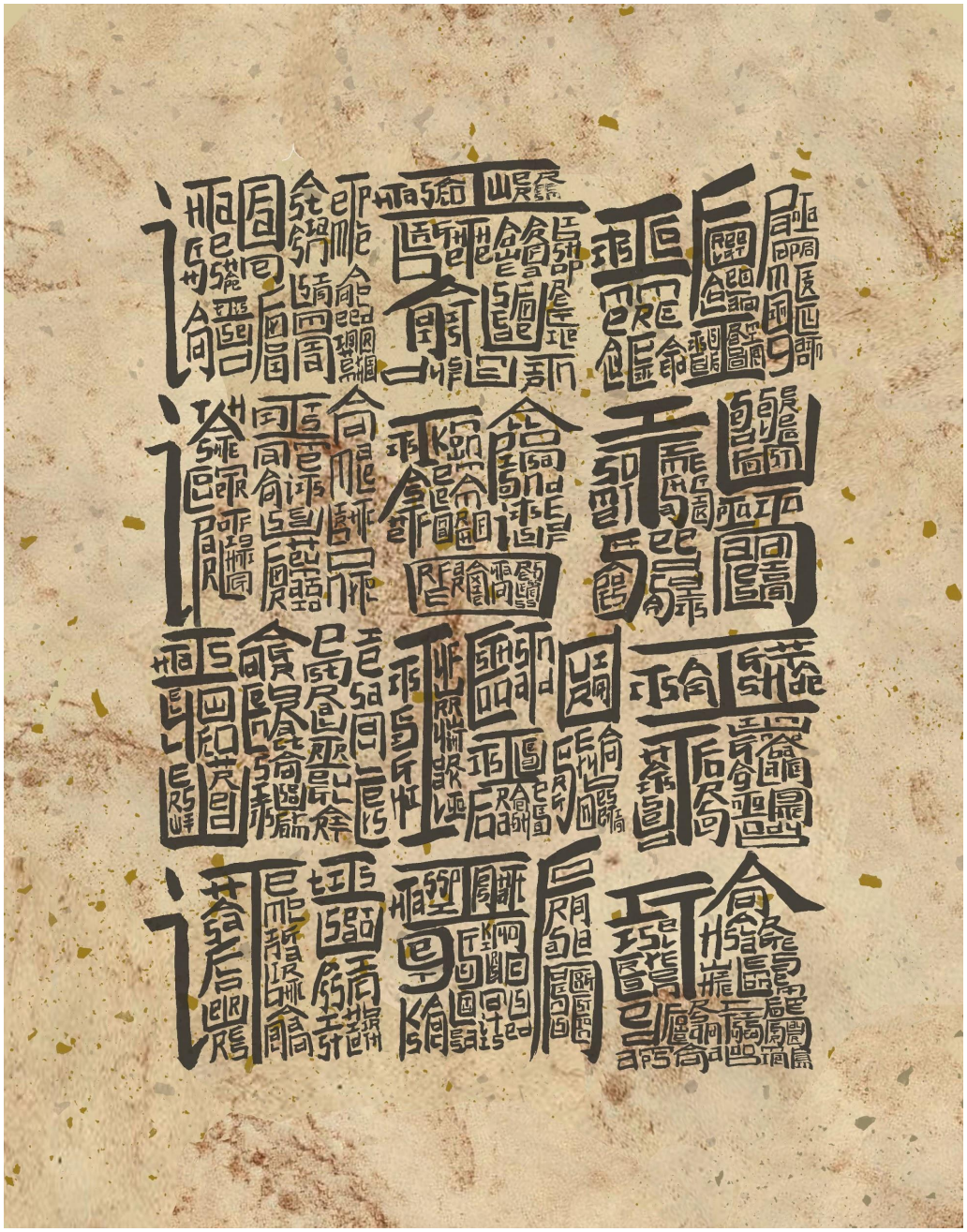
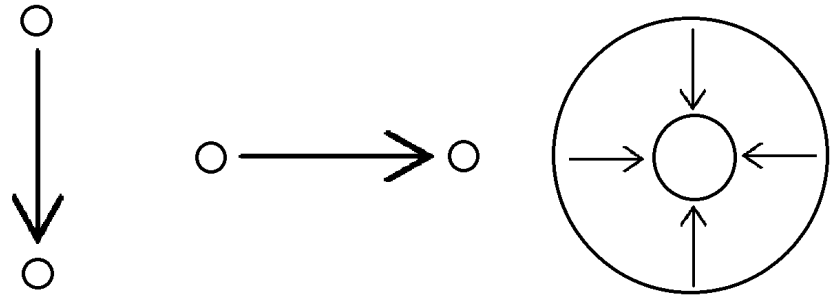
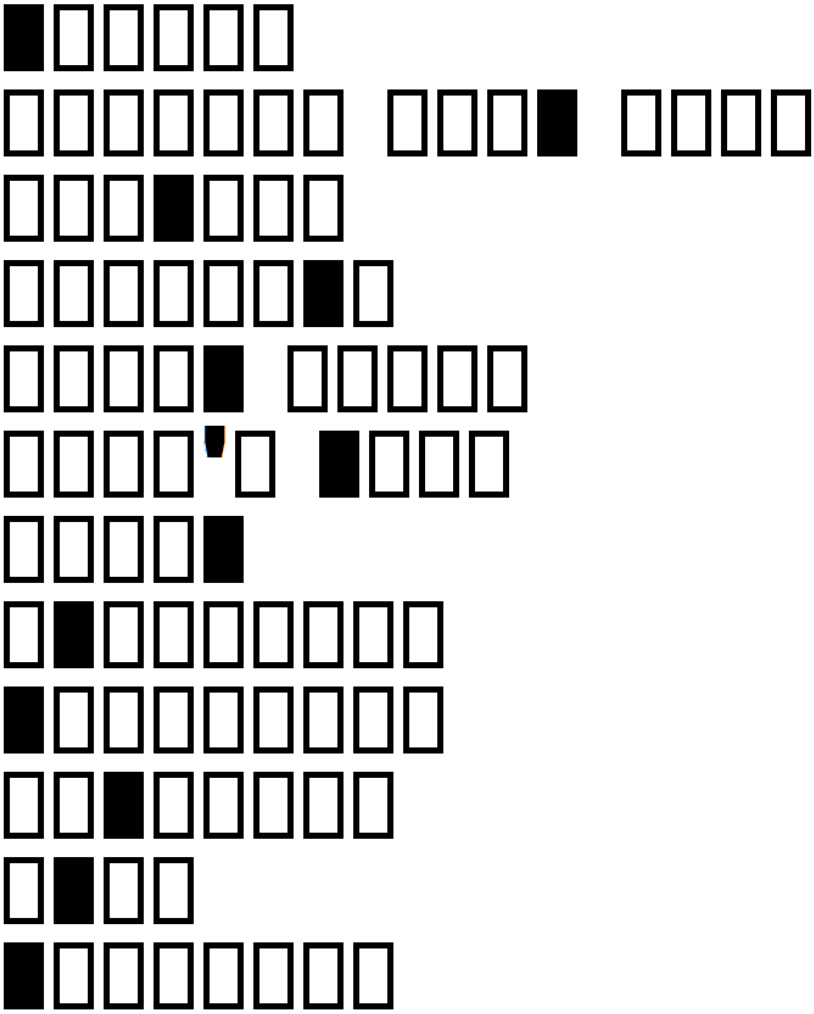
(co-written with Vinjai Vale, for PEA Puzzle Hunt 2017)

