Lesson Nine

P. 163. Learn both written forms of the verb *mai* 買 to buy since the simple form is utterly unlike the original complex form. The complex form has an eye (*mu* 目) written horizontally over *bei* 貝 meaning cowry shell. The shell was anciently used for money and many words having to do with worth and value (compare *gui*, 貴, #16 on p. 164) contain this element. In the traditional series of 214 radicals, *mu* 目-eye is #109 and *bei* 貝 is #157. *Mu* 目-eye can be phonetic in *mai* 買-buy, just as *mu* 母-mother can be phonetic in *hai* 海-sea. The companion verb *mai* 賣-sell with the element *shi* 士(radical #31) at the top is simply a causative of *mai* 買 buy, i.e., to cause to buy (see p. 169 #1). Compare the relationship of *xue* 學 and *jiao* 教, to learn and to teach (<to cause to learn); these are forms of the same word with a syntactical difference based on a slight change in tone or pronunciation.

#5. The two words equated to clothes are quite different. *Yi* 衣 means to cover; it is radical #145 and appears in many words. *Fu* 服 by contrast means a uniform of some kind; it has a related meaning of subdue or conquer (by force or by argument). For this reason *yi* 衣 is found alone in *dayi* 大衣 and *maoyi* 毛衣 on p. 11.

P. 164 #8. The two words meaning color are also quite different. *Yan* 颜 refers to the face, and the right hand element (radical #181) is one of many words for head (compare p. 169 #11). *Se* 色 is a word with a long and complex history, and refers to facial expression, outward form, sexuality, and in Buddhism the illusory world of form and desire. In Buddhist usage the opposite of *se* 色 is *kong* 空(void, emptiness). Another Buddhist term is *hong* 紅 #10; it stands for carnality. The red dust signifies the impermanent nature of worldly desire and the objects desired. As a color word it suggests dyeing, since the left element is silk (radical #130); *gong* 工 is on the right, meaning skilled labor; it is also the phonetic. Color words like red, purple, and green, all contain the element silk, suggesting artificial color, while words like *lan* 藍 blue with a vegetation element (radical #140) are probably natural colors. *Hui* 灰 grey refers to ash, hence the fire (huo 火 radical #86) element lower right, probably the phonetic too.
P. 167, #5. *Suiran* 雖然 means “be it so, [nevertheless].” The phonetic is on the right (missing in simplified form). *Ran* 然 means “to be so” and is found in the second position in a number of common compounds. Careful attention should be given to the various uses of *ran* 然. List all usages that you can find in a medium-sized dictionary.