

Make it new plain English for the French
Jesuit translation of the phrase said
in the *Ta Hio* (*The Great Learning* or *Great
Digest* the grist in the *Stone-Classics*)

thought to be the words of Kung Fu himself)
to have been engraved by King Tching-Thang
on his bathtub — *Fais-le de nouveau* (which might
just as well have been rendered as *Do it again*)

not in any *ex nihilo* sense
(originality or novelty
not only improbable but a bit of a bore)
the starting line always other men's labor

the untaxable inalienable
cultural inheritance inhaled
along with air earth fire water wood
in every newborn's first breath

honoring one's ancestors: those
in leaves pith and fruit of the family tree
: those whose names have not come down but whose gifts
less sanguinary but no less familial have