

A Fu Talisman for Academic Success

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. The square Fu paper talisman instructed here is crafted to harness the Qi energy needed to manifest academic success. Since the imperial examinations of medieval China, students have supported their scholarly efforts with blessed talismans that they’ll take with them into the examination room. Even today in modern Asia, blessed charms for academic success continue to endure.

Tuck this charm into the textbook for a course you’re struggling with or keep it by your computer as you type your term paper. Place it beneath the sole of your left shoe during a class presentation or while you take an exam. Remember: the most important component to sigil crafting is your intent and the strength and focus of that intent being channeled into the talisman.

The Sigil Design:



(front)



Moon



Sun



Qi



Wood

The front of the sigil draws upon the energies of the sun and moon, representing the yin-yang binary. A glyph for “Qi” amplifies the energy harnessed. These three characters are rendered in the style of Chinese oracle bone script from the Shang Dynasty. The glyph for “Wood” is from the Wu Xing, representing the element that best supports academic success. This character is script from the Zhou Dynasty. The octagonal design is of the eight I Ching trigrams from the Later Heaven Ba Gua. Altogether, the symbols represent the collective power of Heaven, Earth, and Man, the sacred Taoist trinity.

The central glyph in red ink (traditionally cinnabar ink) is a sigil that combines four Chinese characters that form a phrase or mantra: “Be as studious as Confucius and Mencius,” which represents a traditional blessing for academic success.

FU TALISMAN FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS



| <i>Classic Fu Sigil</i> | <i>Chinese Meaning</i> | <i>Indication and Uses</i> |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| | <p>孔孟好學</p> <p>kǒng mèng hào xué</p> <p>“Be as studious as Confucius and Mencius.”</p> | <p>Optimal for students seeking to do well on examinations. Incorporate as a glyph into Fu sigils crafted for academic success. Typically used to assist students in their studies. Can also be used by teachers, instructors, and professors for matters relating to academia, research, or innovation.</p> |



(back)

The back of the sigil features the canons of Lao Tzu written in Chinese oracle bone script.

The template for printing six copies of the academic success sigil is provided on the subsequent pages. Print the front and back pages double-sided. Once printed, cut, and prepared, perform consecration on the paper sigils per Chapter 7, starting on page 165, “General Consecration Techniques.” In lieu of sprinkling water on the sigils, sprinkle the consecrated water in the four directions surrounding the paper talismans. Do this during a new moon. When complete, leave the consecrated talismans in your sacred space or altar for the subsequent fifteen days, until the next full moon.

On the next full moon, establish sacred space, and then select incense that corresponds with prosperity and wealth per Table 6.3 in the text, page 135. After sacred space has been established, light the incense and proceed with the 108 recitations. Page 204 explains why the 108 recitations are applied. Read about invocations starting on page 144.

