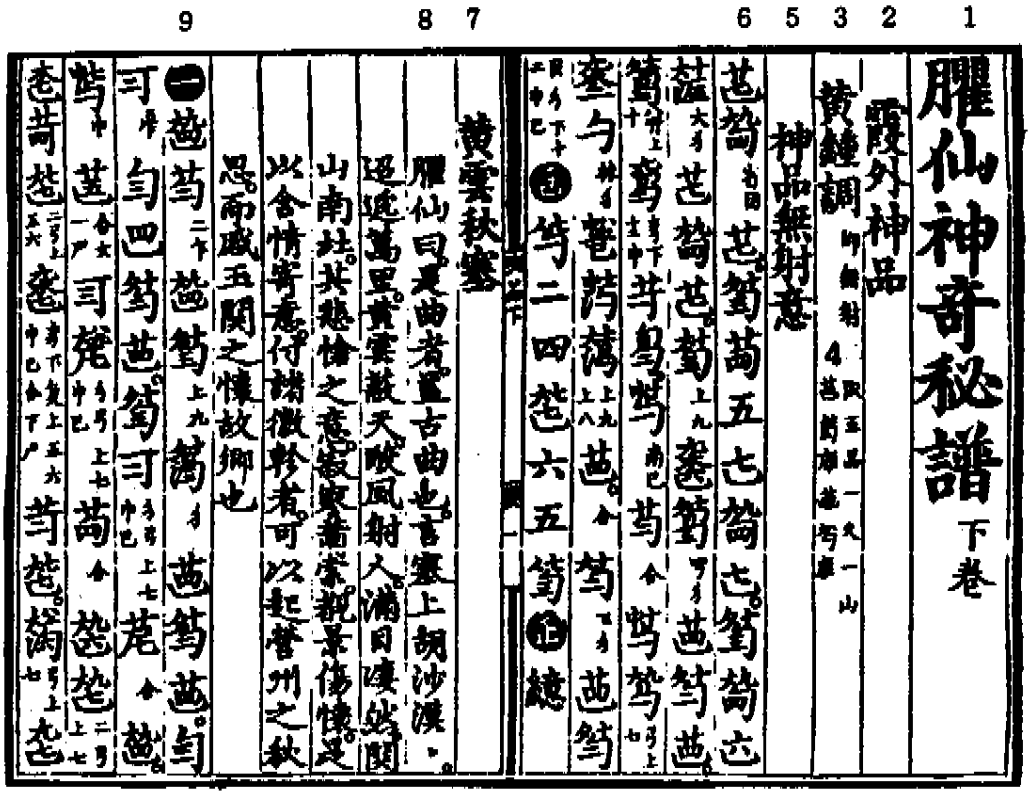
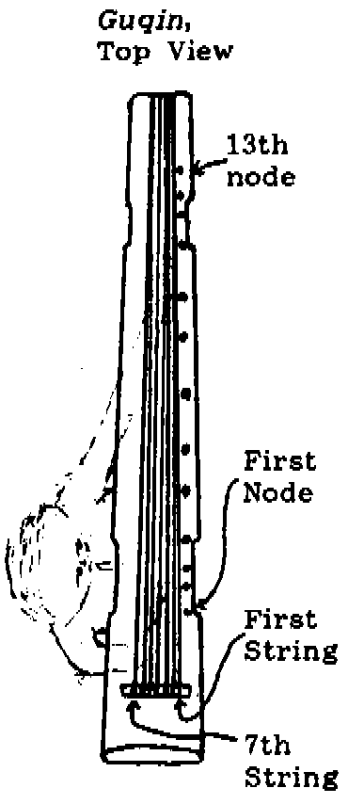
Shen Qi Mi Pu (Handbook of Sacred and Marvellous Secrets), Sample Page





Translation of Numbered Items:

1. The Emaciated Immortal's *Shen Qi Mi Pu*. Final Volume (of three);
2. Sacred Pieces from Beyond the Rosy Clouds;
3. Yellow Bell Mode -- Same as *Wu Yi* (Mode);
4. (To change from `standard' tuning 5, 6, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 to Wu Yi tuning) tighten the fifth and lower the first (strings) one tone each (giving 4, 6, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 transposed to 1, 3, 5, 6, 1, 2, 3). The open seventh string then `responds to' (has the same pitch as) the fifth string stopped at the eighth node;
5. Sacred Piece Giving the Meaning of the Wu Yi (Mode);
6. (This is music tablature, describing finger positions, phrasing and ornamentation for the guqin. Note values [rhythm, etc.] are not directly indicated. The top part of a figure says what the left hand does, the bottom part refers to the right hand. Thus the first four figures are explained as follows):

A. 芑 = 散 : open string (i.e., do not use left hand);
= 挑七弦 : `pick' 7th string outward with right hand 2nd finger;

B. 荃 = 大指 at 九徽 : left thumb at 9th node;
= 鉤 the 四弦 : `hook' 4th string inward with 3rd finger;

C. 省 = 少息 : short rest;

D. 囗 = 打圓 : `hit around' (i.e., repeat previous two notes three times, making six notes in all);

7. Yellow Clouds of Autumn at the Frontier Pass
(-- The first of four pieces using the *Wu Yi* tuning)
8. The Emaciated Immortal says that this might be a very old song. It speaks of expanses of desert in the barbarian border regions, where one must travel great distances, of the yellow clouds which conceal the heavens, and the bitter winds which pierce the body, filling the eyes with a cold misery (etc.)....
9. (Music tablature -- as at 6.)