Direction: Subtly penetrate to the core. Turn conflict into creative tension. The situation is already changing.*

**NINE AT SECOND**

**Small Accumulates. The procession to the altar.**

**Returning like an animal led to sacrifice on a leash.**

**Wise Words! The Way opens.**

*Located in the centre, this does not let go of the origin. The procession to the altar to meet the spirit. You have been lost and confused. Now you are simply hauled back to the Way like an animal dragged on a leash. Consider yourself blessed. The Way is open to you.*



*Direction:* Stay within your family and dwelling. Gather energy for a decisive new move.

#### NINE AT THIRD

**Small Accumulates.** The procession to the altar.

The spokes of the cartwheel loosen.

Husband and consort turn their eyes to one another.

*This means you cannot correct it by staying at home.* The procession halts. Men and women come together at the spring festival. Turning to each other, they open the Way for new life to enter.  
*Direction:* Find the heart's empty centre. Take things in. Be open and provide what is needed.

#### SIX AT FOURTH

**Small Accumulates.** The procession to the altar.

There is a connection to the spirits that will carry you through.

Bad blood leaves and apprehension departs.

This is not a mistake.

*This means uniting purpose with what is above.* You make the connection to the spirits. You can act with confidence now. The spirits are with you. Forget about old quarrels and resentments. Announce yourself and your new identity. This is not a mistake. Your purpose is united with those above.  
*Direction:* Take action. You are connected to a creative force.

#### NINE AT FIFTH

**Small Accumulates.** The procession arrives at the altar.

There is a connection to the spirits through which you are bound to others.

Use your neighbour's affluence.

*This is not solitary affluence.* Here the spirits bring us together. You are not alone. There is a spiritual connection that binds you to the people around you. Don't be afraid to make use of this connection. Take hold of things and use them for the good of all.  
*Direction:* Be active. Find an idea that brings you together. Turn conflict into creative tension. The situation is already changing.

## NINE ABOVE

Small Accumulates. 'We will plant the crop.'

The rain has already come.

You already abide in honour, power and virtue. Carry on!

The Moon Almost Full: 'There will be Changes.'

Trial: from the wife's people there will be adversity, hungry souls and angry ghosts.

If the Noble One seeks to chastise others,

Trap! The Way closes.

*This means power and virtue are massing and carrying. If Noble One chastises, he will have a place to doubt. You have achieved your goal. The rain has fallen to bless you and you live in honour and virtue. Don't worry, carry on. Plant the crop. From the wife's side, you will face danger with its roots in the past. The masked dancers are reading the Changes. Don't try to put everything in order. Don't discipline people. Don't set out on an expedition. The Changes are coming. The happiness you know can endure.*

*Direction: Wait for the right moment to act. Turn conflict into creative tension. The situation is already changing.*