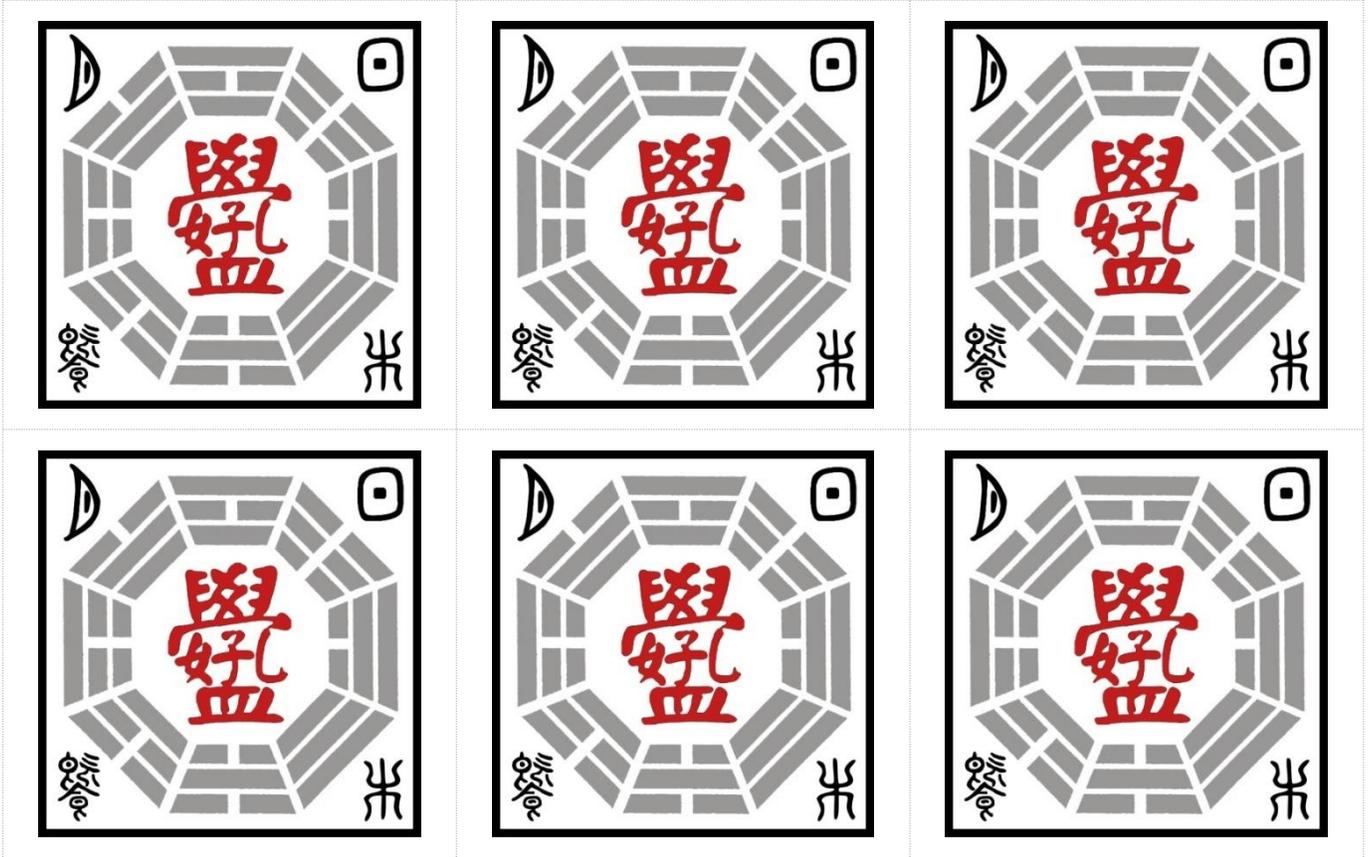
Here, link together the two “Invocation for Achieving Success” incantations from page 213-214 in the text, recited one after the other, for the 108 recitations to charge the talisman. Recite that combined invocation 108 times. You can use mala prayer beads strung with 108 beads to help you keep count. During the recitations, pass the Fu talisman through the incense smoke. As you do so, envision the power of Heaven manifesting in the smoke, getting infused into the talisman. Meanwhile, from your hand holding the talisman, envision your own personal energy and power channeling through your body, concentrating at the tips of your fingers, and getting transferred over and absorbed into the Fu talisman. That is the visualization to focus on as you perform the 108 recitations.

Assuming this talisman is for yourself, after the 108th recitation, the sigil is activated.

Modifications to the Sigil Instructions

Yes, of course you may (and probably should) make modifications to the sigil design and instructions noted here so that it aligns better with your personal practice and also with what resources you have available on hand. Be mindful of the 13 principles addressed in Chapter 3 for powerful, effective craft.

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(front)

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(back)

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Important Note

I encourage anyone who seeks to use this Fu talisman instruction to first order a copy of *The Tao of Craft* and help support the book's success. The spirit behind this note is akin to the beneficiary's vow, discussed in Chapter 8, page 221. Use of the sigil design provided here and/or executing the instructions for crafting this Fu talisman without first having purchased a copy of *The Tao of Craft* is not advised.

On Fu Talismans

For over thousands of years, sigil crafting has been an integral part of the Chinese collective consciousness. Rooted in Neolithic shamanic practices when oracle bone script was inscribed on peach wood to communicate with the gods, the craft became integrated into esoteric Taoist practices in the first century AD. Today, the practice of paper Fu talismans still endures.

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).