

# Hexagram 9

## Author's note

This is a free excerpt from the 'WikiWing' section of the upcoming Change Circle membership at Clarity -

article discussion edit history watch

## Hexagram 9

### Contents

- 1 [Name](#)
- 2 [Oracle](#)
- 3 [Image](#)
- 4 [Sequence](#)
- 5 [Pair](#)
- 6 [Nuclear hexagram](#)
- 7 [Line 1](#)
- 8 [Line 2](#)
- 9 [Line 3](#)
- 10 [Line 4](#)
- 11 [Line 5](#)
- 12 [Line 6](#)
- 13 [References](#)

### Name

Small Taming, Small Accumulating, Small Restraint. Small farming: both applying restraint, keeping things under control, and also nurturing and accumulating.

### Oracle

The WikiWing will be available for all members of Change Circle to consult and edit: adding references, suggesting alternatives, sharing insights. I believe oracles must naturally grow this way, through a developing tradition of diviners' experience, and so I'm looking forward to seeing my initial efforts changed and expanded.

At the same time, several people have told me they'd like to have access to my notes on their own, without anyone else's edits. So I'll compile the complete set into single file and make that available to Change Circle members, too.

Change Circle opens to members on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008, when you'll see it show up as an order-able product option on your [member page](#). Hope to see you there... :)

Warmly,  
Hilary

## Hexagram 9

### Name

Small Taming, Small Accumulating, Small Restraint. Small *farming*: both applying restraint, keeping things under control, and also nurturing and accumulating.

### Oracle

‘Small taming, creating success.  
Dense clouds without rain  
Come from my Western altars.’

Small taming, *heng* - it's a successful, welcomed offering, made under those dense clouds. They will bring rain later, but not yet. For now, they may just bring gloom.

Western outskirts: an altar beyond the walls of our town, where everyone gathers to make offerings for good weather. Maybe the clouds ‘come from’ here because this is where you performed the rituals and made the offerings to call them.

Also, since this is the West, it's associated with the Zhou. It suggests the time before they received the Mandate, when King Wen was shaping his own small kingdom, nurturing its society in such a way that people were drawn to it and it grew in strength. Wen himself worked the land as a farmer in this time.

Small restraint: no rain yet, no achievement yet, not quite there yet. That can be very frustrating - but as prediction, this suggests a small temporary setback rather than total derailment.

Small accumulating: developing readiness and fitness in the same way a farmer works the soil, gradually improving its structure so it becomes more fertile from year to year.

This needs doing in Small ways: understanding one doesn't have the power to make it happen with a single gesture, doing the work steadily, in small increments, responding to the realities of the time rather than trying to override them, with conscientious attention to detail.

*Cultivating* your character, working on your relationship through the day-to-day stuff, attending carefully to the details at work.

## Image

‘Wind moves above heaven. Small taming.  
A noble one cultivates the natural pattern of *de*.’

The ‘pattern’ is *Wen* - the name of the king.

Wind moving above heaven, hence not yet felt down here on earth. But the directing force here is the inner trigram, heaven. The wind doesn’t contain or control it, but it naturally moves with it and follows its shape. Inwardly there are unchanging principles; outwardly, one’s actions gradually take on the shape of those inner principles. This can be a picture of self-cultivation, and also of wider influence. Wen cultivated his people until they were fit material for the mandate. You can cultivate yourself until you are fit material for a relationship.

## Sequence

From 8, Seeking Union: ‘union necessarily has occasion to tame things, and so Small Taming follows.’

You have fought the battles (7); you have cleared the ground; you have chosen where you belong and with whom, following your natural affinities. You’re like the homesteader who has entered virgin territory and freely chosen his own plot. The next morning (and the next, and the next) you must get up and start working the soil, one weed at a time.

Similarly - you’re excited to choose a business partner, and then realise how much work it will take to convert the excitement into rewards. Or you may have met a soulmate, but to craft this into a relationship will still take daily work.

## Pair

With 10, Treading. ‘Small Taming means few; Treading means not coming to rest.’ Richard Rutt’s translation is ‘no backing’; Wu Jing Nuan’s is ‘solitary’. Reminiscent of the Zhou’s early days - ‘few’ as in few allies.

9 and 10 work very much as a pair, both seeking the strength that will make greater things possible. 9 cultivates it and learns its shapes; 10 follows it as it moves. 9 prepares and cultivates the capacity to move with those bigger emotional extremes.

## Nuclear hexagram

38, Opposition - difference of vision, strangeness. That encapsulates the frustration and creative potential of 9: seeing the immediate reality, and also seeing what’s possible.

### Line 1

'Returning to your own path,  
How could you be wrong?  
Good fortune.'

'Returning' as in Hexagram 24. Back on track, returning to what is wholly natural for you. Small Taming begins by bringing attention back to the earth under your feet here and now. Why would you think it wrong? Maybe because it's experienced as an obstacle to what you had planned?