Calligraphic Cures

Feeling a little sick, Alex stumbles upon an ancient sheet of papyrus in a corner of the dungeon. He doesn't understand Chinese, but he's pretty sure that Chinese characters wouldn't have this many strokes…







SOLUTION

Each "character," though appearing as Chinese calligraphy, is, in fact, an English sentence. The general sequence for reading the letters is from top to down, left to right, outside to inside, which was clued in the top graphs on the second page.

In the same sequence of top to down, left to right, the English sentences are:

It has the shape of an east Asian temple and it is used for boils insomnia and bleeding hemorrhoids
It has the counterpart of lightning in its name and it is used for rheumatoid arthritis and male birth control
It has yellow flowers with red and green bracts and it is used for menstrual irregularities and ulcers
It has a flower resembling a birth canal and it is used to assist in childbirth
It has a flower resembling the headwear of a bishop and it is used for erectile dysfunction
It is known as the female monarch of all poisons and it is used for fear anxiety and restlessness
It is slightly furry with dark violet shoots and it is used for anesthesia during surgery and bone setting
It has spines that get stuck in your socks and clothes and it is used for nasal and sinus congestion
It is commercially cultivated for vegetable oil and it is used for abdominal pain and promoting circulation
It sometimes has tick shaped seeds and it is used for severe constipation and lesions
It is a nightshade that is used for slowing aging and balancing the body
It is evergreen and has large white lemon scented flowers and it is used for menstrual cramps and abdominal pain

Each sentence describes a thing:

(in the sequence of the sentences)

pagoda
thunder duke vine
zedoary
pipevine
fairy wings
wolf's bane
metel
cocklebur
safflower
rushfoil
goji
magnolia

Fill the names into the rectangles on the second page, the letters in the black rectangles spell the answer: **PEONYBLOSSOM.**