

The Great Learning, paragraph 6

FROM Make or hear an isolated sound and hear out the following general pause. Then a set of four sounds, the first one synchronised.

THE EMPEROR A pair of sounds, then a pair of optional sounds.

SON OF HEAVEN Two sounds, the first synchronised. Between the two await the occurrence of a long pause.

DOWN TO A synchronised sound followed by an isolated one. Then an optional sound followed by an isolated one.

DOWN TO Five sounds; the second synchronised, the third isolated, the last preceded by a general pause.

DOWN TO Two sounds, the first isolated. Then a set of four optional sounds, the second being loud or long. Finally an isolated pair of sounds (both made or both heard or one made one heard).

THE COMMON Five sounds; the first isolated, the third optional, the fifth synchronised. Then wait for a general pause and at some point drop into it an isolated constellation of four sounds (made, heard, or part-made part-heard).

MAN A pair of optional sounds.

SINGLY Make a sound. Wait for a general pause and follow it with four sounds, the second isolated, the third loud or long. Wait for another general pause and follow it with three sounds, the first synchronised, the last two separated by an isolated pair of sounds.

AND Wait for a general pause and follow

it with four sounds, the first one synchronised. Then a pair of optional sounds and await another general pause. Finally one more sound.

ALL TOGETHER Make four sounds, the first and third synchronised. Wait for a general pause and then make three more sounds, the first synchronised.

THIS A synchronised sound, an isolated sound, an optional sound and an isolated sound in that order.

SELF- After an optional sound await two general pauses. Then two optional sounds separated by a synchronised sound. Another general pause. Then a set of three sounds, the first one synchronised and loud or long.

DISCIPLINE Make an isolated sound and hear out the following general pause. Then a set of five sounds; the first is synchronised and loud or long, and the last is optional.

IS An isolated sound followed by an isolated set of three sounds. Then an optional sound followed by a set of three synchronised sounds (two or all may be simultaneous but in any case synchronised with another player). Then an isolated constellation of four sounds.

THE ROOT Three sounds, the last two optional. Then wait for a general pause and end with a sound.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Any number of performers move independently through the material in the written order. There is no obligation to reach the end. Performers dropping out or ending should signalise the fact in some way (e.g. if the performing space is well-defined, leave it).

Any materials may be used. Each sound from a different source or all sounds from the same source, or any gradation between. Stones, whistles, speech, song, gueros, etc. recommend themselves as occurring in other paragraphs of The Great Learning. In the case of speech or song, use the words written in capitals at the start of the sequence you are in. Anything from the whole word or group of words down to a single letter.

A "sound", with no qualifying adjective, means a rather definite type of sound with a certain amount of presence. Sounds are generally shortish and rather quiet.

"Optional sound" can mean a sound (as above), or an accidental or incidental (glancing) type of sound, or a quasi-accidental sound or no sound at all.

"Isolated" always implies the option of making the sound or hearing it, as in the first sentence.

"Synchronised sound" means make a sound simultaneously with another player.

In cases of failure to produce a properly "isolated" or "synchronised" sound, there is no limit to the number of attempts that may be made, but there is no obligation to make more than one.

"General pause" is when everyone is silent and still.