9 *zhi* Hexagram 57, Small Taming Penetrating/ Rooting. Small taming allowing self to be penetrated by the real world, aiming to do any 'taming' it can by fitting in with the real world. Bradford Hatcher (<http://www.hermetica.info>) talks about tree roots finding the cracks between rocks. Also, small taming that is penetrated by own essential identity in every action - always expressing that within those real-world limits.

### Line 2

'Drawn back, returning.  
Good fortune.'

Again, 'returning' as in Hexagram 24. Being 'drawn back' is literally like being an ox led by a rope. Probably this feels less 'yours' than line 1, and more like an interference with your personal plans. But it is genuine guidance, leading you in the right direction; you're blessed to receive it.

9 *zhi* Hexagram 37, Small Taming People in the Home. Contrast line 1, which is more to do with the inner nudgings of guidance; this one is more social, more to do with relationships and the 'pull' they exert on your behaviour. (Or maybe social roles and rules.)

### Line 3

'A cart losing its wheel spokes.  
Husband and wife avert their eyes.'

Something quite small is lost, the wheels collapse inward, the whole delicate system breaks down. The husband and wife avoid one another's gaze.

That can mean a relationship coming apart, like the cart. Also any kind of inner split where things fail to connect: thoughts, people, systems.

Examples:

A computer program sends a request, but the resource receiving the request doesn't allow it. ('Error 405: The method specified in the Request-Line is not allowed for the resource identified by the Request-URL.')

What's going on in the mind of someone who orders a reading, corresponds with me about it, thanks me for my help... when he ordered it with a stolen credit card. He's stealing from me, and having a friendly exchange with me, and these two parts of him don't connect.

Also - maybe sometimes husband and wife are wise to avert their eyes and break the connection, so as to avoid starting up a cycle of emotional reaction and inflation. (*Fan yao* 61.3.)

9 *zhi* Hexagram 61, Inner Truth. Sometimes there is too much inner space, things are penetrated too strongly by more truth than they can sustain. Look at the shape of 61 - inner space, wheel hub?

#### Line 4

'There is truth and confidence.  
Blood departs, fear goes away.  
No mistake.'

There is complete presence and connection, *fu* (as in 61), strong enough to cast out fear. Also a risk of blood (conflict, blood-letting?) and fear; you need this acute present awareness to avoid them, stay out of trouble.

9 *zhi* Hexagram 1, Small Taming Creative Force: engaging with the ultimate in strength and creative drive, your daily work on the small stuff moved and motivated by this huge, dragon-sized power. It leaves no room for pettiness or anxieties. *Fu* is the only channel for such a connection.

#### Line 5

'With truth and confidence, hence bound together.  
Rich in your neighbour.'

What does it mean to be rich in your neighbour? It means you have the truth and presence that makes a harmonious relationship possible.

Again with *fu* as in Hexagram 61. 'Bound together', hands and silk; joined as with silk, but also the idea of bringing order from chaos, like teasing out silk thread from the cocoons. Not just a connection, but a harmonious, tangle-free relationship.

9 *zhi* Hexagram 26, Small Taming's Great Taming, the point where 9 sees its way towards expansion and growth. Like the solo entrepreneur who can only expand beyond a certain point through partnership. Truth-presence and harmonious bonds mean that wealth (of all kinds) is found in having neighbours (of all kinds).

Sometimes a reminder: if you're together in this relationship, then you are one another's riches; your interests are the same.

### Line 6

'Already rained, already come to rest.  
Honour the *de* contained.  
Constancy of the wife, danger.  
The moon almost full.  
Noble one sets out to bring order: misfortune.'

Finally, those dense clouds have rained. It's done for now; you've received what you need for now; enough for now. Honour the *de* contained - what's already cultivated, grown, held. (Could be a degree of certainty, or achievement, or influence, or development of character, etc.)

The wife and the noble one are doing parallel work. She is woman+broom, the one who defines and creates the home-space. He is setting out on a military expedition to the borders, creating the kingdom-space. Both are essentially domestic concerns, about making a space more and more secure. But it is already secure enough.

The moon is almost full, yin power is growing, but the moon won't get any fuller than full. It's rained enough for now; it can't rain for next year, too. The cycle will turn. It will be time to move on from the domestic concerns.

When the woman persists in wife-constancy, sticks with this role, she sweeps up clouds of all kinds of unsatisfied insecurities. Maybe this - at the time of waxing yin power - somehow 'infects' the noble one with the same misplaced drive for ever-greater domestic security?

9 *zhi* Hexagram 5, Small Taming Waiting. The two hexagrams are very similar in their basic scenario, the farmer who needs the weather to change. But 5 waits for the chance to work, and focuses on expecting and inviting what he needs; 9 does the work to make the space ready. (Maybe 9 focuses more on the earth and 5 more on heaven?) Having completed the work of small taming, created a good enough space, there's a danger that waiting becomes hankering after more, when it needs to be an inner opening to what can grow here?